



CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA

'ASEAN on Point' Public Forum

Fake News: Tackling Disinformation in ASEAN

20 January 2021 10AM GMT+7

BACKGROUND

In response to the global coronavirus pandemic, the ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC) and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), will co-host a series of public forums – 'ASEAN on Point' - to address issues of importance to the advancement of ASEAN. The forums will provide a platform to bring together representatives of diverse stakeholders to share knowledge on the latest research and insights on relevant topics on post-pandemic recovery in order to inform the policy discourse. It is hoped that the insights and recommendations from the forums can contribute to different sectoral work in ASEAN towards recovery. The vision of these Forums is to 'Build Back Better' so that the region's recovery policies result in a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable region.

Fake news and misinformation are emerging challenges that the ASEAN Member States must address as access to internet and digital media grows exponentially among ASEAN citizens. Data for January 2020 from We Are Social (2020) reports that internet penetration rate in the region is 66%, which reflects a year-on-year growth of 8.2%. Social media usage is at 63%, a 7.7% increase from the previous year.

ASEAN is taking concrete steps to prevent fake news and misinformation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that can potentially sow a climate of distrust. Since 2017, efforts to address fake news and misinformation have figured significantly in ASEAN's activities. In 2017, the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) convened a Roundtable Discussion on Fake News and Communicating the Right Information, and have since adopted the Framework and Joint Declaration to Minimise the Harmful Effects of Fake News in 2018. ASEAN also launched the Core Values on Digital Literacy for ASEAN which aims to promote greater cyber security as part of the efforts to counter online falsehoods.

Most recently, the AMRI adopted the Joint Statement to Minimise the Negative Effects of COVID-19 which demonstrates the region's resolve to encourage regular exchanges of official updates and information, develop regional guidelines and a common platform to facilitate timely sharing of information, enhance information mechanisms and working groups, encourage effective and transparent public communication, promote media ethics and social responsibility among media, encourage enhancement of media and information literacy and digital competencies, support use of digital technologies, encourage development of initiatives and projects concerning risk or crisis communication, and further strengthen media and information cooperation.

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA
10:00- 10:05 AM	MC: Ms Lydia Ruddy , Director of Communications, ERIA Welcoming Remarks H.E. Kung Phoak , Deputy Secretary-General ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Mr Koji Hachiyama , COO of ERIA
10:05 – 10:45 AM	Moderator: Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn , Senior Communications Advisor, ERIA Panelists Ms Marites Vitug , Editor-at-Large Rappler, Philippines Mr Donny Eryastha , Head of Public Policy, ByteDance (TikTok) Mr Trieu Minh Long , Director-General, Ministry of Information and Communications, Viet Nam
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Q & A
	Closing Remarks Ms Lydia Ruddy , Director of Communications, ERIA

SPEAKER PROFILE



H.E. Kung Phoak is appointed as the Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) from 2018 to 2021. He supports the Secretary-General of ASEAN by providing leadership in implementing the ASCC Blueprint and will lead the ASCC Department of the ASEAN Secretariat. He will also oversee the implementation of projects under ASCC that focus on forging a common identity and building a caring and sharing society.

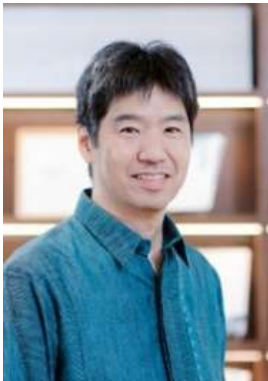
Before assuming this role, DSG Kung was the Undersecretary of State at the Office of the Council of Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia and was working on foreign policy in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He is a Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Cambodia.

H.E. Kung co-founded the Cambodian Institute for Strategic Studies, which started in 2014 as a network of Cambodian and foreign scholars called Cambodian Strategic Study Group aimed at providing pragmatic, non-partisan and evidence-based policy solutions. He had been a visiting Doctoral scholar at the University of Oxford in United Kingdom and Cornell University in United States of America.

DSG Kung was doing his PhD in political science and international relations at the University

of Warwick, United Kingdom. He obtained Master's degree in public policy and Graduate Diploma in public administration at Australian National University under the Australian Federal Government scholarship. He obtained a bachelor's degree in industrial and mechanical engineering at the Institut de Technologie du Cambodge under the Royal Government of Cambodia scholarship. He has written and published extensively on foreign policy, defense policy, national politics, and international trade.

DSG Kung is married to Madame Maly Socheata.



Koji Hachiyama is Chief Operating Officer of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). Mr Hachiyama started his career in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan (now known as the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry) in 1992 and served in various positions including the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia (1997-2001) throughout the years. In the past two years, Mr Hachiyama served as the Counsellor in the National Strategy Office of ICT, the Cabinet Secretariat of Japan. From 2014 to 2017, He served as the Director of IT Department in JETRO New York and the Head of the New York Representative office of IPA (Japan's Information Technology Promotion Agency). Mr. Hachiyama obtained

his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Engineering from the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan.



Kavi Chongkittavorn is currently a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and Senior Communication Advisor at Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA). His research interests are US foreign policy toward Southeast Asia, especially with Thailand, the future of Indo-Pacific, and regional security architecture. He was an Asia Studies Visiting Fellow at the East-West Center in Washington from April-June 2018 and a former editor in chief of Myanmar Times from February to December 2017. He has been a journalist for the past three decades with the English daily, The Nation, from 1984-2013 as reporter, editor, managing editor, and editorial writer. From 1994-1995, he served as a special assistant to

ASEAN Secretary-General based in Jakarta. He is also a columnist for The Bangkok Post.



Marites Danguilan Vitug has been a journalist for almost four decades and is one of the Philippines' most accomplished journalists. A bestselling author, Marites has written eight books on Philippine current affairs. She is the former editor of Newsbreak, a pioneering political magazine. Currently, she is editor at large of www.rappler.com.

Her book, *Rock Solid: How the Philippines won its maritime dispute against China*, won the National Book Award for best book in journalism in 2019. She wrote books on the Supreme Court and the Muslim rebellion in Mindanao, among others. She also co-wrote a book, *Breathing Democracy: A Playbook*, which will be released in hard copy in 2021. An online version is available at <https://cald.org/>.



Donny Eryastha is the Head of Public Policy for Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines at TikTok. He has served in various policy leadership roles at tech companies, the World Bank, as well as the Indonesian government. He received his master's in public administration from Harvard University and bachelor's in economics from the University of Indonesia.



Trieu Minh Long is Director General of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam (since January 2020). He used to be Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation (since 2011). He is responsible for coordinating and developing ICT and broadcasting programs and activities in cooperation with other countries and international organizations. He has been coordinating Viet Nam's cooperation in ASEAN for about 20 years in both Information and Digital sectors and is now the SOMRI Leader and ADGSOM Leader of Viet Nam.

Prior to being appointed to this position, he was the Deputy Director of the Viet Nam ICT Development Project (2009) which is under the Ministry of Information and Communications of Viet Nam (in charge of coordinating the promotion and investment in ICT applications in major ministries and provinces in Viet Nam).

He has joined the Ministry since 1995, undertaking various responsibilities of coordinating programs and activities for in international cooperation in the fields of information and broadcasting; telecommunications and ICT; and post.

He holds a Master degree of Economics from Viet Nam National University of Economics,
BA of Laws from the Hanoi National University.