

China's Imprint on ASEAN: Economic Engagements and Geopolitical Undertones

"Exploring ASEAN's Economic Ties, Security Concerns, and Diplomatic Balancing with China and the West"

Main Issues to Discuss:

Economic Relations with China

- Trade dynamics between ASEAN and China.
- The role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in ASEAN.
- Chinese investments in ASEAN: Successes and challenges.

Political and Security Dimension

- The South China Sea conflict: Sovereignty, maritime security, and diplomatic tensions.
- ASEAN's strategy in balancing relations between China and the U.S.
- Political influence of China in the domestic politics of ASEAN countries.

Failed Investments and Business Challenges

- Instances of failed Chinese investments in ASEAN.
- Economic dependencies and the risks associated with over-reliance on Chinese capital.
- Lessons learned and ways forward.

Growing Security Cooperation with the West

- The role of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) involving the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia.
- ASEAN's increasing engagements with NATO and other Western defense alliances.
- Japan and Australia as emerging security partners for ASEAN.

Leveraging EU-ASEAN Relations in the Geopolitical Conflict

- The EU's strategy in boosting relations with ASEAN to counterbalance China.
- Opportunities for the EU to collaborate with ASEAN in economic, political, and security spheres.
- How the EU can capitalize on the ASEAN model for multilateral diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Contemporary EU-ASEAN Agenda

- Updates on the ASEAN-EU Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (CATA).
- Collaboration in tackling global challenges: Climate change, pandemic recovery, and cyber threats.
- The future of ASEAN-EU relations: Opportunities and challenges.

Our audience is comprised of master's IR students and academics. We expect advanced, in-depth conversations beyond basic diplomatic overviews. While we respect protocol, we value genuine, direct insights. Avoiding diplomatic platitudes is crucial. Generalized ASEAN overviews aren't

necessary. Delve into specifics, especially regarding relations with China and the broader geopolitical landscape.