Roundtables and Forums

Our Washington D.C. campus offers unprecedented opportunities for students to interact with a wide range of international diplomats, policy makers, analysts, and academics concerned with Southeast Asia. Weekly luncheon seminars with distinguished guests and frequent conferences, special lectures, informal roundtable discussions, and crisis simulations on regional affairs introduce students to established expertise as well as new ideas. Speakers are invited from academia, research centers, the U.S. government, foreign diplomatic missions, NGOs, media and the business sector. The academic series that are hosted by SAIS Southeast Asia Studies include the Philippines Roundtable, the Burma Study Group, and the Indochina Roundtable.

SAIS Philippines Roundtable

The SAIS Philippines Roundtable, chaired by William M. Wise, associate director of Southeast Asia Studies, is the pre-eminent forum in the United States for regular discussions of Philippines affairs and U.S.-Philippines relations. The Roundtable has hosted scholars, government officials, military officers, and NGO leaders from the Philippines to participate in our programs. Recent speakers have included H.E. Fidel V. Ramos, former president of the Philippines and chairman of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation; Amanda M. Tetangco, Jr., governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Roberto F. de Ocampo, director and founding partner, Centennial Group and former secretary of finance of the Philippines; Marites Danguilan Vitug, author and advisory board chair of Newsbreak; Patricio Abinales, professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University; Maria A. Ressa, author-in-residence, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore; Honorable Rogelio L. Singson, secretary of public works and highways of the Philippines; and H.E. Voltaire T. Gazmin, secretary of national defense of the Philippines.

SAIS Burma Study Group

The SAIS Burma Study Group, made possible through a grant from Chevron Corporation, is co-chaired by William M. Wise, associate director of SAIS Southeast Asia Studies, and David I. Steinberg, visiting scholar in SAIS Southeast Asia Studies. The purpose of the Burma Study Group is to discuss at the expert level current developments in Myanmar and the state of U.S.-Myanmar relations, and to develop policy recommendations for the United States and other states and international organizations in managing relations with Myanmar. Recent speakers have included W. Patrick Murphy, senior advisor for Burma, U.S. Department of State; Yun Sun, visiting fellow at Brookings Institution’s Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies; Derek J. Mitchell, U.S. ambassador to the Union of Burma; Michael F. Martin, specialist in Asian affairs in the Foreign Affairs, Defense & Trade Division at the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and Meral Karasulu, deputy division chief at the Asia Pacific Department of the International Monetary Fund.

SAIS Indochina Roundtable

The SAIS Indochina Roundtable is a forum for the discussion of developments in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia with a particular focus on U.S. relations with these countries. The Roundtable features speakers from government, politics, academia, business, journalism, and civil society groups. Recent speakers have included Frank Jannuzi, deputy executive director of advocacy, policy, and research at Amnesty International USA; Richard Cronin, senior associate and director of the Southeast Asia program at the Stimson Center; Andrew Wells-Dang, team leader, Oxfam’s Advocacy Coalition Support Program and SAIS visiting scholar; James Riedel, William L. Clayton Professor of International Economics at SAIS; and Catharin Dalpino, former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state.