

**“Reduction of Absolute Poverty, Increase of Relative Poverty,  
and Growing Inequalities in ASEAN”**

Wednesday, 14th February 2017 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

**Abstract**

The ASEAN Economic Community is committed to poverty reduction and the wellbeing of its people thanks to inclusive growth and equitable access to opportunity of human development. This paper assesses such a claim by looking at the long-term evolution of between and within- country inequality in ASEAN. We also examine the recent evolution of absolute and relative poverty in ASEAN countries and the rise of the middle class in the different member states. It appears that convergence between ASEAN countries is recent and limited and that within-country inequality is high and sometimes growing. Relative poverty has substituted absolute poverty in some countries and the rise of the middle class is raising new social demands in terms of living standards.

**Speaker's Profile**



Bruno Jetin is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Institute of Asian Studies, UBD. He has a PhD in economics from the University of Paris Nord (France). He specialises in development studies in Asia. He was previously researcher at the Research Institute on Contemporary South East Asia (IRASEC, CNRS-MAEE) based in Bangkok (2013-2015) and at the Centre for Education and Labour Studies at Chiang Mai University (2005-2008). Prior to that, he was Associate Professor at the University of Sorbonne Paris Cité (1997-2013). His current research projects deal with Southeast Asian regional integration and the One Belt-One Road Chinese Initiative (OBOR); Foreign investment and Investor-State Dispute Settlement; the distribution of income in Asia and its impact on growth; and the global automotive industry.

His publications include:

B. Jetin and Julien Chaisse (2018). “Foreign Direct Investment and Investor-State Dispute Settlement in Brunei Darussalam: Waiting for Godot?” In L. Nottage, S. Thanitcul and J. Chaisse (editors): “International Investment Treaties and Arbitration Across Asia: A Bird’s Eye View”. Brill Editors.

B. Jetin (2017). “One Belt-One Road Initiative and ASEAN Connectivity: Synergy Issues and Potentialities”. In B.R. Deepak (editor): “China’s Global Rebalancing and the New Silk Road”. Springer, Singapore.

B. Jetin and O. Ekin Kurt (2016). “Functional income distribution and growth in Thailand: a post Keynesian econometric analysis”. *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics*, vol. 39, no. 3, p 334-360.

He has co-edited with Mia Mikic the volume “ASEAN Economic Community 2015: A model for Asia-wide regional integration?” Palgrave MacMillan, Basingstoke and New York, 2016.