

Wednesday, 24th August 2016 at 2:30 p.m.

IAS Meeting Room 2.27, Level 2, FASS Building

## Abstract

The Association of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN) has officially launched the ASEAN Community in Kuala Lumpur on November 18 to 22, 2015. The ASEAN Community has three pillars namely, the ASEAN Economic Community, (AEC), the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). This is the culmination of two decades of efforts to integrate Southeast Asia and create a community able to promote common policies for the region and represent it in the global arena.

The AEC is certainly the most expected component because it was supposed to be achieved precisely in 2015 and many hope that it will give a significant boost to Southeast Asian growth and employment in a context of global slump and economic uncertainty for the future. The AEC is supposed to be a “single market and production base” which on paper means a fully integrated region like the European Community since the creation of the single market in 1986. In Europe, the single market has completely changed the essence of the European construction by substituting cooperation by competition between states, companies and workers. Will it be the same for ASEAN?

This seminar will show that the reality of the ASEAN EC is quite different. There is a huge gap between what is officially announced, signed and adopted and the real implementation on the ground. For instance, there are still many barriers to the internal trade of goods and important services like finance, health and transport. The reason are to be found in the diverging interests of ASEAN State members, the conflicting interests of their national companies and the complex they formed with the state apparatus and the capacity of powerful professions to maintain protection against external competition. The seminar will also show that the interstate cooperation without delegation of power which characterises ASEAN today does not match the requirements of a real politic and economic community in an evolving Asia-wide context marked China's rise and its “One Belt One Road” initiative.

## Speaker's Profile



Bruno Jetin is Associate Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, UBD. Prior to joining UBB, he was researcher at the Institute for Research on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC, CNRS-MAEE, Bangkok) and Associate Professor at the University of Paris 13 Sorbonne Paris Cité where he was Deputy Director of the Research Center in Economics. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Paris 13 Sorbonne Paris Cité. His current work focus on income distribution, growth, poverty and inequality, and wellbeing in East and Southeast Asia. He is also an expert of the automobile industry. He has published many articles and chapter books for instance: B. Jetin and M. Mikic (editors), “ASEAN Economic community: a model for Asia-wide Integration?” (PalgraveMcMillan, 2016,); B. Jetin (editor, 2015) « Global Automobile Demand. Vol.1: major trends in mature economies”. Vol. 2: Major trends in emerging economies”, Palgrave McMillan; B. Jetin, “Distribution of income, labour productivity and competitiveness: Is the Thai labour regime sustainable?” Cambridge Journal of Economics, 2012, vol. 36, 4.