



Embassy of Malaysia
Holy See



Pontifical Urbaniana University
Centre for Chinese and Asian Studies

We are pleased to invite you to the *Lectio Magistralis* by

H.E. Hendy Assan
Ambassador of Malaysia to the Holy See

**Transregional ASEAN:
Sustainability, Inclusivity, and the Role of Intercultural Dialogue
in Regional and Global Cooperation**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

is a regional organisation founded in 1967 to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in Southeast Asia. It comprises eleven members: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste, its latest addition.

As global dynamics evolve, ASEAN has emerged as a central force in multilateral diplomacy and transregional cooperation. Its diverse members have advanced peace, stability, and economic growth, positioning ASEAN as a leading model of regional partnership and a key collaborator with major actors including the EU, UN, and G20.

This lecture examines ASEAN's expanding engagement across political, economic, and socio-cultural spheres, particularly with Europe. It underscores ASEAN's role as a bridge between the Indo-Pacific and Europe, and its growing contributions to addressing global challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, digital transformation, and conflict resolution.

The discussion highlights Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability." Amid post-pandemic recovery, rising inequalities, geopolitical tensions, and climate threats, Malaysia champions green transition, climate and SDG resilience, digital inclusion, social protection, and equitable development—aiming to strengthen ASEAN institutions, elevate the region's global voice, and build a people-centred, future-ready community.



Wednesday 10th December 2025
10.30 am

Welcome Address

Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle

Pro-Prefect of the Section for the First Evangelization and New Particular Churches of the Dicastery for Evangelization, Grand Chancellor of Pontifical Urbaniana University

Prof. Vincenzo Buonomo

Pontifical Delegate and Rector of the Pontifical Urbaniana University

ASEAN Video Presentation

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Question and answer session

Moderator

Prof. Alessandro Dell'Orto

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