

## **Dr. Thitinan Pongsudhirak**

Professor and Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies, Chulalongkorn University

Speaker on Thailand's Political Economy & ASEAN  
Moderator on Global Political and Economic Affairs



### **Professional Experience – an independent commentator on Thailand**

- Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak is considered by journalists and diplomats as the 'go-to' analyst on Thailand's politics and macro-economy. Based in Bangkok, he has over 25 years as a political observer and commentator of Thailand's state, society and economy as well as mainland Southeast Asia and ASEAN.
- As a professor, he teaches at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science where he is also the Director of its Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS).
- He is a frequent contributor to international op-ed pages, with a weekly column in *The Bangkok Post* and a monthly in *The Straits Times* of Singapore.
- Because of his international background, including 14 years of upbringing in the United States and five years of study in the UK, he knows how to relate to and communicate with Western audiences when they seek to understand Thailand and Southeast Asia more broadly.
- He is regularly called upon to provide briefings or to facilitate discussions about economic and political developments in Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia and the wider ASEAN region.
- He is also a presenter and moderator on key industry sectors, including airlines, airports, real estate, retail, hotel & tourism, banking and finance and proficient with central bank monetary policy and Thai baht currency management, which he first tracked while conducting doctorate work.

### **Published papers and media engagement – Thailand and South-east Asia affairs**

- A regular contributor of opinion and analysis for the *Bangkok Post* and *the Straits Times*, he is also an op-ed contributor to a number of international publications, including *IHT* and *Project Syndicate*.
- He is a former contributor to the Economist Intelligence Unit and a former contributing editor to the *The Nation*.
- He writes various papers and articles, including for the Journal of Democracy, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Global Asia, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).
- He is regularly interviewed on television, including CNN International, CNBC, Channel News Asia, Reuters, Bloomberg, BBC World, Al Jazeera and local Thai news stations.
- He is frequently quoted in international press, including *Financial Times*, *The Economist*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *International Herald Tribune*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Le Figaro*, *Der Spiegel*, *Straits Times*, *Asahi Shimbun*, *Mainichi Shimbun*, *Far Eastern Economic Review* etc. and is also interviewed on the world's international radio stations.
- Was a part-time producer 1997-9 for the BBC World Service - Thai Section and *East Asia Today* programme.

## Thitinan Pongsudhirak – Personal Bio-data

- At Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (1993-present) he is Professor at the Faculty of Political Science, where he is also the Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS), Faculty of Political Science. He was previously Deputy Dean for International Affairs.
- Visiting professor at Stanford University (2010) and Johns Hopkins University (2011)
- Formerly a freelance Thailand Country Analyst (1998-2006) for the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- Visiting research fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore (2005)
- A staff writer and contributing editor with *The Nation* (1992-1996).
- He holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics, UK; an M.A. in International Economics from The John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington D.C.; and a B.A (Hons) in Political Science from The University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.
- His PhD thesis on the Thai economic crisis in 1997 won the UK's best dissertation prize (2001), the only Asian recipient of the prestigious prize so far.
- Native tongue Thai, fluent in English and proficient in French.
- A Thai national, based in Thailand. Born and raised in Bangkok, grew up from 12 years of age in southern California through high school and university, earned an M.A. from Johns Hopkins in Washington, returned to work in Thailand, before undertaking a PhD in London in 1996-2000. Since then, Thailand has been his permanent home.

## Sample assignments

- Sought after by senior executives of international companies and financial institutions to provide confidential briefings on the political and macroeconomic environment in Thailand and its impact on business and investment.
- Regularly delivers Thailand country briefings for fund managers and corporates in Thailand, Singapore, London and various other cities around the world.
- Conducts Thailand / Southeast Asia-ASEAN briefings to international companies in Asia and around the world
- Specific clients have included British Gas, Royal Dutch/Shell, Coca-cola, Goldman Sachs, InterContinental hotels, Commercial Metals, Airports of Thailand (AOT), Preuksa Real Estate, to name a few. He has also provided consultations many fund managers over the past decade, including those from Fidelity, Nomura, Bernstein, Templeton, Blackrock, UBS, Phatra/BoAML, to name a handful.
- Dr Thitinan gives presentations and moderates discussion with small client groups focusing on Thailand and the ASEAN markets, including a senior political discussion in September 2013 which featured former UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair.