Research Seminar

‘Indonesian Perspectives on ASEAN and the Future of the Asia Pacific’.

By:  Rizal Sukma, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Indonesia assumes the Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2011 with important implications for both the future of ASEAN and the Asia Pacific. Jakarta will be looking to make its mark on ASEAN in 2011, having already indicated its intent to ‘fill the existing leadership vacuum’ and increase the organisation’s emphasis on human rights and the protection of migrant workers. In recent years, Jakarta has seemed increasingly willing to buck ASEAN’s traditional sovereignty-based norms and attempt to translate its internal reform experience into a regional democratisation agenda. Meanwhile, a more inclusive East Asian regional architecture is emerging, evidenced by the recent decision of the 43rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting to recommend that the US and Russia be formally invited to join the East Asian Summit (EAS). Both developments underscore the significance of Indonesia to the future Asia Pacific order, both by virtue of Jakarta’s influence in ASEAN, and the centrality of ASEAN in East Asia’s evolving regional architecture.

Dr Rizal Sukma is one of Indonesia’s foremost foreign policy scholars and in 2009 Foreign Policy magazine recognised him as one of the top 100 global thinkers ‘for pushing a radical new view of Indonesia’s role in the world’. Rizal is the Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS Jakarta), one of Jakarta’s pre-eminent strategic think-tanks and a key actor in Indonesia’s security and foreign policy formulation. In addition to his role as Executive Director of CSIS, Rizal is also the Chairman of International Relations Division, Central Executive Board of Muhammadiyah (second largest Islamic organisation in Indonesia with approximately 25 million members); member of the board at Syafii Maarif Institute for Culture and Humanity; a visiting lecturer at Department of International Relations at Muhammadiyah University - Malang; and a member of the National Committee for the Strategic Defence Review, Indonesia’s Ministry of Defence. He received his PhD degree in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom in 1997. Rizal is the author of numerous papers and reports, and has published in several journals and other internationally circulated publications.

→ Wednesday 1 September 2010
→ N72 Room -1.18
→ Nathan campus
→ 12.30 -1.50pm

To RSVP, please contact Natasha Vary on (07) 3735 3730 or n.vary@griffith.edu.au no later than 5.00pm Monday 30 August 2010.