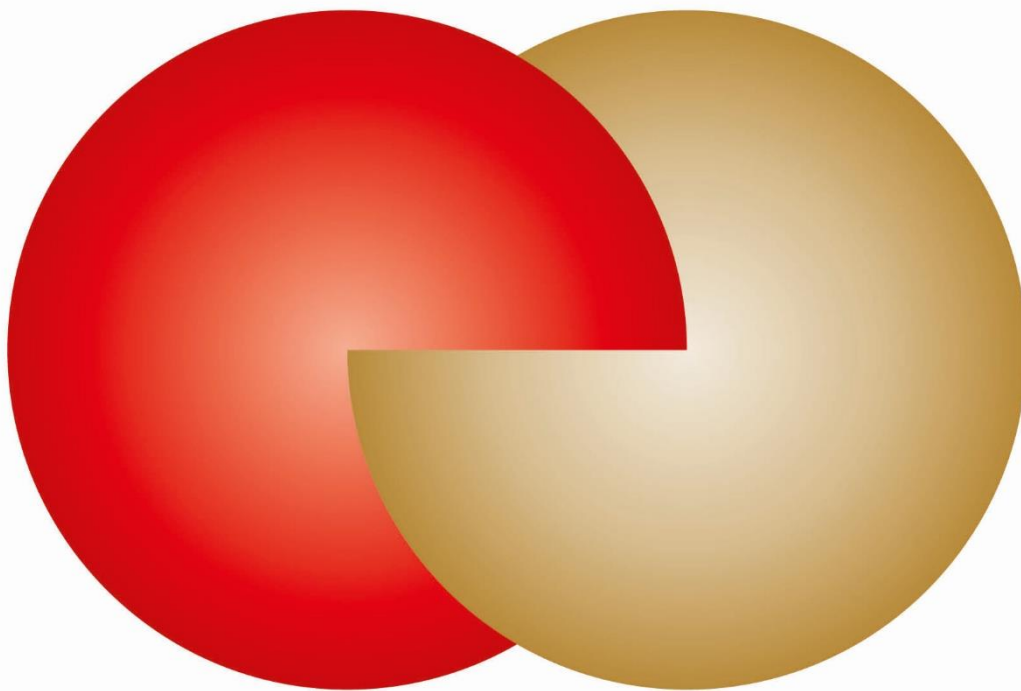


AUSTRIA CONNECT SOUTHEAST ASIA 2026

FUTURE AT THE CROSSROADS
NAVIGATING ASEAN'S NEW ECONOMIC PLAYBOOK
SINGAPORE, 05. - 06.11.2026



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

ANDRITZ **FREQUENTIS** **Luther.**



TRANSPORTATION PARTNER



PROGRAMME

THU 5 NOV 2026 ARRIVAL & WELCOME RECEPTION

INDIVIDUAL ARRIVAL

Participants are kindly requested to arrange their own transportation to Singapore.

OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTELS

Mondrian Singapore Duxton

16A Duxton Hill, Singapore 089970

[Book here](#) | SGD 290 net/night for one incl. breakfast

Frasers House Singapore

80 Middle Road, Singapore, 188966

[Book here](#) | SGD 390 net/night for one incl. breakfast

18.00

SHUTTLE SERVICE TO WELCOME RECEPTION

A dedicated transfer service will be provided from both conference hotels to the event location for all participants. Please gather in the hotel lobby, shuttle to depart promptly.

18.30 – 21.00

WELCOME RECEPTION

Executives and senior representatives from Austrian companies in Southeast Asia and Austria, alongside leaders from Singaporean businesses and authorities, come together at the iconic LeVeL33. Enjoy an evening of meaningful connections and conversations at the world's highest urban microbrewery—a unique setting that celebrates Austrian innovation and heritage.

Venue: LeVeL33, 8 Marina Boulevard Downtown Core 018981

21.00

SHUTTLE SERVICE TO OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTELS

A dedicated transfer service will be provided from the event location back to the conference hotels for all participants. Please gather in the tower lobby, shuttle to depart promptly

FRI 6 NOV 2026

CONFERENCE DAY

CONFERENCE VENUE

A*STAR Biopolis
Matrix Building | Theatrette (2nd floor)
30, Biopolis Way, Singapore, 138671

08.30 – 09.30

REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

Get your conference pack and enjoy a cup of coffee while connecting with fellow participants before the conference.

09.30 – 09.45

OFFICIAL WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Join us for the formal opening of the conference, featuring a warm welcome and introductory remarks that set the stage for the day's discussions

09.45 – 10.15

KEYNOTE I | GEOPOLITICS - GLOBAL & ASEAN PERSPECTIVE

An in-depth analysis of current geopolitical developments shaping global and ASEAN landscapes. Discover how shifting alliances, economic strategies, and emerging power dynamics influence business and policy.

Taimur BAIG | MD & Chief Economist DBS Bank, Singapore

10.15 – 11.00

PANEL DISCUSSION | STRATEGIC CHOICES AT THE CROSSROADS

Building upon the keynote, explore how businesses and policymakers can navigate uncertainty and seize opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

Taimur BAIG | MD & Chief Economist DBS Bank | SG

Priyanka Kishore | Director Asia Decoded & Columnist Nikkei Asia | SG/IN

Pavida Pananond | Professor International Business, Thammasat Business School | TH

Josef Ullmer | ANDRITZ Regional Executive Asia&Oceania | ID

Maarten de Vries | Regional Director Asia Pacific at Julius Blum GmbH | MY

11.00– 11.30

KEYNOTE | AI AS A CATALYST FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION

Uncover how artificial intelligence is transforming business models, enhancing decision-making, and unlocking new growth opportunities. Learn about practical applications and strategic approaches that position companies at the forefront of innovation.

Katja Forbes | Author 'The CX Evolutionist', Advisor, Keynote Speaker | AU

11.30 – 12.15 **PANEL DISCUSSION | FROM HYPE TO IMPACT: REAL WORLD AI SUCCESS STORIES**

Discuss tangible examples of AI driving measurable business outcomes across industries, and what lessons can be learned.

Katja Forbes | Author 'The CX Evolutionist', Advisor, Keynote Speaker | AU

Oranuch Lerdsuwankij | CEO and Cofounder of Techsauce | TH

Ali Tabatabaei | Chief AI Officer, AFED Digital | MY

Phuong (Aurora) Nguyen Thi Dan | VP/Head of Global CX, FPT Software | VN

12.15 – 14.00 **NETWORKING LUNCH**

Enjoy a relaxed lunch and informal networking with fellow participants before the afternoon sessions.

TRACK 1

INNOVATION IN PRACTICE | EXCLUSIVE SITE VISITS

Immersive, behind-the-scenes look at Singapore's innovation ecosystem. A*STAR in cooperation with renowned multinational companies and leading international universities open their R&D and innovation centers to showcase how cutting-edge research is translated into real-world applications. Participants gain first-hand insights into innovation culture, public-private collaboration, and Singapore's role as a global R&D hub. Limited to 30 participants per track; pre-registration required. Off-site track; full participation required for the entire session (can't be combined with workshops)

14.00 – 14.30 **TRANSFER TO SITE VISIT & INTRODUCTION**

Participants depart from the conference venue by dedicated shuttle service. During the transfer, a brief introduction will set the context for Singapore's R&D landscape and the host organization.

14.30 – 16.30 **SITE VISIT | APPLIED RESEARCH & INNOVATION HUB**

Exploring how universities and research institutes translate cutting-edge research into real-world impact through industry collaboration. (Research sector tbc)

16.30 – 17.00 **RESEARCH TALK**

An opportunity to engage directly with leading researchers on site. This interactive session builds on the insights from the visit, allowing participants to explore current projects in greater depth, ask questions, and discuss how emerging research can translate into practical solutions for industry. (Research sector tbc)

17.00 – 17.45 **SHUTTLE SERVICE TO NETWORKING RECEPTION**

A dedicated shuttle will transport participants from the site visit to the reception location; departure will be prompt to ensure a smooth transition.

TRACK 2
WORKSHOPS

Hands-on sessions designed to tackle critical operational challenges and equip participants with practical strategies. Gain actionable insights from experts on geopolitical developments, workforce management and trade compliance to navigate Southeast Asia's dynamic business environment. Limited to 20 participants per session; pre-registration required (will open at a later stage).

14.00 – 15.15

WORKFORCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Discover how to build and sustain effective teams in one of the world's most dynamic regions. This workshop explores proven approaches to attracting, training, and retaining talent across Southeast Asia, taking into account local mindsets, cultural nuances, and operational challenges. Equip your organization with practical strategies to navigate diverse labor markets and strengthen long-term workforce capabilities.

(Parallel session: Strategic Security Briefing)

Hannes Saurug | Managing Director voestalpine Railway Systems Asia | TH

Ricky Foo | Partner and Board & CEO Practice APAC Lead at Mercuri Urval | SG

14.00 – 15.15

THE WORLD IN FLUX: STRATEGIC SECURITY BRIEFING (Slot I)

Gain clarity in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. In this session, a regional security expert provides a focused briefing on global developments through both Austrian and Southeast Asian lenses. Together, you will assess emerging risks, identify opportunities, and discuss what today's shifts mean for your business.

(Parallel session: Workforce in Southeast Asia)

Hannes Nussgraber | Expert Geopolitics and Security Policy in the Indo-Pacific | JP/SG/AT

15.15 – 15.45

COFFEE BREAK

15.45 – 17.00

CUSTOMS & TRADE COMPLIANCE DEEP-DIVE

Get expert guidance on navigating complex customs regulations and optimizing trade processes across ASEAN. Explore practical tools and strategies to ensure compliance, reduce risks, and streamline cross-border operations.

(Parallel session: Strategic Security Briefing)

Armin Sonnauer | General Manager Thailand MIC Customs Solutions | TH

15.45 – 17.00	THE WORLD IN FLUX: STRATEGIC SECURITY BRIEFING (Slot II)
	<p>Gain clarity in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape. In this session, a regional security expert provides a focused briefing on global developments through both Austrian and Southeast Asian lenses. Together, you will assess emerging risks, identify opportunities, and discuss what today's shifts mean for your business.</p> <p>(Parallel session: Customs & Trade Compliance Deep-Dive)</p>
	<p>Hannes Nussgraber Expert Geopolitics and Security Policy in the Indo-Pacific JP/SG/AT</p>
17.30 – 18.00	SHUTTLE SERVICE TO NETWORKING RECEPTION
	<p>A dedicated shuttle will transport participants from the conference venue to the reception location. Please gather at [meeting point]; departure will be prompt to ensure a smooth transition.</p>
18.00 – 18.15	ARRIVAL @ NETWORKING RECEPTION
	<p>Arrive, take a breath, and enjoy a drink while you let the day sink in. A relaxed setting to reconnect and exchange with other participants.</p>
18.15 – 18.30	CLOSING REMARKS THE EPILOGUE
	<p>A brief wrap-up to highlight key takeaways from the conference and set the stage for continued dialogue and collaboration.</p>
18.30 – 21.00	NETWORKING RECEPTION
	<p>Join executives and senior representatives from Austrian companies in Southeast Asia and Austria for an evening of networking and culinary delight. Recap the day's discussions, exchange ideas, and build valuable connections while enjoying a perfect pairing of Austrian wines with Southeast Asian flavors.</p> <p>The venue is still under wraps... in the meantime, stay curious.</p>
21.00	SHUTTLE SERVICE TO OFFICIAL CONFERENCE HOTELS
21.30	<p>A dedicated transfer service will be provided from the event location back to the conference hotels for all participants. Please gather in the tower lobby, shuttle to depart promptly</p>
22.00	