

INVITED SPECIAL LECTURE

THE PREVALENCE OF KHAKI CAPITAL IN THAILAND & MYANMAR

6 AUG 2026

15:00 - 17:45 @ ROOM 7702,
MEIJO KOEN CAMPUS, AGU



AICHI GAKUIN
UNIVERSITY

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Unaccountable militaries can prey on national economies through the use of unrestrained parasitic capitalism. Sometimes elected civilians are either unable or unwilling to exercise control over the armed forces. Other times militaries simply control states directly. In the cases of Thailand and Myanmar, militaries have evolved as predatory “khaki capitalist” institutions. Thailand’s military, deriving its legitimacy as guardian of the monarchy, has used that role to justify its accumulation of economic resources. Myanmar’s military, in power for most of the decades since independence, has invoked national security to expand its budget and business interests. Both militaries have repeatedly employed coups to consolidate their economic power, most recently in 2014 in Thailand and 2021 in Myanmar. Beyond coups, each country’s military has remained politically independent from any fragile civilian control effort, ensuring the persistence of khaki capital. How did this situation evolve? What is the extent of khaki capital in Thailand and Myanmar? What might be the future? This presentation addresses these questions.

Sponsored by the Policy Studies
Association, Faculty of Policy Studies

PROGRAM

15:00 Opening by Makiko Takeda

15:10 Introduction of Paul Chambers by
Reigo Ota (English) & Sakurako Arai
(Japanese)

15:20 Special Lecture by Paul Chambers

16:50 Comments by Chosein Yamahata

17:05 Discussion

17:35 Closing by Makiko Takeda



Dr Paul Chambers

Visiting Research Scholar,
Center for Southeast Asian Studies
(CSEAS), *Kyoto University, Japan*

Lecturer,
Department of International and Area
Studies, University of Oklahoma, USA

Associate Senior Fellow,
ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore