

33rd ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE
Hilton Kuala Lumpur, 24 – 26 June 2019

A GREAT UNWINDING? RULES-BASED REGIONAL SECURITY ORDER TO 2020 & BEYOND

Topics and Role Players
(as of 18 March 2019)

MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2019

1400 – 1440 **REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL OF GUESTS**

Foyer, Ballroom A & B, Level 6

1500 – 1515 **WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS**

Ballroom C, Level 6

Chairman/Chief Executive/Board Member
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
Malaysia

Professor Aileen S P Baviera

Chair, ASEAN-ISIS Network;
President, Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation
The Philippines

1515 – 1700 **PLENARY SESSION 1 – ASIA-PACIFIC VS INDO-PACIFIC: RATIONALE, CONTESTATION & IMPLICATIONS**

Ballroom C, Level 6

The term “Indo-Pacific”, both as narrative and policy, has seen increased usage in recent years, especially by the United States, Japan, Australia and India. The concept has been diplomatically promoted in non-confrontational terms but the same cannot be said in security and defence. As such, there are suspicions about its intents and discomfort at its strategic implications. Beyond mere geography, what is the case for and against supporting either construct? What are their likely strategic directions and do outcomes contribute towards more or less cooperation, stability, security and peace?

Instigator:

Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak
Director
Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

Speakers:

Mr Elbridge Colby
Director, Defense Program,
Center for a New American Security (CNAS)
United States of America

Dr Wu Shicun
President
National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS)
China

Professor C Raja Mohan
Director, Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore
Singapore

Professor Akio Takahara
Dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo;
Senior Adjunct Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs
Japan

1715 - 1730 **REFRESHMENTS**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1730 – 1900 **PLENARY SESSION 2 – ASIA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP: STASIS OR ELEVATION?**

For historical, political and economic reasons, the Asia-Europe relationship has always been important despite preoccupations of the respective regions with their own dynamics and community building processes. With the rise of large and medium Asian powers, it is natural that Asia-Europe connectivity should be broadened and deepened, including in the political and security spheres. How does the European Union view the changes occurring in the Asia Pacific region and vice versa? What does its Common Foreign and Security Policy mean for Asia and the Pacific? How is the European Union dealing with security challenges emanating from Asia within its borders? Are there really conjoint interests to ratchet up their partnership and to what level?

Instigator:
To be determined

Speakers:
Professor Dr Nguyen Vu Tung
President
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)
Vietnam

Ambassador Pou Sothirak
Executive Director
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)
Cambodia

Dr Michito Tsuruoka
Associate Professor
Faculty of Policy Management
Keio University
Japan

H.E. Mr Francisco Fontan
Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

1900 – 2030 **WELCOMING DINNER**
Grand Ballroom, Level 6

2030– 2130 **ASEAN-ISIS NETWORK MEETING**
Suite 1 & 2, Level 7

TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2019

0915 – 1030 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: NEW MALAYSIA IN A CHANGING REGIONAL ORDER**
Ballroom A & B, Level 6, Level 6

Moderator:

The Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah (Invited)
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

Speaker:

The Honourable Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (Invited)
Prime Minister of Malaysia

1030 – 1100 **REFRESHMENTS**
Foyer, Sentral Ballroom, Level 6

1100 – 1230 **PLENARY SESSION 3 – AMID RIFTS & REFORMS: POLITICAL CONTESTATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**
Ballroom A & B, Level 6

As a crucial point for democracy in several ASEAN Member States, the year 2019 will likely see a rising political contestation in Southeast Asia's domestic and regional landscapes. This session explores the state of domestic and regional politics in Southeast Asia following the presidential elections in Indonesia and national election in Thailand, as well as in anticipation of Myanmar's general election in 2020. What are the hurdles and costs of advancing democratic reform agendas in these countries? How does domestic political contestation in these countries affect the wider power configuration at bilateral, regional and global levels? What are the policies and strategies by elected policymakers that could impact the dynamics of ASEAN? What is the contemporary assessment on the supposedly declining quality of democracy in the region?

Instigator:

Mr Aaron Connelly
Research Fellow
Southeast Asian Political Change and Foreign Policy
International Institute for Strategic Studies
Singapore

Proposed Speakers:

Dr Philips J Vermonte
Executive Director
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

Dr Pandit Chanrochanakit
Assistant Professor;
Deputy Dean for Research & Academic Service
Chulalongkorn University
Thailand

Dr Bridget Welsh
Visiting Senior Research Fellow
HELP University
Malaysia

1230 – 1400 **LUNCH – Hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia**
Ballroom C, Level 6

1400 – 1600 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
**CONCURRENT SESSION 1 – NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL IN CRISIS: A GAME-
CHANGER FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC?**

The withdrawal of the United States from the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty has precipitated possibly the most severe crisis in nuclear arms control in the post-Cold War era. This session will assess how the breakdown of the nuclear arms-control regime will shape the nature of major-power rivalries, specifically in the Asia Pacific. To what extent is this more than about US-Russia rivalry? Are we on the cusp of a nuclear arms race in the region? Have we largely neglected the role of nuclear weapons in our analyses of major-power competition in the region? What can global and regional institutions do to encourage greater restraints in the role of nuclear weapons in the security policies of countries that possess them?

Instigator:

To be confirmed

Speakers:

Mr Ralph Cossa
President Emeritus
Pacific Forum
United States of America

Mr Andrey Baklitskiy
Research Fellow
Center for Global Trends and International Organisations
Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Foreign Ministry
Russia

Dr Manpreet Sethi
Senior Fellow
Centre for Air Power Studies
India

CONCURRENT SESSION 2 – THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ALONG THE BANGLADESH-MYANMAR BORDER: RESPONSES AND CHALLENGES

The violence that wracked the Rakhine State in August 2017 saw the fresh exodus of refugees across the border to Bangladesh. Around 1 million- plus displaced now live in camps, supported by the Bangladeshi government and international community. This session aims to examine the conditions and challenges in the camps along the border, and the wider conflict as a whole. What are the further ramifications of new conflicts within the Rakhine State? Are there realistic chances for progress towards a durable solution between the two governments at repatriation? What more can the international community do in order to help bring parties together for a political solution?

Instigator:

Mr William Swing
Former Director General
International Organisation of Migration
Malaysia

Speakers:

U Kyaw Myaing
Information and Communications Director, Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD);
Member, Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)
Myanmar

Ms Lilianne Fan
Co-Founder & International Director, Guetanoye Foundation;
Deputy Chair, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network
Malaysia

1600 – 1630 **REFRESHMENTS**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1630 – 1800 **PLENARY SESSION 4 – THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA @ 70: ESTABLISHMENT, EVOLUTION & EXPECTATIONS**
Ballroom A & B, Level 6

Emerging out of the ashes of World War II, China was mired in underdevelopment and poverty but nevertheless faced herculean tasks of nation building and security from external threats. Few could have seen the trajectory that lay ahead, especially since its 1979 reforms and opening-up. This session unpacks China’s past, present and future. What lessons can be drawn from its past, both for itself and other countries? How will it manage the present, especially when status quo powers see it threatening their interests? And what will China have to do in order to ensure

that it continues to progress economically and socially? What will China's role in the global community of nations look like in the coming decades?

Instigator:

Dr Paul Evans
Professor
School of Public Policy and Global Affairs
University of British Columbia
Canada

Speakers:

Madam Fu Ying (*invited*)
Chair
National People's Congress Foreign Affairs Committee
People's Republic of China

Professor Bates Gill
Professor
Asia-Pacific Strategic Studies
Australian National University
Australia

Professor Aileen S P Baviera
Chair, ASEAN-ISIS Network;
President, Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation
The Philippines

1830 – 2030 **DINNER – Hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia**
Ballroom C, Level 6

WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2019

0900 – 1030 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CONCURRENT SESSION 3 –TECHNOLOGICAL RIVALRY & NATIONAL SECURITY

In a world increasingly shaped by advanced communication technologies, suspicions that cellular devices and infrastructure are being used to gather intelligence have been growing. Some Asia Pacific governments have started to ban or restrict participation of companies, primarily from China, from supplying data centre and network infrastructure equipment, modems and 5G intellectual property. Are these suspicions warranted or exaggerated and designed to tip the balance in favour of European and US suppliers? Given that 5G greatly expands the scope of the Internet of Things (IoT), how do governments ensure their national security and yet facilitate trade of these products? What can countries do to ensure greater cooperation so that its citizens benefit?

Instigator:

Professor C Raja Mohan
Director

Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore (NUS)
Singapore

Speakers

Mr Oleg Abdurashitov
Head of Public Affairs Asia Pacific
Kaspersky Lab
Singapore

Dr Liang Zheng
Research Fellow and Assistant Director
China Institute for Science and Technology Policy
Tsinghua University
China

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 – SUMMITS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA: LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

Sentral Ballroom B, Level 6

Summits involving Kim Jong-un, Moon Jae-in, Xi Jinping and Donald Trump since early 2017 stand in stark contrast to the tense period of missile and nuclear tests and hostile threats just before. With the Summits, the first instalments of inter-Korean peace and military treaties and offers by Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to de-commission certain nuclear test sites, there is a ray of optimism that peace building could continue. Denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, however, appears highly problematic and the UN sanctions on DPRK are unlikely to be lifted until then. Are the steps taken so far sufficient to comprehensively address DPRK's existential security concerns? Do these summits increase the prospects for eventual reunification and is it something still desired by all stakeholders?

Instigator:

Mr Ralph Cossa
President Emeritus
Pacific Forum
United States of America

Speakers:

Mr Chun Yung Woo
Former National Security Advisor;
Chief Negotiator, Six Party Talks
Republic of Korea

Dr Zhu Feng
Executive Director
China Center for Collaborative Studies of the South China Sea
Nanjing University
China

Dr Geetha Govindasamy
Senior Lecturer, Department of East Asia Studies

University of Malaya
Malaysia

1030 – 1045 **REFRESHMENTS**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1045 – 1215 **PLENARY SESSION 5 – STATE-SPONSORED INFLUENCE OPERATIONS IN THE DIGITAL AGE**
Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

State-sponsored influence operations – both domestic and foreign – are an increasing concern as these activities seek to impact elections, domestic sentiments and national interests. This session aims to articulate the challenges posed by such influence operations and technologies on society and the information environment. How do advanced technologies impact the way information is created, shared and consumed? Are legislative processes the only means of safeguarding the information environment from influence operations? Should the private sector and civilians also play a role in protecting systems from manipulation? Is this the new security frontier that policy planners will have to deal with in the near future?

Instigator:
To be confirmed

Speakers:
Dr Shashi Jayakumar
Head
Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)
Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Singapore

1215 – 1245 **CLOSING ADDRESS**
Ballroom A & B, Level 6

The Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah (invited)
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

Chairman/Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
Malaysia

1245 – 1400 **LUNCH**
Ballroom C, Level 6