

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

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

(as of 18 June 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

Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman & Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)
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 US, 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 & 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 (NUS)

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 EU 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 EU 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:

Mr Patrick Rueppel

Senior Program Manager

Foreign & Security Policy, Geopolitics

Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Singapore

Speakers:

Dr Le Dinh Tinh

Acting Director-General
Institute for Strategic Studies & Foreign Policy
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
Vietnam

Ambassador Pou Sothirak

Executive Director
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation & Peace (CICP)
Cambodia

Dr Michito Tsuruoka

Associate Professor
Faculty of Policy Management
Keio University
Japan

HE Mr Francisco Fontan

Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN
Indonesia

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

TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2019

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

Introduction By:

The Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

Speaker:

The Honourable Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad
Prime Minister of Malaysia

1030 – 1100 **REFRESHMENTS**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1100 – 1230 **PLENARY SESSION 3 – AMID RIFTS & REFORMS: POLITICAL CONTESTATIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**
Grand Ballroom, 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 & Foreign Policy

International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)

Singapore

Speakers:

Dr Philips J Vermonte

Executive Director

Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

Indonesia

Dr Pandit Chanrochanakit

Assistant Professor & Deputy Dean

Faculty of Political Science

Chulalongkorn University

Thailand

Dr Bridget Welsh

Associate Professor of Political Science

John Cabot University

Italy

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?
Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

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? What are the prospects of progress being made at the 2020 NPT Review Conference? 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:

Dato' Nadzirah Osman

Deputy Secretary-General (Multilateral)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Ralph Cossa

President Emeritus

Pacific Forum

United States of America

Mr Andrey Baklitskiy

Consultant

Russian Center for Policy Research (PIR Center)

Russia

Dr Manpreet Sethi

Senior Fellow

Centre for Air Power Studies

India

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

Senral Ballroom B, Level 6

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:

Dato' Steven Wong

Deputy Chief Executive

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Speakers:

U Kyaw Myaing

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

Ms Lilianne Fan

Co-Founder & International Director, Guetanoye Foundation;
Chair, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights' Rohingya Working Group
Malaysia

Dr Chowdhury Abrar

Professor, International Relations, University of Dhaka;
Director, Refugee & Migratory Movements Research Unit
Bangladesh

1600 – 1630 **REFRESHMENTS**

Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

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

Grand Ballroom, 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 & Global Affairs
University of British Columbia
Canada

Speakers:

Professor Gao Jian

Secretary-General
Shanghai Academy of Global Governance and Area Studies
China

Dr Bates Gill
Professor
Asia-Pacific Security Studies
Macquarie 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
Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

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:

Dr Zheng Liang
Professor, School of Public Policy & Management;
Deputy Director & Research Fellow,
China Institute for Science & Technology Policy
Tsinghua University
China

Mr Hosuk Lee-Makiyama

Director
European Centre for International Political Economy
Sweden

Dr Jasmine Begum

Director, Legal & Government Affairs
Microsoft Malaysia & ASEAN
Malaysia

Ms Nur Sulyna Abdullah

Chief Transformation Officer
Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission
Malaysia

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 North Korea 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 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:

Ambassador Chun Yung Woo

Chairman, Korean Peninsula Future Forum;
Former National Security Advisor & Six Party Talks Negotiator
Republic of Korea

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**
Grand Ballroom, Level 6

State-sponsored influence operations – both domestic and foreign – are an increasing concern as these activities seek to impact elections, domestic sentiments and the national interest. This session aims to articulate the challenges posed by such influence operations and technologies on international relations, society and the information environment. How do advanced technologies impact the way information is created, shared and consumed? How are these techniques used to project a political aim? Are legislative processes the only means of safeguarding the information environment from influence operations? Is this the new security frontier that policy planners will have to deal with in the near future?

Instigator:

Mr John J Brandon

Senior Director, International Relations Programs;
Associate Director, Washington DC Office
The Asia Foundation
United States of America

Speakers:

Dr Shashi Jayakumar

Head
Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS)
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Singapore

Mr Dev Lewis

Research & Communications Associate
Digital Asia Hub
Hong Kong

Mr Hosuk Lee-Makiyama

Director
European Centre for International Political Economy
Sweden

1215 – 1330 **SPECIAL LUNCHEON SESSION – ASEAN: TOWARDS VISION 2025**

Ballroom C, Level 6

Moderator:

Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa

Chairman & Chief Executive

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Speakers:

The Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

The Honourable Dr Marty Natalegawa

Former Minister for Foreign Affairs

Indonesia

1330 – 1345 **CLOSING ADDRESS**

Ballroom C, Level 6

The Honourable Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia