

OPENING REMARKS

Delivered by Associate Professor Dr Hoang Anh Tuan,
Vice President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam at
the 35th Asia – Pacific Roundtable (APR 35)

5-7 July, 2022

Dear Honourable Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Professor Herizal Hazri, Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

ASEAN ISIS Heads and members,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is such a privilege and honour for me as the Chair of the ASEAN - ISIS Network for 2022 to warmly welcome all of you to the 35th Asia – Pacific Roundtable on “*Sustaining Cooperation Amid Competition*”.

Before we get started, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ISIS Malaysia colleagues, who worked tirelessly and dedicatedly from day 1 to make today a reality.

For the last 35 years, the APR has been playing the champions of Track Two diplomacy for Asia – Pacific nations to discuss the relevant and timely topics affecting the region. This Roundtable today once again provide a cross-border dialogue to discuss frankly, robustly and constructively on the key strategic issues that our region is faced with, especially as we all are progressing to a new normal in the post-pandemic time and heading to a more sustainable development.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemens,

Given the hard time in Europe right now, we are so blessed to stay here with a lineup of esteemed speakers and instigators to exchange our views on ways to ensure and protect our peaceful region, strengthen and mutually develop our

relationships. Those are the heart and soul of Track Two diplomacy. Let me take this opportunity to express my views on the theme of this year Roundtable on “*Sustaining Cooperation Amid Competition*” - what will be elucidated under the following sessions:

The first session will look at the scene of the evolving environment in the region. It includes the identification of the opportunities and challenges brought about by the China’s Dual-Circulation Strategy in the context of the increasingly competitive regional environment. We will also explore some kind of cooperation that regional countries value from this Strategy as well as some areas of improvement to make our relationship more robust.

The second session is actually focusing on the impact of climate change and COP26 in our region since Asia-Pacific is now considered one of the regions hardest hit by climate change while countries are still struggling to adapt to this emerging non-traditional security issue. The key outcomes of the COP26 can only be realized once regional countries try best to cooperate to make transition point for climate action and harmonize the impact on strategic security and trade concerns with the benefits gained from climate action.

In the upcoming sessions, we will be discussing the current issues that are changing and challenging our region, including the EU’s engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the prospect of nuclear rearmament in the region, and addressing the thematic issues of emerging and revised multilateral and unilateral mechanisms and its impact on regional stability and security.

Under the rubric of these sections, we would like to hear the perspectives of prominent speakers and colleagues on finding more effective approaches to arms control and mitigate the recent development. The question of how to enhance the cooperation and engage more openly and effectively with the emerging mechanisms and recalibrate its strategic responses in the face of the new and competing multi- and mini-lateral mechanisms such as the Quad, the Aukus and a revised BRI will be also very important for our region today.

Distinguished Guests,

Colleagues and Friends,

Given the high relevancy of these topics, please allow me, once again, to underline the importance of all participants to proactively engage in in-depth deliberations

and discussions in the Roundtable, especially on the crucial aspects related to the relationship between Asia-Pacific countries.

I sincerely hope that today and the next couple of days inspires ideas and discussions around the ways that we can sustain cooperation amid competition to recover from the pandemic and develop in the context of major powers rivalry.

With that, I end my remarks.

Thank you for your attention!