

37TH ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

Crisis in an Interregnum

4 – 6 June 2024 (Tuesday - Thursday)
Kuala Lumpur

(As of 14 May 2024)

Tuesday, 4 June 2024

17:30–18:00 Registration for welcoming dinner

Foyer, Ballroom A & B, Level 6

18:00–19:45 Welcoming dinner & networking reception

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

Welcoming Remarks by:

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Dinner Address by:

YB Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Malaysia

19:45 End of proceedings for the day

Wednesday, 5 June 2024

08:10–09:10 Registration

Foyer, Ballroom A & B, Level 6

09:10–09:30 Opening & welcoming remarks

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

Welcoming Remarks by:

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Chairman

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Opening Remarks by:

Dr Yose Rizal Damuri

Executive Director

Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS);

2024 Chair of ASEAN-ISIS

Indonesia

09:30–11:00 Plenary 1

Major-power rivalry: between mitigation and cooperation

Tensions between US and China have created an environment of distrust and uncertainty. As major-power rivalry heightens, the growing risk of miscalculation and unintended clashes have sparked a need for greater crisis communication. Are existing mechanisms like APEC, EAS or G20 conducive for promoting dialogue and cooperation? If not, what new platforms are needed? Is there a role for small and medium powers to foster mitigation and cooperation?

Instigator

Hervé Lemahieu

Director of Research

Lowy Institute

Australia

Speakers

Yun Sun

Senior Fellow

Stimson Centre

United States

Victor Zhikai Gao

Vice President

Centre for China & Globalisation

HE Sujiro Seam

Ambassador of the European Union to ASEAN

HE Ong Keng Yong

Executive Deputy Chairman

S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Singapore

Datuk Raja Nushirwan Zainal Abidin

Director-General

National Security Council

Malaysia

11:00–11:30 Refreshments

Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

11:30–13:00 Plenary 2

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

ASEAN in 2025: reflecting the past, shaping the future

2025 is a pivotal year for ASEAN, as it marks the culmination of the KL Declaration and its multiple visions. It also unveils the post-2025 vision that will guide ASEAN over the next two decades. This session aims to encapsulate both a reflection and a way forward. How can ASEAN address effectively internal and external challenges, such as its response to the Myanmar crisis and the centrality of its regional mechanisms amid major-

power rivalry? What should be Malaysia's key priorities for the post-2025 vision when it assumes the chairmanship next year?

Instigator

Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak

Senior Fellow

Institute of Security & International Studies (ISIS)

Thailand

Main Speaker

HE Dr Kao Kim Hourn

Secretary-General

ASEAN

Discussants

Prof Dewi Fortuna Anwar

Research Professor

Research Centre for Politics

National Research & Innovation Agency (BRIN)

Indonesia

Dr David Capie

Director of Centre for Strategic Studies

Victoria University of Wellington

New Zealand

13:00–14:30 Lunch

Ballroom C, Level 6

Special Address by:

HE Michalis Rokas

Ambassador of the European Union to Malaysia

14:30–16:00 Concurrent Session 1

Central Ballroom A, Level 6

Connecting the Global South

Growing discourse on the Global South and outcomes of the 2023 G20 Summit demonstrate the growing interest in creating inclusive cooperation mechanisms that capitalise on regions like Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific Islands, which Southeast Asia has neglected. Heightened diplomatic activity and enhanced multilateralism in those regions and organisations like BRICS and SCO show the importance of connecting the Global South. How can ASEAN better take the lead with its engagement with the Global South? Can it leverage on Dialogue Partners with functional relationships in the Global South to broker deeper ties in the region?

Instigator

Prof Antoinette R Raquiza

Vice-President

Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation, Inc (APPPFI)

The Philippines

Speakers

Dr Lina A Alexandra

Head of Department of International Relations
Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

Prof Harsh V Pant

Vice-President
Studies & Foreign Policy
Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
India

Yanitha Meena Louis

Analyst
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Concurrent Session 2

Reframing the global climate discourse

While awareness and diplomatic efforts on climate action have intensified, the gap between promises and impact continues to widen. Agendas largely shaped by Western narratives have created disproportionate expectations on developing countries despite the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities.' In what ways do nations exhibit climate hypocrisy through their actions compared with their stated commitments? How are developed and developing countries experiencing climate risks differently? How can we bridge the North-South divide to work towards a more equitable solution? What role should non-state actors, such as activists and lobbies, play in climate negotiations for a more inclusive climate governance?

Instigator

Dr Annabelle Workman

Research Fellow
Melbourne Climate Futures & Melbourne School of Population and Global Health
University of Melbourne
Australia

Speakers

Gen (rtd) ANM Muniruzzaman

President
Bangladesh Institute of Peace & Security Studies (BIPSS)

Dr Frederick Kliem

Director of the Regional Programme Energy Security and Climate Change
Asia-Pacific
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
Hong Kong SAR

Prakriti Koirala

Climate Activist
Loss & Damage Youth Coalition
Nepal

Concurrent Session 3

AIMing for errors: future battlefields and the challenge of AI

The incorporation of AI in the military is inevitable, be it to sift through images or as part of autonomous weapon systems. Nations with advanced AI capabilities will dictate the rules for responsible AI in the military. Meanwhile, pledges, such as those between the US and China banning the use of AI in autonomous weapons and nuclear warheads, need to be normalised and upheld by middle powers. Is the region prepared for military transformation and adoptions of AI? How will AI impact state responsibility in conflict and peacetime? Can ASEAN build safer practices with military modernisations of AI?

Instigator

Dr Evan A Laksmna

Senior Fellow for Southeast Asia Military Modernisation
International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) Asia
Singapore

Speakers

Lt-Gen (Dr) RS Panwar

Distinguished Fellow
United Service Institution of India

Dr Michael Raska

Assistant Professor
Institute for Defence & Strategic Studies
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Singapore

[Speaker 3 TBC]

16:00–16:20 Refreshments

16:20–17:50 Plenary 3

Geopolitics in the Middle East: regional developments, global ramifications

Strategic and conflict reconfigurations in the Middle East continue to draw in global powers, and impact on global commodities and trade. At the same time, reinvigorated Gulf Arab states are pursuing ambitious socio-economic policies, potentially reshaping traditional alliances to hedge against major-power rivalry. How will geopolitical developments in the Middle East impact the Asia-Pacific? What are the trajectories which observers should look out for? How have recent developments impacted perceptions of the rules-based order and global norms?

Instigator

Shahriman Lockman

Director of Special Projects
Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speakers

Dr Ebtessam Al-Ketbi

President

Emirates Policy Center

United Arab Emirates

Dr James M Dorsey

Adjunct Senior Fellow

S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Singapore

Dr Dino Patti Djalal

Founder

Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI)

Dr Khalil Shirgholami

Vice President

Institute for Political & International Studies (IPIS)

Iran

18:00–19:30 Dinner

Special Address by:

HE Ouyang Yuqing

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia

19:30 End of proceedings for the day

Thursday, 6 June 2024

08:45–09:45 Registration

10:00–11:00 Keynote address by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia

11:00–11:40 Refreshments

11:40–13:10 Plenary 4

Megatrends shaping the global economy: implications for Asia-Pacific

Escalating US-China economic rivalry will have far-reaching implications across the Asia-Pacific region, presenting both opportunities and geoeconomic fragmentation. This session aims to explore the megatrends shaping economic, investment and trade prospects in both China and the US, with a focus on the implications for Asia-Pacific. How are economic bifurcation, friend-shoring and de-risking strategies affecting global supply chain resilience? Are they sustainable in the long-term? How is the region preparing for future challenges through strategies, such as geoeconomic hedging and currency diversification (i.e., de-dollarisation)?

Instigator

Eduardo Pedrosa

Secretary-General

Pacific Economic Cooperation Council

Singapore

Speakers

Hosuk Lee-Makiyama

Director

European Centre for International Political Economy (ECIPE)

Belgium

Trinh Nguyen

Senior Economist

Natixis

Hong Kong SAR

Dr Yose Rizal Damuri

Executive Director

Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS);

2024 Chair of ASEAN-ISIS

Indonesia

Dr Yang Yao

Liberal Arts Chair Professor

Peking University

China

HE Chung Keeyong

Special Representative for Indo-Pacific

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

South Korea

13:10-14:30 Lunch

Special Address by:

HE Danielle Heinecke

High Commissioner of Australia to Malaysia

14:30-16:00 Plenary 5

The rise of regional powers: a struggle for agency?

The emergence of a new regional order, distinctly accelerated by major-power competition, has increased the role of regional powers. These powers have played a unique role in shaping geopolitical dynamics, such as by responding to potent changes in their strategic environment. However, they are limited by capacity and influence, and struggle to enforce agency. How can these small- and middle powers exert their interests and agency in international geopolitics today? What can we learn from the trajectory of emerging regional powers? Are existing multilateral mechanisms still a viable way to exercise agency?

Instigator

Dr Hoo Chiew-Ping

Co-Founder & Senior Fellow

East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Caucus

Malaysia

Speakers

Prof C Raja Mohan

Visiting Professor

Institute of South Asian Studies

National University of Singapore

Dr Akiko Fukushima

Senior Fellow

The Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research

Japan

Helen Mitchell

Sir Roland Wilson Scholar (Economic Security & Statecraft)

Crawford School of Public Policy

Australian National University (ANU)

Dr Frank Umbach

Senior Associate

Centre for European Security Strategies (CESS)

Germany

Dr Vu Le Thai Hoang

Director-General

Institute for Foreign Policy & Strategic Studies

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

16:00–16:15 **Closing remarks**

16:15 **End of proceedings for the 37th APR**