

32nd ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE
DISRUPTION: PEOPLE. TECHNOLOGY. POWER. SECURITY
Hilton Kuala Lumpur, 7 – 9 May 2018

Draft Programme
(as of 25 April 2018)

MONDAY, 7 MAY 2018

1430 – 1500 **REGISTRATION AND ARRIVAL OF GUESTS**
Foyer, Ballroom A & B, Level 6

1500 – 1530 **WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS**
Ballroom C, Level 6

Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa
Chairman and Chief Executive
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

U Khin Maung Lynn
Joint Secretary
Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies
Myanmar
(on behalf of the Chair of ASEAN-ISIS)

1530 – 1700 **PLENARY SESSION 1: POLITICS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: CHANGE OR STATUS QUO?**
Ballroom C, Level 6

The year 2018 has been described as a pivotal year for democracy and governance in Southeast Asia with several countries facing national elections over the course of the year. Indonesia is also expecting a hotly contested election in 2019. What are the likely scenarios for these elections? Given the rise of nationalism, populism and anti-establishment sentiments around the world, are voters in Southeast Asia seeking change or continuity in policies and politics? What are some of the hot button issues that could impact interstate relations within ASEAN, and with external powers?

Instigator:
Dr Michael Vatikiotis
Asia Regional Director
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Singapore

Speakers:
Ambassador Pou Sothirak
Executive Director
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace
Cambodia

Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak

Director
Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

Professor Dr Aileen S. P. Baviera

President
Asia Pacific Pathways to Progress
The Philippines

1700 – 1720 **REFRESHMENTS**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1720 – 1850 **SPECIAL PANEL: FOREIGN POLICY IN THE DIGITAL AGE**
Ballroom C, Level 6

The practice and application of foreign policy, especially in the public sphere, has seen significant disruption with the advent of digital communication technologies. The use of social media for example is becoming entrenched as a major method of communication for a growing number of political leaders and policymakers. Widespread information, not all of it verifiable, is available at the click of a button while governments find themselves relegated to just one of many stakeholders in shaping the message. These developments have also seen a greater interest by citizens and electorates in regional and global issues that could influence decisions and policies. To what extent have these digital disruptive factors impacted foreign policies in the region? How are leaders and officials adapting to communicating and even shaping foreign policy in an era of greater public scrutiny? Are we seeing a new normal in terms of messaging and relationships at Track One level? What are the implications of the communication of foreign policy in the digital age for regional and international security?

Instigator:

Mr Bunn Nagara

Senior Fellow
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)
Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Siddharth Varadarajan

Founding Editor
The Wire
India

Associate Professor Dr Farish Ahmad-Noor

Coordinator, PhD Programme, Graduate Programmes Office
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
Singapore

YM Raja Dato' Nushirwan Zainal Abidin
Deputy Secretary General (Bilateral Affairs)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

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

TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2018

0900 – 1030 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
CONCURRENT SESSION 1: STRATEGIC UPDATE: NORTHEAST ASIA
Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

This session is designed to highlight the developments in Northeast Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

Instigator:

Dr Lee Jaehyon
Senior Fellow, ASEAN and Oceania Studies Program
The Asan Institute
Republic of Korea

Speakers:

Dr Hoo Chiew-Ping
Senior Lecturer
Strategic Studies and International Relations Program
National University of Malaysia (UKM)
Malaysia

Dr Yuan Chong
Deputy Director
Institute of Japanese Studies
China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR)
China

Professor Tosh Minohara
Professor of US-Japan Relations
Kobe University
Japan

CONCURRENT SESSION 2: STRATEGIC UPDATE: WEST ASIA

Sentral Ballroom B, Level 6

This session is designed to highlight the developments in West Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

Instigator:

Mr Sholto Byrnes

Senior Fellow

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Morteza Damanpak Jami

Vice President, Research and Studies

The Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS)

Iran

Dr James Dorsey

Senior Fellow

S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Singapore

Dr Ayman Khalil

Director

Arab Institute for Security Studies

Jordan

1030 – 1100 **REFRESHMENTS**

Foyer, Sentral Ballroom, Level 6

1100 – 1230 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

CONCURRENT SESSION 3: STRATEGIC UPDATE: SOUTH ASIA

Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

This session is designed to highlight the developments in South Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

Instigator:

U Khin Maung Lynn

Joint Secretary

Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies

Myanmar

Speakers:

Dr Maria Sultan

President and Chairperson
South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI) University
Pakistan

Dr Dinusha Panditaratne

Executive Director
Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute on International Relations and Strategic Studies
Sri Lanka

Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury

Principal Research Fellow and Research Lead (Multilateral and International
Linkages)
Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore
Singapore

Mr Dhruva Jaishankar

Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies
Brookings India
India

CONCURRENT SESSION 4: STRATEGIC UPDATE: CENTRAL ASIA

Senral Ballroom B, Level 6

This session is designed to highlight the developments in Central Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

Instigator:

Mr Timofei Bordachev

Programme Director, Valdai Discussion Club;
Director, Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies, National
Research University Higher School of Economics
Russia

Speakers:

Dr Vladimir I Norov

Director
Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies
Uzbekistan

Dr Roy Anthony Rogers

Head, Department of International and Strategic Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of Malaya
Malaysia

Dr Meirat Omarov

Head of Department
Foreign Policy and International Security
Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies
Kazakhstan

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

1400 – 1600 **PLENARY SESSION 2: AMERICA FIRST, CHINA RISING: A NEW GLOBAL ORDER?**
Ballroom A & B, Level 6

In recent years and especially since the election of President Trump, opinion has increasingly converged on the idea that a fundamental and profound power shift is taking place in Asia. This session will explore the trajectories that American and Chinese power are expected to take and discuss whether a new regional order will emerge in the coming decades. What are the assumptions behind the assertion that a power shift is taking place? Are they valid? Are we right to focus primarily on America and China? How do other key regional players factor into the evolving equation? How should the rest of the region and the world react and adapt?

Instigator:

Dr Dino Patti Djalal

Founder
Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI)
Indonesia

Speakers:

Mr Walter Lohman

Director, Asian Studies Center
Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy
The Heritage Foundation
USA

Professor Xiang Lanxin

Professor, International History and Politics, The Graduate Institute Geneva;
Director, Centre of One Belt and One Road Studies,
China National Institute for SCO International Exchange and Judicial Cooperation

Professor Ken Jimbo

Faculty of Policy Management, Graduate School of Media and Governance
Keio University
Japan

Mr Anton Tsetov

Senior Analyst, Center for Strategic Research
Russian International Affairs Council
Russia

1600 – 1630 **REFRESHMENTS**

Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1630 – 1800 **PLENARY SESSION 3: INNOVATING ASEAN, PRESERVING RESILIENCE**

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

Singapore's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018 aims to focus on strengthening the group's collective resilience and ability to innovate in the context of a dynamic, changing landscape. How can ASEAN capitalise on innovation and technology to connect its economic and business community? What practical measures can it take to maintain agility in managing change and disruption across the different Community pillars? How can ASEAN better prepare for common challenges, such as violent extremism, cyber crime and climate change, in ensuring a prosperous, stable and secure region? What are the practical outcomes that ASEAN can focus on moving forward beyond 2018?

Instigator:

Dr Pavida Pananond

Thammasat Business School

Thammasat University

Thailand

Speakers:

Ms Nur Sulyna Abdullah

Chief Officer, Corporate Strategy Sector

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

Malaysia

Ms Moe Thuzar

Lead Researcher (Socio-Cultural)

ASEAN Studies Centre

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

Singapore

Professor Dr Dewi Fortuna Anwar

Chairman

Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, The Habibie Center

Indonesia

1830 – 2030 **DINNER: Hosted by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Malaysia**

Ballroom C, Level 6

WEDNESDAY, 9 MAY 2018

0900 – 1030 **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

CONCURRENT SESSION 5: TECHNOLOGY AND THE BATTLEFIELD: THE EVOLVING NATURE OF WARFARE

Sentral Ballroom A, Level 6

From airpower to nuclear weapons to precision-guided munitions, technology radically shaped the use of armed force in the last century. This session will examine how technology continues to shape the threat and use of force through the emergence of autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and cyberspace. Have these systems altered the thresholds for the use of force? What are the ethical and legal issues that arise as a result of these systems? What will the future battlefield look like?

Instigator:

Professor Dr Nguyen Vu Tung

President

Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

Vietnam

Speakers:

Ms Elsa B Kania

Adjunct Fellow, Technology and National Security Program

Center for a New American Security

USA

Ms Margherita D'Ascanio

Regional Legal Advisor

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Malaysia

Ms Zoe Stanley-Lockman

Associate Research Fellow, Maritime Security Programme

Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS)

S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Singapore

CONCURRENT SESSION 6: FUTURE-PROOFING AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Sentral Ballroom B, Level 6

The military battle against high-profile groups like Daesh in Syria, Iraq and the southern Philippines might have been won, but the war against violent extremism is far from over. While both security and reconstruction are vital for securing and rebuilding devastated conflict zones like Raqqa, Mosul and Marawi, equally important is establishing an environment where extremist ideologies are unable to take root. What are the strategies pursued by the relevant stakeholders to achieve these goals? What are the factors required to establish resilient societies that could

ward off the impacts of a potential terror attack in the future? What is the role of women in understanding and countering violent extremism?

Instigator:

Mr Muhammad Sinatra

Analyst

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Rommel Banlaoi

Chairman of the Board and Executive Director

Philippines Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research

The Philippines

Ms Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah

Director

Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)

Indonesia

Dr Eliane Ursula Etmüller

Postdoctoral Researcher

Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies

Germany

1030 – 1045 **REFRESHMENTS**

Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1045 – 1215 **PLENARY SESSION 4: THE STATE OF THE REGION: THE FUTURE OF APEC AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS**

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) institution is fast approaching the deadline of “free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific by 2020” (known as Bogor Goals). APEC must now critically reflect on its role in the evolving global and regional economic architecture. While discussions on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) have been positive over the past few years, FTAAP still remains highly aspirational. Anti-globalisation and protectionist sentiments have raised much doubt about greater economic integration. Yet a significant step has been made in the agreement on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This session will explore the key challenges and opportunities for the future of APEC and its new post-2020 vision. How can APEC remain relevant in the era of rising protectionist and anti-globalisation sentiments? What are the prospects for FTAAP, CPTPP, RCEP and other regional economic cooperation arrangements?

Instigator:

Dato' Steven Wong

Deputy Chief Executive

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Patrick Tay

Deals Partner, Economics and Policy

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Malaysia

Professor Natasha Hamilton-Hart

Department of Management and International Business;

Director, New Zealand Asia Institute

University of Auckland

New Zealand

Dr Li Wei

Assistant Professor, School of International Studies

Renmin University

China

1215 – 1230 **CLOSING REMARKS**

Ballroom A & B, Level 6

Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa

Chairman and Chief Executive

Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)

Malaysia

1230 – 1345 **LUNCH**

Ballroom C, Level 6