

THE 27th ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE
3-5th June 2013, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

STRATEGISING CHANGE IN ASIA

Preliminary Programme

DAY 1

3 June 2013

20:00 – 22:00

WELCOMING DINNER AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

WELCOMING REMARKS

HRH Prince Norodom Sirivudh

Chairperson, ASEAN-Institutes of Strategic and International Studies (ASEAN-ISIS) and Chairman, Board of Directors, The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Cambodia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND OFFICIAL OPENING

The Hon. Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak
Prime Minister of Malaysia

DAY 2

4 June 2013

09:00 – 10:15

PLENARY SESSION 1

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN US ENGAGEMENT WITH ASIA

By and large, the Obama Administration has been perceived as staunchly “pro-Asia.” Much of the credit in the strengthening of US ties with Asia is attributed to Secretary Hilary Clinton and her “Asia team.” As Clinton and her principal advisor for East Asia and the Pacific, Kurt Campbell, will not be part of Obama 2.0, will there be a change in the focus and priorities of US’s Asia policy? On the other hand, it is important to juxtapose US Asia policy against the important leadership change and transition in China, Japan and South Korea. How – if at all – will these new dynamics affect Washington’s ties with the three Northeast Asian states? Can Washington stay the course in its engagement with Myanmar? Will “rebalancing” remain as the centrepiece of the Asian policy? Will there be a new approach toward North Korea? How will a post-transition Afghanistan factor in US’s Asia policy?

Moderator: **Tan Sri Dato’ Seri Mohamed Jawhar Hassan**
Chairman, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Speaker: **Dr. Kurt Campbell**
Former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, USA

10:15 – 10:45

Refreshments

10:45 – 12:00

PLENARY SESSION 2

BUILDING STRATEGIC TRUST IN ASIA

Trust is a critical but rare commodity in international affairs. It is the basic building block of partnerships and its absence may serve to either circumscribe or derail any well-meaning initiatives. Suspicion breeds where trust is lacking. Asia-Pacific is a paradox where there are cases of major trading partners striving to deepen bilateral trade while eyeing each other suspiciously over military modernisation and build-ups. The Sino-US and Sino-Japanese relationships are a case in point. Can the paradox be overcome? How do we dampen distrust and break the vicious cycle of security dilemma? How do we engender trust in Asia? How does the deficit of trust affect the triangular relations amongst China, Japan and the US in Asia?

Chair: **Amb. Barry Desker**
Dean, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Speakers: **Prof. Dr. Yan Xuetong**
Director, Institute of International Studies,
Tsinghua University, China

Dr. Elizabeth C. Economy
C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies,
Council on Foreign Relations, USA

Prof. Dr. Yoshihide Soeya
Faculty of Law
Keio University, Japan

12:00 – 14:00

LUNCHEON TALK 1

RETHINKING ASEAN AND ITS RESPONSES TO A CHANGING ASIA-PACIFIC

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established at the height of the Cold War and more than four decades later, it continues to play a central role in driving regional affairs. Nevertheless, through the years, ASEAN has had its share of critics who bemoan its slow-paced decision-making and opaque institutionalization. Is ASEAN ripe for change? Can ASEAN transform the aspirational ideals found in the ASEAN Charter into actionable reality? Can the “ASEAN way” that had been the bedrock of the regional organisation meet the varied and different demands that it faces today? What is ASEAN’s strategy to maintain its centrality and relevance in the evolving regional architecture?

Moderator: **Tan Sri Dato’ Ahmad Fuzi Hj. Abdul Razak**
Secretary-General, World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) & Distinguished Fellow, Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Speaker: **Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng**
Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam

14:00 – 15:15

PLENARY SESSION 3**DECIPHERING THE “CHINESE GREAT DREAM” AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ASIA**

Just weeks after his appointment as Secretary-General, Mr. Xi Jinping has galvanised the Chinese peoples and captured their imagination with calls for national rejuvenation. Speaking at the “The Road to National Revival” exhibition at the National Museum, he offered: “In my view, realizing the great renewal of the Chinese nation is the Chinese nation’s greatest dream in modern history.” What does the dream entail? How do China’s neighbours fit into the dream? Is the dream exclusive to the Chinese or could it be shared by others? What is China’s strategy to construct a stable and peaceful strategic environment to facilitate regional development? What is China’s strategic vision of itself and the region? How does China assuage regional concerns of an increasingly prosperous and powerful nation?

Moderator: **Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak**

Director, Institute of Security and International Studies
& Associate Professor, Faculty of Political Sciences,
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Speaker: **The Hon. Mdm. Fu Ying**

Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, China

15:15 – 15:30

Break

15:30 – 16:45

PLENARY SESSION 4**EUROPE-ASIA: STRATEGIZING COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Europe’s engagement with Asia goes back for several millennia, and is mainly driven by state and sub-state entities. In contrast, inter-regional relation is a relatively new phenomenon. The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was only established as recent as 1996. ASEM currently brings together 49 states and two international organisations to discuss a wide range of political, economic, socio-cultural and educational issues. The Treaty of Lisbon (2009) paves the way for a united European foreign and security policy, and presents new opportunities to engage Asia. How would the creation of the External Action Service impact the European Union’s (EU) relations with Asia? What is EU’s strategy to elevate its engagement with Asia to the next level? What are the areas of priority that the EU would like to collaborate with Asia? How does the EU propose to further strengthen its ties with ASEAN and the broader region? What are the EU’s security concerns in Asia?

Moderator: **Dr. Rizal Sukma**

Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and
International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia

Speaker: **HE Mrs. Catherine Ashton**

Vice-President of the European Commission & High
Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and
Security Policy, The European Union

16:45 – 17:15

Refreshments

17:15 – 18:30

PLENARY SESSION 5 RESPONDING TO CHANGE IN ASIA

The ongoing shifts in the distribution of power in Asia represent the single-biggest transformation that the region has witnessed in the last 500 years. This has led to growing anxieties over whether the region's stability can be sustained, a worry evident in the growing military capabilities in Northeast Asia, in particular. At the same time, the region is also facing a whole host of generational and profound challenges. In many Asian countries, social safety nets remain weak despite ageing populations. Economic inequality has widened even as many have been lifted out of poverty. Environmental degradation continues apace as countries place a premium on economic growth. This session is aimed at weaving together these multiple threads to provide a multivariate assessment of Asia's future. Is the region's security architecture properly calibrated to respond to projected changes in the region's distribution of power? How can countries cooperate to confront the many common challenges that they face?

Chair: **Mr. Hitoshi Tanaka**
Chairman, The JRI Institute for International Strategy &
Former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan

Speakers: **Mr. Simon Tay**
Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs
(SIIA) & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National
University of Singapore

Prof. Hugh White
Professor of Strategic Studies, Strategic and Defence
Studies Centre (SDSC), The Australian National
University

Dr. Pratab Bhanu Mehta
President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy
Research, India

20:00 – 22:30

DINNER TALK GARUDA RISING: INDONESIA'S PLACE IN ASEAN AND BEYOND

Indonesia is on the ascendancy. It is ASEAN's largest economy and is home to about 40% of Southeast Asia's population. Today Indonesia is a vibrant democracy and is also the world's largest Muslim democratic polity. Jakarta is an ardent champion of democracy, human rights and rule of the law. These achievements have not gone unnoticed. It was invited to join the prestigious group of the world's largest economies (G20) in 2009. Its astute diplomatic leadership when chairing ASEAN in 2011 has also gained Jakarta wide respect and accolades. In October this year, Indonesia will host the APEC Summit in the island resort of Bali. What does a richer and more confident Indonesia mean for ASEAN? What is Indonesia's vision for itself and the region? Does "non-alignment" still inform Indonesia's foreign policy? How does Indonesia view its role in the evolving regional architecture?

Moderator: **Tan Sri Dato' Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar**
Chairman, Land Public Transport Commission & former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia

Speaker: **The Hon. Dr. Raden Mohammad Marty Muliana Natalegawa**
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia

DAY 3
5 June 2013
09:00 – 10:15

PLENARY SESSION 6

POLITICAL CHANGE AND TRANSITION IN NORTHEAST ASIA

In an unprecedented alignment of political stars, the three Northeast Asia's powerhouses – China, Japan and South Korea underwent significant political change at the end of 2012. The 18th National Congress all but confirmed Mr. Xi Jinping and Mr. Li Keqiang as China's top leaders. Japan and South Korea held their parliamentary and presidential elections respectively in December. Japanese votes gave a resounding victory to the Liberal Democratic Party which saw Mr. Shinzo Abe assuming the Premiership for the second time in less than six years. His Korean counterpart is Ms. Park Geun-hye won a closely contested election to become South Korea's first female president. What impact will these leadership changes mean for the region? Will Mr. Xi's assumption of the Chairmanship of the Central Military Commission give him more clout over the PLA? Will Mr. Xi be more conciliatory toward Japan, especially over the East China Sea dispute? How will Mr. Abe's purportedly "nationalist" credentials colour Japan's relations with its neighbours? Will Japan take the bold step of joining the TPP negotiations? How will Ms. Park manage Seoul's relations with Pyongyang? Will the new players adopt a hard-line or cooperative approach in the triangular relations? What are the prospects for the China-Japan-Korea (CJK) trilateral trade cooperation?

Chair: **Amb. Ong Keng Yong**
Singapore High Commissioner to Malaysia & former ASEAN Secretary-General

Speakers: **Dr. Yoichi Funabashi**
Chairman, Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation, Japan

Mr. Victor Zhikai Gao
Director, China National Association of International Studies

[Speaker from South Korea]

10:15 – 10:45

Refreshments

10:45 – 12:00

PLENARY SESSION 7
RUSSIA RECONNECTING WITH EAST ASIA

Notwithstanding the fact that Russia is a key player in regional affairs, its relations with East Asia is low-key and does not get the attention it deserves. Russia is an active participant in the region's key multilateral processes such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the East Asia Summit (EAS). Apart from political engagement, Russia lags behind other major powers in connecting with East Asia in a substantive manner. All the major powers – China, the European Union, India, Japan and the US – are among ASEAN's top ten trading partners. Russia is noticeably missing from this listing. This suggests that there is ample room for progress and cooperation. What does President Vladimir Putin's "pivot to Asia" mean? What are Russia's priorities in East Asia? What are the strategies and initiatives – in place or proposed – to augment Moscow's ties and engagement with the region?

Moderator: **Emeritus Prof. Dr. Carolina Hernandez**
 Founding President and Chair, Board of Directors,
 Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS),
 The Philippines

Speaker: **HE Amb. Igor V. Morgulov**
 Deputy Foreign Minister, The Russian Federation

12:00 – 14:00

LUNCHEON TALK 2
RE-ENERGIZING THE ASEAN-JAPAN PARTNERSHIP

Japan has been a long-standing partner for Southeast Asia, especially in the provision of official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade. While constitutional and political constraints prevent Japan from playing a direct security role, this has not deterred Japan from contributing to regional stability. However, as Japan and ASEAN mark the 40th anniversary of their bilateral dialogue relations, the partnership may have lost some of its lustre and momentum. Without a doubt, Japan continues to be an indispensable strategic partner for ASEAN. How could Japan provide the "extra zest" and impetus to bring its partnership with ASEAN to the next level? Is there any avenue for ASEAN and Japan to contemplate cooperating beyond Asia?

Moderator: **Dato' Dr. Mahani Zainal Abidin**
 Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International
 Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Speaker: **Dr. Akihiko Tanaka**
 President, Japan International Cooperation Agency
 (JICA)

14:00 – 15:15

PLENARY SESSION 8
WILL PEACE HOLD IN MINDANAO?

After more than a decade of negotiations, the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) signed the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro on 15 October 2012. The Framework, among others, establishes the Bangsamoro as a new political entity and provides for a legal and political modus vivendi between Manila and the Bangsamoro. The welcomed peace in Mindanao is susceptible to relapse if the Framework does not bring immediate and tangible “peace dividends” and material change on the ground. What are the important milestones? What are the “triggers” that may derail the spirit of goodwill and cooperation between Manila and the Bangsamoro? What is the role of external parties – government and non-government – in the Mindanao peace-building process?

Chair: [TBC]

Speakers: **Tengku Dato' Abdul Ghafar Tengku Mohamed**
 Malaysian Facilitator, Mindanao Peace Process

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim
 Chairman, Moro Islamic Liberation Front

Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles
 Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, The Philippines

15:15 – 15:30

Break

15:30 – 16:45

PLENARY SESSION 9
DEFUSING THE POWDER KEG IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The South China Sea (SCS) has been a subject of great interest and contestation for the past two years. Claimed either in parts or wholly by five parties – Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam – the SCS straddles important waterways linking the Pacific and Indian oceans. The temperature raises a notch every time one of the claimants undertakes an act to buttress its claims. Thus, begins a vicious cycle of action-reaction that makes the SCS disputes one of most contentious flashpoints in the region. It is in the interest for all parties to avoid escalation and militarization of the conflict. This is easier said than done. This session seeks to explore options and proposals for confidence-building and management of the dispute.

Chair: **Professor Dr. Robert Ayson**
 Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, Victoria
 University of Wellington, New Zealand

Speakers: **Dr. Rory Medcalf**
 Director, International Security Programme, The Lowry
 Institute for International Policy, Australia

Dr. Rizal Sukma
 Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and
 International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia

Dr. Ian Storey

Senior Fellow, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
(ISEAS), Singapore

16:45 – 17:15 Refreshments

17:15 – 18:30

PLENARY SESSION 10**STRATEGISING CHANGE IN ASIA**

Asia has undergone transformative changes in the last few decades. The bipolar security structure has given way to a more inclusive, cooperative and multilateral modality. Political space and discourse is increasingly wider and more open. In some parts, there are even visible signs of political openness and reform. It is also a “buzzing” region with over a billion Netizens. Although there have been some hiccups – in 1997/8 and 2008 – Asia remains one of the most vibrant economic regions in the world. Demographics is also literally changing the face of Asia, with some countries having to grapple with a rapidly ageing society while others fortuitously reaping the benefits of a predominantly young and productive population. The session seeks to identify the key drivers for change in Asia in the immediate term. What are these elements of change? How do these changes manifest themselves? What impact do they have on Asia?

Moderator: **Mr. Simon Tay**

Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs
(SIIA) & Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, National
University of Singapore

Speaker: **The Hon. Dr. Shashi Tharoor**

Minister of State for Human Resource Development &
Member of Parliament for Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala,
India

18:30

CLOSING REMARKS