

**29<sup>th</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE**  
**Kuala Lumpur, 1–3 June 2015**

Programme

**MONDAY, 1 JUNE**

2000–2200    **Welcoming Dinner and Keynote Address by the Prime Minister**

**TUESDAY, 2 JUNE**

0900–1015    Session 1

**The Search for Security in the Asia Pacific:  
Implications for Future Stability**

Despite the growing salience of security threats that transcend the nation-state – such as radicalisation and disease pandemics – anxieties remain that challenges to order and stability in the Asia-Pacific region are intensifying. This session will examine the strategies of major and middle powers in the Asia Pacific. It will serve as a scene-setter for the subsequent sessions by taking a step back from current day-to-day events and adopting a long-term perspective on stability in the region. How are the major and middle powers seeking to promote their long-term interests amid uncertainties over the future shape of the Asia-Pacific strategic environment? What can be done to promote stability in relations between the major powers?

1015–1045    Refreshments

1045–1200    Session 2

**China's Strategic Initiatives Under Xi Jinping**

Since assuming the leadership of the People's Republic of China, President Xi Jinping has promoted a number of initiatives of transcontinental proportions and implications. These include a "New Type of Major Country Relations," the "New Asian Security Concept," the "Asia-Pacific Dream," and the "Maritime Silk Road of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." This session is aimed at examining these initiatives from a broad strategic perspective. What do they say about China's view of its role in the world and in the Asia Pacific, in particular? What do the more conceptual initiatives such as the New Asian Security Concept and the Asia-Pacific Dream actually mean? What are the strategic

imperatives that underpin these initiatives? What have been the reactions of other Asia-Pacific countries?

1200–1315 Lunch

1315–1430 Session 3

**ASEAN Beyond 2015: What Does it Mean to be a Community?**

Following its declaration as a Community on 31 December 2015, higher expectations will be placed on ASEAN's capacity and resolve to enhance its economic vibrance, promote peace and security, and engender a stronger regional identity among its people. This session will discuss concrete and specific steps that can be taken to meet those expectations, including the possible review of the ASEAN Charter and institutions. What should be the priorities for ASEAN's Post-2015 Vision? What are the main opportunities and challenges that ASEAN will face over the coming decade? If the ASEAN Community is "a process, not an event," what should that process look like?

1430–1445 Break

1445–1600 Session 4

**The Maritime Domain:**

**Strengthening Stability, Promoting Confidence**

This session will explore how stability and confidence can be promoted in the Asia-Pacific maritime domain even as countries place greater emphasis on asserting their territorial and jurisdictional claims, protecting critical sea-lines of communication, and exploiting maritime resources. What are the implications of maritime connectivity initiatives such as China's Maritime Silk Route and Indonesia's Global Maritime Axis? What are the kinds of capabilities being acquired for regional navies and coast guards to these and other ends? What concrete steps can be taken to cultivate trust and confidence as well as further enhance maritime cooperation between regional countries?

1600–1630 Refreshments

1630–1800 Session 5

**Debate: "Cyber Conflict is Simply a Question of When, Not If."**

Despite growing awareness of the significance of cyber space to national security, ambiguity persists over whether an attack in cyber space can ever amount to an armed attack or war. Commentators are split between the extremes of the inescapability of a cyber Pearl Harbour and the assured counterpoint that cyber war will not take

place. This session will feature two panellists debating each side of the motion that cyber conflict is inevitable. In arguing their case, debaters will be encouraged to clarify concepts such as cyber warfare, consider what espionage and subversion mean for national security, and examine the implications of cyber attacks on warfare and law. The debate will be moderated by a subject-matter expert who will, after the debate, provide an opportunity for each panellist to offer a summation of her/his insights beyond the confines of the debate.

(Note: Format to be decided after considering different options)

1800–1830    Networking Drinks

1830–2030    Dinner

### **WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE**

0900–1015    Session 6

#### **New Security Frontiers: The Resource Nexus Challenge**

The increase in resource use in the Asia Pacific has been above the world average. As these resources become increasingly scarce, governments and corporations have rushed to stake their claims, thus raising the potential for tensions in various parts of the region. The session will revolve around competition over finite natural resources and the challenges posed to Asia-Pacific stability. How will resource scarcity and volatility affect regional security? How do defence establishments look at future resource-related scenarios? What are the new growth and disruptive innovations around the corner? How can markets be shaped by regulators to encourage long-term mitigating and adaptive measures?

1015–1045    Refreshments

1045–1200    Session 7

#### **The Geopolitics of EPAs in the Asia Pacific**

Asia-Pacific countries of varying configurations are engaged in negotiations for a number of region-wide economic partnership arrangements (EPAs). These include the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), with a “collective strategic study” being initiated for the Free Trade Area for the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). This session will explore the implications of regional EPAs, with a focus towards how countries are using them to hedge and diversify their strategic relationships while

promoting their economic competitiveness. What explains the existence of competing proposals for regional EPAs? How do these EPAs shape the Asia-Pacific strategic environment?

1200–1330    Lunch

1330–1445    Session 8

**Surveying the Southeast Asian Political Terrain**

The diversity in Southeast Asian political systems means that the region will constantly witness shifts – whether minor or otherwise – in the domestic landscapes of any number of ASEAN countries. With elections anticipated in Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand over the next two years, the region may well see significant – perhaps even unprecedented – political transitions over that period. In Indonesia, the election of President Joko Widodo has been widely heralded as a new dawn for that country. Where is Southeast Asian politics generally headed? What are the challenges for the ASEAN Political-Security Community as it seeks to contribute towards “building of a peaceful, democratic, tolerant, participatory and transparent community”?

1445–1500    Break

1500–1615    Session 9

**Calibrating the Design of the Asia-Pacific Security Architecture**

This session will discuss what practical steps can be taken to strengthen the existing regional security arrangements and processes. What accounts for the persistent calls for calibrating the design of the regional security architecture? What should be the priority issues for the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus)? Should the EAS evolve from a leaders-led dialogue into a platform for providing strategic guidance to other regional forums, such as the ADMM Plus and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)? Can ASEAN maintain its centrality and should it be at the “driver’s seat”? What precisely should the security architecture be able to do in order to be judged as sufficiently capable of managing challenges to order and stability in the Asia Pacific?

1615–1700    Refreshments

1700–1815 Session 10

**Radicalisation Redux: Bigger, Badder, Bolder?**

The last few years have seen an upsurge in violence by radical groups, with new players entering the scene – the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) being the most prominent. This session will focus on the rapid spread of extreme ideologies, from conflict zones in the Middle East and Africa to other parts of the world, including Western Europe and the Asia Pacific. What explains the appeal of these radical groups across such a wide geographical footprint? How can governments and civil society organisations counter the spread of radicalisation and extremism?

1815–1830 **Closing Remarks**