

31ST ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

THE FUTURE OF THE ASIA PACIFIC: ISSUES AND INSTITUTIONS IN FLUX

HILTON KUALA LUMPUR, 22 – 24 MAY 2017

(as of 28 March 2017)

Monday, 22 May 2017

International arrivals

1930 – 2000 **Arrival of Guests and Networking Reception**

2000 – 2100 **Arrival of the Prime Minister of Malaysia and Welcoming Dinner**

2100 – 2115 **Keynote Address and Official Opening by the Prime Minister of Malaysia**

Tuesday, 23 May 2017

0730 – 0845 Registration

0845 – 1045 **Plenary 1: “New” Major Power Relations and Dynamics in the Asia Pacific**

Peace and security in the Asia Pacific region is predicated on a dense web of bilateral diplomatic, economic, social and military relationships and participation in overarching regional institutions. This web changes as nations rise and decline in relative power, as interests and interdependencies shift, and as new leaders are elected or appointed. This session explores changes in major power relations and the impact of realignments on the region. Do they lead to a more or less stable region? Is greater cooperation rather than rivalry possible amid these changing realities and overlapping interests? What do unfolding interactions among the region’s major powers mean for smaller countries in the region?

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

Panellists: Dr James Jay Carafano
Vice President, Foreign and Defence Policy Studies; EW Richardson Fellow;
Director, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies
The Heritage Foundation
USA

Ambassador Yoshiji Nogami
President
Japan Institute of International Affairs

Dr Sergey Karaganov
Honorary Chairman of the Presidium, Council on Foreign and Defense Policy;
Dean, Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs
National Research University – Higher School of Economics
Russia

1045 – 1100 Refreshments

1100 – 1230 **In Conversation: Asian Views on America's Role in Asia**

The 2016 US presidential election revealed concern and scepticism about America's foreign policy commitments towards Asia, including possible inclinations towards anti-globalisation and isolationists sentiments. The presidency of Donald Trump will be closely watched by observers in Asia and throughout the world. Asia's evolving regional architecture, including ASEAN's positioning therein, hinges to a large extent on how the United States and China manage their bilateral relations. How will the Trump administration manage its policy towards Asia? What will this mean for US-ASEAN relations? Will America's relations with Asia now be "reset" as opposed to "rebalanced"?

Chair: Mr John Brandon
Senior Director, International Relations Programs;
Associate Director, Washington, DC office
The Asia Foundation
USA

Panellists: Dr Thitinan Pongsudhirak
Director
Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

Professor Yoon Young-Kwan
Professor Emeritus Seoul National University;
Former Foreign Minister
Republic of Korea

Ambassador Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty
Distinguished Fellow
Observer Research Foundation
India

1230 – 1400 ***Lunch Address***

1400 – 1530 **Plenary 2: ASEAN: Is Change Inevitable?**

ASEAN's 50th anniversary in 2017 marks a significant milestone for a community of ten diverse nations that came together at different times in different circumstances. As this grouping looks towards its next milestone in 2025 and further into the future, what immediate strategic and flashpoint challenges will shape its next few decades? Can the ASEAN Community really create a more connected, vibrant and united ASEAN? How can member states reconcile their

individual aims, needs and concerns within the framework of the grouping without sacrificing their collective interests? How can ASEAN meet the evolving expectations of its dialogue partners? What must ASEAN do in order to stay relevant as other strategic sub-regional arrangements evolve around it? What kind of future can ASEAN shape for the people of this region?

Chair: Dr Philips Vermonte
Executive Director
Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

Panellists: Dr Dang Cam Tu
Director
Centre for Regional and Foreign Policy Studies
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

Dr Aries Arugay
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University of the Philippines-Diliman

1530 – 1700 **Plenary 3: Tensions in Cyber Space: Balancing National Security, Privacy, and Innovation**

Technological developments and the push towards e-government, the digital economy, and the Internet of Things have resulted in massive troves of content as well as constant flows of data around the world. They warrant trusted systems and networks that, in turn, necessitate strong cybersecurity practices including encryption. This approach protects not only data but its owners and their privacy. However, as some of this data may be used and manipulated to do harm, the importance of keeping information secure and the Internet open risk coming into conflict with national security priorities and methods such as surveillance. Are national security, privacy and technological imperatives irreconcilable? Can governments work with the private sector to protect the state yet keep the Internet open? How can end users protect their online privacy without government overreach?

Chair: Mr Arun Mohan Sukumar
Head
Cyber Security and Internet Governance Initiative
Observer Research Foundation
India

Panellists: Ms Mihoko Matsubara
Chief Security Officer for Japan
Palo Alto Networks
Japan

Dr Rafal Rohozinski
Principal and CEO
The SecDev Group
Canada

Ms Kaja Ciglic
Director
Government Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy
Microsoft Corporation

Mr Daniel Wu
Director of Government Relations, Southeast Asia
Visa

1700 – 1715 Refreshments

1715 – 1845 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent 1: Strategic Update: Southeast Asia and Oceania**

Significant developments have taken place in Southeast Asia and Oceania over the past year. Concerns about equitable growth, identity politics as well as democratic governance have figured increasingly prominently in a number of countries. What are the key issues for 2017 that observers should be looking at? What is the short-term political and economic outlook for these countries? What are the longer term implications of national trends and developments that could impact the region's cohesiveness?

Chair: U Khin Maung Lynn
Joint Secretary
Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)

Panellists: Dr Christopher Roberts
Associate Professor and Director
National Asian Security Studies Program
Australian Defence Force Academy
University of New South Wales in Canberra
Australia

Dr Yohanes Sulaiman
Lecturer
School of Government
Universitas Jenderal Achmad Yani
Indonesia

Mr Kavi Chongkittavorn
Senior Fellow
Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

- **Concurrent 2: Strategic Update: Northeast Asia**

Strategic geopolitical tensions continue to simmer under the surface in Northeast Asia. Sino-Japanese ties remain testy while in the Korean Peninsula, Pyongyang continues to expand its nuclear weapons programme. Additionally, uncertainty has plagued the corridors of power in Seoul. What can observers expect in the wake of a rather volatile start to 2017? Is there room for “strategic diplomacy” by state and non-state actors to communicate and negotiate diverging core interests and goals? What are the prospects for a trilateral summit?

Chair: Mr Nicholas Fang
Executive Director
Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

Panellists: Dr Choi Kang
Vice President, Research; Principle Fellow;
Director, Center for Foreign Policy and National Security
The Asan Institute for Policy Studies
Republic of Korea

Professor Akio Takahara
Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo;
Adjunct Fellow
Japan Institute of International Affairs

Dr Rong Ying
Vice President;
Senior Research Fellow
China Institute of International Studies

1900 – 2100 Dinner

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

0900 – 1030 **Plenary 4: Whither Economic Cooperation in the Asia Pacific: More Ingredients for the Spaghetti Bowl?**

In the wake of President Trump’s decision not to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), efforts at initiating and cobbling alternative sub-regional and bilateral arrangements are underway. Any exclusion of the United States would undoubtedly have an impact on the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). Given that the TPP formed the economic pillar of the US rebalance to Asia, the latter’s future also remains in doubt. While there is still hope that pragmatism will prevail, the implications for greater economic integration and interdependence requires serious assessment. Are there still reasons to believe that the Asia Pacific will continue to be the world’s engine of growth without these mega trade pacts? What

other options does the region have to boost global trade? How do these underwrite the security and stability of the region?

Chair: Associate Professor Simon Tay
Chairman
Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

Panellists: Mr Jeffrey Schott
Senior Fellow
Petersen Institute for International Economics
USA

Tan Sri Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria
Senior Policy Fellow
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia
Indonesia

Dr Deborah Elms
Executive Director
Asian Trade Centre
Singapore

1030 – 1045 Refreshments

1045 – 1215 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent 3: Mekong Cooperation: Managing Challenges and Expectations**

Given the crucial role of the mighty Mekong to the socio-economic development of the six countries through which it flows, regional cooperation on the management of the river and its related resources is imperative. What are the expectations of stakeholders following the first intergovernmental Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Leaders' Meeting? What are the key transboundary challenges facing stakeholders and how significant is the concept of a "shared burden"? What is the extent of the environmental impact from the economic development activities in the upper and lower Mekong? What is the way forward?

Chair: Dr Lattana Thavonsouk
Deputy Director General
Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)
Lao People's Democratic Republic

Panellists: Dr Pham Tuan Phan
Chief Executive Officer
Mekong River Commission

Ambassador Pou Sothirak
Executive Director
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP)

Dr Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa
Deputy Director
Stockholm Environment Institute Asia Centre
Thailand

- **Concurrent 4: Irregular Migration: Regional Flows and Impact**

The challenge and fallout of irregular migration, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons in Southeast Asia continues to fester with no real solutions in sight. Are policies by regional governments actually exacerbating the challenges faced by the displaced? How can governments turn intentions and commitments into reality without compromising on regional or national interests? What are the prospects for managing the complexities of irregular migration in this region?

Panellists: Ambassador Andrew Golezdzinowski
Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking
Australia

Ms Chris Lewa
Director
The Arakan Project

Mr Richard Towle
Representative to Malaysia
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Ms Isabelle Barras
Kuala Lumpur Head of Regional Delegation
International Committee of the Red Cross

1215 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 **Plenary 5: Military Modernisation in the Asia Pacific: Motives, Trends and Transparency**

The United States continues to outspend the rest of the world on defence by nearly five times the average rate. At the same time, military expenditure among many countries in Asia, particularly China, has been rising and is projected to continue to rise through to 2020. Much of this seems to be focused on an expansion of naval capabilities along with growing interest in cyber space. What are the factors behind this modernisation drive? What over-the-horizon expenditure and procurement trends should the region be aware of? How transparent are the defence and procurement strategies of countries in the Asia Pacific? What are the implications of these trends and strategies for Asia-Pacific security and stability?

Chair: Professor Dr Nguyen Vu Tung
President
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

Panellists: Dr Collin Koh Swee Lean
Research Fellow
Maritime Security Programme
Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore

Major General (Rtd) Gong Xianfu
Vice Chairman
China Institute for International Strategic Studies

1530 – 1545 Refreshments

1545 – 1715 **Plenary 6: Exceptionalism vs. Integration: Nationalist, Anti-Globalisation and Anti-Establishment Politics**

Political developments in Western democracies suggest that there is a groundswell of rising nationalist, anti-globalisation and anti-establishment sentiments. From trade to investment, migrants to refugees, and jobs to security, there appears to be a growing trend of public resentment and fear towards the “other”. This, in turn, can be argued to be driving politics towards varying degrees of ideological conservatism, exclusivism and right-wing exceptionalism. Are these observations accurate and, if so, can they be expected to be transient or permanent? What do they mean for integration and peace and security?

Panellists: Professor Jomo Kwame Sundaram
Tun Hussein Onn Chair in International Studies
Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan
Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singapore

Mr Nico Lange
Director
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung USA

1715 – 1730 Closing remarks

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