

32nd ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

DISRUPTION: PEOPLE. TECHNOLOGY. POWER. SECURITY

HILTON KUALA LUMPUR, 7 – 9 MAY 2018

*Draft Programme – External
(As of 19 March 2018)*

Monday, 7 May 2018

1700 – 1830 **Special Panel: Foreign Policy in the Digital Age**

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 1 level? What are the implications of the communication of foreign policy in the digital age for regional and international security?

Instigator:

To be confirmed

Speakers:

Dr Tobias Feakin
Ambassador for Cyber Affairs
Australia

Mr Siddharth Varadarajan
Founding Editor, The Wire
India

1900 – 2100 **Welcoming Dinner**

Tuesday, 8 May 2018

0900 – 0930 Registration

0930 – 1100 **Keynote Address**

1100 – 1115 Break

1115 – 1245 **Plenary Session 1: Innovating ASEAN, Preserving Resilience**

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 Pavidia Pananond
Centre for International Affairs
Thammasat University
Thailand

Speakers:

Dr Philips Vermonte (*to be confirmed*)
Executive Director
Center for Strategic and International Studies
Indonesia

Puan Nur Sulyna Lim Abdullah (*to be confirmed*)
Chief Officer, Corporate Strategy Sector
Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission

Ms Moe Thuzar
Fellow & ASEAN Studies Lead Researcher
Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
National University of Singapore

1245 – 1415 **Luncheon Address**

The Honourable Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Singapore

1415 – 1615 **Plenary Session 2: America First, China Rising: A New Global Order?**

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)

Speakers:

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
Switzerland

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

Speaker 4 to be confirmed

1615– 1630 Break

1630 – 1830 **Concurrent Sessions**

• **Concurrent Session 1: Strategic Update: Northeast Asia**

This session designed is 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)

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

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

- **Concurrent Session 2: Strategic Update: West Asia**

This session designed is 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:

To be confirmed

Speakers:

Dr James Dorsey
Senior Fellow
S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University
Singapore

Dr Ayman Khalil
Director
Arab Institute for Security Studies

Speaker 3 to be confirmed

1830 – 2100 Dinner

Wednesday: 9 May 2018

0900 – 1030 **Plenary Session 3: Politics in South East Asia: Change or Status Quo?**

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

Speakers:

Professor Dr Dewi Fortuna Anwar
Chairman
Institute for Democracy and Human Rights
Indonesia

Ambassador Pou Sothirak
Executive Director
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace

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

1030 – 1100 Break

1100 – 1230 **Concurrent Sessions**

• **Concurrent Session 3: Strategic Update: South Asia**

This session designed is 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

Speakers:

Dr Maria Sultan
Director-General
South Asian Strategic Stability Institute
Pakistan

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

Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury
Principal Research Fellow & Research Lead (Multilateral and International Linkages)
Institute of South Asian Studies
National University of Singapore

Mr Dhruva Jaishankar
Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies
Brookings India

- **Concurrent Session 4: Strategic Update: Central Asia**

This session designed is 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

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

1230 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent Session 5: Technology and the Battlefield: The Evolving Nature of Warfare**

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 does a future battlefield look like?

Instigator:

Professor Dr Nguyen Vu Tung
President
The Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Speakers:

Ms Elsa B Kania
Adjunct Fellow, Technology and National Security Program
Center for a New American Security

Speaker from the International Committee of the Red Cross

Ms Zoe Stanley-Lockman
Affiliation to be confirmed

• **Concurrent Session 6: Future-Proofing against Violent Extremism**

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 Thomas Koruth Samuel
Director, Digital Strategic Communication Division
Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism
Malaysia

Speakers:

Dr Rommel Banlaoi
Chairman of the Board and Executive Director
Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research

Ms Ruby Kholifah
Director
Aman Indonesia

Speaker from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

1530 – 1600 Break

1600 – 1730 **Plenary Session 4: The State of the Region: The Future of APEC and Regional Economic Partnership Arrangements**

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’ Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood
Chairman, RM Capital Partners;
Board Member, ISIS Malaysia

Speakers:

Mr Patrick Tay
Deals Partner, Economics and Policy
PricewaterhouseCoopers Malaysia

Professor Natasha Hamilton-Hart
Department of Management and International Business
Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute
University of Auckland

Dr Li Wei
Assistant Professor, School of International Studies
Renmin University of China

1730 – 1745 Closing remarks

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