

## CONCEPT NOTE FOR DPG-KAS CONFERENCE 2019

### **Regional Frameworks to Address Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia**

Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean have rapidly emerged as an area of geopolitical contestation, impacting stability across the broader Indo-Pacific region. Through its NSS, NDS and the ARIA the US has asserted its determination to remain the dominant power in Asia, a role which is being increasingly challenged by the assertions of China's rising power.

The ASEAN-centric regional security architecture alone appears unable to address the hard security challenges and threats to regional order. ASEAN centrality needs to evolve in line with the new realities. Geographically, while ASEAN straddles South East Asia, it corresponds only partially to India's definition of the Indo-Pacific or the broader US concept of a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific".

The changing strategic paradigm in the Indian Ocean region is posing new security challenges. The existing regional framework in the Indian Ocean – the IORA – is designed to promote cooperation on maritime and blue economy challenges. The IORA's Jakarta Concord promotes international law based cooperation but lacks binding commitments.

Maritime security has emerged as a key challenge in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean. Developments in the South China Sea have undermined the rule based order and international law. India and ASEAN can cooperate in advancing maritime security in the Bay of Bengal, the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea.

Economic integration frameworks like RCEP underpin the evolving regional economic architecture. However, for RCEP to be effective, it needs to create a level playing field that ensures open and fair trade and investment rules.

India's Dialogue Partnership with ASEAN is the centerpiece of its "Act East" policy. India has contributed to the Initiative for ASEAN integration through projects in English language training and IT. India-ASEAN cooperative exchanges and activities have covered diverse areas including Science and Technology, Climate Change, Environment, Space, telemedicine and tele-education. India's bilateral ties with ASEAN countries have also grown rapidly. Particularly significant has been the growth of defence and security exchanges as well as trade and economic ties.

Competing connectivity visions are at the heart of strategic competition in the Indian Ocean region. China's BRI is a strategic initiative designed to dominate China's periphery. The ASEAN Connectivity Master-plan, India's SAGAR and connectivity initiatives in BBIN and BIMSTEC, and Japan's Strategic ODA initiatives and "Partnership for Quality

Infrastructure”, are sustainable and transparent models that offer a viable source of infrastructure funding for Asian countries. To be sustainable, physical connectivity initiatives must also be underpinned by greater people to people connectivity.

EU has been a stakeholder in the Western Indian Ocean, where it has deployed Task Forces and taken part in a number of initiatives related to maritime security, capacity building and governance (like the Djibouti Code). The DPG-KAS conference on the “Emerging Realignments in the Indo-Pacific: Perspectives of Europe, India, ASEAN and Australia” held in December 2018, recognised the need for all the regional stakeholders to align their contributions to develop cooperative security architecture. Towards this end, the next DPG-KAS conference will address how the EU can contribute more meaningfully to the security architecture in the Indian Ocean.

China is seeking closer strategic ties with Europe. There is, however, growing mistrust in the EU of China’s strategic intentions and differences on a range of issues, from human rights to trade and connectivity issues. Germany as a major trading nation has huge equities in the security of sea-lanes in the Indian Ocean.

### **Outline of DPG-KAS Conference 2019**

Broadly, the conference will attempt to draw out interlocutors and scholars from Germany, India and ASEAN on their perspectives and assessments on a range of topics related to key geopolitical and geo-economic developments in Southeast Asia and Indian Ocean regions. It is proposed to arrange the discussions at the conference into four sessions as outlined below:

**Session 1: Regional Security Frameworks in the Indian Ocean region – the role of ASEAN-centric security architecture. IORA as the existing framework for cooperative regionalism based on international law. The role of IONS. Evaluating the role of bilateral and minilateral partnerships.**

**Session 2: Maritime security as a key challenge in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region. Lessons from the South China Sea. How can India, ASEAN, and Germany work together to strengthen security in the Indian Ocean Region?**

**Session 3: India’s “Act East” policy and ASEAN. Evaluating India-ASEAN trade and economic relations and accelerating progress in India-ASEAN defence and security exchanges.**

**Session 4: Competing connectivity visions. These lie at the heart of strategic competition in the Indian Ocean region. China’s BRI is a strategic initiative designed to dominate China’s periphery. The ASEAN Connectivity Master-plan, India’s SAGAR and connectivity initiatives in BBIN and BIMSTEC and Japan’s “Partnership for Quality Infrastructure” are sustainable and transparent models that offer a viable source of infrastructure funding for Asian countries. Perspectives of Germany on competing connectivity visions and European perspectives on BRI.**

## **DPG-KAS CONFERENCE**

**on**

### **Regional Frameworks to Address Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean and South East Asia**

**Venue: Viceregal Hall, Hotel Claridges, 12, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Road,  
New Delhi 110011**

**December 2-3, 2019**

### **Programme**

#### **Day 1: Monday, December 2, 2019**

- 1930-2100 : **Welcome Dinner hosted by DPG and KAS**
- Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative, India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
  - Welcoming Remarks by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group

#### **Day 2: Tuesday, December 3, 2019**

- 0900-0930 : **Registration**
- 0930-0935 : **Opening Remarks by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, DPG**

0935-1115 : **Session I: Regional Security Frameworks in the Indian Ocean Region** - *The role of ASEAN-centric security architecture. IORA as the existing framework for cooperative regionalism based on international law. The role of IONS. Evaluating the role of bilateral and minilateral partnerships.*

*Chair: Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, DPG  
[10 minutes]*

*Speakers: [15 minutes each]*

1. India                      Ambassador P.S. Raghavan, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board
2. Sri Lanka                Adm. Jayanath Colombage, Director, Centre for Indo-Lankan Relations, Pathfinder Foundation
3. Germany                Prof. Heribert Dieter, Senior Associate, SWP
4. India                      Cmde. Lalit Kapur, Senior Fellow, DPG

1115-1140                *Tea/Coffee*

1140-1315 : **Session II: Maritime Security** - *A key challenge in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean region. Lessons from the South China Sea. How can India, ASEAN, and Germany work together to strengthen security in the Indian Ocean Region?*

*Chair: Adm. Sunil Lanba, Chairman, National Maritime Foundation  
[5 minutes]*

*Speakers: [15 minutes each]*

1. India                      Ambassador Kanwal Sibal, Former Foreign Secretary
2. Germany                Prof. Frank Pieke, Director, CEO, Mercator Institute for China Studies
3. India                      VAdm. Girish Luthra, Former Commander-in-Chief, Western Naval Command
4. Singapore              Dr. Sinderpal Singh, Senior Fellow, RSIS, Singapore

1315-1430 : *Lunch*

1430-1600 : **Session III: India's Act East Policy and ASEAN - Evaluating India-ASEAN trade and economic relations and accelerating progress in India-ASEAN defence and security exchanges.**

*Chair: Dr. Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)[5 minutes]*

*Speakers: [15 minutes each]*

1. Indonesia Ambassador Makarim Wibisono, Senior Fellow, CSIS, Indonesia
2. Myanmar H.E. U Wynn Lwin, Member, Myanmar Institute Strategic and International Studies, Myanmar
3. Vietnam Col. Bui Xuan Anh, Deputy Director, Institute for Defence International Relations, MoD of Vietnam
4. India Ambassador Biren Nanda, Former Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN

1600 – 1615 : *Tea/Coffee*

1615 – 1800 : **Session IV: Competing Connectivity Visions - These lie at the heart of strategic competition in the Indian Ocean region. China's BRI is a strategic initiative designed to dominate China's periphery. The ASEAN Connectivity Master-plan, India's SAGAR and connectivity initiatives in BBIN and BIMSTEC and Japan's "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" are sustainable and transparent models that offer a viable source of infrastructure funding for Asian countries. Perspectives of Germany on competing connectivity visions and European perspectives on BRI.**

*Chair: Ambassador Biren Nanda, Former Ambassador of India to Indonesia and ASEAN [5 minutes]*

*Speakers: [15 minutes each]*

1. Germany Dr. Christian Wagner, Senior Fellow, SWP
2. India Dr. Pritam Banerjee, Consultant, Asian Development Bank
3. Nepal Dr. Swarnim Wagle, Chair, Institute for Integrated Development Studies
4. India Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

1800-1820 : **Concluding Session:**

- Summary Report by Rapporteur Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library
- Vote of Thanks by KAS
- Vote of Thanks by DPG
- Closing Remarks by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, DPG

1900 : **Dinner hosted by KAS**

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