

**RSIS-Delhi Policy Group Workshop on**

**“India, ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific:  
Evolving Regional Architecture”**

**10 April 2019**

**Paradiso Room, Level 3  
Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore**

## **OVERVIEW**

As maritime neighbours with longstanding historical and cultural connections, ASEAN and India seek to further the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership through continued engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. Perspectives of India and ASEAN on the South China Sea issue and the Code of Conduct (CoC) discussions, and on the emerging security challenges in the Indian Ocean region, is key to the discourse on maritime security. As challenges to the liberal rules-based order and international law rise, India and ASEAN would do well to identify further areas of cooperation, especially in the strategic Bay of Bengal and the Straits of Malacca.

As the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is fast commanding geopolitical centre stage, there is need for coordinated effort to enhance existing inter-institutional linkages and national maritime initiatives of individual countries. Competing connectivity visions such as the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, India's SAGAR and connectivity initiatives in BBIN and BIMSTEC, Japan's Strategic ODA initiatives and "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure" as well as Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum might provide an alternative to or complement China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The idea of Indo-Pacific is still in its early stages, and more discussion is needed to clarify its scope and vision before it could evolve into something concrete and realistic. With the changing strategic paradigm in the IOR, there is a need to assess the threats to the regional order and stability in Asia, the role and response of regional powers including India, Japan and Australia and the potential of minilaterals.

Washington and New Delhi have time and again reiterated that ASEAN centrality is key to the Indo-Pacific concept as it embodies regional inclusivity and multilateral trade. ASEAN already has in place a set of inter-linking regional mechanisms such as the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus, designed to engage big powers and neighbouring countries. The Indo-Pacific framework should make use of these existing mechanisms to ensure that the Indian Ocean region has complementary rather than competing mechanisms.

As different states have different understandings of the idea of Indo-Pacific, it is critical to ensure that the Indo-Pacific concept does not create misunderstandings. To this end, there is a need to continue engagement with ASEAN member states and stakeholders in the Indian Ocean so that all Indian Ocean actors are on the same page.

## PROGRAMME

10 April 2019	
08:45 – 09:15	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
09:15 – 09:45	<b>OPENING ADDRESS</b>  <b>Ambassador Ong Keng Yong</b> Executive Deputy Chairman S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore  <b>Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh</b> Director General Delhi Policy Group, India
09:45 – 10:45	<b>PANEL 1: INDIA AND ASEAN</b>  <b><u>Chair</u></b>  <b>Ambassador Hemant Krishan Singh</b> Director General Delhi Policy Group, India  <b><u>Speakers</u></b>  <b>Jusuf Wanandi</b> Senior Fellow and Co-Founder Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia  <b>Ambassador Biren Nanda</b> Senior Fellow Delhi Policy Group, India  <b>Discussion</b>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00 – 12:30	<b>PANEL 1: INDIA AND ASEAN (CONT'D)</b>  <b><u>Speakers</u></b>  <b>Kwa Chong Guan</b> Senior Fellow S. Rajaratnam School International Studies  <b>Sanjay Pulipaka</b> Senior Fellow Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, India  <b>Discussion</b>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>

<p><b>13:30 – 15:15</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL 2: THE INDO-PACIFIC</b></p> <p><b><u>Chair</u></b></p> <p><b>Jane Chan</b>  Research Fellow and Coordinator, Maritime Security Programme  Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies  S. Rajaratnam School International Studies</p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b></p> <p><b>Dr Sinderpal Singh</b>  Senior Fellow and Coordinator, South Asia Programme  Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies  S. Rajaratnam School International Studies</p> <p><b>Brigadier Arun Sahgal (Retd.), PhD</b>  Senior Fellow  Delhi Policy Group, India</p> <p><b>Professor Joseph Liow</b>  Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences  Tan Kah Kee Chair in Comparative and International Politics and  Professor, S. Rajaratnam School International Studies  Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</p> <p><b>Commodore Lalit Kapur (Retd.)</b>  Senior Fellow  Delhi Policy Group, India</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>15:15 – 15:30</b></p>	<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p>
<p><b>15:30 – 16:15</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL 2: THE INDO-PACIFIC (CONT'D)</b></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>16:15 – 18:00</b></p>	<p><b>RECEPTION</b></p> <p><b>Veranda Room, Level 2</b>  Grand Copthorne Waterfront Singapore  392 Havelock Road  Singapore 169663</p>