

38TH ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

Recalibrating Asia's Frontiers

17–19 June 2025 (Tuesday - Thursday)
Hilton Kuala Lumpur

*(**Speakers List**, as of 26 May 2025)*

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

1730–1800 **Registration for 38APR welcoming dinner**
Foyer, Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

1800–2000 **Welcoming dinner**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Dinner Address by:

The Honourable Dato Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji Hasan
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Malaysia

2000 **End of proceedings**

Wednesday, 18 June 2025

0800–0915 **Registration**
Foyer, Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

0915–0930 **Opening remarks**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah
2025 Chair of the ASEAN-ISIS network;
Chairman of ISIS Malaysia

0930–1100 **Plenary 1 – War, peace & the Asia-Pacific**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

While the Asia-Pacific continues to be a hub of global economic growth and innovation, the risks of conflicts, including wars, remain. Adjacent to the region, wars continue to afflict parts of West Asia, North Africa and Europe. How do conflicts outside the region impact on the strategic calculus of policymakers in the Asia-Pacific? Have they impacted on the normative and ideological considerations that influence peace, security and conflict in this region? Has the threshold or tolerance for conflict changed in the Asia-Pacific? How do we address the trust deficits that could lead to conflicts?

Instigator

Dr Happymon Jacob

Director
Council for Strategic & Defence Research (CSDR)
India

Speakers

HE Chan Heng Chee
Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Singapore

Prof Akio Takahara
Distinguished Visiting Professor
Tokyo Woman's Christian University
Japan

Suzannah Jessep
Chief Executive
Asia New Zealand Foundation

Dr Steven Everts
Director
European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)
France

1100-1130 Refreshments
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6

1130-1300 Plenary 2 - Dynamics of contemporary leadership in Southeast Asia
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

A strong convergence of interests among Southeast Asia's leaders was crucial in laying the groundwork for regional cooperation, from the founding of ASEAN to the expansion of its centrality through various mechanisms. Over the past two years, almost all member states have seen new leadership, setting the stage for new intra-ASEAN dynamics. To what extent do personality driven policies shape Southeast Asia's dynamics? Do today's leaders prioritise ASEAN as their predecessors did? How do leaders relate to each other, if at all? Is there enough cohesion for a convergence of interests?

Instigator

Susannah Patton
Programme Director
Lowy Institute
Australia

Speakers

Prof Chanintira na Thalang
Faculty of Political Science
Thammasat University
Thailand

Prof Kuik Cheng-Chwee
Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS)
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Prof Herman Kraft
Department of Political Science
University of Philippines Diliman

HE Trinh Minh Manh
Acting Director General
Institute for Foreign Policy & Strategic Studies
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)

HE Dr Rizal Sukma
Senior Fellow
Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

1300–1430 **Lunch**
Ballroom C, Level 6

Special Address by:
HE Rafael Daerr
Ambassador of the European Union to Malaysia

1430–1600 **Concurrent Session 1 – Mapping ‘boundaries’: perspectives of maritime security**
Sentral Ballroom, Level 6

Maritime challenges and tensions are increasingly being shaped by different perspectives of security – political, legal, and intellectual. These conceptual divergences have at times hampered any tangible progress on outstanding disputes. How do states define “maritime security” and to what extent does it shape conflict? Are international maritime laws and norms at risk as countries prioritise their national interests at the expense of the global commons? How can Track 2 actors encourage greater collaboration and cohesion on shared security issues like maritime safety, economy and ecology amid contested environments?

Instigator

Dr Jean-Loup Samaan
Senior Research Fellow
National University of Singapore

Speakers

Prof Charmaine Misalucha-Willoughby
Chair of Department of International Studies
De La Salle University
The Philippines

Dr Do Thanh Hai

Deputy Director General
East Sea Institute
Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Dr Asyura Salleh

Associate Programme Officer
UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme
Brunei Darussalam

Prof Stuart Kaye

Director
Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources & Security (ANCORS)
University of Wollongong

Concurrent Session 2 - Evolving geopolitics of minilateralism

Grand Suite, Level 7

Minilateralism has shifted from being a response to stagnant multilateralism to a proactive strategy driven by like-minded states. While it can be an agile tool for power projection and shaping the regional and global order, critics contend that it perpetuates a less inclusive form of collaboration. Is minilateralism an effective tool for geopolitics or does it simply perpetuate exclusion and antagonism? Could minilateralism strengthen nuanced and targeted cooperation, paving the way for effective multilateralism or will it render the latter obsolete? Can one exist without the other?

Instigator

Dr Joel Ng

Head of Centre for Multilateralism Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore

Speakers

Assoc Prof Giuseppe Gabusi

University of Turin
Italy

Dr Pongphisoot Busbarat

Director
Institute of Security & International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

Dr Elena Burova

Senior Research Fellow
Institute of China & Contemporary Asia
Russian Academy of Sciences

Fine Lavoni Koloamatangi

University of Auckland
New Zealand

- 1600–1620 Refreshments**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6
- 1620–1750 Plenary 3 – China Plus One: reshaping global supply chains**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

The diversification of supply chains out of China in recent years has gained widespread attention to mitigate risks associated with the evolving geopolitical landscape. This is particularly evident in the electronics industry, including semiconductors. Is China Plus One driven solely by the US-China rivalry or are there other factors? How are China Plus One strategies playing out in Southeast Asia, and is the region still a major beneficiary of major-power competition? Are current trends an indication of a possible deglobalisation or re-globalisation?

Instigator

Assoc Prof Simon Tay
Chairman
Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)

Speakers

Prof Danny Quah
Dean
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore (NUS)

YB Liew Chin Tong
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry
Malaysia

Prof Jane Golly
Head of the Arndt-Corden Department of Economics
Crawford School of Public Policy
Australian National University

Prof Di Dongsheng
Dean
Renmin University of China

Prof Volker Perthes
Senior Distinguished Fellow
German Institute for International & Security Affairs (SWP)

- 1800–1930 Dinner**
Ballroom C, Level 6

Special Address by:
HE Ouyang Yujing
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia

- 1930 End of proceedings**

Thursday, 19 June 2025

- 0800-0915 Registration**
Foyer, Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6
- 0930-1030 Keynote address by The Honourable Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim,
Prime Minister of Malaysia**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6
- 1030-1100 Refreshments**
Lake Garden Foyer, Level 6
- 1100-1230 Plenary 4 - The Myanmar crisis: the road ahead**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Four years after the coup, Myanmar remains deeply divided. The country faces widespread displacement and a collapsed economy, while various actors exert control over different regions. The earthquake in late March has further strained an already fragile situation, compounding the humanitarian crisis. Despite ongoing conversations on a new federal system, the prospects of a Balkanised or fragmented Myanmar remains a possibility. How are ongoing developments impacting political equations? Where is the most urgent humanitarian assistance required and how can stakeholders address this? How can ASEAN and other international actors respond to the complex dynamics at play in 2025 and beyond?

Instigator

Dr Lina Alexandra
Head of Department of International Relations
Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)
Indonesia

Speakers

Arnaud de Baecque
Head of Delegation in Myanmar
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Liliane Fan
Head of Secretariat
Malaysian Advisory Group on Myanmar

Dr Fuadi Pitsuwan
President
Surin Pitsuwan Foundation
Thailand

- 1230-1400 Lunch**
Ballroom C, Level 6

Special Address by:
Simon Fellows
Chargé d'Affaires
High Commission of Australia to Malaysia

1400-1530 **Plenary 5 - The United States in a changing Asia**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Asia is navigating an era of heightened competition, economic realignment and the rise of minilateral partnerships. The US has maintained a strong presence in the region through a network of alliances over the past 75 years but faces a more complex and competitive strategic environment today. What are the emerging priorities and implications of American policies in Asia? How would Washington pursue its economic engagements in the region? How are regional stakeholders, including partners and multilateral groupings, responding to the changing dynamics?

Instigator

Prof Thitinan Pongsudhirak
Senior Fellow
Institute of Security & International Studies (ISIS)
Thailand

Speakers

Prof Sun Jisheng
Vice President
China Foreign Affairs University

Elina Noor
Senior Fellow
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
United States

Prof Park Jae Jeok
Associate Dean of Graduate School of International Studies
Yonsei University
South Korea

Ashok Malik
Partner & Chair of India Practice
The Asia Group (TAG)
India

Lisa Curtis
Director
Indo-Pacific Security Program
Center for a New American Security

1530-1545 **Closing reflections**
Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Jusuf Wanandi

Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees
Centre for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) Foundation
Indonesia

1545-1600

Closing remarks

Ballroom A & B Ballroom, Level 6

Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

2025 Chair of the ASEAN-ISIS network;
Chairman of ISIS Malaysia

1600

End of 38APR

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