



ISAS-SPF WORKSHOP (WEBINAR)

Securing the Indo-Pacific: Expanding Cooperation between Asia and Europe

11 May 2021 (Tuesday)

4.00pm – 6.00pm (SG) | 5.00pm – 7.00pm (JPN) | 9.00am – 11.00am (UK)

Do note that the workshop is conducted under Chatham House rules.

PROGRAMME

Session 3: Regional Perceptions of Europe's Push into the Indo-Pacific

4.00pm
(SG Time)

Opening Remarks

Panellists

Dr Sinderpal Singh

Senior Fellow and Coordinator, South Asia Programme
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

Professor Renato De Castro

International Studies Department
De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines

Discussant

Dr Olli Pekka Suorsa

Research Fellow
Maritime Security Programme
Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University

Moderator

Dr Yogesh Joshi

Research Fellow
Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

5.00pm

Discussion Session

5.50pm **Closing Remarks**
Ms Junko Chano
Executive Director
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

Professor C Raja Mohan
Director
Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS

6.00pm **End of Session**

About the Third Session

The rise of China and the other Asian countries has shifted the world's economic, military and geopolitical centre of gravity from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indo-Pacific. Though the Indo-Pacific powers have been trying to grapple with the significant transformation in their neighborhood over the last decade, Europe has finally realised that the region is too important to be left either to the bipolar Sino-American contest or the Indo-Pacific's regional powers. Ever since France released its Indo-Pacific strategy in 2018, many other European countries have followed suit, with Germany and the Netherlands being the most recent European states to declare an Indo-Pacific strategy. China's rise and its military, economic and diplomatic assertiveness have been primarily responsible for Europe's renewed interest in the region. It is, however, equally driven by Europe's emergence as a normative pole in international politics, which aims to ensure that the states play by the established rules of international law and follow the global conventions on peaceful resolution of outstanding disputes. As the Indo-Pacific becomes the primary battleground for emerging technological, connectivity, and governance challenges in the world, Europe's contributions to the region's geopolitical and geo-economics shape and form can prove decisive. However, unlike its soft image in global politics, Europe is also home to some of the most modern and potent military capabilities, with serious territorial and diplomatic interests in keeping the Indo-Pacific free of coercion and control of a single power. France, Britain, and Germany have already made some military commitments to the region. The crowding of the Indo-Pacific's waters by the Europeans will, therefore, add to the region's already intriguing geopolitical churning.

How are the Indo-Pacific powers responding to Europe's renewed economic, diplomatic and military interest in the region? What are strategies and tools does Europe have to promote peace and prosperity in the region and do all European powers share a common understanding of the Indo-Pacific? How are the European powers navigating the contradictions between their economic and geopolitical interests in the region? What military and diplomatic heft do the European powers bring to the Indo-Pacific bargain? How can the regional powers in the region collaborate with the European countries in technological development and connectivity projects?

As the basic idea of the Indo-Pacific gains traction, there are multiple conceptions on its scope and meaning, as well as the strategies to promote peace and prosperity in this vast littoral. The members of the Quadrilateral Security Initiative – Australia, India, Japan, and the United States – which emerged along with the original conceptions of the Indo-Pacific recognise that there can be no single overarching framework to govern the region. Europe's arrival in the Indo-Pacific is set to make the debate on the Indo-Pacific's future more democratic and multifaceted.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the Institute of South Asian Studies are organising a three-session workshop of academic and policy experts to understand Europe's growing enthusiasm towards the Indo-Pacific and the emerging synergy among the Asian and the European countries on the region's future. The last workshop will explore how states in the Indo-Pacific view Europe's entry into the Indo-Pacific and their expectations and anxieties regarding Europe's Indo-Pacific turn. It will specifically discuss the convergences and differences in the view of the Quad countries vis-à-vis the ASEAN over Europe's engagement in the Indo-Pacific.

About the Speakers

Dr Sinderpal Singh

Dr Sinderpal Singh is Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the South Asia Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research interests include the international relations of South Asia with a special focus on Indian foreign policy. Before joining RSIS, Sinderpal was a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore (NUS), and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore.

Dr Singh has published articles in *India Review*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia and Pacific Affairs*; his single-authored book is entitled *India in South Asia: Domestic Identity Politics and Foreign Policy from Nehru to the BJP* (Routledge 2013; paperback version, 2015). He has also contributed book chapters on aspects of India's Northeast, specifically in relation to India-ASEAN land connectivity. He is presently in the final stages of completing an edited book on the "Modi Doctrine" in Indian foreign policy as well as a book-length manuscript examining 'Indian' constructions of the Indian Ocean region from the colonial period till the present. He received his PhD from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, his MA from the Australian National University and his BA from NUS.

Professor Renato De Castro

Professor Renato Cruz De Castro is a full professor in the International Studies Department, De La Salle University, Manila, and holds the Charles Lui Chi Keung Professorial Chair in China Studies. He was the United States (US)-ASEAN Fulbright Initiative Researcher from the Philippines and was based in the East-West Center in Washington D.C. from September to December 2016. He is a alumnus of the Daniel Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii, US. In 2009, professor De Castro became the US State Department ASEAN Research Fellow from the Philippines and was based in the Political Science Department of Arizona State University. He earned his PhD from the Government and International Studies Department of the University of South Carolina as a Fulbright Scholar in 2001, and obtained his BA and two master's degrees from the University of the Philippines. Professor De Castro has conducted several courses on International Relations and Security Studies in the National Defense College and Foreign Service Institute. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Albert Del Rosario Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ADR Institute).

A consultant in the National Security Council of the Philippines during the Aquino Administration, Professor De Castro's research interests include Philippine-US security relations, Philippine defense and foreign policies, US defense and foreign policies in East Asia, and the international politics of East Asia. He has written over 80 articles on international relations and security that have been published in a number of scholarly journals and edited works in the Philippines, South

Korea, Canada, Malaysia, France, Singapore, Taiwan, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States.

Dr Olli Pekka Suorsa

Dr Olli Pekka Suorsa is a Research Fellow in the Maritime Security Programme of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). Before joining RSIS, he lectured at the Department of Asian and International Studies in the City University of Hong Kong.

Dr Suorsa holds a PhD in International Relations from the City University of Hong Kong and a Master's degree in Asian Politics from SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom, and Bachelor's in International Relations from the Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia. Dr Suorsa has also work experience in defence industry in Finland.

About the Moderator

Dr Yogesh Joshi

Dr Yogesh Joshi is a research fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. His research focuses on contemporary Indian foreign and national security policy, with an emphasis on Indo-Pacific's balance of power, evolution of India's military power and its approach to use of force in international relations.

Before joining ISAS, Dr Joshi was a MacArthur and Stanton Nuclear Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, USA. He is also an alumnus of Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Columbia University and the International Nuclear History Boot Camp, Woodrow Wilson Center. He has a doctorate in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dr Joshi is co-author of three books: *India and Nuclear Asia: Forces Doctrines and Dangers* (Georgetown University Press, 2018), *Asia's Emerging Balance of Power: The US 'Pivot' and Indian Foreign Policy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016) and *India's Nuclear Policy: A Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2018). His research has been published in *Survival*, *Asian Security*, *India Review*, *US Naval War College Review*, *International Affairs*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Asia Policy*, *International History Review* and *Harvard Asia Quarterly*.