



ISAS-SPF WORKSHOP

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

14 April 2021 (Wednesday)

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 2: Continental Europe and the Indo-Pacific

4.00pm
(SG Time)

Opening Remarks

Panellists

Dr Christian Wagner

Visiting Senior Research Fellow,
Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore

Dr Maaïke Okano-Heijmans

Senior Research Fellow
Clingendael Institute, Netherlands

Discussant

Dr Malcolm Cook

Visiting Senior Fellow
Regional Strategic and Political Studies Program
ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Moderator

Mr Ippeita Nishida

Senior Research Fellow
Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan

4.40pm
(SG Time)

Discussion Session

6.00pm
(SG Time)

End of Session

About the Second 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 second workshop will focus on Germany and the European Union's view of the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific and their strategies to cope with the emerging strategic flux in the region. It will focus on the complementarities and contradictions in the strategies and policies of the other major powers in Europe with that of France and Britain.

About the Speakers

Dr Christian Wagner

Dr Christian Wagner is Senior Fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) in Berlin. He was head of the Research Division Asia at SWP, from 2007 to 2014. Prior to joining SWP in 2003, he was a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Development Research at the University of Bonn (2001-2002), and Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science and Administrative Studies at Rostock University (1996-2001).

Dr Wagner is also a member of the European Association for South Asian Studies. He was a member of the board of directors of the German Association for Asian Studies (DGA), from 2007 to 2013. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Advanced Studies (JNIAS) and at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi in 2015/16.

Dr Wagner obtained his M.A. and Ph.D from Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg.

Dr Maaïke Okano-Heijmans

Dr Maaïke Okano-Heijmans is a Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute. She is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Leiden, where she has been teaching on 'Non-Western Diplomacy' in the Master of Science in International Relations and Diplomacy (MIRD) since 2012.

Her main research interests are in connectivity, economic diplomacy and international relations in EU-Asia relations, with a special focus on China and Japan. Recent projects focus on digital connectivity, and the role of big tech companies and the effect of the fourth industrial revolution on geopolitics. A key question underlying much of her work is how developments in these fields matter to Europe, the EU and, in particular, to the Netherlands. In addition, since joining Clingendael in 2006 she has worked on consular affairs and diplomacy – also known as 'citizen security' or 'duty of care'.

Maaïke leads Clingendael's projects on 'Geopolitics, great powers and global governance' for the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, under the multi-annual PROGRESS framework. She is a regularly invited speaker at track 1.5 dialogues, think tanks and universities in Europe and Asia.

From 2016 until the end of the project in July 2020, she has been Clingendael's scientific coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Research and Advice Network (#APRAN), advising the European External Action Service and the European Commission.

Maaïke is a board member of the European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN) and a member of CSCAP-EU (Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific), the track-two organisation promoting security dialogue in Asia. She is on the editorial board of the The Hague Journal of Diplomacy (Martinus Nijhoff Publishers), the Clingendael Spectator (Clingendael's Magazine, in Dutch) and of the International Journal of Diplomacy and Economy .

She has lived and studied in the United States (Fulbright Program student), Hong Kong (Nuffic & VSB scholarships), Japan (Monbusho Scholar) and Australia. Prior to joining Clingendael, she worked at the Japanese Embassy in the Hague. From 2008-2013 Maaïke was a non-resident visiting fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy of the Australian National University in Canberra. She was granted a Canon Foundation Research Fellowship in 2013.

In 2012 Maaiké obtained her PhD in Political Science from the University of Antwerp, Belgium after the successful defense of her thesis on Economic Diplomacy and the Balance of National Interests, with a special focus on Japan. She holds two Master's degrees: one in Political Science from the University of Amsterdam (2001) and another in International Relations from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan (2003). Furthermore, she studied the Japanese language at Leiden University, the Netherlands.

About the Discussant

Dr Malcom Cook

Dr Malcom Cook is a Visiting Senior Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. He joined ISEAS in 2014. Before ISEAS, he was a Professor and the founding Dean of the School of International Studies at Flinders University of South Australia (2011-2014); the founding East Asia Program Director at the Lowy Institute in Sydney (2003-2010); and a Lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines (2000-2003). He has lived and worked in Canada, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia and Singapore. His current research interests include Southeast Asian regional strategic order, major power interests in Southeast Asia, Southeast Asian economic integration, Philippine foreign policy, Philippine domestic politics.

About the Moderator

Mr Ippeita Nishida

Mr Ippeita Nishida is a Senior Research Fellow of the International Peace and Security Department at the Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF). In this position, he conducts research on Japan's foreign engagement policies and tools, in particular, foreign aid and security cooperation (defense diplomacy). Additionally, he manages and oversees the mutual visitation exchange program for senior field officers between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Vietnamese People's Army, a flagship initiative of SPF on defense cooperation. Currently, he serves as an expert panel member of the "Development Assistance Accountability Committee" at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and he teaches at the Hosei University and the Aoyama Gakuin University as an adjunct lecturer.

Prior to joining SPF in October 2016, he held the position of research fellow at the Tokyo Foundation where he worked on several key policy research projects and published reports such as: "The Quad Plus: Towards a Shared Strategic Vision for the Indo-Pacific" (co-editor, Wisdom Tree Publisher, 2015), "Rethinking Japan's Foreign Aid: Widening the Scope of Assistance from a Security Perspective" (co-author and editor, the Tokyo Foundation, 2014), "Maritime Security and the Right of Self-Defense in Peacetime" (co-author and editor, the Tokyo Foundation, 2013). He earned his MSc in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).