

## Digital Asia: Crafting Responsive Trade Policies

### Date and Times

9 September 2021

- 10:00 – 11:30 (Brussels/Berlin/Vienna)
- 13:30 - 15:00 (New Delhi)
- 16:00 – 17:30 (Singapore)
- 17:00 – 18:30 (Tokyo)

### About the Conference

The exponential growth of the digital economy in Asia is driving large numbers of firms and consumers online. Digital ecosystems, regional platforms, 5G technology, digital financial services and payments are key trends that feature prominently in “new generation trade agreements” in Asia. Trade agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement (DEPA), among others, are trying to create a multilateral framework to tackle these critical issues. However, national governments in the region are still struggling to manage and regulate these trends. The results often lead to contentious issues, including inconsistent data policy, digital taxation and consumer protection rules.

In line with this backdrop, the online conference will present multi-perspective analyses on the developments of digital trade in the region, and discuss multi-level (i.e., national, regional, multilateral) policy solutions to key issues and challenges.

### Agenda

Time	Activity
10:00 – 10:05 CEST 17:00 – 17:05 JST	Welcome Remarks  <b>Rabea BRAUER</b> Country Representative Japan/ Director of Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS) <i>Konrad Adenauer Stiftung</i>
10:05 – 10:15 CEST 17:05 – 17:15 JST	Keynote Speech  <b>Stefan Heinrich BERGER</b> Member <i>European Parliament</i>
10:15 – 11:00 CEST 17:15 – 18:00 JST	Panel Discussion  Panelists <b>Deborah ELMS</b> Executive Director <i>ASEAN Trade Center (ATC)</i>

	<p><b>Lurong CHEN</b> Senior Economist <i>Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)</i></p> <p><b>Justyna LASIK</b> Head of Economic and Trade Section <i>Delegation of the European Union to Singapore</i></p> <p>Moderator <b>Sven CALLEBAUT,</b> Lead Adviser <i>TradeWorthy</i></p>
11:00 – 11:20 CEST 18:00 – 18:20 JST	<p>Q and A</p> <p>Moderator <b>Sven CALLEBAUT</b> Lead Adviser <i>TradeWorthy</i></p>
11: 20 – 11:30 CEST 18:20 – 18:30 JST	<p>Synthesis and Concluding Remarks</p> <p><b>Peter HEFELE</b> Head, Team Asia and the Pacific <i>Konrad Adenauer Stiftung</i></p>
11:30 CEST 18:30 JST	<p>End of Conference</p>

## Speaker Profiles

### Welcome Remarks

#### **RABEA BRAUER**

Country Representative Japan/ Director of Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS) , *Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*

**Rabea Brauer** started her career at the State Government of Thuringia, Germany, where she served as Spokeswoman of the Ministry of Interior for three years until 2002. On behalf of her State Government and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), she implemented an administrative reform project funded by the EU in Cambodia. In 2005 she joined the European Commission as Head of Section for Good Governance & Democracy at the EU Delegation to Cambodia where she was also responsible for the funding to the Khmer Rouge Tribunal at the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia. After four years with the Commission she moved to KAS to represent the foundation in Cambodia and Vietnam.

In 2016 Rabea Brauer was called to KAS Headquarter to lead the Department of Asia & Pacific in Berlin, Germany. She was responsible for 23 offices in Asia and Pacific and has published a number of articles on China, the US-Asia

relation, the South China Sea conflict and on the Mekong River politics. Since August 2019, she represents KAS in Japan and also directs the Regional Economic Programme Asia.

Rabea Brauer holds Master Degrees in Political Science, American Studies, and EU Law from Universities in Germany and the US.

## Keynote Speech

### STEFAN BERGER

*Member, European Parliament*

**Stefan Berger** was born in Mönchengladbach, North Rhine-Westphalia. He has a degree in Economics from the University of Mainz. He also obtained a Doctorate in 1999.

Before his election as a Member of European Parliament in 2019, Berger was a Member of the State Parliament North Rhine-Westphalia and had a teaching position at the University of Applied Sciences for Economics and Management (FOM) and at the International School of Management (ISM). He was also a Science Policy Spokesman for the CDU NRW State Parliament Group. Berger is a Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and of the Delegation for relations with Japan (D-JP).

Since 1999, he has been the Chairman of the CDU Schwalmtal. From 2001 to 2004, he was a Member of the District Council of Viersen. Since 2000, he has been a Member of the Executive Board of the CDU Niederrhein and since 2009, he has been the Deputy Chairman of the CDU Viersen.

From 1999 to 2009, he was a Councillor of the Schwalmtal Municipality. He is also a Member of the State Board of the CDU Mittelstands- und Wirtschaftsvereinigung (MIT), the EPP SME Circle, and the Bundesfachausschuss Europapolitik (Federal Expert Committee on European Policy).

Berger is currently a Member of the European Parliament and is a shadow rapporteur of Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) dealing with the regulation of crypto-assets.

## Panelists

### DEBORAH ELMS

*Executive Director, ASEAN Trade Center*

**Deborah Elms** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Asian Trade Centre. The Asian Trade Centre works with governments and companies to design better trade policies for the region. Dr. Elms is President of the Asia Business Trade Association (ABTA). She served on the Trade and Investment Council of the World Economic Forum from 2017-2019, on the International Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Trade Professionals Alliance and was Chair of the Working Group on Trade Policy and Law. She was also a senior fellow in the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry's Trade Academy. Previously, Dr. Elms was head of the Temasek Foundation Centre for Trade &

Negotiations (TFCTN) and Senior Fellow of International Political Economy at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Dr. Elms received a PhD in political science from the University of Washington, a MA in international relations from the University of Southern California, and a BA from Boston University.

Dr. Elms is currently actively publishing on the *Talking Trade Blog*.

## LURONG CHEN

Senior Economist, *Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia*

**Lurong Chen** is a Senior Economist of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia. He received his Ph.D. in International Economics from the Graduate Institute of International Studies (IUHEI), Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Chen leads the ERIA projects on Digital Economy. His current research emphasizes on fostering Asian growth and eliminating development gaps via promoting the adoption ICT technology, regional integration and GVC participation. He advises international organisations on trade and development issues.

## JUSTYNA LASIK

Head of Economic and Trade Section, *Delegation of the European Union to Singapore*

**Justyna Lasik** joined the Delegation of the European Union to Singapore in August 2020 as Head of the Trade and Economic Section. Prior to this assignment, she worked for over 10 years at the Directorate General for Trade (DG TRADE), European Commission on EU free trade agreements negotiations, in particular with South Korea and Japan. Between 2016 and 2019 she was a member of the European Commission's Task Force in charge of preparation and conduct of the UK's departure negotiations with the EU. She also served as policy assistant to the Director General of DG TRADE covering wide range of issues, including WTO related matters, trade defence instruments and trade relations with the United States. Ms. Lasik received a BA in European Studies from the Warsaw University, a MA in International Economic Relations from Warsaw School of Economics and a MA in European Studies/Trade Policy from Hamburg University (Europa Kolleg Hamburg).

## Moderator

### SVEN CALLEBAUT

Lead Adviser, *TradeWorthy*

**Sven Callebaut's** work aims at bridging the gaps existing between Government's trade and digital trade aspirations reflected in strategies & policies and development partners' value for money and impact expectations. He achieves this by advising and guiding Government leaders, donors and regional organizations in South East Asia (ASEAN) and the Pacific (PIFS), mostly for Australian DFAT and the UN. After a 13-year career as a trade adviser for UNCTAD, he has advised several Government

agencies (DFAT, GIZ, DANIDA), in particular in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in accelerating their digital transition, digital trade adoption, He has also supported several business association in creating the conditions for MSMEs to move from offline to online. In addition to the above he is currently leading several e-commerce acceleration projects in South East Asia and the South Pacific on behalf of TradeWorthy, an Australian boutique consultancy he is a director of.

## Synthesis and Closing Remarks

### PETER HEFELE

*Head, Team Asia and the Pacific, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*

**Peter Hefe** finished his PhD Studies in Economics and Economic History in 1997 at the Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany). He worked as an economic researcher at the Institute for Economy and Society/Bonn and joined Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in 2003 as Head of the Department of Economic Education. In 2006, he became Head of Division China, South East Asia, India / Team Asia and the Pacific at KAS in Berlin (Germany).

From December 2010 to February 2015, he worked as Director of the China Office of KAS in Shanghai. From March 2015 till April 2019 he was Director of the Regional Project “Energy Security and Climate Change” (RECAP), based in Hong Kong SAR / PR China. Since May 2019, he is Director of the Department of Asia and the Pacific at KAS in Berlin.

His main fields of expertise are economic policy, transformational economy, international development cooperation and energy/climate policy. He is also an expert on political, economic and social developments in Asia and China.

## About KAS

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is one of Germany's unique political foundations. Funded through the Federal Parliament, 16 regional offices offer a wide variety of civic education events in Germany. Our offices abroad are in charge of over 200 projects in more than 120 countries. The foundation's headquarter is in Berlin.

In part KAS functions as a think-tank and consulting agency. Our concepts and current analyses are meant to offer a basis for policy-guided, responsible decision making. We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties, academia, business associations and the civil society, while building strong, trusted partnerships along the way.

The KAS Japan Office runs two programmes which define our work in Japan and in Asia. Country Programme Japan promotes the bilateral relationship between Germany and Japan. Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS), on the other hand, discusses economic and governance models in Asia.

Country Programme Japan initiates direct exchanges between Germany and Japan: Inter-Parliamentary Dialogues, Party to Party Dialogues between CDU (Christian Democratic Union) and the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party,) and promotes active exchanges with other political parties and groups. We stage experts' forums, conferences, and study tours. Increasing the number of scholarship holders in Japan is part of our mission. We actively engage in all relevant and future-defining policy fields; having green growth, prosperity, security and resilience in mind. Through our activities, we identify common grounds between Germany and Japan and contribute to both countries' policy discussions. Strengthening the alliance of democracies based on shared principles is our core objective.

Regional Economic Programme Asia (SOPAS) focuses on three strategic areas: (1) advancing women leadership, (2) free trade and multilateralism, and (3) the future of work. It brings together a network of policy makers, economists, political analysts and thought leaders across Asia to discuss emerging issues, propose policy alternatives and share best practices. These discussions in Asia are also brought to the fore in Europe through expert conferences, seminars, and workshops. Publications on these key topics are regularly released to provide data-based insights and lesson-learnt recommendations to national and regional policymakers.