

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME
ASIA

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7-5-56 Akasaka, Minato-ku
Tokyo, 107-0052
Japan

“The End of Double-Digit Growth - Implications for Economic Sustainability in Asia”

Organized by:
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, SOPAS Programme Asia
Chulalongkorn University

January 19 - 22, 2014

Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel

189 Sukhumvit Soi 13-15 Road,
Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110

Programme

For the Asian economies, the era of double-digit growth based on exports is clearly over! All around Asia, developing and developed countries need to reconsider their economic strategies and focus on consumer-led growth by increasing domestic demand. Yet, the necessary blueprints for future economic sustainability must deal with challenges that can not be solved solely by an increase in productivity. Various countries within the Asian region are getting caught up in a “middle-income trap” if they fail to liberalize their markets for goods and services and to deregulate their labour markets. Depending on what country within the region and on what sub-region within some of the Asian countries (e.g. coastal and rural provinces in China), consumer-led growth requires further investments not only in infrastructure but also in higher education. Governments must undertake far-reaching structural and institutional reforms in order to improve public administration and – in some of the Asian countries – to cope with aging societies, higher costs for pensions and health care as well as growing risks of public debt and inflation.

The two-day conference will highlight the major reasons for the economic slowdown and analyse its implications for the development of the Asian countries among eminent experts from Asia and Europe. The participants will learn about reform projects in various Asian countries, possible obstacles and potentials. The event is hosted by the German Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in cooperation with Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. The conference language is English.



Sunday, January 19

- During the day Arrival and check-in of international participants
- 07:00 p.m. **Welcome Dinner (at invitation only)**
(Venue: Inspiration Room, Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel)
- Word of Greeting**
- (Mr) Michael WINZER, Head of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Office in Thailand

Monday, January 20

- Venue: Ballroom 1, Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel 7th Floor
- 09:30 a.m. **Registration of Participants**
- 10:00 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**
- (Mr) Paul LINNARZ, Regional Representative for Economic Policy, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Japan Office
- 10:15 a.m. **Opening Remarks**
- (Mr) Suthiphand CHIRATHIVAT, Ph.D., Chairman of Chula Global Network, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- 10:30 a.m. **Keynote Speech**
- (Mr) Dr. Kanit SANGSUBHAN, Director, Fiscal Policy Research Institute Foundation, Thailand
- 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 a.m. **Session 1: Presentation “The Downsizing of Growth in Emerging Markets: Cyclical, Structural, Real or Fictive?”**
- (Mr) Prof. Dr. Rolf J. LANGHAMMER, Past Vice-President, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Germany
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break (Voila Restaurant, 2nd Floor)**
- 01:30 p.m. **Session 2: What are the major reasons for the slowdown of economic growth in Asia? PART 1: “external” aspects.**

To what extent have the European debt crisis, the fiscal situation in the US, the expansionary monetary policy by quantitative easing and their influence on the recent movements on the capital markets, the stormy seas on the financial markets and related global aspects contributed to the slowdown of economic growth in Asia? Experts from different Asian countries share their views from a national perspective.

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Panellists:

- (Mr) Dr. Posh Raj PANDEY, Executive Chairman, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAW-TEE), Nepal
- (Mr) Ronald U. MENDOZA, Ph.D., Executive Director, Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Policy Center, Associate Professor of Economics, Philippines
- (Mr) Martin SCHULZ, Ph.D., Senior Economist, Fujitsu Research Institute, Japan
- (Mr) Dr. Rajat KATHURIA, Director and Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, India

Moderator:

- (Mr) Alastair CARTHEW, Journalist, Thailand

(followed by Q & A)

03:00 p.m.

Coffee Break

03:30 p.m.

Session 3: What are the major reasons for the slowdown of economic growth in Asia? PART 2: “domestic” aspects.

What are the home-grown barriers to past economic growth rates within the Asian region? In what way do structural obstacles differ from country to country?

Panellists:

- (Mr) Sophal CHAN, Former President of Cambodian Economic Association (CEA), Cambodia
- (Mr) Dr. Sadiq AHMED, Vice Chairman, Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, Bangladesh
- (Mr) Dr. Saman KELEGAMA, Executive Director, Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Moderator:

- (Mr) Thanong KHANTHONG, Managing Editor, The Nation, Thailand

(followed by Q & A)

05:00 p.m.

End of Conference Day 1

06:30 p.m.

Bus transfer to dinner venue (Meeting point: Hotel lobby)

Dinner (at invitation only)

Venue: Baan Khanitha Thai Cuisine (Sukhumvit 23)



Tuesday, January 21

Venue: Ballroom 1, Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel 7th Floor

09:30 a.m.

Registration of Participants

10:00 a.m.

Session 4: The impact of slow or slower economic growth in Asia on public commitments of governments – PART 1: perspectives from high-income countries (Singapore, Korea, Japan).

The panel discussion deals with the impact on public debt, on “soft” infrastructure e.g. higher education, innovation, social welfare systems etc.

Panellists:

- (Mr) Dr. Bokyeong PARK, Professor, Kyung Hee University, Graduate School of Pan-Pacific Studies, South Korea
- (Mr) Koji SAKUMA, General Manager and Chief Economist, Institute for International Monetary Affairs (IIMA), Japan

Moderator:

- (Mr) Bruce AVASADANOND, Journalist at Radio, Thailand

(followed by Q & A)

11:00 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:30 a.m.

Session 5: The impact of slow or slower economic growth in Asia on public commitments of governments – PART 2: perspectives from middle-income countries (China, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia).

The panellists will discuss questions about the liberalization and deregulation of markets, investments in infrastructure, opening up of service sectors, structural and institutional reforms etc.

Panellists:

- (Mr) Charit TINGSABATH, Ph.D., Acting Director, Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- (Ms) Prof. Siew Yean THAM, Principal Fellow, Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS), Malaysia
- (Mr) Prof. Hong SONG, Director, Department of International Trade, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

Moderator:

- (Mr) Alastair CARTHEW, Journalist, Thailand

(followed by Q & A)

12:30 p.m.

Lunch Break (Voila Restaurant, 2nd Floor)

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. 01:30 p.m.
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Session 6: From “A” like Japan’s Abenomics to “Z” like Germany’s zero structural deficit policy – how to bridge and internationally coordinate different national policy strategies?

The panellists will present and discuss possible solutions and necessary economic reforms from an Asian as well as from a German/European point of view. Special attention will be given to the reforms of market-based institutions.

Panellists:

- (Mr) Prof. Dr. André SCHMIDT, Student Dean, Faculty of Economics, University Witten/Herdecke, Germany
- (Mr) Dr. Ramgopal AGARWALA, Distinguished Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India
- (Mr) Prof. Dr. Madan Kumar DAHAL, Chairman, Mega Bank Nepal Limited, Nepal

Moderator:

- (Mr) Paul LINNARZ, Regional Representative for Economic Policy, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Japan Office

(followed by Q & A)

03:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**

03:30 p.m. **Session 7: Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks**

- (Mr) Charit TINGSABATH, Ph.D., Acting Director, Centre for European Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

05:00 p.m. **End of Conference Day 2**

06:30 p.m. Bus transfer to dinner venue (Meeting point: Hotel lobby)

Dinner (at invitation only)

Venue: The Face Restaurant (Sukhumvit 38)

Wednesday, January 22

09:00 a.m. **Closed Workshop**
Venue: Ballroom 1, Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit Hotel

12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break (Voila Restaurant)**

During the day Check-out and departure of international participants

