

Regional Programme **Political Dialogue Asia**

Activities in 2018-2019



Editorial

In the face of the various forms of populist, unilateralist and protectionist policies and measures becoming increasingly dominant in regions around the world, it has become imperative to uphold the values of the global liberal order and multilateral institutions. Furthermore, as the challenges and problems we face become more complex in this inter-connected world – such as counter-terrorism, climate change, digital divide, refugees, and maritime security among others – common problems need a more collaborative approach not only within states but also between states and between regions, to explore forward-looking, innovative and practical policies.

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Political Dialogue Asia programme continues to provide platforms and tools for think tanks, academics, politicians, and non-governmental organisations to collaborate in the exploration of such solutions to these challenges to liberal democracies, multilateralism, peace and security. Through our various events, publications and networks we strive to build synergies not only within Asia but also between Asia and Europe for such collaborative efforts.

We are pleased to present our annual brochure for the years 2018-2019. Continuing our endeavour to promote dialogue and exchange across the region and with Europe, the Political Dialogue Asia programme continued its efforts to strengthen our focus areas on enhancing security, empowering leaders, fostering transnational cooperation and understanding digital impacts across Asia and Europe.

The last two years were very eventful for the KAS PDA programme. Our “Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians” (KASYP) started its tenth batch and we had a jubilee celebration which saw the participation of more than a hundred alumni.

We commemorated the 20th anniversary of the “Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue” and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the “Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks” (COSATT). Our “ASEAN Security Connectivity” project and the attached publication have found a lot of interest with the ASEAN chair for 2020, Vietnam. We also launched two new initiatives: The Asia/Pacific-German Strategic Dialogue focuses on establishing a constant exchange between German and Asian policymakers on topics of common concern. The Young Asian Security Network brings together a group of young experts from the Asia-Pacific region working in the field of foreign and security affairs.

We forayed deeper into the field of digitalisation through our conferences and publications. We not only created platforms for different stakeholders to understand the impact of the digital transformation in Asia and Europe but also held workshops in Bangladesh and Singapore to discuss the recommendations of the United Nations’ High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. And in the midst of all of this, we found a new home in Singapore, moving our offices from Chinatown to a bigger and more representative space in Lavender.

Our partners with their expertise and knowledge along with their valuable inputs for our projects have played a pivotal role in the realisation of our events. We take this opportunity to thank them and we look forward to future collaboration and cooperation in the years ahead.

Christian Echle
Director, Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia

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Politics & Good Governance – Empowering Leaders

As in the rest of the world, political culture has seen a rapid change in Asia over the last few years. The rise of strongmen, the spreading of fake news and a focus on national strength are only a few developments which are challenging a democratic and multilateral political order in the region. This is a time when we need more leaders who advocate, respect and exercise freedom, equality, justice, transparency, accountability, human rights, and other democratic values. We need leaders who can uphold these democratic values and reinvigorate democratic governance.

The Political Dialogue Asia of Konrad Adenauer Foundation continues to give importance to empowering the youth and women so that they are able to meaningfully participate in government and politics. We help build their capacities through various thematic studies and field immersions, policy discussions, political dialogue, and skills training. This empowerment objective is achieved through three regional programmes, namely, the Konrad

Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP), the Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus (AWPC), and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E-election Bridge Asia-Pacific.

The KASYP training programme is our main platform to train the youth in political party building, local governance and development, political campaigning, project design and implementation, and international relations. Meanwhile, the AWPC is a regional network that focuses on increasing women's participation in politics and governments, and mainstreaming women gender issues through policymaking, political dialogue, and exchange of expertise. Furthermore, the KAS E-election Bridge Asia-Pacific is another regional platform that allows political campaign managers, political strategists, and political communication experts to share their knowledge, experiences, and expertise in managing political campaigns and winning elections in a democratic environment.

Democracy's Future: Bright or Bleak?

This article is an excerpt of the first three chapters of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance's new publication, *The Global State of Democracy*, a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing democratic countries around the world.

The recent global developments affecting governments paint an increasingly bleak picture of the future of democracy. This includes the rise of populism and the election of populist leaders as well as the surprising results of direct democracy instruments such as the Brexit referendum. Polarising transnational problems like migration, conflict, and climate change make us rethink if democracy is in decline or relevant to our current times. This first attempt to assess the global state of democracy is timely in providing hard evidence to resolve the contrasting claims regarding the future of democracy as a political system.

The first chapter presents the state of democracy by looking at the global and regional event patterns extracted from the Global State of Democracy (GSoD) indices. From 1975 to 2015, the study found strong evidence that democracy, in general, is improving despite the challenges it has encountered in recent years. Albeit it provides a limited view of democracy, the conduct of elections serves as a supporting argument for this finding. The data suggest an increasing number of governments determined by competitive elections, from 46 countries in 1975 to 132 in 2016. This is an increase of almost 300% in the number of electoral democracies. However, the global democracy evolution is not completely positive as one third of all countries still remain under autocratic rule and 24 nations experienced democratic reversals in 2015. Meanwhile, based on the organisation's comprehensive definition of democracy (as shown in Diagram 1), the GSoD indices paint a hopeful future for this political system. Four out of the five dimensions of democracy, namely (1) representative government, (2) fundamental rights, (3) checks on government, and (4) participatory engagement, have progressed, while the fifth, (5) impartial ad-

ministration, exhibited marginal changes at the time of the analysis.



Diagram 1: International IDEA's Conceptual Framework of the Global State of Democracy.

Despite the continuing challenges of corruption and extremism, and new threats to democracy such as the rise of populism, worsening climate change, and other transborder problems, democracy has exhibited some characteristics that allowed it to survive over time. The second chapter of the study discusses the characteristics that contributed to the flexibility, adaptability, and innovativeness of this political system. As shown in Diagram 2, these characteristics are the inherent responses of a democratic system when it comes under attack. These pressures may be addressed in different ways: democratic backsliding could be avoided with stronger accountability measures in governments; post-conflict transitions, migration, and inequality could be addressed with more inclusive social, economic, and political programmes; corruption and policy capture could be checked with improved transparency and a culture of integrity; and lastly, crisis of representation could be resolved with strengthened citizen engagement.

One of the major threats to democracy's resilience is democratic backsliding. This includes the overthrow of elected governments by coup d'état, election of authoritarians into power, abuse of powers by the executive branch of government,



Diagram 2: International IDEA's Democratic Resilience Framework.

reduced legislative oversight, undervalued judicial independence, and suppression of political oppositions. To qualify the degree of this threat, the paper analysed the GSoD indices' data and found that four dimensions of democracy, namely representative government, fundamental rights, checks on government, and impartial administration, have been stifled or declined after such disturbing events. Only the dimension of participatory engagement has not suffered any setback after a democratic backslide experience. This could be explained by the fact that people tend to engage with the public more actively after a democratic backslide event happens, as a response or as an

expression of resistance to the change in status quo or the effects on the benefits they enjoy in a democratic environment. But, what is worrying is the negative effects of a democratic backslide event on people's lives and public safety. The study has observed that disturbance of the public order occurs after democratic backslide events. Unfortunately, this is also the same situation that is used by democratic backsliders to argue that they should remain in power in order to solve the public disturbance.

The first three chapters of this paper have showed strong evidence, beyond rhetoric and theories, that democracy as a political system continues to progress and has the capacity to be resilient to both internal and external system shocks. Paradoxically, these challenges and threats help people realise the value of democracy and do not deter their appreciation and support for this political system.

The results of this study allow us to hope for a brighter future for democracy. You can access a copy of the complete article through: <https://www.idea.int/gsod/files/IDEA-GSOD-2017-REPORT-EN.pdf>.



Rey Uzhmar C. Padit

Rey Padit is the Programme Manager for Political Co-operation under the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia. He is mainly responsible for managing three programmes, namely, the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP), the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Young Political Leaders Caucus (KASYP-LC), and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific. Before joining the Foundation, he was part of the KASYP, KASYP-LC, KAS E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific, and the KAS International Summer School Programmes. Through these trainings, he co-founded a national political party and won a campaign for elected positions in the Philippines. Apart from politics, he is also experienced in disaster risk reduction management, local governance, development work, and the academe.

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Konrad Adenauer School For Young Politicians (KASYP)



Political parties are the link between state and society. Ideally, political parties are responsible for selecting political candidates, forming government leadership, representing civic interests and developing the national agenda. Parties play a crucial role in sustaining and consolidating the democratic political order.

With the aim of strengthening political parties, we started the “Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians” (KASYP) as a regional project in Asia. KASYP is a two-year training programme for young members of political parties. The regional project seeks to groom young political leaders who will take the lead in advancing the responsiveness and accountability of political parties. The training programme is designed to enable participants to enhance their theoretical knowledge of political theories and concepts and their practical skills for political action and responsibilities, as well as to professionalise their respective political parties. With increased skills and competencies, KASYP participants shall make a difference within their political parties and ultimately in their respective countries.

This two-year training programme is comprised of four modules with different thematic focus and delivered in a mix-format structure with discussion lectures by experts, case studies, simulations, par-

icipant presentations, political dialogue sessions, and field visits. The first three modules are conducted in Asia, while the last module culminates in Germany.

Module 01: Political Party Functions and Organisations in Democratic Societies

- Provides participants with background knowledge on diverse political environments and party systems in Asia as well as communication skills and leadership training.

Module 02: Political Parties in Elections and Electoral Campaigning

- Provides participants with an understanding of electoral campaigning and its many tools as well as the importance of providing organised electoral choices to citizens through political parties.

Module 03: Political Parties in Local Governance and Development

- Provides participants with tools and knowledge to create effective democratic governance in societies facilitated by political parties at the local level.

Module 04: Political Parties in Western European Parliamentary Democracy

- Provides participants exposure to the role of political parties at different governance levels within a political system.

KASYP 8.3 Training Programme

Leadership Training in Campaigning

26 – 30 March 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

The 8th KASYP batch, comprised of 15 participants from six different Asian countries, gathered in wonderful Kathmandu, Nepal for a four-day seminar to receive “Leadership Training in Campaigning”. This remarkable event marked the first-ever KASYP training in Nepal. Invited expert resource persons and political practitioners shared their knowledge and experience on election campaigning, strategy, and democratic theory and concepts, and by doing so, contributed to the ongoing professionalisation of political parties and the consolidation of democratic political systems in the region.

The highlights were certainly the presentations, workshops, and roleplays under the guidance of our German guests and long-standing KASYP patrons Mark Hauptmann, MP in the German Bundestag, and Prof. Dr. Mario Voigt, MP in the State Parliament of Thüringen. With their substantial professional experience and great presentation and training skills, they taught participants political communication and campaigning strategies.

Over a luncheon debate, KASYPers also got the opportunity to learn about KAS’ work in India as well as the active KASYP Alumni group there directly from Peter Rimmel, KAS Country Representative to India. In addition, the Honourable Biraj Bista, KASYP Alumni and former MP and Minister of Science and Technology in Nepal, shared his expe-



German Members of Parliament Mr. Mark Hauptmann and Prof. Dr. Mario Voigt teach political messaging. “Emotionalising without polarising is key.”



German Member of Parliament Mr. Mark Hauptmann shares insights on and lessons learnt from successful previous CDU campaigns.

periences with KASYP, how his KASYP training helped him in his political life as well as updates on the political situation in Nepal after the recent elections.

The training programme also included in-depth introductions to democratic theory and practice, such as various electoral systems. Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor at the Jain University, argued that “electoralising” a country is a necessary but not sufficient step of democratisation. Mr Ibrahim Suffian of the Merdeka Center for Opinion Research in Malaysia proceeded to cover the background, utilisation and implications of opinion polling and elections.



The group of KASYP Batch 8 at the third workshop in Nepal.

KASYP 8.4 Training Programme

The Modern Organisations of Parties in Times of Populism

9 – 15 September 2018, Berlin, Erfurt, and Jena, Germany

“Even in the digital age, door-to-door campaigning and local canvassing remain as important as ever – perhaps more than ever.” Those remarks by the Connect 17 representatives, a CDU election campaign project, were among the most important take-aways for the 8th batch of the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) during their final workshop in Germany, bringing home the enduring importance of personal engagement and localism of national politics.

The Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia brought 18 young political leaders from eight Asian countries to Germany. The final workshop of their two-year training programme provided the young, future political leaders of the Asian region the opportunity to come together with a diverse group of German dialogue partners from the political and media communities as well as civil society.

The training kicked off with a thorough introduction to German politics and its party and electoral system, the Social Market Economy concept as well as the use of social media in German election campaigning. Participants met with appropriate experts, such as Dr. Karsten Grabow of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and got the chance to get a guided tour of the German parliament and committee buildings led by Ms Eva Majewski of the CDU. Here the KASYPers also got the opportunity to lunch with six staff members of different German MPs in order to discuss German politics and their busy work schedules in the run-up to the elections.

Certainly one of the highlights of the Berlin part of the programme was a visit to the so-called *#fed-idwugl Haus*. The in-Germany infamous hashtag is an acronym for the CDU campaign slogan: ‘Für

ein Deutschland In Dem Wir Gut und Gerne Leben’ (‘For a Germany in which we can live well and gladly’) and the name of a walk-in center, where themed rooms bring the CDU manifesto to life. Participants also thoroughly enjoyed a very engaging presentation by Danny Freymark MdL, member of the Berlin state parliament, on his role, his use of social media and his constituency work.

During the second part of their training, participants experienced the local political scene in Erfurt and Jena in the German state of Thuringia. KASYPers met state and local political stakeholders, such as politicians, public service providers, and media representatives, and discussed politics and public organisations on the local level. The group was taken great care of by long-standing programme partner Prof. Dr. Mario Voigt MdL, member of the Thuringian state parliament. Prof. Dr. Voigt gave the group the chance to enjoy political meetings with the President of Thuringian Parliament Christian Carius MdL, the CDU Councilor Guntram Wothly, and the young Major of the town of Bürgel, Johann Waschnewski. At the height of campaigning to keep his seat at the national parliament, the Bundestag, Albert Weiler MdB took time off his busy schedule to introduce his strategies to be successful.

We congratulate our participants! Through hard work, an open and sharp mind, and most of all, a great passion for politics, they successfully completed the 8th KASYP training programme and will become active members of the KASYP Alumni network. We are looking forward to following your career progression and wish you all the best for the great things that lie ahead.

KASYP 9.1 Training Programme

Political Parties, Functions, and Organisations in Democratic Societies

29 January – 3 February 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Twenty young leaders, eight different Asian countries, one week in Colombo, Sri Lanka. This was the first training programme for the ninth batch of the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP), where the group discussed party politics and socio-political trends in their respective countries. They also exchanged ideas with resource persons on the role of youth in effective political engagement, as well as learned new skills in political project management, a first-of-its-kind capacity-building training initiated by the Foundation to enable future leaders to be better strategic thinkers.

Esteemed speakers were invited to share their experiences in the region with the young leaders. Amb. Jörn Rohde, German ambassador to Sri Lanka, provided an overview of the global and regional trends in democracy building and political participation, including the growing need for consensus building, in his special address. Meanwhile, the Southeast and South Asian perspectives were presented by Dr. Bridget Welsh, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Asian Outreach at John Cabot University in Rome, and Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor of Jain University, Bangalore, India, respectively.



Top: Country presentation by Mr. Ye Aung of Myanmar.

Above: Mr. Christian Echle delivering his opening remarks.



Lively group debate on the available yet contentious delimitations of youth participation in politics.

The group also networked with local stakeholders in Sri Lanka. First, they visited the National Parliament, where an extensive tour of its premises was conducted, and its history and policy-making procedures were explained. The second organisa-



Group work by the participants from India.

tion visited was the National Peace Council (NPC), which provided insights into the ground measures undertaken by NPC to build cohesion and the retrospective work that the international community has helped contribute to. The third and final meeting took place at the foreign policy think tank The Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute.

The training programme then concluded with a 2.5-day project management training workshop, conducted by our in-house KASYP trainer, Dr. Romero. In this experiential segment of the workshop, participants were introduced to core tools for effective project conceptualisation, planning and implementation. The workshop successfully achieved the presentation of proposed projects that the group will undertake in the upcoming months before their second training programme.

KASYP 9.2 Training Programme

Local Governance and Development

6 – 10 August 2018, Penang, Malaysia

The second training workshop of each Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) batch focuses on the local dimension of sustainable development and good governance. Local structures are crucial for both effective and inclusive governance and this is what the second module aims to impart to the young leaders.

On the first day, the programme kicked off with a panel discussion on the historic general elections in Malaysia and its meaning for the democratisation of the country. Panellists included YB Simon Ooi, currently Member of Kedah State Assembly, State Minister, and a Fellow of KASYP Batch 08, and Dr. Ooi Kee Beng, Executive Director of Penang Institute, who gave their insights on the recent outcome of the Malaysian elections and the “New Malaysia”.

On the second day, Jonathan Malaya, administrator of federalism of department of interior and local government, offered a very insightful presentation on the state of local governance in Asian politics. In the afternoon, Hon. Dr. Afif Bahardin, Penang State Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, Health and Rural Development, and the Deputy Youth Chief of People’s Justice Party, received the delegation at his premises and held a political dialogue with KASYP participants, reflecting on the role of young leaders in politics and sharing insights into local and rural development in the state of Penang. Site visits to the UNESCO World Heritage area concluded this day of reflections on local planning and governance.



Mr. Jonathan Malaya's inspirational speech.

The third day was an opportunity for on-site discussions at the Penang Institute with Dr. Ooi Kee Beng and Dr. Wong Chin Huat, who presented the politics of the specific Malaysian centralised federalism, the work of Penang Institute and the role of think tanks in politics in general. Subsequently, the special perspective of women's empowerment in relation to Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting (GRPB) in the provision of public services was presented by Ms. Shariza Kamarudin of the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC).



Engaging discussion with Hon. Dr. Afif Bahardin.

The training session's last day put the insights of the past days into practice with interactive and practice-oriented workshops. First, a simulation exercise with Dr. Caroline Brassard assessed disaster risk management on the local municipal level and simulated political first emergency responding on the local level. Subsequently, Dr. Romero of the Ateneo de Manila University talked about inclusive politics and strategies for stakeholder ownership, opening the floor for discussion of inclusive politics in the participants' respective countries. This session then allowed the participants to present updates on their political projects, sharing the vision, implementation, and impact of each project.



Dr. Caroline Brassard facilitating the simulation on local disaster risk reduction management.

KASYP 9.3 Training Programme

Leadership in Campaigning

21 – 25 April 2019, Hong Kong SAR

The third training module of each Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) batch aims to provide the participants with an understanding of electoral campaigning and its many tools as well as the importance of providing organised electoral choices to citizens through political parties.



Prof. Dr. Mario Voigt, MdL delivering his talk on electoral campaigning for political parties.

The event started with a presentation by Prof Min-Hua Huang, Director of the Fu Hu Center for East Asia Democratic Studies who focused on the role of surveys and polling and their impact on different aspects of politics, particularly in election campaigning and party policies. Prof Min-Hua Huang was followed by Prof Dr Mario Voigt, member of the Thuringia State Parliament and Professor at the Quadriga University in Berlin. Prof Dr Mario Voigt has been a staple of the KASYP programme, having been involved since the beginning nearly ten years ago. In his talks, he provided the participants with an introduction and overview on the topic of electoral campaigning for political parties and focused on the different ways of campaigning in liberal democracies by comparing the US and Germany. Later that day, Prof Mario Voigt was joined by another pillar of the KASYP programme, Hon. Mark Hauptmann, member of the German Federal Parliament. They hosted a joint workshop where the participants were able to put their existing and newly acquired knowledge on election campaigning to the test and gain valuable feedback from the two experienced German politicians.

The second day in Hong Kong featured a presentation by Dr Benjamin Reilly, Professor at the University of Western Australia, on the topic of elections and electoral systems, which showed the influence of electoral systems on the different aspects of politics in a country.

This was followed by one of the highlights of the event, another interactive workshop hosted by Hon. Mark Hauptmann on electoral campaigning.

At the end of the day, the KASYPers themselves gave updates on the political projects they were trying to tackle during their time as a KASYPPer.

On the third day, Roger Tu Lee, CEO and founder of Autopolitic, helped with giving the participants a different view on the process of campaigning.

The day ended with a talk by Iris Poon, a researcher at the “Our Hong Kong Foundation”. She gave an interesting look into the problems Hong Kong is facing in terms of land development and some of the proposed solutions by both the government and the “Our Hong Kong Foundation” itself.

The fourth and final day in Hong Kong concluded with a visit to the Legislative Council of Hong Kong. The tour of the council was followed by a talk by Dr Hon. Cheng Chung Tai, who gave an interesting insight into the workings of the legislative council and Hong Kong politics in general.



Group photo with Dr. Hon. Cheng Chung Tai, Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong SAR, after the dialogue with the young politicians.

KASYP 9.4 Training Programme

Political Parties in Germany and Europe

25 – 31 August 2019, Berlin, Erfurt, Jena, Germany

The 9th batch of the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) concluded its final training module in Berlin and Thuringia, Germany, from 25 to 31 August 2019, with 17 participants (9 males and 8 females) representing 7 countries, namely Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, and the Philippines. As the concluding training module of the two-year programme, the design of the KASYP Germany's programme was a mixture of different platforms to ensure more practical and experiential learning for the graduating class. The entire study visit was aimed at providing a better understanding of the socio-political contexts of German democracy and the principles of subsidiarity, a broader international perspective, and a stronger commitment to international cooperation and democratic values through observing and experiencing good examples from the country.

The first leg of the study visit was conducted in Berlin, where participants had the opportunity to gain new ideas, observe how these ideas were operationalised, and experience how the German system works. These new insights were supplied by the lectures on various topics, such as the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals delivered by Ms Martina Kaiser (Desk Officer for SDG, European and International Cooperation); political participation presented by Dr Jochen Roose (Coordinator for Surveys and Party Research); and social market economy talk by Mr Martin Schebesta (Economic Policy Team).

Apart from lectures, the group visited the Christian Democratic Union Federal Headquarters to discuss with party leaders the “strategic challenges for big tent parties and Germany's role in the world”. During this visit, they also learned about the opportunities for participation in political decision making and challenges for young politicians from the sharing by Ms Nathalie Herberger (Political Desk Officer of the Office of External Relations of CDU Germany). Another experiential activity was

a guided tour of the German Federal Parliament (Bundestag). In addition to the tour, the group had a dialogue with some political staffs of the Members of Parliament. The team had a lively interaction with Ms Eva Keldenich (Managing Director of the Group of Young CDU MPs), Mr Patrick Moss (Office of MP Mark Hauptmann), Dr Adrian Haack (Office of MP Paul Ziemiak), and Ms Lisa Schutt (Office of MP Philipp Amthor). The last site visit of the first leg was a guided tour of the Berlin City Parliament, where the participants received a dose of inspiration after a meeting with Mr Danny Freymark (Whip of the CDU group in the House of Representatives). As always, Mr Freymark delivered a very convincing sharing of his political life journey that established a strong connection with the participants, who are as young as he is.



KASYP group photo at the Christian Democratic Union headquarters, Berlin.

The first leg of this training module ended with a meeting with some members of the KAS European and International Cooperation Department and the Asia-Pacific Team, led by Dr Peter Fischer-Bollin (Deputy Head of Department European and International Cooperation) and Dr Peter Hefele (Head of Asia & Pacific Team European and International Cooperation), to exchange notes and feedback on the works of the foundation in the countries represented by the participants.

For the second leg of the programme, the group travelled to the State of Thuringia.

The first order of business in Thuringian was a visit to the Thuringian Government Office, State Chancellery, and the Thuringian Parliament. It was a humbling experience for the participants to experience the hospitality and wisdom of Ms Birgit Dietzel, who is the Speaker of the Thuringian Parliament, and to hear her insights. From the state level, the group was fortunate to see how town levels are being governed in Germany. They visited the town of Burgel and were received by none other than the Mayor, the Honorable Mr Jonathan Waschnewski. There was an easy connection

among participants with Mr Waschnewski. Coming from the same generation, they share the same challenges that the world is facing now, but at the same time, share the same enthusiasm and optimism on how they can help solve these problems as young political leaders.

Apart from these political meetings, there were other site visits to and meetings with Mr Ulli Sondermann-Becker (Chairman of the Thuringian Regional Press Conference), Mr Tino Zippel (Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Osstthüringer Zeitung*), Prof Torsten Oppelland (Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Jena), and Ms Kristin Holzhey (Assistant to the CEO, Jenoptik).



KASYP group photo with the Speaker of the Thuringia Parliament.

Finally, one of the most significant experiences of the participants was meeting Prof Dr Mario Voigt, MdL and Mr Mark Hauptmann, MdB, the long-time trainers and partners of KASYP. As always, the two German politicians continued to share their political life journey and inspired the young Asian politicians to continue their public service in their countries and become the agents of change for the better. The final interaction was also crucial in deepening the connection among these young political leaders despite the diversity of their backgrounds.



KASYPers with Mr. Christian Echle and Mr. Rey Padit after receiving their Certificates of Completion culminating the two-year training programme.

KASYP 10.1 Training Programme

Political Parties, Functions, and Organisations in Democratic Societies

18 – 22 February 2019, Manila, Philippines

For this first training module of KASYP Batch 10, we introduced a new structure and new topics in order to ensure the efficacy of the learning process and to broaden the participants' perspective. Regarding the programme structure, we arranged the activities in a reflective-active mixture.

In terms of topics, we introduced 2 themes and 1 workshop. The first topic focused on the challenges being faced by political parties during these times of populism, fake news, authoritarianism, and many more threats to democracy. The second topic delved on one common characteristic of political environments in Asia, namely, the presence of political dynasties. Apart from the topics, we also introduced a new workshop on public presentation and communication, which we believe is an important skill for political leaders.



Mr. Christian Echle assisting the group during the workshop.

The event officially began with welcome remarks from Mr Christian Echle, Director of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, Professor Doctor Stefan Jost, Country Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in the Philippines, and Ambassador Doctor Gordon Kricke, German Ambassador to the Philippines, on Monday morning. The first KASYP module consisted of a training

workshop in project design and management, conducted by our in-house KASYP trainer, Dr Segundo Romero.

Additionally, the participants benefited from a workshop by Ms Lim, Project Director and Consultant, on public speaking and presentation to equip them with the ability to present their projects to the party and community. The workshops were accompanied by a number of interesting talks by renowned experts in the field. One of them was Professor Julio Teehankee, Professor of Political Science and International Studies from La Salle University, who encouraged the participants to critically question their respective parties with regard to internal democracy, background, transparency and composition of its members, whilst giving examples on the best practices of these ideals. Ms Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu, Head of the Global Political Representation and Participation Programme from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), also left a very good impression through her talk on the changing nature of political parties and representation, explaining that democracy and party systems are under threat and suggesting necessary adjustments to be made by the parties in order to be resilient. Very interesting input also came from Professor Mark Thompson, Head of Politics at the Department of Asian and International Studies, City University of Hong Kong. He gave a presentation on the inter-relationship of dynasties, democracy and development, giving insights into the political landscape of different Asian states.

The highlight of the programme was the field trip on Wednesday, when the group visited Malacanan Palace, the official seat of the Philippine President. The participants had an extensive briefing on the history of the country, particularly on the Philippine



Prof. Mark Thompson, City University of Hong Kong, speaking about the relationship between political dynasties, development and democracy.

presidency. This was followed by a lunch discussion with members of the Cabinet Secretary's Office and the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office where the participants had the opportunity to share and learn about the challenges being faced by young political leaders in government service. The group even had the opportunity to witness a committee hearing and to meet Senator Win Gatchalian to discuss the initiative of the implementation of mandatory military training for young Filipinos. The programme provided the participants with a deeper understanding of the Philippines' political system, which they could compare to the system in their own respective countries.



Group photo with Mr. Christian Echle, Director of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung; Prof. Dr. Stefan Jost, Country Representative of KAS in the Philippines; and Dr. Gordon Kricke, German Ambassador to the Philippines.

KASYP 10.2 Training Programme

Local Governance and Development

4 – 8 August 2019, Penang, Malaysia

The second workshop of the KASYP training programme for Batch 10 followed the new structure and topics introduced during the first workshop in Manila. The programme team arranged activities in a reflective-active mixture.

The first day started with the welcome messages from Dato' Hans Peter Brenner, the German Honorary Consul in Penang, Malaysia, and YB Kumaresan Aramugam, State Assemblyman of Batu Uban, Penang State Government, Malaysia, and an alumnus of KASYP Batch 3.



Group photo with all the KASYPers culminating their 2nd training module on local governance and development in Penang, Malaysia.

After the opening ceremonies, the programme dived directly into the “State of Local Governance and Development in Asia”. The participants enjoyed listening to Mr Marcel Pandin, Senior Advisor, United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific, as he talked about the main drivers and challenges in governing the development of local constituencies. After the lecture on the general trends in local governance and development across the region, the presentation of Ms Tunku Azela Tunku Aziz, Executive Director of Institut Kajian Dasar, followed, where she shared the experiences of young Malaysian leaders in local politics.

The second part of the first day tackled one important and highly relevant topic for young political leaders – the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The group was fortunate to receive training from resource experts from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), in the form of Ms Natalja Wehmer and Ms Aline Roldan.



Participants sharing their insights after the workshop on sustainable development goals.

On the second day, Dr Segundo Romero, KASYP’s in-house trainer and facilitator, continued the input on project management, where the participants presented updates on their political projects. This was followed by a lecture-workshop on “Strategies for Local Economic Development: Focus on Green Jobs”. Once again, the participants were fortunate to have Dr Cristina Martinez, Senior Specialist for Environment and Decent Work from the International Labour Organization (ILO), give her inputs on how local governments could prepare strategies

for just transitions when local economies shift to green economies.

The third day was an opportunity for on-site discussions at the Penang Institute with Ms Pey Jung Yeong, Research Project Advisors, who presented on the politics of federalism in Malaysia. This was followed by a presentation on the issues and challenges of local governance and development for political parties by none other than the founder of KASYP, Dr Wilhelm Hofmeister, who is now the Director for the KAS Office in Spain and Portugal. Subsequently, the special perspective of women’s empowerment in relation to Gender Responsive and Participatory Budgeting (GRPB) in the provision of public services was presented by Ms Ong Bee Leng, Chief Executive Officer of the Penang Women’s Development Corporation (PWDC). Continuing with the field visits, the group had the opportunity to have a dialogue with YB Soon Lip Chee, Penang State Minister for Sport. Site visits to the UNESCO World Heritage area concluded this day of reflections on local planning and governance.

The last day ended with a lively and interactive workshop on one of the most common challenges faced by local governments in Asia – disaster risk reduction management. Dr Caroline Brassard from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy facilitated a simulation exercise on how to respond when disaster hits. The participants enjoyed the session and learned at the same time how to manage negotiations among different and, most crucially, competing interests of various stakeholders.



Group photo with Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister, Founder of KASYP and Director for KAS Spain and Portugal at the Penang Institute, Malaysia.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Young Political Leaders Caucus (KASYP-LC)

Since 2010, when the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) was first conceptualised, the programme has successfully trained close to 200 young political leaders in the region and supported the development of more than 150 political projects across at least 15 Asian countries.

After graduating from the KASYP programme, the alumni continues to be engaged through the KAS Young Political Leaders Caucus (KASYP-LC), a platform that nurtures and sustains the dialogue, exchange, and sharing of expertise and experience in political party building, policymaking, constituency work, sustainable development, and democracy building.

The objectives of this caucus are two-fold:

- a. Further hone the alumni's political and governance skills and expertise, through thematic discussions with fellow Asian peers, in crafting domestic and regional policies affecting the youth, political parties, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- b. Develop a network of like-minded young political actors who are committed to strengthening political parties and youth participation in policy advocacy, especially with the greater SDG framework.

The alumni list continues to grow and with limited resources, the challenge is to provide effective follow-up mechanisms for those who are committed to politics. It has therefore been crucial to select representatives from various political parties and countries who remain politically engaged and have shown growth in their political career since graduating from the programme. It is with this intention that the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Young Political Leaders Caucus was established in 2012 and it has organised seven alumni meetings to date.

- **KASYP Asian Youth Forum**
12 – 14 July 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- **KASYP International Workshop on “Youth and Politics”**
27 – 29 May 2013, Singapore
- **KASYP Alumni Meeting 2014 “Regional Integration, Good Governance and Democracy in Asia”**
27 – 30 November 2014, Penang, Malaysia
- **KASYP Alumni Meeting 2015 “Devolving Power in Asia: Experiences in Good Governance”**
29 – 31 October 2015, Davao City, Philippines
- **KASYP-LC Launch 2017 “For Sustainable Development Goals | #KASYP4SDGs”**
2 – 4 February 2017, Siem Reap, Cambodia
- **KASYP-LC Experts' Meeting “For Sustainable Development Goals | #KASYP4SDGs”**
4 – 5 August 2017, Bangkok, Thailand
- **KASYP-LC “For Sustainable Development Goals | #KASYP4SDGs”**
3 – 4 December 2018, Bangkok, Thailand



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Young Political Leaders Caucus (KASYP-LC) For Sustainable Development Goals (#KASYP4SDGs)

3 – 5 December 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

After establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the platform of engagement for the KASYP-LC network, the SDGs is still considered to be a relevant topic for the ongoing political discussions across countries represented in the meeting. As political leaders in their own countries, the SDGs play a crucial role in making them accountable for their positions. It is the nature of the SDGs, as a global agenda, that makes it acceptable as a common ground to discuss various efforts from diverse political backgrounds. However, the contribution of this year's theme, "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", which is an adaptation from the 2019 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, is the opportunity to align our participants' initiatives with formal processes and mechanisms such as the HLPF and the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) on SDG. From focusing on individual SDGs, the network adopted a thematic approach which tackles a set of SDGs that are connected to each other. Furthermore, the introduction of these



Mr. Christian Echle delivers the Welcome and Opening Remarks.

processes and mechanisms will ensure that the efforts of the participants in their own countries will be coordinated and integrated with the HLPF and the APFSDG.

The meeting was fortunate to have an expert and a practitioner in relation to the content of the programme. Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Chief of the Environment and Development Policy Section, was an excellent resource speaker to present the HLPF and the APFSDG. Coming from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific, she had both the expertise and the experience in planning, implementing, and reviewing of the SDGs, which were beneficial to the participants. She shared both conceptual and practical knowledge.



Dr. Katinka Weinberger talks about the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals.

The second speaker was equally excellent. Having worked previously in the government of Singapore, Cheryl Chung, Co-director of Executive Education at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy,

National University of Singapore, brought with her rich experiences and practical skills which came in handy when delivering and facilitating a workshop on “Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning”. This particular workshop offered a new skill to our participants. It offered new practices in planning and designing policy interventions, from a linear to a non-linear thinking process.

The meeting concluded with a strategic discussion on the future of the KASYP alumni network and how to develop a sense of ownership of the network among the KASYP alumni. Concrete outcomes of this meeting will shape the upcoming KASYP-LC meetings in 2019 and beyond. These meetings will be aimed at fostering greater regional coordination of policy developments and youth political participation in supporting SDG policy and social project interventions in their respective countries in Asia.



Ms. Cheryl Chung facilitating a workshop on “Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning”.



Mr. Rey Padit facilitating the KASYP strategic planning workshop.

KASYP 10th Year Anniversary Celebration

KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting

8 – 10 August 2019, Penang, Malaysia

The first KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting was a celebration of the 10th year of KASYP as a training programme for young Asian politicians with the aim of building their capacities to strengthen the responsiveness and accountability of political parties in the region. As a milestone for the programme, the event was a mixture of celebrating friendship, revitalising shared values, revisiting the programme’s vision and mission, and learning new ideas about democracy. The event comprised different activities, starting with the launch of the alumni exhibit, followed by a series of panel discussions, a workshop on revisiting the KASYP alumni network’s *raison d’être*, a teambuilding event, and finally a gala dinner to cap the entire event.

Day one of the KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting kicked off with a palpable sense of warmth and family as

people caught up with each other while perusing an exhibit of the 10th Year Anniversary Celebration and the KASYP award nominees. Dr Hofmeister, founder of KASYP, unveiled the KASYP alumni magazine to great fanfare. He and Mr Christian



Opening of the KASYP Alumni Exhibit and Launching of KASYP Alumni Magazine.

Echle, current director of KAS PDA, were the first to ink their signatures on the canvas.

The first day of our KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting also saw a main panel discussion followed by three parallel breakout sessions.

The first session on “The Future of Democracy in Asia in an Asian Century” was moderated by Mr Christian Echle, Director of KAS PDA, while the keynote address was given by Dr Wilhelm Hofmeister, founder of KASYP and Director of KAS (Spain and Portugal). They were joined by an esteemed panel of discussants, including Dr Maiko Ichihara, Associate Professor from the Hitotsubashi University, Dr Dinesh Bhattarai, Former Foreign Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Nepal, and Mr Ravi Vellor, Associate Editor of *The Straits Times*. They discussed regional challenges to democracy, such as the rise of China, populism, and digitalisation of politics, as well as the possibility of democracy with “Asian characteristics”.



Panel Discussion on “The Future of Democracy in Asia in an Asian Century”.

One of the breakout sessions continued on this theme, and was entitled “Democratic Leadership in Undemocratic Times”. The discussion was moderated by Dr Frederick Kliem, Visiting Fellow at RSIS, joined by Prof Dr Mario Voigt, MdL, Member of the Thuringen State Parliament, Germany, Dr Bridget Welsh, Associate Professor of Political Science at the John Cabot University, and Ms Nupur Sharma, Spokesperson for Bharatiya Janata Party, India, as panel discussants. Their discussions focused on global threats to democracy and the rise of undemocratic forces like extreme right-wing ideologies, as well as what leaders can do to counter these issues and restore confidence in democracy.

Another breakout session looked at “Youth and Women Participation in Politics”. Former KASYP Programme Manager Ms Dilpreet Kaur, now the Director of GoalWeaver Private Ltd, moderated the entire panel. She was joined by Ms Braema Mathi, Former Nominated Member of Parliament of Singapore, Mr Jehan Perera, Executive Director of the National Peace Council, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and Hon. Elvina Sousa Carvalho, Elected Member of Parliament, Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, as the panel discussants. The discussants spoke on the potential for greater involvement of youth and women in politics, the hurdles involved, and how such involvement could be facilitated through formal and informal mechanisms.

The last breakout session was on “Inequality: The Greatest Threat to Democracy”. This third panel was moderated by Dr La Toya Waha, Senior Programme Manager of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. She was joined by Dr Segundo Romero, Professorial Lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, Dr Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor of the Jain University, and Ms Jargalan Batbayar, Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic Women’s Wing of the Democratic Party in Mongolia, as panel discussants. The session explored the possibility of rising inequality undermining democracies, and how democratic agents can address this if so.

On day two of the KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting, participants engaged in a “World Café” workshop to brainstorm how democracy can be strength-



KASYP alumni enjoying “World Café” workshop on the future of the KASYP alumni as a network.

ened in their countries and how KASYP can play a bigger role in this. This workshop was also intended to revisit the raison d'être of the KASYP alumni network. With different tables focusing on different questions, participants of different batches and countries rotated among the tables in groups and wrote down their responses and discussions. Thereafter, these were presented to everyone. It was a time of lively discussions that yielded many useful ideas!

After the intense but productive workshop on the morning of Day two, the participants were surprised with an amazing race around Penang, where they got to see local sights, taste local food, and experience local culture. It was an opportunity for the KASYP alumni, the KAS Team, and the special guests to celebrate friendship and shared values on democracy-building. Even our director, Mr Christian Echle, our programme managers, and our guests took part alongside the alumni. It was tiring but fun!



A group of KASYP alumni during the KASYP Penang Amazing Race.

The highlight of the second day and the entire event was a gala dinner to celebrate a decade of shaping democratic leaders in Asia. The alumni were fortunate to meet and listen to YB Mr Sim Tze Tzin, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agro-based Industry of Malaysia, who delivered

the keynote address on the “challenges and opportunities for young Asian political leaders in ensuring democratic progress in the region”. There were also country performances from Mongolia, Myanmar, and India to showcase the alumni’s diversity. During this dinner, the interim KASYP alumni steering committee was presented to the network. These interim officers will be responsible for initiating the formalisation of the KASYP alumni network. They also surprised the KAS directors and staff with a plaque of appreciation for all the efforts they had exerted in making KASYP and this jubilee celebration successful.

Finally, three KASYP awards were launched during the gala dinner. The first award was the “The Most Popular KASYP Alumnus”, which is a popular vote among the alumni, and this was won by Mr Astik Sinha from India. The second award was named as “The Most Impactful KASYP Project” and is an evaluation of the political projects implemented during the KASYP programme. This award was won by Atty. Lesley Jeanne Cordero from the Philippines. The third award was titled as “The Most Outstanding KASYP Alumnus” and recognises the alumnus who is the most successful in his or her political career; this was won by YB Lee Chean Chung from Malaysia.

The first KASYP Grand Alumni Meeting was indeed a success. It was an event that showed how strong the relationship built among the alumni was despite the differences in their political beliefs. More than the celebratory nature of the gathering, the event has facilitated the reinvigorating of the values of tolerance and commitment to democratic values and principles among the alumni. The future of democracy in Asia rests in the hands of some of the alumni and it is an encouraging future for all of us.



Group photo culminating the two-day event with a Gala Dinner celebrating “A Decade of Shaping Democratic Leaders in Asia”.

KAS E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific

1 – 4 October 2018, Penang, Malaysia

After a break from holding the programme in the region, the KAS E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific is now back on its fifth run, and there was no other perfect place to discuss elections and campaigning but in Penang. The surprising and dramatic change of regime in the country offered rich discussion topics on democratic change and political party coalitions. While the rest of the world are experiencing the effects of the rise of populism, with populist leaders winning office, Malaysia showed that democracy is still working and our best option to achieve political change.

The high-level meeting of election campaigners, political strategists, communication experts, party leaders, and researchers kicked off with the



Dr. Klaus Schüler passionately sharing his experience and expertise in political campaigning.

presentation of Dr. Klaus Schüler, Federal Managing Director of the Christian Democratic Union of Germany, on the challenges and opportunities in leading one of the most successful political parties in Europe. He emphasised that whether you are in the opposition or the governing party, what matters to a successful election is your campaign organisation, communication, and strategy.

Another key highlight during the event was the commemoration of the German reunification which was rather meaningful than coincidental. Together with some representatives of the German business community in Penang, the group reflected on the parallelism between what happened on 3 October



Mr. Christian Echle moderating a panel discussion on populism with programme participants.



Group photo with Dr. Klaus Schüler, Mr. Frank Priess, Dato' Ooi Kee Beng, and YB Sim Tze Tzin at the Penang Institute.



Group photo with YB Dr. Afif Bahardin, Penang State Minister, at the KOMTAR Tower.

1990 in Germany and on 9 May 2018 in Malaysia. These momentous events in history have showed that the pursuit of a democratic society can be achieved through peaceful means.

Apart from the individual presentations and panel discussions, the group had the opportunity to visit the State Government and engage in a political dialogue with YB Dr. Afif Bahardin, Penang State Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry, Health and Rural Development and Deputy Youth Chief of People's Justice Party. YB Dr. Bahardin shared their struggle as the longstanding opposition party and how they successfully managed to establish the Pakatan Harapan, the biggest coalition of opposition parties to challenge the ruling Barisan Nasional, and yet how their victory still came as a surprise to the public.

The rest of the programme was an interesting and engaging exchange of election campaign best practices from different countries, sharing of party reforms and innovations, and most of all, building a stronger network of democracy advocates.



Mr. Christian Echle and YB Dr. Afif Bahardin during the political dialogue with the programme participants.

2 – 6 June 2019, Yangon, Myanmar

The first day in Yangon put its main focus on the recent elections that had happened in the region. Before starting with some in-depth analysis of some of the recently held elections, Mr Christian Echle, Director of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, and Dr Norbert Eschborn, KAS Resident Representative to Myanmar, gave their welcome and opening remarks. Dr Eschborn praised the efforts of the Regional Programme in hosting multiple events in Myanmar in recent

years despite the challenges the country had been and was still going through.

Following the welcome remarks was an insightful analysis of the recently held European elections by Dr Klaus Schüler, Federal Managing Director of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in Germany. Dr Schüler, who has been part of the E-Lecture Bridge since the very beginning, discussed some of the recent developments he had observed and expe-

rienced in European politics, including the ongoing rise of polarising parties in large parts of Europe. He also noted the increased importance of the topic of climate change, especially in Germany, and also the related increase in votes for Green parties and explained how this would affect the existing coalitions and influence how decisions are made in the European Parliament.



Dr. Klaus Schüller, Federal Managing Director, Christian Democratic Union, Federal Republic of Germany, delivering the Keynote Address on the European Elections of 2019.

Dr Schüller was followed by Simon Berger, Deputy Federal Director of the Liberal Party in Australia. In his presentation, Mr Berger explained his party's strategy during the recent Australian elections and how the party managed to go from being a "muppet show" to winning the elections.

The third and final election that was discussed during the first day was the elections in India. Here, Charu Pragya, Spokesperson and Campaign Manager of Bharatiya Janata Party in the State of Uttar Pradesh, revealed how the BJP managed to improve even further on its already impressive result from 2014 in the world's largest democratic elections.

After looking at the Indian elections, it was time for the final topic of the first day. A strategic discussion on campaign organisation, strategy and communication was moderated by the Director of the Regional Programme himself, Mr Christian Echle. The discussion, featuring Dr Klaus Schüller, Simon Berger and Greg Hamilton, General Manager of the New Zealand National Party, gave an interesting view into campaigning in different countries, as well as showed the ways in which

parties dealt with winning or losing their election. The discussion showed how important it was for a party to be well-organised and unified with a clear message and effective strategy that focuses on its core strengths.

The second day in Yangon started with another view of the European elections, where Julia Carstens, assistant to Dr Klaus Schüller, focused on the ever-growing sector of digital campaigning and youth participation. Ms Carstens presented the digital campaign strategy of the CDU and pointed out some of the obstacles they were facing and how they tried to tackle them. The discussion was also an opportunity to learn from the participants, especially with regard to social media and youth engagement, two of the fields the CDU was struggling with during the European elections.

The following session featured another discussion, this time on a topic that had a special relevance to the host country, the influence of the military in democratic elections. Again moderated by Mr Echle, the discussion involved U Myo Yan Naung Thein, who is currently director of BAYDA Institute and Secretary of the Central Research Committee of the National League for Democracy, Anthony Kap Khan Khual, who is part of the Central Executive Committee of the Zomi Congress for Democracy, and Pannika Wannich, Spokesperson of the Future Forward Party in Thailand. The discussants shared the different ways the military was still having a strong influence in the political environment of these countries.



Mr. U Myo Yan Naung Thein from the National League for Democracy in Myanmar shares his thoughts on the role of ethnicity and religion in elections.



Mr. Shah Ali Farhad from the Bangladesh Awami League Party raises questions on the future of digital campaigning.

The succeeding session, led by Senior Programme Manager Dr La Toya Waha, featured another important topic in Asia – the role of religion and ethnicity in elections. The discussants of this session were YB Datuk Seri Shamsul Iskandar Mohd Akin, Chief of Information of the Malaysian People's Justice Party, Dr Mahinda Haradasa, Senior Member of the Sri Lankan United National Party Campaign Management Committee, and Hon. Biraj Bahadur Bista, Former State Minister for Science and Technology in Nepal. The discussants conveyed the different challenges their countries were facing when it comes to religion and ethnicity and the different ways their parties were dealing with them.

The final session of the day, moderated by Mr Rey Padit, Programme Manager for Political Cooperation of KAS PDA, with Maria Lourdes Tiqua, Founder and CEO of PUBLiCUS Asia Inc., and Roger Tu Lee, CEO and Founder of Autopolitic, as discussants, showed what the future of digital campaigning might look like. It offered insights into the workings of their companies, the tools they use to win elections and how social media can be used to gauge public opinion and react to it much faster than traditional media would ever be able to.

With the second day done, Mr Frank Priess, Deputy Head of the Department of European and International Cooperation of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, gave his closing remarks, stressing the importance of events like this in the portfolio of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. He praised it as a platform that provides political parties and election campaigners the opportunity to learn from each other on different strategies to promote our shared democratic values.

The third and final day of the event featured two field trips. First, the participants visited the headquarters of the National League for Democracy (NLD), where they were able to engage in a lively discussion with some of the highest ranking leaders of the party on topics involving Myanmar and the whole region. The upcoming 2020 election in Myanmar was of particular importance and the international participants and NLD officials were able to exchange valuable ideas on how the NLD could tackle the challenges they might face in their reelection.

Following the visit to the NLD headquarters, the group was able to get a better understanding of Myanmar and its culture through a visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist pagoda in Myanmar and an important part of Myanmar's history.



Group photo with all the delegates of KAS E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific 2019 with the leaders of the National League for Democracy inside their party headquarters.

The visit to the Pagoda marked the end of the 2019 E-Lecture Bridge and we would like to thank all the participants and speakers for contributing to the successful event. We are very much looking forward to the next conference!



Group photo with all the delegates of KAS E-lection Bridge Asia-Pacific 2019.

Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus

Democratic development cannot take place without the equal participation of women in all spheres of life, especially politics. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) acknowledges the need to promote female political leadership training and empowerment in Asia and is committed to pursuing programmes to narrow the political gender gap in the continent. With the support of KAS, a network of Asian women parliamentarians has been meeting regularly since 2011 to promote, strengthen and develop female political leadership in the region through policy discussions, capacity-building workshops and networking.

In 2013, KAS organised an International Women Parliamentarian Conference in Naypyidaw, Myanmar, which was inaugurated by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and attended by female politicians from both Asia and Europe as well as women's rights organisations from across Myanmar. The conference concluded with an acknowledgement of the serious need to foster women's political participation in a region where socio-cultural and normative barriers against women still persist.

As a result, in 2014, KAS partnered with the Singapore Committee for UN Women to organise an Asia-focused regional conference in Singapore, attended by delegates from 18 differ-

ent Asian countries. This conference established a regional network called the Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus (AWPC). Invited members include parliamentarians who have many years of women's rights advocacy experience from a variety of backgrounds, including legal practitioners, social workers, and founders of community initiatives/non-governmental organisations to better women's rights in various countries.

Since its inception, the caucus has tackled low women's political participation rates along with policy issues impacting women's rights in Asia, such as migration involving feminisation of labour and trafficking of women and children, gender-based violence and anti-corruption measures, with a focus on the role of women in power in tackling these issues. The caucus also brings together expert resource persons who contribute to knowledge building especially in the post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) context.

KAS has also published *Women in Politics: Regional Perspectives in Today's World*, a detailed overview of global and regional indicators affecting women's rights, political participation and empowerment within and across continents.



Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus

Women, Education and Economic Empowerment:
Turning Actions into Progress

25 – 28 July 2018, Yangon, Myanmar



Group photo of the AWPC members.

Women's equality and economic empowerment is integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. As we still face significant gaps in women's empowerment, it is important that policy-makers from the countries in the region engage in dialogue and exchange of expertise and best practices on how to achieve women's empowerment in practice. A group of 24 parliamentarians, heads of business networks and women organisations and other representatives took part in this year's AWPC to discuss the economic empowerment of women in the region. Along with sharing of best practices and discussions on successful strategies, two global solutions were highlighted to be the most beneficial for the region. First, it was agreed that it was imperative to bring women into the heart of economies and, second, it was stressed that it was important to engage men at the household, community and policy levels while working towards the economic empowerment of women.

The caucus meeting began with a panel on women empowerment in Myanmar, where our parliamentarians gained noteworthy insights into policies and initiatives from various stakeholders from Myanmar. The role of technology in promoting women entrepreneurship through apps and smartphones usage was demonstrated by SMART Myanmar, whose gaming apps and the concept of a Sunday cafe have gained immense popularity in Myanmar. It was also unanimously agreed by all delegates that the digital aspect should be brought into all initiatives as with each passing day our society is getting more digitalised.

This was followed by an expert panel where our parliamentarians learned from other stakeholders about their work in the region and discussed how they could work together to reinforce synergies and increase their impact in the region. Issues like gender budgeting and the factors which impede

access to economic opportunities were brought forward by our panellists. It was agreed that women's rights should not be only treated as a matter of human right but as an economical right and should be seen as an economical benefit for any society.



AWPC members discussing the progress of economic empowerment for women in Asia.

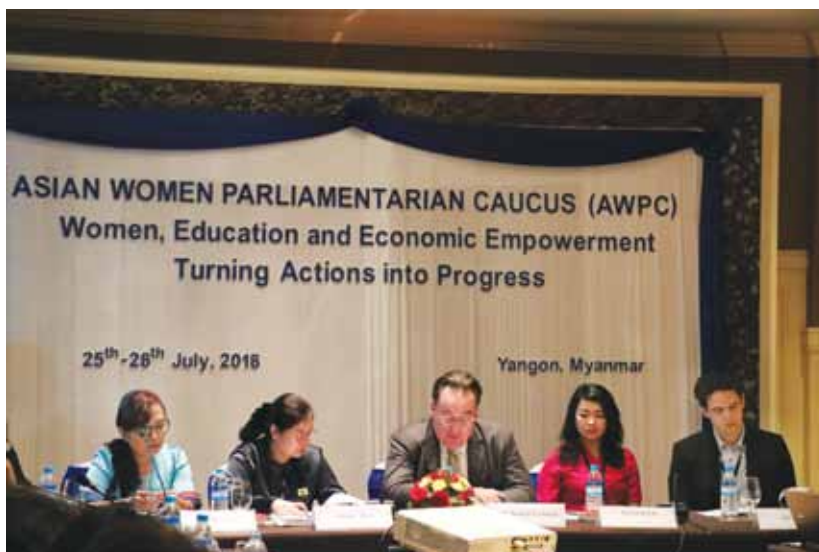
As part of building their personal capacity, the parliamentarians participated in a workshop where they took part in numerous self-reflecting activities. They also reflected on their relationships with various stakeholders and how they could improve their synergies with them. Continuing to building their personal capacity, the parliamentarians shared their experiences in implementing projects on empowering women in their respective countries. The sharing of best practices and challenges

led to an insightful discussion on how successful ideas could be implemented in other countries in the region as well.

In keeping with the discussions on the region, we had a special panel on “Elections and Democratization in the Region”. Our parliamentarians discussed the various elections which have taken or will take place in the region and their impact on democracy. Along with the various trends, it was agreed that democracy’s resilience was being tested daily, in Asia as well as across the world. However, it was hoped that the election victory in Malaysia was a portent towards wider democratic change in the region.



Hon. Dr. Dipu Moni, Minister of Education of Bangladesh, on education and economic empowerment of women in Bangladesh.



Dr. Norbert Eschborn, Director, KAS Myanmar, moderating the panel on “Women empowerment in Myanmar”.

Engaging Civil Society Organisation – Advocating Women’s Rights and Participation

21 – 23 June 2019, Hong Kong SAR

With the conference slogan “We don’t wait for change, we make the change”, this year’s Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus (AWPC) meeting in Hong Kong became a platform where two major stakeholders of society got an unique opportunity to have a dialogue on empowering women in the region. The AWPC meeting in 2019 focused on a dialogue between civil society groups and women parliamentarians on increasing the rights and participation of women across the region. Our parliamentarians met with 36 civil society groups from 16 countries to discuss pertinent issues with regard to increasing women’s rights and participation in the region.



Dialogue between parliamentarians and civil society representatives.

This year the AWPC meeting was divided into three parts. The first day was a meeting of civil society groups from across Asia. More than 60 representatives of civil society groups came together to assess the current situation of women, the challenges they face and the concrete actions that they can work on together, as women in the Asia-Pacific region. Representatives of civil society groups first shared about the national situation in their respective countries, and reviewed the promises of the

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which, to many women’s rights advocates and policymakers across the globe, remains probably the most progressive visioning of a future. This was followed by thematic workshops where they were divided into 3 groups (Rights of Women to Work, Peace, Security and Justice, Political Participation of Women) and discussed proposals to be put forward to the parliamentarians.



Expression of Commitment by the Delegates of AWPC.

The dialogue between the women parliamentarians and civil society groups commenced with the presentation of the recommendations by the civil society actors. In response, the Asian women parliamentarians assured the representatives of the civil society groups of their commitment and interest in upholding women’s rights in their respective countries. During an extensive discussion, the civil society groups and women parliamentarians engaged in a dialogue and exchanged ideas on how to increase women’s rights and participation in the region. The Asia-Pacific Campaign on Strengthening Women Movements in the region was also launched by the civil society groups. The women parliamentarians supported this initiative

and committed to working together to empower women from every sector of society in the region.

As part of building their personal capacity, the parliamentarians also participated in a workshop where they took part in numerous self-reflecting activities, as well as discussed the implementation of the SDGs in their respective countries. Furthermore, the women parliamentarians shared their perspectives on how together they could create space and foster experimentation and innovation in support of increasing women's rights and participation in the region.



Q&A session on the empowerment of women.



Group Photo of the AWPC Delegates.

Security – Enhancing Confidence and Trust



As we enter the third decade of the 21st century, security dynamics in the Asia-Pacific display a rather dire picture with many increasing tensions and only a few positive developments.

In 2018, the most promising signs could be seen on the Korean Peninsula. After years of growing hostility and an expansion of both the missile and nuclear programmes, the conflict between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the Republic of Korea and the United States of America (US) began to ease with the Olympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang. This led to three inter-Korean summits, the first ever meeting between the leaders of the US and DPRK in Singapore in June 2018 and a second one in Hanoi in February 2019. While there have been several improvements since 2018, including a temporary halt of missile tests, substantial changes in the security realm have not taken place and the situation remains fragile, especially as it appears that the momentum has been lost after the failed Hanoi Summit.

The contestation for regional order and predominance is as intense as in the previous years. In particular, increasing tensions between the US and China dominate this discussion. Competition in the economic field with the introduction of ever-new tariffs, near misses between US and Chinese naval ships in the South China Sea following more confrontational behaviour by the Chinese navy and coast guard far beyond its territorial waters, and enhanced Chinese influence through exclusive agreements, strategic investments and military activities are only a few examples of this development. As a reaction to this and the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the US and its allies, in the format of the Quad, continue their push for the Indo-Pacific concept and complemented this with an investment strategy. At the same time, Japan and Australia banned Chinese companies, such as Huawei, from providing 5G technology due to security and espionage concerns. In particular, technology has become a key area of contestation between the two powers.

China and the US are, however, united in their preference for uni- and bilateral measures, which causes great concern among Asian countries regarding the future of the rules-based multilateral order. Small and middle powers in particular rely on this system and the respect for international rules, norms and ultimately laws for their prosperity. This is particularly the case for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is the guarantor for peace and security in the subregion. For several years, uni- and bilateral measures and pressure, mainly by China but recently also the US, have decreased the cohesion among the ten member states and the centrality of the bloc. Despite successes in the prevention of conflicts among its members and attempts to project this positive experience onto the regional level through fora such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, East Asia Summit and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, ASEAN has not been able to defuse tensions between the great powers.

In addition to these interstate risks, domestic and transnational security threats continue to critically impact the peace in Asia. Such challenges are omnipresent in cyberspace and the maritime domain, which has seen an increase in piracy attacks and controversies over fishing, mainly sparked by the intrusion of Chinese fishing boats into the exclusive economic zones of Southeast Asian states. Violent extremism and terrorism remains a major concern for the region. Despite the territorial loss in Iraq and Syria, countries in South and Southeast Asia continue to see activities by Daesh-affiliates. The Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, on-going attacks in the Philippines, Indonesia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and links between extremists from different countries are clear examples of this threat. Local insurgencies, which are driven by a diverse set of causes, continue to challenge governments and hinder the development of certain provinces. Political as well as societal polarisations are increasing in most of the

countries in the region and in some cases, like India, Indonesia and Hong Kong, have turned violent. Little improvements are being made with regard to refugee movements, first and foremost the Rohingyas. It is especially these threats which require new solutions that involve multiple stakeholders and are collaborative as well as multilateral in nature.

A challenge that connects the international and domestic level is the growing lack of trust and feedback loops. States mistrust other states and are, thus, less willing to make compromises or adhere to norms and rules. People mistrust the political and economic elites, the media, and political opponents and have lost faith in the rule of law, promise of inclusive growth and political participation.

In order to prevent a further destabilisation of this volatile region, a number of bi- and multilateral relations need to be improved. First and foremost,

this is the case for the Sino-US relations, but also for the one between China and the ASEAN states. In light of the growing interdependencies with Asia, Germany and the European Union are equally affected by insecurities in this region. This connection has been recognised and efforts were intensified in order to contribute to confidence building, conflict prevention, free trade and the rules-based multilateral order. This happens as a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum and one of the key architects of the Asia-Europe Meeting, but also outside of such formats with the EU “Connectivity Strategy” for Europe and Asia, the EU-Japan Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure, and attempts at closer security cooperation. However, as long as not all actors are willing to support a regional security architecture that goes beyond regular consultations, Asia will remain in the limelight of World Politics.



Patrick Rueppel

Patrick Rueppel is Senior Programme Manager for “Foreign and Security Policy, Geopolitics”. Patrick moved to Singapore in 2012 to lead the three-year “EU-Asia Dialogue” project of the European Union and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, which was a preparatory action for the EU Partnership Instrument and Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy.

Prior to that, he was a member of the board of directors of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, for which he has been analysing the conflicts in the Philippines and Myanmar since 2009. He has also worked at the German Parliament, in the private sector, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore and KAS Philippines.

Patrick holds a Master’s degree in Geography, Political Science and Sociology with a specialisation in Political Geography, Security and Asian Studies from the University of Heidelberg. He held a scholarship from KAS and is an alumnus of the foundation’s College for International Politics and Economics – a special programme for the advancement of German young professionals for leading jobs in International Organisations and Politics. His main research interests include security developments in the Asia-Pacific, counter-terrorism, EU-Asia relations and geopolitical dynamics in both regions.

Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism – A Task for ASEAN!

With many tasks and challenges on ASEAN's plate, some might wonder why the regional organisation should also invest in the tremendously complex, and often highly localised, issue of violent extremism and terrorism. While it is true that ASEAN has to attend to many pressing topics, I would argue that preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism (P/CVE and CT) are two of the key topics which can define future practical cooperation in the region and provide the organisation with the unifying topic that it is so in need of. No single country in the region will openly deny that violent extremism in all its forms is a challenge or even object to further activities in this important security field.

Currently, two parallel developments can be observed in Southeast Asia – a change in the threat landscape and secondly, a more proactive approach towards violent extremism and terrorism.

The **change in the threat perception** is closely connected to the developments in Syria and Iraq, the former heartland of Daesh. The loss of territory and military successes of the coalition forced Daesh to amend its strategy, modus operandi and enter a stage of regrouping. Although this might affect its capabilities in the short run, it certainly does not mean the demise of violent extremism and terrorism nor Daesh as an organisation. Daesh can no longer rely on the strong message and glorious narrative which drew fighters into the theatre in the Middle East. Instead, the group has to find new messages and ways to continue its fight. This has direct implications on the threat landscape as well as the preventive and reactive measures taken by states.

The result of the developments in Syria and Iraq is a more diverse, heterogeneous and less predictable threat. Fighters have dispersed to ongoing conflict zones in other parts of the world – not only the immediate region –, travelled to third countries to cover their tracks, returned home or stayed in

Syria and Iraq but kept a low profile and blended in with the normal citizens.

In addition to this geographic spread of the current and former fighters as well as worldwide expansion and decentralization of Daesh, we can discern a second diversification with regard to the characteristics of the perpetrators countries are faced with. Some have left the conflict zone disillusioned, regretting their initial decision to join Daesh. Others are even more motivated to continue the struggle and want to build upon the momentum created and skills acquired. The latter group is far from being homogeneous as it includes different kinds of perpetrators – individuals, small cells, fighters returning home and fighters moving to new locations. The threat group is further diversified by homegrown violent extremists who have never left the country.

One of the regions strongly affected by both of these diversifications is Southeast Asia. A number of people who joined Daesh in Syria and Iraq returned to their home countries. Others were deported to their countries of origin even before they reached the actual conflict zone. They were thus not directly exposed to Daesh. Thirdly, the region also sees a growing number of relocating foreign terrorist fighters (FTF), for instance, from Morocco and France. Even Germans attempted to travel to the Philippines but were caught before they could leave the country. FTFs are not a new phenomenon to the region per se. There have always been exchanges among the different extremist groups in Southeast Asia. Likewise, countries in the region have previously been confronted with returning fighters, for example, following the Soviet-Afghan war. Yet, the differences are that a) more FTFs do not originate from Southeast Asia, b) many arrive with the intent to conduct attacks – even in Islamic countries, something that Al-Qaeda and many Salafi groups in the region reject –, and c) women and children have also travelled to the conflict zone. In former times, it was mainly males who travelled

abroad and de-radicalisation programmes designed for men might not work for children and women. Lastly, we should not forget about those fighters from Southeast Asia who did not return home, but either stayed in Syria/Iraq or became relocating FTFs themselves. This group is also of concern since their countries of origin cannot deal with them directly and often these individuals are crucial linking points between Daesh and groups at home – be it in the recruitment process, planning or funding stage of attacks.

One element that has not changed in this context though, but has even increased in importance, is the connectivity among the groups. Most of the potential perpetrators are not lone actors since they have some form of connection to other extremists – be it in real life, online or mentally through shared schools of extremist thoughts. Even newly recruited members can establish connections to networks formed in Syria and Iraq, local networks in their respective areas or insurgent movements which have in some cases existed since the colonial times.

The evolution of the threat itself, the modus operandi of attacks and the networks call for greater efforts at all levels if countries want to prevent and counter violent extremism successfully and sustainably. To counter the terrorist threat both in the physical and virtual worlds, governments and their partners should move from counter-terrorism cooperation to collaboration. Such collaboration has to happen domestically and internationally, horizontally and vertically. It has to be done among different security and law enforcement agencies, with non-state stakeholders from civil society, the business sector and citizens alike. This is often easier said than done, as distrust, unclear divisions of tasks and responsibilities, different working cultures as well as a preference to not share sensitive information hinder the implementation. Yet, political dialogue, exchange of experiences, joint trainings, establishment of common databases, and holistic programmes addressing all relevant fields of violent extremism can help to facilitate smoother collaboration. Increasingly, the partnership between government and civil society organisations (CSO) in the prevention, detection and rehabilitation stage is vital. In this context, the

more proactive approach taken by Southeast Asian states is a promising sign. Much of this is driven by Indonesia and then again by the military and Ministry of Defence. Cases in point are the “Our Eyes Initiative” as well as the Trilateral Sea and Air Patrols in the Sulu Sea. These initiatives can help to promote a greater level of ownership for CT activities and establish issue-based practical cooperation mechanisms. At the moment only selected ASEAN members participate in these programmes and the question will be whether they can be transformed into full-fledged ASEAN initiatives over time. The second aspect is that these programmes address the CT part of the problem, while P/CVE activities that target the root causes and radicalisation process are still absent from the transnational level. In order to be successful in this regard, especially CSOs need to be involved more. ASEAN could, for instance, take a closer look at the rather successful programmes that were established by the European Union in this regard – the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and European Strategic Communications Network (ESCN).

Coming back to our initial question of why ASEAN should care about violent extremism and terrorism, the answer seems obvious – because Southeast Asia is the perfect example of how extremists can exploit a situation if states fail to address it collaboratively. The reason why the region is confronted with such a challenging and messy situation is precisely due to the lack of cooperation despite early warning signs, a history of local insurgencies and violent extremism, a lack of governance in certain territories which are often a long distance away from the respective centres of power, and continued cases of discrimination and structural exclusion. Radical extremists, on the other hand, did exactly that – they collaborated and formed transnational ties. It is for example also likely that Southeast Asian Daesh fighters might return to the region but not to their country of origin and governments as well as ASEAN as a whole would be well-advised to be prepared for this scenario and have working mechanisms in place to avoid unintended consequences. This does not mean that we should stop local P/CVE and CT measures; they are crucial, but there is no reason why they should not go hand in hand with further activities at the ASEAN level.

Asia-Europe Counter-Terrorism Dialogue

15 – 17 October 2018, Brussels, Belgium; Berlin, Germany



The delegation had insightful exchanges in Berlin.

“The way to mitigate the terrorist threat is to find a collaboration format that can accommodate the interests of all parties.” This quote by H.E. General Ryamizard Ryacudu, Minister of Defence of Indonesia (2014-2019), captures the atmosphere at the 3rd Asia-Europe Counter-Terrorism Dialogue perfectly. Minister Ryacudu was our special guest at the 2018 Dialogue and delivered a public keynote address.

The annual meeting of this KAS PDA and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies project took place in Brussels and Berlin from 15 to 17 October 2018. It included a series of high-level political talks that addressed questions of interstate and efficient interagency collaboration, collaboration with non-state actors, and current developments concerning violent extremism and terrorism. In

Brussels we met with the Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, the Belgian Coordination Unit for Threat Analysis and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EUROPOL, the European External Action Service, EU INTCEN and NATO. In Berlin, we had insightful exchanges with the German Ministry of the Interior, the two German Security services – Bundesnachrichtendienst and Office for the Protection of the Constitution –, the Federal Chancellery and Violence Prevention Network. We identified many possible avenues to promote stronger collaboration between Germany and Asian countries in the years to come. The extremely fruitful talks showed the huge potential but also need to foster stronger collaboration in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.



Mr. Patrick Rueppel, Prof. Rohan Gunaratna, Mr. Frank Priess, Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong and Mr. Christian Echle launched the new publication.

17 – 19 September 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

In his public keynote address during the 4th Asia-Europe Counter-Terrorism Dialogue, Malaysia’s Foreign Minister YB Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah emphasised the necessity to create a stronger awareness that government agencies and civil society organisations (CSO) need to fight violent extremism and terrorism collaboratively.

The focus of the 2019 Asia-Europe Counter-Terrorism Dialogue of the KAS PDA and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies was on “Collaboration between the State and Civil Society Organisations on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism”. In addition to the public keynote session, the three-day dialogue in Kuala Lumpur

included a one-day workshop attended by 30 civil society organisations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Europe. On the second day, the civil society organisations were joined by 30 representatives from government agencies, ministries and law enforcement units to build trust and identify ways to enhance the collaboration among them on P/CVE. They discussed how cooperation between the state and CSOs can be improved in the areas of community engagement, tackling the online threat, and de-radicalisation as well as rehabilitation. On the last day, the chief counter-terrorism experts of the governments of Afghanistan, Belgium, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the European Union had a closed-door session with strategic updates on the current extremist and terrorist threat landscapes in their respective countries and regions.



Panel Discussion with Foreign Minister YB Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Former Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of Afghanistan Hekmat Karzai, and Günther Sablatting, Adviser to the Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

Publication

Combating Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Asia and Europe From Cooperation to Collaboration

Over the last year, Daesh has lost most of its territory in Iraq and Syria. Many of its fighters have been killed in combat or fled the conflict zone. Although this might affect its capabilities in the short run, it certainly does not mean the demise of violent extremism and terrorism nor Daesh as an organisation. Daesh has instead decentralised its structure and expanded worldwide, with Asia and Europe becoming focus areas for its activities. The result of the developments in Syria and Iraq, changes in the modus operandi of Daesh-affiliated groups and the geographic expansion of the terrorist network is a more diverse, heterogeneous and less predictable threat which calls for greater collaboration – and not just cooperation – at all levels if countries want to prevent and counter violent extremism successfully and sustainably.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has therefore produced this publication in collaboration with the S. Ra-

jaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). The papers provide insights into various fields of collaboration in Asia and Europe and show how this can be improved. In addition, experts discuss recent developments in both regions with regard to the threat perception and how resilience as well as prevention can be increased by understanding the narratives, lone actor concept, role of educational institutions as recruitment grounds and the need for human rights to prevail.



KAS Network of Young Asian Security Experts

18 – 20 March 2019, Berlin, Germany

15 experts from 13 different countries in the Asia-Pacific region joined the initial meeting of the KAS Network of Young Asian Security Experts from 18 to 20 March 2019 in Berlin. During a closed-door workshop they discussed current and strategic national security threats, long-term priorities and determining factors in the national security strategies of their respective countries.

In addition, the network had in-depth exchanges at the Federal Chancellery, Federal Foreign Office, Federal Ministry of Defence, German Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command, as well as with Members of Parliament and Asian Embassies to Germany. They also met with the German Institute for International Security Affairs (SWP), German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the KAS Working Group of Young Foreign Policy Experts. These talks provided the participants with detailed insights into various fields of national security threats in Germany, as well as policies the country has in place to tackle these challenges, both domestically and internationally in cooperation with its partners from Asia.

The KAS Network of Young Security Experts is a new initiative of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia and functions as a platform that enables its members to develop a comprehensive understanding of the threat perception of the individual countries in the region, their respective national security priorities and strategies as well as transnational security issues. Through different political discussions and meetings, the



The members of the network during the closed-door sessions.



After a lively exchange at the Federal Chancellery.

experts will be in a position to foster trust, increase predictability, and identify common interests and collaborative solutions to current as well as possible future security risks; ultimately, improving their strategic foresight capabilities.

Asia/Pacific-German Strategic Dialogue

30 October 2018, Seoul, Republic of Korea



Participants also met with the German and EU Ambassadors to the Republic of Korea.

The current foreign and security policy of the United States and the more assertive approach by China present both Germany and small and middle powers in the Asia-Pacific with significant challenges. Yet, most of those countries subscribe to a rules-based international order and multilateralism. On 30 October 2018, eight representatives of parliaments from seven different countries met at the first “Asia/Pacific-German Strategic Dialogue” in Seoul, Republic of Korea to discuss this situation.

In particular, the decreasing respect for international law, a rules-based order and the functionality of global governance were of concern to the Members of Parliament. Yet, the meeting and discussions displayed a strong commitment by all countries involved to uphold the international order and enhance collaboration in order to create win-win solutions to the pressing and often transnational, interconnected challenges of our time.

The “Asia/Pacific-German Strategic Dialogue”, which is a new initiative of the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, tries to support this by establishing a constant exchange between German and Asian policymakers on topics of common concern in the field of foreign and security policy. It aims to create a strategic dialogue between Germany and like-minded countries in the Asia-Pacific. The target

group consists of current Members of Parliament and party representatives from those countries that can play a constructive role in shaping international politics in the Asia-Pacific region.



Roundtable hosted by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.



Happy faces all around after a day of thought-provoking and frank discussions.

Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue

26 – 27 June 2018, Vienna, Austria

The current narrative is that the United States will withdraw from the world stage, while less democratic states such as China and Russia will be shaping not only their immediate neighbourhood but also the future of the international community. At the same time, the European Union will still not be able to fill this vacuum due to its internal struggles. The 20th Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue on 26 and 27 June 2018 looked at how true these perceptions really are and discussed the role of Asian and European countries as well as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in upholding multilateral cooperation.

The jubilee Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue “Rules-Based Multilateralism in a Changing World Order” was held in Vienna, Austria and was hosted

in cooperation with our local partner, the Webster Vienna Private University. To commemorate the anniversary, we introduced a newly established core group of prestigious think tanks. This core group will attend the dialogue every year and be complemented by issue experts bringing in fresh perspectives. This year, 30 think tank representatives from 16 countries analysed the status of multilateralism and identified ways to enhance multilateral cooperation between Asia and Europe. The event was held in conjunction with the ASEM Senior Officials’ meeting and it was possible to arrange a special session with the Senior Officials to discuss various policy recommendations which were developed over the course of the two-day conference.



Participants discussing the status of multilateralism.



Group photo with the ASEM Senior Officials from Vietnam and the EU.

13 – 15 October 2019, Brussels, Belgium

In recent years, there has been an increase in connectivity strategies launched by different countries. China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Japan’s Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) Strategy and the EU’s Strategy for Connecting Europe and Asia are among the most prominent and relevant ones. All three of them have a distinct geographic focus

on Asia and Europe, and will therefore impact the future relationship between the two regions. This topic was therefore the focus of the 21st Asia-Europe Think Tank Dialogue “Responding to the Geopolitics of Connectivity: Asian and European Perspectives”.

From 13 to 15 October 2019, 24 representatives from research institutes in Asia and Europe met in Brussels, Belgium to discuss how countries in both regions can respond to the new geopolitics that revolves around the buzzword *connectivity*. They also met with Senior Officials of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the European Political Strategy Centre of the European Commission to identify possible areas of cooperation between Europe and Asia.

The experts analysed and dissected the connectivity approaches. They explored the concepts behind



Cooperation, Contestation or Competition. The experts tried to navigate the complex environment.



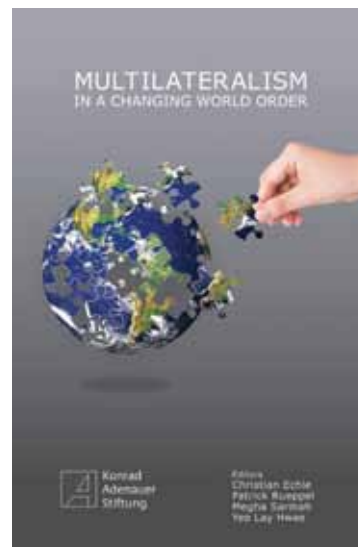
Dinner Discussions with ASEM Senior Officials.

the strategies and their functions within the wider foreign policy of the country supplying them. They also looked at possible areas for cooperation, contestation and competition, discussing the geopolitical impacts these may have. Possible flash points include the maritime domain, the Arctic, mainland Southeast Asia (especially the Greater Mekong Subregion), borderlands in Central as well as South Asia, and the willingness to cooperate in multilateral fora. Finally, the participants debated how countries can position themselves in this regard as most of them do not want to choose between the strategies, but rather to select those projects that make the most sense to them on a case by case basis.

Publication

Multilateralism in a Changing World Order

Multilateralism in a Changing World Order sheds light on current developments within the international order. The papers analyse patterns and different forms of multilateralism. They also look at key countries influencing the world order and place these states as well as their behaviour into context. The experts discuss whether the world is actually witnessing a change within multilateralism from a global stage to a more efficient regional or thematic definition of multilateral collaboration. Finally, the experts examine “multilateralism at work” between Europe and Asia in selected policy fields which are by now traditional examples of transnational challenges requiring multilateral solutions – migration, climate change, security, and economics.



T(hink)20 Japan Associated Event “The View of Non-G20 Members on Global Governance”

25 – 27 May 2019, Tokyo, Japan

On 25 May 2019, KAS PDA organised a T20 Japan associated event with leading think tanks from Asian non-G20 countries in order to feed their views on global governance into the T20 process.

In light of the increasing economic and political weight of many of these countries, the event enabled them to discuss and provide inputs on crucial topics such as trade and investment, sustainable development, climate change and environment, social cohesion and the future of politics. Participants also debated the current status of global governance in times of growing nationalism. Many of them viewed the increasing influence of populists and the change of political agendas with great concern as politics has become more emotionally charged. This goes hand in hand with a more inward-looking approach that hinders global governance attempts and international cooperation. Yet, countries in Asia acknowledged that the root causes are mainly domestic, although they are often impacted by globalisation, and can be found in economic divides, cultural changes such as an overemphasis on political correctness

and discussions online, technological evolvments, and simply policy failures on the part of the political parties and governments. It would therefore be wrong to speak of a crisis of multilateralism, but more accurate rather to talk about the failure or crisis of national politics. However, small and middle powers especially rely on a rules-based order and cooperative problem-solving due to their limited capabilities. From their perspective, the G20 is a key forum to uphold this approach and create international rules and standards, which is why they remain very optimistic about the grouping.

On 26 and 27 May, all participants of the KAS workshop participated in the T20 Summit itself. The T(hink)20 Summit is the research and policy advice network for the G20. In the meeting, the world's leading think tanks draft and discuss policy innovations to help G20 Leaders address pressing global challenges and deliver more inclusive, sustainable growth. This gave them an opportunity to share their perspectives with T20 members and form strong networks with them.



Participants sharing their perceptions on T20.



KAS team from 3 different continents and 4 countries at the T20 Summit.

About Us

Bringing stakeholders from different countries and regions together and opening platforms for discussion and exchange – this is the core of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's "Political Dialogue Asia" programme. Based in Singapore, a team of ten colleagues is working on several topics that are especially relevant for the political exchange within Asia as well as between Asia and Europe. With over 20 events and several new publications every year, the programme reaches over 3,000 decision-makers, academics and experts. In its work, KAS Political Dialogue Asia focuses on four main objectives:

1. Enhancing Confidence and Security

Traditional and non-traditional security threats are on the rise, both in Asia and Europe. None of these threats can be solved unilaterally or even bilaterally. The main challenge in finding multilateral solutions is building trust between the different stakeholders. KAS Political Dialogue Asia contributes to instituting confidence-building measures and promoting collaborative arrangements by inviting policymakers, security operatives and think tankers to discuss strategies and to share insights in a confidential and constructive atmosphere.

2. Empowering Leaders

Women and youth are still the two most underrepresented groups in most parliaments around the world. With its "Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians" and the "Asian Women Parliamentarian Caucus", KAS Political Dialogue Asia supports two networks that bring young political talents and strong female leaders from Asia together. In sharing their experiences and improving their skills and knowledge, the members of both networks in-

crease their chances of running for public office and becoming responsible decision-makers.

3. Fostering Transnational Collaboration

While more and more leaders in Asia and Europe are trying to establish a desire for strong national states, regional integration is facing multiple challenges. At the same time, transnational collaboration has been a guarantee for peace and growing prosperity in both regions for many decades. This is why KAS Political Dialogue is supporting stronger regional integration in Asia, in particular by supporting think tank networks in the region. Two strong and influential partner organisations in this endeavour are the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS) in Singapore and the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT), which is run from Kathmandu.

4. Understanding Digital Impact

How will our work look like 20 years from now? How will our societies be influenced by the digital change? Which new security challenges arise from the digital sphere? These are only a few of the critical questions that KAS Political Dialogue Asia is attempting to answer by highlighting interesting digital developments in both Asia and Europe, and by bringing together experts to collaborate on building a better understanding of our digital future. Risks and chances of digital developments are discussed in order to provide inputs for new digital policies and regulations in both regions.

Impressions from the Office Warming

Our three regional programmes for Political Dialogue, Rule of Law and Media in Asia moved to Lavender in mid-October 2018. We celebrated the move with an office warming event.



OUR ADMIN TEAM



Rita Seet

Rita has been working as a Regional Project Executive for the Foundation since 2002, and has been assisting young politicians in KASYP programmes for the last ten years. She has a degree in Mass Communications from the University of Oklahoma, United States of America. In her 18 years with the Foundation, Rita has worked with local and regional partners. Her current role includes coordinating and accounting of events. Rita also handles the corporate matters of the Office and is responsible for the Human Resources Department. She speaks and writes fluently in English and Malay.



Kanokporn Suriya

Kanokporn Suriya Roth has been our Regional Programme Executive since 2006. Her various roles involve finance management, accounting for KAS PDA as well as our two collaborative partners ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks, and event planning. Holding a degree of MA in German as a Foreign Language, she speaks German besides her mother tongue Thai and English.



Rubiah Mohamed

Rubiah Mohamed joined our team in June 2014 as an administrative assistant. Her main function in the office is to coordinate travel arrangements, from flight bookings to visa arrangements for all invited conference delegates and staff members. She also supports the work of other staff members with ad-hoc banking matters and preparation for events, especially conferences organised in Singapore.



Kismet Abu Bakar

Kismet has been with KAS PDA since January 2016. She started her journey in KAS as a Secretary and has now since moved on to the role of Regional Admin Executive. She assists PDA in the back-end administration of the logistics of events. As she is also keen in social media functions, she assists the team in the planning and execution of social media posts through the KAS PDA Facebook page. Her administrative experiences have been cultivated through experiences in various MNCs, advertising agencies and also a Singapore statutory board. She is also currently a part-time student in the area of social services as she wishes to understand further how society could be helped through the understanding of human behavior.



Linda K

Linda has been with KAS PDA since December 2019. She is the secretary to the Director and also assists in the office administration and facilities management. She has worked in various multinational companies in different roles as a Secretary, Marketing and Human Resource Executive and has experience in supporting senior management in Singapore, Jakarta, Japan, India, France and London. She has a Diploma in Secretarial and Business Administration from the Management Development Institute of Singapore. Her positive attitude and ability to work in a team as well as build rapport in multicultural settings are her strong values which she brings to KAS Singapore. She speaks fluent English and Tamil and conversational Mandarin, French and Bahasa Malay.

Mission: Democracy!

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is a political foundation of Germany. Our mission is to promote international dialogue, regional integration, sustainable development, good governance, democratic processes, and exchange of knowledge.

The aim of our work is to motivate and enable people to shape their own future by strengthening democracy, the rule of law and the social market economy. In order to secure peace and freedom, we support ongoing dialogues over foreign and security policies as well as cultural exchange. We organise national and international conferences, conduct research, offer political training, and cultivate international understanding. We collaborate with state institutions, decision-makers, political parties, civil society organisations, and academics.

The foundation's headquarters are situated in Sankt Augustin near Bonn, and also in Berlin. With our worldwide networks and long-term partner structures, we shape policies domestically and globally. By training and educating young profes-

sionals, KAS promotes the development process in social groups and political parties. The foundation fosters decentralisation processes based on the values of freedom, solidarity and justice by facilitating projects for public institutions in order to enhance their technical and administrative performance.

A pillar of our political work is research and consultancy. This is more than just giving advice on current political affairs. We conduct research on the implications of political developments and support reforms in order to achieve farsighted policies that help to prevent crises from emerging.

Through our international activities and projects carried out in collaboration with local partners in over 120 countries, KAS makes a substantial contribution to international cooperation and to ensuring that Germany lives up to its growing responsibility in the world.

Konrad Adenauer

As a political foundation, KAS is associated with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party of Germany and is named after Konrad Adenauer. As the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 1963, he decisively influenced the political landscape of the newly minted Federal Republic in its foundational years.

His main objective was to ensure Germany's post-war transition to a democratic, sovereign state, including the strategic pursuit of policies such as reconciliation with France, rapprochement with Israel, international recognition of Germany as an independent nation as well as NATO membership.

Driven by a commitment to the principles of the social market economy, he firmly established

Germany as part of the Western world during the Cold War, ultimately paving the way for European integration. As such, it is Konrad Adenauer's legacy to have set the course for Germany to become the influential and prosperous democratic nation that it is today.



*Konrad Adenauer
(1876-1967).*

Regional Integration – Fostering Transnational Cooperation

Regional integration ought to be understood as a continuous, constantly changing and thus, never completed process in which neighbouring states agree to upgrade multilateral cooperation to share both burdens and rewards, and agree to do so via peaceful negotiation and deliberation within shared institutions and rules. We are convinced that reliable, resilient, and institutionalised means of cooperative regional engagement significantly contribute to peace, geopolitical stability, economic growth, and mutual understanding among governments and peoples who share the regional space. Regionalism offers more room for civil society, optimises problem-solving capacity in the face of common political challenges, and contributes to socio-economic growths.

For that reason, fostering regional integration has always been a cornerstone of the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) not only in Europe, but wherever chances for regionalism exist. Consequentially, in Asia, the Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS PDA) supports this endeavour wholeheartedly. Together with local partners, such as the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies-Yusuf Ishak Institute (ISEAS) and many others, KAS PDA organises and supports a great number of events and publications aiming to enhance institutional strengths, mutual trust and understanding as well as specific research within the ASEAN framework. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed on 8 August 1967 when the Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand signed the “ASEAN Declaration” in Bangkok, Thailand. Brunei Darussalam subsequently joined the regional grouping on 7 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, to make up the ten Member States of ASEAN. The latest milestone of ASEAN-led integration was the inauguration of the ASEAN Community in December 2015, consisting of three

community pillars: Political-Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural.

A lack of connectivity in all of ASEAN’s community pillars is, however, apparent. In the first instance, this is due to the organisation’s great heterogeneity. ASEAN members cover almost all known systems of governance, ranging from absolute monarchies and authoritarian systems, to semi-democratic and democratic parliamentary or presidential systems. Some nations are officially secular, while others are Islamic, Buddhist, Taoist, or Christian. Thailand and Viet Nam are ethnically homogenous, while the Philippines and Indonesia are very diverse. The socio-economic development gap is equally striking and while Singapore is in the top five of the most developed nations in the world, Cambodia and Laos trend towards the international bottom.

The greatest obstacle to smooth functioning of ASEAN is arguably the so-called ASEAN way, the highly informal, personal modus operandi of ASEAN, relying on consensus and non-interference in one another’s internal affairs. When on 8 August 1967 the five founding nations signed the “ASEAN Declaration” in Bangkok, Thailand, the ASEAN way was perhaps the only feasible, mutually acceptable procedural guideline. Following enlargement to include Brunei and the CLMV countries, however, ASEAN, now approaching its 53rd birthday, may need to revisit some of its principles. Looking back at five decades of cordial cooperation and largely peaceful integration in a heterogeneous region,

beset with conflict potential and of great strategic interest to great, sometimes hostile, outside powers, one can reach at least two conclusions. Southeast Asia minus ASEAN would be a lot less stable and prosperous. And secondly, ASEAN should consider reforming some of its core principles in order to live up to its ambition to be a “people-centred” ASEAN.

In particular 2018 was an interesting year in that regard for KAS PDA. Our host country Singapore held the annually rotating ASEAN Chairmanship under the theme “Resilient and Innovative”. This is supposed to summarise Singapore’s vision for ASEAN to remain united and resilient in the face of growing strategic and economic uncertainties. ASEAN must be adaptable and forward looking in order to harness opportunities and manage challenges to build a future-ready ASEAN, boost the capabilities of ASEAN’s citizens and make its cities smarter.

But just as important as fostering regional integration is in Southeast Asia, so it is in South Asia. Hence, KAS PDA just as gladly supports the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) in its efforts to nurture and enhance regional cooperation and integration among the member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Home to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, South Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in the

world. However, the region has not been able to achieve its fullest potential due to historical political tensions, trust deficit, cross-border conflicts and security concerns. It also continues to be one of the least integrated regions in the world.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, which was established in 1985, is the only regional organisation to have all the eight South Asian nations as its member states. However, due to the conflict between India and Pakistan, the organisation has hosted only 18 summits since its inception. The absence of SAARC has created an irreplaceable vacuum in the region as it focuses more on reinforcing regional trade and cultural links. The failure of SAARC to nurture cooperation in South Asia has also pushed regional players to search for an alternative. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), which is a unique cross-regional grouping between South Asia and Southeast Asia, comprising countries from both regions on the rim of the Bay of Bengal, is popularly favoured as the viable option. The 4th summit of BIMSTEC, with the title “Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal”, which took place in Kathmandu, saw the participation of the leaders of all its member states (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan). However, for many South Asian nations, there cannot be any alternative to SAARC. The revival of SAARC has become more imperative than before as the region needs to fill the vacuum created by the absence of SAARC.

Vision and Leadership

How to secure ASEAN's relevance for the future

Excerpts from a live interview with H.E. Kasit Piromya, former Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Marty Natalegawa, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, conducted by Dr. Frederick Kliem, Senior Programme Manager of KASPDA in Bangkok on 4 December 2018.

Frederick Kliem: *Ambassador Ong once said that in the 70s, people would misinterpret you saying ASEAN; instead people thought you meant Asian, meaning that they had never heard of ASEAN at all. This situation has changed significantly over the past few years. Why, in your opinion, has ASEAN become as well-known as it is today? How do you convince the people of ASEAN that they have a say in the regional organisation?*

Kasit Piromya: In the context there was the challenge of communism, as well as internal conflicts: border disputes, rising nationalism, the strong feeling for independence. In order to survive these challenges, the foreign ministers of the region reached a consensus and started ASEAN. It was a dual approach of economic integration with political alliances. Then, we tried to coordinate a joint position on regional and international issues. But to make ASEAN really people-centred, we need access to and distribution of information at all levels. Once they are more informed, the population will engage and participate, irrespective of the individual political structure. Also, more multicultural and people-to-people activities could move this forward.

Marty Natalegawa: The current awareness of ASEAN is no doubt far more advanced compared to the past but people are still not seeing how ASEAN is relevant to them. Raising awareness must be coupled with an emphasis on ASEAN's achievements: the relationship among Southeast Asian countries, the centralisation of the region, ASEAN's position in the region and last but not least the construction of a more people-centred ASEAN.

Frederick: *Moving on to the question of leadership. One problem in ASEAN is the over-dependence on the chair. One never knows if the chair will take a great enough interest in ASEAN to advance regional integration. Are there alternative modes of leadership thinkable? Can there be, for instance, issue-dependent leadership?*

Kasit: During the last few years, none of the countries have taken the responsibility of regional leadership. So what we need are a couple of ministers with bright ideas who have the determination to work for the common good of ASEAN and they nominate someone to be the shepherd. Discussions should be more informal and very frank. Individual initiative is very important and will push the rest of ASEAN to come along.

Marty: There is a distinction between chairmanship and leadership. We have many cases where a chair decides to be more passive or demonstrates its national preferences, thereby causing a lack in ASEAN cooperation. The key challenge would be to ensure that the chair will not only carry out the procedures and functions of a chair but also demonstrate the substance to lead ASEAN. Any member state of ASEAN should exercise initiative when the situation requires it. However, nowadays when we have differences in outlook there is a sense of drift; no one is motivated to restore the unity and I am concerned this might become the new normal.

Frederick: *We are here in Thailand, who will be helming ASEAN in 2019. What would you identify as the greatest risk for the integration of ASEAN and the biggest opportunity lying ahead during the Thai chairmanship?*

Kasit: The difficulty is that if there were to be elections, then half way through the chairmanship we will have newly elected members of parliament, who will have to approve all the agreements. From today onwards the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has to coordinate with the political parties. In order to ensure some sort of progress and continuity with the political changes, the civil society and the political parties must be brought into this process. We must have a joint ASEAN position on major issues in the world and the region, which would bring about the respectability of ASEAN and strengthen its position internationally and regionally.

Marty: It is very important for the new chair to also build on things, to be mindful of the previous projects so that we can continue to develop and enhance them. But besides the known challenges, the greatest challenge is the unknown, in Thailand, the region and beyond. They will influence the chair's priority but we must have a plan and the capacity to address those issues - come what may. The main opportunity is the people of ASEAN, the human resources which have made a transformation of the region possible.

Selected question from the audience: Several years ago, ASEAN considered having a qualified majority below the summit level to speed up decision-making. What has happened to that and is it even possible?

Kasit: We have stuck to consensus for fifty years. Once we have a qualified-majority process, it impedes the ASEAN integration process as it would lead to factions. The consequences are sub-regions and sub-sub-regions of ASEAN, meaning that the attention might go to these sub-regions and not to ASEAN as a whole.

Marty: Diplomacy is never easy. However, to me it is fatalistic to make it easier by not having to reach a consensus. Because that will be the beginning of fractions within ASEAN; some countries will feel more ownership of a decision than others and then we will have decisions that will be meaningless for some of the key member states.

Cooperation with ISEAS



Mr. Christian Echle presenting the introductory remarks at the 33rd ASEAN Roundtable.

The Institute for Southeast Asian Studies-Yusof Ishak Institute (ISEAS) is the most important think-tank in the region analysing political, economic, historical, and socio-cultural debates, facts, and developments in Southeast Asia. It nurtures a community of regional scholars and hosts established experts and political professionals to engage in research on, and promotion and explanation of such issues. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a major pillar of ISEAS's work and with it, ISEAS aims to strengthen and advance ASEAN and a sustainable regional integration process. But with its analyses, debates, publications, discussion forums, large scale conferences, and clear policy proposals, ISEAS activities and events cover not only multilateral engagement within ASEAN, but also within the wider Asia-Pacific region. Several country-specific programmes as well as issue clusters deal with domestic and external political matters of individual Southeast Asian countries and their bi- and multi-lateral cooperation.

KAS PDA has been a proud partner of ISEAS for over twenty years. With this engagement, KAS PDA lives up to its aspiration to foster peaceful regional integration on the basis of mutual trust among all stakeholders and of an appreciation of the benefits of institutionalised regional multilateralism.

One of the ISEAS flagship events in 2018 was the 33rd ASEAN Roundtable on "Resilience in a Disruptive World", organised on 26 November 2018 at Raffles City Convention Centre. This annual forum looks into different dimensions of resilience to help ASEAN steer its way forward in an increasingly uncertain world. Among a number of special guests in 2018 was former Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya.

2018 saw also a large number of issue-specific events, such as the extensive conference series on the historic Malaysian elections "GE-14: Missed Signs or Late Surge", held before and after the elections at ISEAS. Moreover, the ASEAN Lecture Series hosted Dr. Marty Natalegawa, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia, where he presented his new book and shared his vision for securing ASEAN's future.

The widely distributed *ASEAN Focus* is one of ISEAS' major publications, bi-monthly providing concise analyses and perspectives on ASEAN matters and is proudly supported by KAS PDA.



Dr. Maliki Osman, Singapore's Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, taking questions from the audience after his speech at the 33rd ASEAN Roundtable. With him is Mr. Choi Shing Kwok, Director of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

ISEAS Eminent Speaker Series

“Malaysia’s Unexpected Journey towards a New Politics and Foreign Policy” with Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia

4 August 2018, Singapore



Dato’ Saifuddin sharing insights on a broad range of topics.



From left to right: Mr. Christian Echle; Prof. Chan Heng Chee; Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah; Prof. Wang Gungwu; Mr. Choi Shing Kwok.

Following the historic 14th General Election (GE14) on 9 May 2018 which ushered in a new era of politics in Malaysia, many analysts claimed the birth of a “new” Malaysia. To shed some light on the unexpectedly large victory of the Pakatan Harapan coalition and on what has happened in that country since, KAS PDA supported our long-term partner ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute and invited Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah, new Minister of Foreign Affairs, who shared his insights on a broad range of topics. Around 120 guests from scholarly and diplomatic circles attended the two-hour dinner talk at the Grand Hyatt Singapore.

Dato’ Saifuddin explained some of the new administration’s political perspectives and an apparently completely revised foreign policy direction, in which strengthening ties with other ASEAN economies would be of utmost importance. As the party was close to completing their first 100 days in office, Dato’ Saifuddin drew the audience’s attention to the progress regarding the election campaign promises. While some promises had already been fulfilled, others might take longer than the stipulated deadline to be achieved. He further commented that the government was particularly keen on working towards more comprehensive protection of human rights. As a crucial medium-term goal, Dato’ Saifuddin emphasised the need to end race politics in Malaysia.

Asia-Pacific Roundtable

7 – 9 May 2018, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Panel Discussion on ASEAN's future.

A spirit of uncertainty was present during the 32nd edition of the annual Asia-Pacific Roundtable on 7-9 May 2018. This was not only due to the fact that the conference took place on the eve of the 14th Malaysian general elections, which saw a landslide victory for the opposition, but also the changing security dynamics in the region.

The two-day conference, organised by our partner, the Institute of Strategic and International Studies Malaysia, and supported by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, addressed key political challenges in the region. Experts discussed foreign policy in the

digital age, the influence of a possibly less engaged US, and how to innovate ASEAN and increase its resilience. Lively debates highlighted the still ongoing hostility in South Asia – especially between Afghanistan, Pakistan and India – and the constantly evolving threats from violent extremism. The recent rapprochement between the two Koreas as well as the summit between President Trump and Chairman Kim were of particular interest. During the various plenary panels and breakout sessions experts shed light on all these topics and discussed the impacts they may have on Southeast Asia.



Experts providing an insight into the future of Security Dilemmas.

24 – 26 June 2019, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

We were delighted to once gain support our partners from the ASEAN-Institutes of International and Strategic Studies (ISIS) Network and especially ISIS-Malaysia in their annual flagship conference – the Asia-Pacific Roundtable (APR). The 33rd APR from 24 to 26 June 2019 was entitled “A Great Unwinding? Rules-Based Regional Security Order to 2020 and Beyond” and Malaysia’s Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivered the keynote speech.

We were particularly happy that our Senior Program Manager Patrick Rueppel led and moderated a plenary session on the Asia-Europe Partnership. This was an opportune time to analyse the relationship between the EU and ASEAN as there seems to be a new momentum and security affairs has become the single policy field in which cooperation has grown the most and fastest. Furthermore, the EU and ASEAN have come to realise that they share

many interests and similar strategic concerns: their commitment to multilateralism and the rules-based order, the impact of major power rivalries, their respective institutional cohesion and unity, and weakening support for the regional project – just to name a few.

Additional topics discussed in the course of the conference included relations between the US, China, India and Japan, domestic political developments in Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar, nuclear arms control after the INF treaty, the humanitarian crisis along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, the connection between technological rivalry and national security, current developments on the Korean Peninsula, state-sponsored influence operations in the digital age and a special luncheon discussion with Indonesia’s former Foreign Minister Dr. Marty Natalegawa on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific.



Malaysia’s Prime Minister Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamad delivering the keynote speech. Foreign Minister YB Dato’ Saifuddin Abdullah moderated the session.

ASEAN Security Connectivity

ASEAN Security Connectivity (ASC) is a one-and-a-half-year project, jointly organised and hosted by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia in Singapore and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam in Hanoi. ASC's aim is to tackle the lack of connectivity in the Political-Security pillar by increasing both institutional connectivity and multi-stakeholder connectivity in managing security challenges.

The ASC Working Group (ASC WG) consists of 13 permanent and seven non-permanent members, representing a great variety of stakeholders from the ASEAN region, including well-regarded academics, ministers, policymakers, diplomats, civil society representatives, and the business community. The ASC WG met three times over the course of the entire ASC project in Singapore and Vietnam. Meetings typically consisted of two conference days, discussing various relevant themes and questions.



The ASC Group discussing security cooperation in ASEAN at their workshop in Danang, Vietnam.

The intense, multifaceted and controversial, but fruitful and inclusive brainstorming over three conferences culminated in one detailed publication that discusses ideas, rationales, contexts, applications, and outcomes, and includes three sample case studies.

The final workshop also saw agreement on six vital policy recommendations to be put forward to the ASEAN Chairs Thailand and Vietnam. Three general policy recommendations by the entire ASC WG as well as three specific policy recommendations, one per each case study lead-researcher, are summarised in a policy recommendation brochure for Thailand's and Vietnam's kind consideration and are being presented to the respective foreign ministries in various events in 2018 and 2019. One of those events was the "Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship 2019" event, introduced below.



His Excellency Kasit Piromya, former Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, with Dr. Frederick Kliem.

The ASC project benefited not only greatly from the esteemed academic, civil society, and business community representatives, but also from high-level political participation. For instance, His Excellency Kasit Piromya, former Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, has been a constant and continuing supporter of the project and attended each and every workshop and will be attending the presentation events as well. Moreover, at the second workshop in Hanoi, we had the great pleasure of hosting Vietnam's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyễn Quốc Dũng, responsible for

the country's ASEAN affairs. The outcomes of the ASC project are intended to be fed into the coming two chairmanships of ASEAN. Vietnam will chair the regional organisation in 2020 and in this light, Minister Nguyễn's participation in this workshop

and his articulated keen interest in the recommendations are of great significance to the project and validate our efforts. The Minister also assured Hanoi's great support for and interest in ASEAN-led multilateralism.



For policy recommendations, please see our book "ASEAN Security Connectivity: Regional Solutions to Regional Security Challenges".



*Top: Ambassador Pou Sothirak from Cambodia.
Above: Prof. Kuik Cheng-Chwee discussing his modes and nodes concept of ASC.*



Vietnam's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyễn Quốc Dũng with the Director of the DAV, Prof. Tung (right).



Dr. Frederick Kliem

Frederick was our former senior programme manager from 2017 to 2019. Previously, he had completed his doctorate on the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in regional security. He holds a Bachelor and Master degree in International Relations and Security Studies from Great Britain and Hong Kong and has work experience in academia, regional government, and the private sector.

Within KAS PDA, Frederick worked cross-sectoral, but his expertise in regional integration and security institutionalism supported KAS PDA's effort to support ASEAN-led integration. In addition, Frederick worked on the Indo-Pacific as well as Chinese BRI investments in Southeast Asia.

Conference

“Thailand’s ASEAN Chairmanship 2019”

3 – 4 December 2018, Bangkok, Thailand

After Singapore as the 2018 chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had ceremoniously handed over this honour to the 2019 ASEAN Chairman Thailand, and before Bangkok officially took up this duty on 1 January 2019, we looked forward to Thailand’s year at the helm of the regional organisation. Together with our partner in Bangkok, the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG), KAS PDA held a 2.5-day conference on “Thailand’s ASEAN Chairmanship 2019”.



Introductory remarks by Mr. Christian Echle.



The audience was very engaging. Here, Prof. Don Emmerson from California, USA.

The ASEAN way and ASEAN’s greater institutional set-up dictate that the association’s success and relevance is dependent upon strong and favourable leadership. *Primus inter pares* among the ten leaders is the ASEAN Chair, who rotates annually and officially organises, hosts and leads all ASEAN institutions and meetings. The chair also sets the agenda, acts as ASEAN’s spokesperson and crucially, is in the position (and has the responsibility) to informally forge consensus among the members. In other words, it is a most crucial position to drive ASEAN forward and promote its often-cited centrality.

ASEAN is facing a remarkably challenging situation today. Tensions arise due to often correlating factors against the background of geopolitical shifts, as well as social, economic and political factors within ASEAN’s member states. ASEAN on the one hand faces changes brought about by the increasingly active role the People’s Republic of China plays in the region and how its member states react to it. On the other hand, many member states undergo significant changes internally, which do not always result in favourable terms for ASEAN. A narrow definition of national interest has always bugged ASEAN. But against the background of an increasingly populist political climate, opportunities for meaningful cooperation on a regional level are reducing.



Dr. Frederick Kliem interviewing the two guests of honour, H.E. Marty Natalegawa and H.E. Kasit Piromya (see excerpts on pages 49-50).

CPG's and KAS PDA's joint international conference focused on ASEAN's future. It provided an overview of both external and internal challenges ASEAN was facing when Thailand took over the chairmanship. It convened high-level policymakers, diplomats, experts, professionals as well as civil society and business representatives in order to create a comprehensive picture of what ASEAN's immediate and near future is likely to look like. Secondly, it provided a forum for Thai officials to discuss their plans and main agenda items for its chairmanship, as well as functioned as an opportunity for stakeholders to engage with the plans and raise issues that ought to be included or considered. Together with our partner, we produced a set of policy recommendations that logically arose from our discussions.

"Thailand's ASEAN Chairmanship 2019" saw the participation of several representatives from the Thai foreign ministry, such as H.E. Busaya Mathelin, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Suriya Chindawongse, the Director General for ASEAN Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand. Both gave valuable insights into Bangkok's plans for the organisation in 2019. We also had the great honour of listening to a moderated public interview at our conference with H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Kasit Piromya, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, who shared their great insights with the public and provided thoughtful, innovative ideas for the incoming ASEAN chair and beyond.



H.E. Dr. Marty Natalegawa, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.



H.E. Kasit Piromya, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs

Political Change

Issue 01/2018

In recent years, domestic politics in both Europe and Asia have arguably become less predictable and more prone to sudden, unexpected changes. Although domestic volatility is not a new phenomenon in either region, contemporary drivers may be a reflection of a new era, with significant implications for both domestic and foreign policies. In this issue of our journal, authors reflect on contemporary changes in the domestic political architectures in both Europe and Asia and analyse causes, drivers, and impacts in order to derive a better understanding of political renewal. Whether change is for better or for worse is dependent on personal interpretations; that both regions are undergoing significant political change, however, is undisputable.



Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs

Trade and Economic Connectivity in the Age of Uncertainty

Issue 01/2019

As the escalating trade war between the US and China continues to gain greater salience, this issue of our journal focuses on trade and economic connectivity between Asia and Europe. The articles discuss the implications of the trade war and also weigh in on other factors and components which form an integral part of the trade and economic relations between Asia and Europe. The impact of regional blocs on trade relations between Asia and Europe is also elucidated. Aside from the various multilateral and bilateral trade deals, the articles also look at other issues such as currency swap and bilateral agreements which help to forge a common bond between Asia and Europe.



Cooperation with the Center for South Asian Studies and the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks

The Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) is a grouping of leading think tanks in South Asia, which meet to research and study significant problems concerning the region. Since its establishment in 2008, COSATT as a premier track II initiative has brought together think tanks and research organisations to forge closer ties with the objective of promoting regional cooperation and building peace in the region. COSATT has established itself as a vibrant think-tank network of South Asia focusing on strategic issues like counter-terrorism, connectivity, refugees and migration, along with issues like environment and energy among others. COSATT conferences have been regularly attended by renowned speakers from South Asia including the SAARC Secretary General.

The SAARC Secretariat has actively supported the network and has encouraged all its activities. The media has also generously covered all the events, with coverage appearing in major newspapers in South Asia. COSATT publishes books and report after every regional event and these publications are circulated widely across the region.

In 2018, COSATT celebrated its tenth anniversary by not only setting the course for further enhancement of this regional network in the next decade, but also reflecting on the role of South Asia in the new world order. The network also looked at other regional organisations and agreements to see how they could contribute towards the regional integration of South Asia.

COSATT@10 and Regional Conference

“South Asia Amidst a New World Order”

25 – 26 March 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

The COSATT network celebrated its tenth anniversary with a conference on “South Asia Amidst a New World Order”. This event drew attention to the need to put in concerted efforts to address the existing problems of South Asia as a region and put forward the key agendas to revive SAARC as a vibrant regional organisation. A primary goal of the regional conference was to identify the existing common challenges facing the South Asian region and promote a common understanding for holistic regional growth. The participants in the conference agreed that SAARC should provide a conducive and congenial atmosphere to build economic synergies and that this region has the potential to make an

influential impact in the regional and global orders in future by looking into the inherent capacity it possesses.



Group picture of the delegates of the COSATT@10 conference.

“Importance of BRI and BBIN for South Asia”

4 – 5 July 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Connectivity initiatives in the present era are considered as a significant prerequisite for economic development. South Asia lags behind in transport connectivity, trade connectivity and people-to-people connectivity, with intra-regional trade level at a dismal amount. With the aim of contributing to a South Asian regional-level dialogue on regional connectivity, a two-day regional conference on “Importance of BRI and BBIN for South Asia” was organised in cooperation with Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS). The main objective of the conference was to identify the common challenges facing the South Asian region in terms of poor connectivity and shaky trade not only within the region but also in the global market. Experts deliberated on connectivity in the region and beyond. The opportunities and chal-

lenges posed by BBIN and BRI, especially to South Asian countries, and how southern nations could work together to build inter-regional connectivity were the underlying themes of the conference.



Mr. Christian Echle presenting the token of appreciation to the chief guest, Honorable Mr Muhammad Abdul Mannan, Minister of Planning, Bangladesh.

“BIMSTEC at 20: Priorities and Prospects”

24 September 2018, Singapore

The “BIMSTEC at 20: Priorities and Prospects” conference was jointly organised with the Institute



The inaugural panel with Dr. Nischal Pandey, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, Dr. Amitendu Palit and Mr. Christian Echle.

of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore. In the conference, experts examined the key discussions at the recently concluded BIMSTEC Summit, such as cooperation among member states in energy transactions, transport movements, combatting terrorism and cross-border crimes. The experts also assessed BIMSTEC’s current priorities and successes, as well as the challenges it faces. The Secretary General of BIMSTEC, Ambassador M. Shahidul Islam, participated in the conference. He expressed his appreciation and highlighted that it was an important event as the recommendations of the conference would be taken on by the BIMSTEC Secretariat in framing policy recommendations for its member states.

COSATT Regional Conference

“Security and Economic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific”

11 – 13 March 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal

The term Indo-Pacific has gained global resonance in recent times. In view of the global economic and strategic transitions taking place, this conference focussed on the significance and dynamics of the Indo-Pacific concept and the scope and potential for cooperation in the key sectors of politics, economy and security for South Asia were examined. The economic and strategic issues contributing to the shaping of this new geographical construct and how it differs from the earlier established

Asia-Pacific paradigm were also analysed. The delegates also attempted to understand India's current position on the Indo-Pacific both as a socio-economic-political platform and at the strategic level better known as the “QUAD”. Furthermore, the conference also opened the door to discussions about the impacts as well as roles of other South Asian nations like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.



Dr. Nishchal Pandey delivering the welcome address.



Group photo of the delegates.

“South Asia and the Indo-Pacific”

4 – 8 May 2019, Heidelberg and Berlin, Germany

Experts from eminent South Asian think tanks of the COSATT visited Germany to discuss and exchange perspectives on the geographical focus of the concept, individual country perspective and the dynamics of the Indo-Pacific Strategy in relation to the global economic and strategic transitions taking place. The experts' visit to Germany started with a conference on cooperation with Heidelberg University, where our South Asian experts got the

opportunity to discuss the Indo-Pacific strategy, Democracy, Security and Development. After the conference in Heidelberg, the delegation headed to Berlin, where they held a series of meeting with policymakers, academics and think tanks. They also visited the KAS headquarters, where they discussed future avenues for cooperation in South Asia.

ISAS-COSATT-KAS Workshop

“Bangladesh’s Contributions to International Security: The Case of Peace Operations”

27 August 2019, Singapore



Lt. Gen. Md Mahfuzur Rahman sharing his perspective on peacekeeping missions.

In 2018, Bangladesh marked 30 years of participation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. Bangladeshi peacekeepers have participated in more than 50 missions in 40 countries across the world. The workshop focussed on academic and policy-focused discussions to facilitate a better understanding and appreciation of Bangladesh’s

contributions to international peace and security. The participants not only assessed the country’s participation in UN peacekeeping missions from three broad perspectives – international relations, security and domestic politics – but also discussed avenues where Bangladesh could cooperate with other South Asian states to play a bigger role in the UN.



Dr. Rashed Uz Zaman providing an overview of Bangladesh’s contribution to peacekeeping missions.



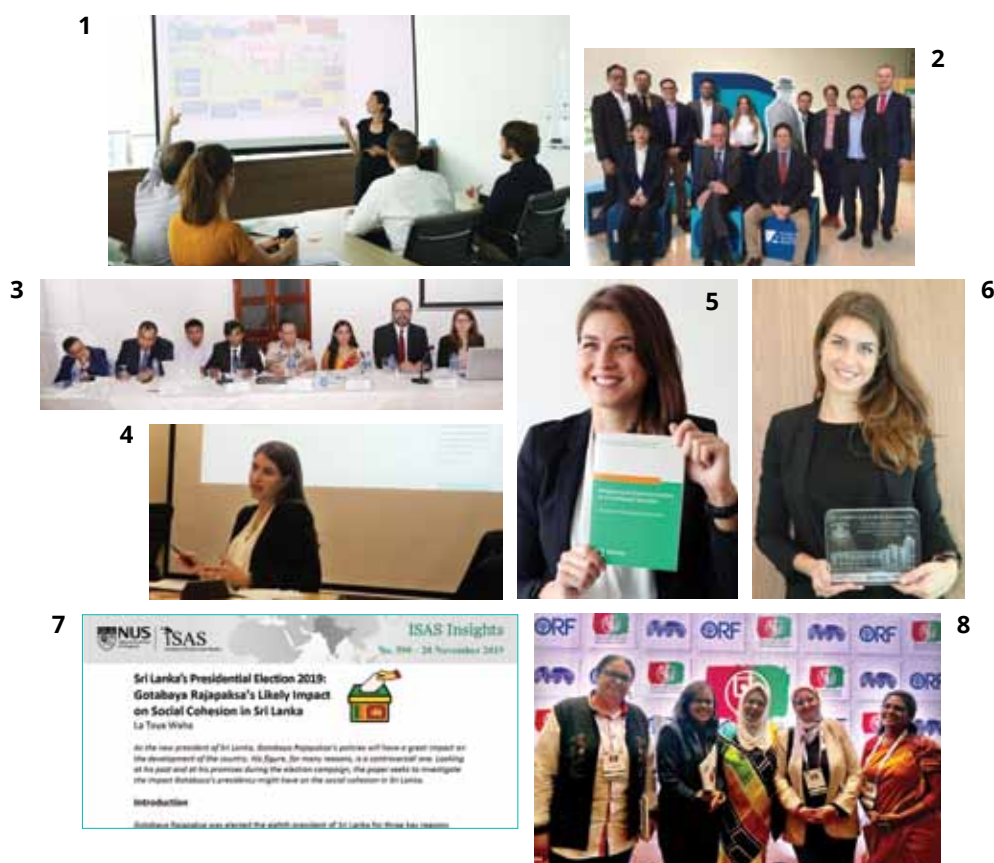
Megha Sarmah

Megha Sarmah is research officer at the KAS Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia in Singapore. She is responsible for the Asian Women Parliamentary Caucus and all the publications of the programme. She is also managing the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks, a partner project of the foundation.

After graduating with an honours degree in Political Science from Calcutta University, India, Megha attained her Masters in International Relations from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore. Megha has also completed a course on UNESCO-Approved Advanced Course on International Understanding for Human Unity under the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata, India.

Our Programme Managers – Ambassadors for KASPDA’s work

A snapshot of the external activities in which our programme managers took part in.



Katharina Naumann, Digitalisation

1. Conducted a workshop on digital transformation in Singapore for scholars of the “Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes”.
2. Participated in a Dialogue Program For Artificial Intelligence Experts “Human-Machine Interaction” in Berlin.

Dr. La Toya Waha, Security Policy, Radicalisation Research, Multilateral Cooperation and South Asia.

3. Shared her insights on “Multi-Polar Radicalisation in the Case of Tamils, Muslims and Sinhalese-Buddhists in Sri Lanka” in a Panel Discussion on “Violent Extremism in South Asia” at the Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka in Colombo.
4. Presented on “Identity, Rationality and the Politics of Suicide in the Modern State – Comparing Cases of Suicide in Politics in Sri Lanka” at the National University of Singapore.
5. Book Discussion for her publication titled “Religion and State-Formation in Transitional Societies – Sri Lanka in a Comparative Perspective”.
6. Gave a talk at St Joseph’s College, Bangalore, India, on “Religion and Politics – Self-Immolation and the Role of Buddhism in Politics in Sri Lanka”.
7. Contributed an article on “Gotabaya Rajapaksa’s Likely Impact on Social Cohesion in Sri Lanka” for the edition of the South Asia Discussion papers’ special issue on Sri Lanka’s Presidential Election 2019, published by the Institute of South Asian Studies Singapore.

Megha Sarmah, South Asia and Women Empowerment

8. Participated in the inaugural Dhaka Global Dialogue in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Patrick Rueppel, Foreign and Security Policy, Geopolitics

1. Spoke on the ASEAN-EU Relations at the 7th Malaysian-German Security Dialogue.”
2. Shared his views on Myanmar – One year ahead of the 2020 General Elections at a joint evening talk of the Singaporean-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the German Association and KAS.
3. Moderated a plenary session on the Asia-Europe Partnership at the 33rd Asia-Pacific Roundtable.
4. Presented on the “Geopolitics of Digital Trade and Sustainability” at a think tank dialogue on the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement jointly organised by the European Delegation to Singapore, Egmont Institute and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.
5. Contributed an article on ASEAN-EU Security Connectivity to the ASEANFocus Journal of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute.

Rey Padit, Political Co-operation

6. Headed the KASYP Delegation for the EU-Asia Dialogue in Brussels.
7. Conducted a leadership workshop to the Young Centrist Union of Salcedo in the Philippines.
8. Participated in the 2nd Madrid International Forum on Democracy in Madrid, Spain.

Supporting Female Leadership in Asia – Scholarship for Students

The equality of men and women is a contested issue in many societies, and Asian ones are no exception to this. Interest articulation by women, women's security as well as the respect for their basic human rights are not a given in many states and are frequently challenged in severe ways.

Despite the further development of political systems, economic development and the expansion of the provision of education, girls and women still lag behind, often having little representation in politics, the economy and the education system. The way forward is the promotion of women's active participation as stakeholders in state and society. Women's qualifications and self-confidence are necessities for them to be competitive and to take over leadership in politics and the economy. To support both requirements, quality education as well as self-confidence in their own skills and abilities, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia is providing promising students a scholarship for their studies at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh.

The Asian University for Women (AUW) is situated in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Students from twenty countries across Asia and the Middle East study diverse and interdisciplinary courses. The

aim of the study programmes at Asian University for Women is, next to excellent knowledge in the respective fields of study, the empowerment of students to become not only skilled and innovative professionals but also leaders in business and their communities, promoting and contributing to sustainable economic and human development in the region and beyond.

Next to providing for the studies, KAS is supporting the students through an internship with a female parliamentarian from the student's respective home region. This internship shall provide the students with the opportunity to look behind the scenes and gain first-hand experiences in political leadership. Furthermore, the internship shall enable the students to build their own networks in politics and society, which can be vital for their future careers and roles in politics and society.



With our scholarship holders: Dhristy Roy, Rokhana Roksan Akter and Azam Turfa.



Dr. La Toya Waha

Dr. La Toya Waha is currently Senior Programme Manager in the Political Dialogue Asia Regional Programme of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Singapore. She holds a Doctoral degree in Political Science (summa cum laude) and a degree in South Asian Studies and Psychology from Heidelberg University. Prior to her posting in Singapore, she worked as a Research Fellow on the relation between religion, migration and radicalisation. La Toya Waha has taught on Religion and Politics in South Asia at the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University. She has been a Visiting Doctoral Fellow at CEIAS in Paris and a Visiting Researcher at the Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC), University of Colombo. Her research focus is on the emergence of political violence, the relation between religion, politics and the state as well as suicide as political tool. She is the author of "Religion and State-Formation in Transitional Societies – Sri Lanka in a Comparative Perspective".

Digitalisation – Understanding Digital Impact



Digital connections are embedded in almost every aspect of our daily lives. While the added value of digital technologies has become self-evident, new technologies also probe our capability to manage them and their social and political consequences. This is especially relevant when it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), an area in which the last few years have witnessed enormous breakthroughs – cars are self-driving and algorithms can detect diseases and determine what content appears on our social media feeds. As machine learning rapidly develops globally, there is a need for discussing the ethical, governance, and consumer protection implications of the deployment of AI.

Digital technologies have also changed value chains, competitive dynamics and consumer behaviour in markets. Furthermore, they are transforming our jobs and the nature of work itself. How can economic policy react to these disruptions and how shall we regulate new technologies? How do we create the conditions for innovation to fuel economic growth and at the same time better meet social needs? What will new models of education and skilling need to look like to address existing and future needs?

This also leads to questions of security. How should we think about information technology (IT) security in a world where billions of devices are interconnected? The dynamic nature of cyber threats and increasing sophistication of cyber adversaries make it vital to develop effective, globally interoperable cybersecurity policies and practices. The role of cybersecurity in the broader constitu-

tion of political order has yet to be determined. In addition, social media are creating a new information and media system that poses a challenge to elections and public debate. Consequently, the potential harms arising from political influence campaigns, hate speech, and the misuse of data require a realignment of priorities around data protection and debate about regulations.

It is hardly possible to give nation-specific answers to these questions; instead, international dialogue is needed. Asia is especially important in this conversation. Not only do the majority of the world's internet users live in Asia, massive support for technological breakthroughs in Internet of Things (IoT) applications, cloud technologies, artificial intelligence and robotics make Asia one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Through various government programmes (Japan's "Society 5.0", Singapore's "Smart Nation Initiative") and industrial strategies ("Made in China 2025"), Asian states demonstrate their will to use and decisively shape the digital transformation.

Therefore, we are bringing together policymakers, academia, IT experts, civil society, and business leaders from Asia and Europe to look at the intersection of technology and society and to identify policy approaches to harness and manage the social and economic changes created by digital technologies.

Digital Economy:

Four Big Shifts that could Change our World

The digital economy materialises in several ways. High value innovations occur not just within services or platforms, but across them. Rapid technological change means that businesses and workers are constantly adapting. Lifestyles are similarly evolving to reap the benefits (or suffer the consequences) that technology brings. The conveniences of the digital economy also bring security issues and new forms of crime.

Several institutions are already feeling these effects; regulators have had to keep up with new challenges such as private hire cars and shared bike platforms. Consumer habits have also shifted due to the pervasive availability of food delivery services, and this has opened up new business opportunities. Platform giants, states and multilateral institutions have been rethinking responsibilities in counterterrorism efforts, content regulation and the protection of personal data. The rise and evolution of the digital economy will certainly continue to shape the global operating context, and will present new complexities as our social and geopolitical landscape evolves.

This article proposes four big shifts for society and work arising from the digital economy which could fundamentally change the way we think about institutions today. These are not predictions, but plausible futures set in the 10 to 15-year time horizon, and are meant to be conversation starters around current day strategies.

Shift #1: Replace → Augment

It has been suggested that the most value to be extracted in applying technology to work is through the augmented human rather than automation.

Digital healthcare start-up Babylon Health recently made news when its AI doctor performed better at a diagnostics examination taken by trainee general

practitioners with an average pass rate of 72%. Babylon AI scored 82%. This doesn't mean doctors are out of a job. There is still a need to account for ethical responsibility and the complexity of a patient's history and environment, which would mean that a doctor's main value-add would shift to focus on treatment rather than diagnosis.

In 1997, IBM's Deep Blue famously beat chess champion Gary Kasparov. Fast forward to 2005, when an online chess tournament sought to test if humans and AI could make a better team than an AI alone. True enough, the human augmented player beat the solo computer. The kicker? The augmented players weren't even champions, they were amateurs.

Humans and machines need each other to perform optimally. How do we extract that value to maximise outcomes? What applications could there be beyond work?

Shift #2: Live to work → Work to live?

Much has been said about millennials and their "unique" work ethic. Disdain aside, the difference between current youth aspirations and those of preceding generations is big enough to present legitimate concerns.

A recent Deloitte study of millennials revealed surprising statistics: 44% have turned down a job because the company's values did not match their own, and 56% swore never to work for any company whose values did not match theirs. In Singapore, youth have also said they prized happiness over many other things, wealth among them. Can jobs in the digital economy still keep the youth of today happy, or will there be a push towards working to seek greater meaning in life? Even if jobs cannot fulfil the needs and aspirations

of youth, might there be other ways for them to achieve personal fulfilment?

Shift #3: Live long and prosper → Age is just a number

Could the digital economy solve the existential challenge from ageing populations?

Developments across a range of human augmentation technologies combined with cheap production and distribution could mean a new era for humanity. For example, there is evidence that metformin, a common and cheap diabetic drug, has significant anti-ageing properties. In mice, metformin has increased lifespans by 40%. The demand for nootropics, or supplements that enhance or help manage cognitive abilities, is also increasing. They are now more readily available and normalised thanks to e-commerce and clever online marketing. Exoskeletons are also getting cheaper, and have the potential to give new life to the elderly and the disabled. All Nippon Airways has been experimenting with exoskeletons made by robotics company Cyberdyne for their staff, which includes older workers, to be able to handle large suitcases better.

If we get basic research into anti-ageing drugs right, keep distribution channels pervasive and drive down the cost of exoskeletons, might we have a solution to stay productive even as we age? What are some obstacles to harnessing such technology? Would augmented humans be subject to special rules and codes of ethics; what extent of augmentation would be acceptable?

Shift #4: Learn to work → Work is learning

Disruptions experienced in the last decade have had people concluding that many skills of tomorrow aren't the skills we know of today.

A 2016 report by the World Economic Forum found that by 2026, most jobs across all types of occupations will on average have more than 1/3 of the core skills needed to perform them coming from a group of skills currently not yet considered crucial. Many also recognise that soft skills like col-

laboration, networking, creativity will be critical for success. If we don't know what skills are needed in the future, why frontload all our education in the prime of our productivity only to learn skills that aren't really useful to work? Stanford's design school recognised this and proposed a concept called the Open Loop University. Students learn at their own pace, and can alternate between learning and work as needed. They enrol for 6 years which can be used across their life and don't even need to wait until they turn 18.

Of course, schools aren't just for learning hard skills. Should we maximise schools for other outcomes such as building social skills, a common identity, values and ethics? How would the roles of the employer and the work environment evolve to complement these "soft" skills?

Nobody can predict the future, but we can try to be less surprised by it

Multi-level and cross-sector discussions on such plausible futures could unearth latent assumptions, hopes and fears that need to be addressed today in order for us to better reap the digital economy's benefits. Pervasive and consistent efforts to build change mindsets, reward innovation and implement improvements to work processes will help organisations and their people be prepared for more surprises that the digital economy will bring.

Liana is Deputy Head at the Centre for Strategic Futures, Singapore.

This article was first published on the CSF blog at www.csf.gov.sg, and was adapted from a presentation for a panel discussion on the digital economy at a dialogue on "Digitalisation in Asia and Germany: Impact on politics and society" organised by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Singapore from 10-12 Jul 2018.



Ms. Liana Tang

Digitalisation in Asia and Germany

Study trip of Asian experts to Berlin

25 February – 3 March 2018, Berlin, Germany

How will advancing digitalisation transform society, politics, work, and security in the coming decades? How can we develop policies and frameworks to promote the opportunities and mitigate the challenges of this digital revolution? 13 experts from nine Asian nations travelled to Berlin for a week-long exchange with German representatives from government, academia, think tanks, and start-ups.



Experts from nine Asian countries at the Facebook office in Berlin.

The programme spanned from meetings at the Chancellery, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Federal Foreign Office, to discussions with experts from Weizenbaum Institute, Technical University of Munich, Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, the German Armed Forces, the digital association Bitkom, e-commerce company Zalando and Facebook. The range of issues discussed reflects the profound changes technological advancements are bringing to all areas of society: digital infrastructure, e-government, data protection, Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, the economic power of major US internet companies, and digital developments in China. One major focus of the discussions was on fake news, hate speech and the German Network Enforcement Act that

had also received much attention in Asia. Issues of cybersecurity were also on the agenda throughout the whole week. Germany's cybersecurity strategy, the role of the Bundeswehr, Germany's involvement at the international level as well as the importance of cybersecurity for connected societies and Industry 4.0 were discussed.

Rooted in different political, economic and cultural backgrounds, Germany and Asia have different approaches to the subject of digitalisation. In Germany, priority is given to infrastructure development, data security, Industry 4.0 and employment. In Asia, Japan is a pioneer in robot development, Singapore can serve as a best-practice case study when it comes to e-government, China is advancing at great speed in Artificial Intelligence, and India has a huge potential for mobile payments, just to name a few examples. Dialogue, exchange of ideas, and deeper cooperation between Asia and Europe can certainly be beneficial in all these areas.



Discussing the Network Enforcement Act at the German Ministry of Justice.

International workshop

The Future of Work

10 – 11 April 2018, Tokyo, Japan



Digital experts from Germany and Asia in conversation: German Member of Parliament Mr. Thomas Heilmann and Ms. Malavika Jayaram of Digital Asia Hub.

Questions regarding the future of work have become a main focus of attention when discussing the digital transformation. Automation and digitalisation, robots and algorithms, interconnectedness and Artificial Intelligence are causing far-reaching changes with lasting social and socio-political implications. We brought together digital experts from Asia and Germany in the capital of the world's third-largest economy to discuss the future of work and appropriate digital strategies in connected societies.

The conference focused on the question of whether robots or digital technologies can replace human labour. Can the company of the future survive purely on connected, self-regulating machines, devices and products without people? What are the political and social implications? The participants also gained practical insights into autonomous systems and robotics during site visits to companies and universities.

During the discussions it emerged that the digital revolution will affect labour markets in developed and emerging economies differently. Studies anticipate a considerable potential for rationalisation in developed countries due to the progressive advancements in Artificial Intelligence, affecting even jobs requiring a high degree of qualification (doctors, lawyers). However, reforms in the fields of education, tax and social systems can help to absorb these upcoming changes. In emerging and developing countries, the digital revolution could hit labour markets quite severely due to their focus on manufacturing, labour-intensive or agricultural sectors. The fact that those countries are especially vulnerable and the impact this will have on their societies has not been adequately addressed in the international future-of-work debate so far.



Half of the jobs of 2030 are not even invented yet: Workshop on the future of work.



Which skills do we need for future jobs?



Dr. Yuko Harayama presenting Japan's concept of Society 5.0.

A holistic digital strategy therefore has to include the following:

- gradual improvement of the physical infrastructure,
- ensuring digital participation,
- development of innovative, lifelong learning and digital skills,
- review of existing social security and tax systems and labour market policies,
- promoting of e-government, and
- adapting the regulatory framework to the digital age.

In all these fields, Germany can learn from best-practice examples in Asia.



Bipedal robots at Takanishi Laboratory, Waseda University, Tokyo.

Singapore – Germany: Mastering Innovation and Resilience in the Digital Age

24 May 2018, Berlin, Germany

The striving innovation hub Singapore is a regional beacon, leading the ASEAN community as chairman in 2018. A conference with experts from Germany and Singapore's prestigious think tank S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

looked at smart cities, data protection, and the future of work.

The "Smart Nation Initiative" launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is a success story: Singapore is ranked among the top performers



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, Dr. Tan Teck Boon, RSIS, Mr. Thomas Köster, KAS, German Member of Parliament Mr. Thomas Heilmann, and Mr. Oliver Röseler, DHL, discussing the future of work.

in smart city rankings in all four of the key areas measured – mobility, healthcare, public safety and productivity. But what are the implications for the citizens when cities are becoming smarter and sensors and cameras are constantly delivering real-time data? The conference discussion highlighted the need for strict rules regarding access to these data. When introducing new technologies, it must be ensured that the added value for the user is clearly apparent. In Berlin, there is no such interdepartmental smart city strategy. Instead, some scattered projects are emerging that often address specific needs of the citizens, like an overview of free spaces in childcare facilities. Consequently,

the public is not too worried about the central collection and analysis of real-time data.

It is not only cities that are becoming more connected and more “intelligent”, but also machines. How will we work in the future? Will jobs disappear because machines and Artificial Intelligence will carry out all the relevant tasks, or will technological innovations create new forms of jobs that are still completely unknown today? In view of the many industrial upheavals since the invention of the steam engine, the discussants called for maintaining optimism. Creativity, intuition and leadership will not be replaceable even in a fully digitised future.



Experts from RSIS, KAS, and the Singapore Embassy at KAS headquarters.



Analysing the smart city concepts of Singapore and Berlin: Mr. Benjamin Ang, RSIS, Ms. Katharina Naumann, KAS, and Mr. Nicolas Zimmer, Technologie Stiftung Berlin.

Digitalisation in Asia and Germany – Part II

Dialogue programme and conference

9 – 13 July 2018, Singapore

If you want to know what the digital future will look like, it is worth taking a look at Singapore. The government's stated goal is to make the city state a "smart nation". From self-driving busses to smart homes – digital technologies shall address global urban challenges.



The German experts at the Singapore Parliament.

Therefore, experts from Germany and Asia travelled to Singapore to discuss the "Smart Nation Initiative" that was launched in 2014 by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as well as developments in the fields of digital economy, cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Looking at Asia, what are key takeaways for the discussion in Germany?

1. Asia is open to digital technology. Artificial Intelligence, mobile payments, and the involvement of robots in everyday life are seen as guarantors of future economic growth or as a solution to social problems.

The sceptical, contemplative, partly culture-pessimistic attitude seen in Germany, also known as "German fear", is not widespread in Asia. It is crucial for German decision makers to not only highlight the possible negative impacts of digital technology, but also to grasp the opportunities and possibilities of digitalisation. A good digital agenda ensures both innovation as well as sufficient security for citizens in the online space.

2. Questions about the future of work are some of the most important questions of the forthcoming decades. Far-reaching social and societal implications are linked to the impact of the progressing automation. Although well-known studies foresee a considerable potential for rationalisation in industrialised countries, digitalisation does not necessarily lead to less work, but to other forms of work and job requirements instead. The potential



In conversation with Minister Dr. Janil Puthucheary.

for cooperation between man and machine can be taken more into consideration.

3. Singapore is a pioneer in e-government. Queuing for government services is a thing of the past. Instead, citizens and businesses can access more than 1,600 online services and more than 300 apps. The next steps towards a fully digital and citizen-centred administration are outlined in the June 2018 Digital Government Blueprint. This can certainly serve as an interesting case study for Germany.



Presenting the digital agenda of Germany's Christian Democratic Union.



Above: Black hat or white hat? Visiting a cybersecurity start-up at Singapore's BLK71.

Left: Analog wall: Facebook's Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore.

CyFy India

Conference on Technology, Security, and Society

3 – 5 October 2018, New Delhi, India

Is technology the answer to our problems? How can we all commit to a free, open, and secure internet? We partnered with Observer Research Foundation at CyFy, a policy-focused conference bringing together participants from government, industry, academia, and civil society from India and around the world to discuss issues related to technology, security, and society. 140 speakers from 39 countries were deep diving into the digital revolution.

We were delighted to be part of these thought-provoking discussions with a panel on “War by other means”. Experts from TU Munich, RSIS Singapore, the Centre for International Governance Innovation from Canada, and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs took stock of cyber-enabled influence operations that have occurred in the 21st century and examined the range of responses available to nations to protect their sovereignty from cyber-interference while maintaining the openness of their national institutions.



The KAS panel on “War by other means”: Mr. Morteza Shahrezaye, Mr. Marek Szczygiel, Ms. Rema Rajeshwari, Mr. Benjamin Ang, Ms. Stephanie MacLellan, and Mr. Sean Kanuck.



Ms. Rema Rajeshwari, District Police Chief, Mahbubnagar, Telengana.



Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff at the German Foreign Office: Mr. Wolfgang von Heynitz.

FAT Asia

Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Machine Learning

11 – 14 January 2019, Hong Kong and Shenzhen, China

Alongside the excitement about science fiction “coming to life” through increasingly futuristic gadgets and services, there is growing concern about the implications of an algorithm-driven society. Scholars and thinkers are debating the potential impact of automated decision-making on equality, autonomy, and dignity, and addressing the need for oversight mechanisms that protect fundamental freedoms and human agency. The Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia supported the conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Machine Learning organised by Digital Asia Hub in Hong Kong. The event provided researchers with a venue to explore how to characterise and address these issues with computationally rigorous methods and was complemented by a field trip to Shenzhen.



Taking stock of trends and challenges in AI at FAT Asia.



At Tencent Headquarters in Shenzhen.



Public Panel Discussion on Artificial Intelligence in Hong Kong.



The Sino-Finnish Design Park in Shenzhen.

Strategic Foresight Workshop

The Future of Digitalisation

4 – 6 March 2019, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The benefits of digital technologies are manifold; we live in a world with access to information, improved communication, new economic opportunities, empowerment of civil society, access to education, and greater political participation. But, often on a global level, government structures, the economy, or society as a whole are challenged by these technologies. This can be clustered into six areas: industry structure, power, data collection, uneven digital access, norms and culture as well as state capacity. A pessimistic mindset oftentimes dominates the discourse, hindering us from realising a positive and common vision for the future.

To understand and shape the future of digitalisation, it is important to consider the players and the roles they will take. Governments will play a vital part in shaping this future, with varying roles and strategies. To nurture a digital ecosystem and build an innovative and inclusive digital society, govern-

ments will need to create enabling environments for technology development, promotion and implementation, while levelling access and adoption across sectors – including that of public services. Governments will also have to regulate technology fairly, while protecting groups from exploitation and harm.

Non-state actors will similarly shape the future of digitalisation. Their objectives are based on the group they represent and therefore are more difficult to generalise. We will probably see new roles for existing non-state actors as well as completely new actors.

Using future thinking tools and methods, the participants analysed the complex relations and tensions between the different stakeholders in creating a desired future and recommended some ideas for policymakers for the future.



Far left: Participants from eleven Asian countries discussed the future of digitalisation.



Left: For a comprehensive overview, please see our workshop report "The Future of Digitalisation".

Right and far right: A framework for thinking about the future that encourages a conversation about the challenges in the present, our aspirations for the future and the kinds of innovation we might need: the Three Horizons Model.



Roundtable and Panel Discussion in collaboration with the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) at the National University of Singapore

The Impact of Digital Media on the 2019 Indian General Election

27 – 28 June 2019, Singapore

In the wake of digital and social media expansion in India, public discourse and the autonomy of public opinion have been challenged. India's 2019 general election was the first national election contested within a truly digital consumption society, wherein approximately half the voting population had access to digital pathways, and another one-third had access to social media. In line with the global trend, social media has been increasingly used by Indian politicians for routine political communication to directly connect with their supporters. Indeed, the 2019 election was dubbed by many as the "WhatsApp" election.



Public Panel Discussion on the role of digital media in the 2019 Elections in India.

The use of digital media in the election campaigns was remarkable, both in terms of distribution and content. It is notable how highly structured the BJP's digital strategy was as it established a top-down, centrally controlled system to disseminate messages via social media and messaging services, using a diverse range of platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and YouTube.

An increase in nationalistic or exclusionary language, often through humour and jokes, could be observed. This "nation talk" stretched the boundaries of what could be said and might have contributed to everyday familiarity with nationalist vocabulary.

The impact of digital media campaigns on the actual election results in India cannot be quantified. Electoral outcome is not the only barometer though: More research is needed on the "second order effects" of social media on offline campaigns, traditional media, public discourse and the framing of political personalities. In future, political parties will rely even more on the use of social media for campaigning and voter mobilisation. Therefore, citizens' digital and network literacy needs to be strengthened. In order to combat the negative effects of fake news or the low quality of public discourse and to strengthen the potential for informing voters, a new multi-stakeholder dialogue is needed. Cooperation among political parties, technology companies and civil society as well as the involvement of the Electoral Commission are essential.

For more information, see the ISAS Special Report "The Impact of Digital Media on the 2019 General Election" and the special series "Elections in the Age of Social Media" of *Economic & Political Weekly*.



Roundtable analysing digital campaign strategies of political parties in India in 2019.

Multi-stakeholder forum on the Report of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation

The Age of Digital Interdependence

22 August 2019, Singapore and 4 September 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh



The Singapore experts at KAS' office.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched an initiative to address challenges in the digital age. The High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation identified the following social, ethical, legal and economic trends and the resulting need for action:

1. The accelerating digitalisation is accompanied by the danger of a further increase in the digital divide both within individual countries and at the international level
2. The disruptive effects of a new wave of automation made possible by digital technologies are intensifying
3. The discriminating/excluding biases caused by the increasing use of artificial intelligence are being perpetuated
4. Privacy is restricted worldwide by global tech companies and national governments

5. The danger posed by surveilled societies is increasing thanks to new technological possibilities for the surveillance of citizens (state surveillance society) and consumers (tech corporate surveillance society)
6. The erosion of trust within and between societies due to fake news and its advanced form, "deepfakes", is increasing
7. The development of autonomous weapon systems – weapon systems in which the human being is no longer decisively involved in the decision to use lethal force – raises new questions about accountability

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has been asked by the United Nations to support the UN's inquiry about the perspectives from different countries on the Panel's recommendations.

A consolidated report prepared by the KAS about these multi-stakeholder discussions was handed to Under-Secretary-General Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild by the KAS New York Office in November 2019.

digital COOPERATION
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

The report of the Panel can be accessed at <https://digitalcooperation.org/>.



Working groups on "An inclusive digital economy and society", "Human and institutional capacity", and "Human rights and human agency".

Dialogue Programme

Digital Innovation

9 – 13 September 2019, Berlin

Innovation as a source of long-term global economic growth and improvements in quality of life is a key factor in society and economy. In this digital age, policymakers need to evaluate and respond to fast-moving issues and circumstances and coordinate disparate policies toward scientific research, technology commercialisation, regulatory policies, as well as education and skills development, in an integrated fashion that drives economic growth.

Innovation oftentimes requires the willingness to experiment and take risks. While still benefiting

from its strength in the automotive industry, mechanical engineering and the chemical industry, German companies are also successful in the area of Industry 4.0. The manifold industrial data produced daily offer great potential. The delegation observed that in Asia the willingness to innovate and actively shape new developments was much more pronounced. Their message: Whoever wants to shape the future in their own interests must actively promote innovation and be open to change.



In the heart of Berlin next to the Bundestag: the Brandenburg Gate.



Innovations in the area of consumer electronics were shown at IFA.



At the Federal Chancellery with the Division of General Digital Policy Issues.

Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs

Digital Asia

Issue 02/2018

Happy Birthday, Internet! In 2019, we celebrated the World Wide Web's 30th anniversary. Growing from ARPANET, to its status as a global platform that connects billions of people and devices, the development of the Internet has long been guided by the United States. US companies developed the first personal computers, smartphones and social networks that we use to communicate as well as the routers and servers that carry the world's data. It is Asia, however, where the future of the Internet is most likely to be written. Already today, China and India have highest number of internet users in the world. "The next billion users" are mainly Asian. Concurrently, Asian companies are making their way onto list of top technology companies. We have dedicated this issue of *Panorama - Insights into Asian and European Affairs* to addressing current developments in the area of digital policies, digital economy, and cyber security in Asia. Where does Europa come into play? Read on!



Katharina Naumann

Katharina Naumann is Programme Manager at KAS Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia in Singapore. Her work focuses on digitalization, bringing together stakeholders in the field of technology and policy to discuss about the desired future of digital technologies.

Katharina joined KAS in Singapore in 2016. Previously, she worked for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Foreign and Liaison Offices of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

CP = Country Programme
RP = Regional Sector Programme
LO = Liaison Office

Latin America

- 1 **Argentina** Buenos Aires CP
- 2 **Bolivia** La Paz CP
- 3 **Bolivia** La Paz RP Political Participation of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America
- 4 **Brazil** Rio de Janeiro CP
- 5 **Chile** Santiago de Chile CP
- 6 **Costa Rica** San José CP
- 7 **Guatemala** Guatemala City CP
- 8 **Honduras** Tegucigalpa LO
- 9 **Colombia** Bogotá CP
- 10 **Colombia** Bogotá RP Rule of Law Programme Latin America
- 11 **Mexico** Mexico City CP
- 12 **Panama** Panama City CP
- 13 **Panama** Panama City RP Alliances for Democracy and Development with Latin America
- 14 **Peru** Lima CP
- 15 **Peru** Lima RP Energy Security and Climate Change Latin America
- 16 **Uruguay** Montevideo CP
- 17 **Uruguay** Montevideo RP Promotion of Political Parties and Democracy in Latin America
- 18 **Venezuela** Caracas CP

Europe and North America

- 19 **Albania** Tirana CP
- 20 **Armenia** Yerevan LP
- 21 **Belgium/BeNeLux** Brussels CP
- 22 **Belgium** Brussels Multinational Development Policy Dialogue
- 23 **Bosnia and Herzegovina** Sarajevo CP
- 24 **Bulgaria** Sofia CP
- 25 **Bulgaria** Sofia RP Media Programme South East Europe
- 26 **Estonia** Tallinn LO
- 27 **France** Paris CP
- 28 **Georgia/Azerbaijan** Tbilisi RP Political Dialogue South Caucasus

- 29 **Greece/Cyprus** Athens CP
- 30 **United Kingdom/Ireland** London CP
- 31 **Italy/Malta/Vatican** City Rome CP
- 32 **Canada** Ottawa CP
- 33 **Kosovo** Pristina LO
- 34 **Croatia/Slovenia** Zagreb CP
- 35 **Latvia** Riga CP Baltic States
- 36 **Lithuania** Vilnius LO
- 37 **Lithuania** Vilnius CP Belarus
- 38 **Moldova** Chisinau LO
- 39 **Montenegro** Podgorica LO
- 40 **North Macedonia** Skopje CP
- 41 **Austria** Vienna CP
- 42 **Austria** Vienna RP Multilateral Dialogue
- 43 **Poland** Warsaw CP
- 44 **Romania** Bucharest CP
- 45 **Romania** Bucharest RP Rule of Law Programme South East Europe
- 46 **Russia** Moscow CP
- 47 **Russia** Saint Petersburg LO
- 48 **Sweden** Stockholm RP Nordic Countries

- 49 **Switzerland** Geneva RP Multilateral Dialogue
- 50 **Serbia** Belgrade CP
- 51 **Slovakia** Bratislava LO
- 52 **Spain/Portugal** Madrid CP
- 53 **Czech Republik** Prague CP
- 54 **Ukraine** Kiev CP
- 55 **Ukraine** Kharkiv CP
- 56 **Hungary** Budapest CP
- 57 **United States** New York Multinational Development Dialogue
- 58 **United States** Washington CP

Sub-Saharan Africa

- 59 **Ethiopia** Addis Ababa CP
- 60 **Ivory Coast** Abidjan RP Political Dialogue West Africa
- 61 **Ivory Coast** Abidjan RP Security Policy Dialogue Sub-Saharan Africa
- 62 **Ghana** Accra CP
- 63 **Cameroon** Yaoundé RP Energy Security and Climate Change Sub-Saharan Africa
- 64 **Kenya** Nairobi CP
- 65 **Kenya** Nairobi RP Rule of Law Programme Sub-Saharan Africa (English-speaking countries)
- 66 **Democratic Republic of the Congo** Kinshasa CP
- 67 **Mali** Bamako RP Sahel
- 68 **Namibia/Angola** Windhoek CP
- 69 **Nigeria** Abuja CP



- 70 **Senegal/The Gambia** Dakar CP
- 71 **Senegal** Dakar RP Rule of Law Programme Sub-Saharan Africa (French-speaking countries)
- 72 **Zimbabwe** Harare CP
- 73 **South Africa** Johannesburg CP
- 74 **South Africa** Johannesburg RP Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa
- 75 **South Africa** Cape Town LO
- 76 **Tanzania** Dar Es Salaam CP
- 77 **Uganda/South Sudan** Kampala CP

Middle East

- 78 **Algeria** Algiers LO
- 79 **Israel** Jerusalem CP
- 80 **Iraq** Erbil LO
- 81 **Jordan** Amman CP
- 82 **Jordan** Amman RP Gulf States
- 83 **Lebanon** Beirut CP
- 84 **Lebanon** Beirut CP Syria/Iraq
- 85 **Lebanon** Beirut RP Rule of Law Programme Middle East and North Africa
- 86 **Morocco** Rabat CP
- 87 **Morocco** Rabat RP Energy Security and Climate Change
- 88 **Palestinian Territories** Ramallah CP
- 89 **Tunisia** Tunis CP
- 90 **Tunisia** Tunis RP Political Dialogue Southern Mediterranean
- 91 **Turkey** Ankara CP
- 92 **Turkey** Istanbul LO

Asia and Pacific

- 93 **Afghanistan** Kabul CP
- 94 **Australia/Pacific** Canberra CP
- 95 **PR China** Peking CP
- 96 **PR China** Shanghai CP
- 97 **Hong Kong** RP Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific
- 98 **India** New Delhi CP
- 99 **Indonesia** Jakarta CP
- 100 **Japan** Tokyo CP
- 101 **Japan** Tokyo RP Social and Economic Governance Programme Asia
- 102 **Cambodia** Phnom Penh CP
- 103 **Kazakhstan** Astana CP
- 104 **South Korea** Seoul CP
- 105 **Malaysia** Kuala Lumpur CP
- 106 **Mongolia** Ulaanbaatar CP
- 107 **Myanmar** Yangon CP
- 108 **Philippines** Manila CP
- 109 **Singapore** RP Media Programme Asia
- 110 **Singapore** RP Rule of Law Programme Asia
- 111 **Singapore** RP Regional Policy Dialogue Programme Asia
- 112 **Thailand** Bangkok CP
- 113 **Uzbekistan** Tashkent RP Central Asia
- 114 **Vietnam** Hanoi CP

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