

32nd ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

DISRUPTION: PEOPLE. TECHNOLOGY. POWER. SECURITY

HILTON KUALA LUMPUR, 7 – 9 MAY 2018

*Draft Programme
(As of 14 February 2018)*

Monday, 7 May 2018

1700 – 1830 **Special Panel: Foreign Policy in the Digital Age**

The practice and application of foreign policy, especially in the public sphere, has seen significant disruption with the advent of digital communication technologies. The use of social media for example is becoming entrenched as a major method of communication for a growing number of political leaders and policymakers. Widespread information, not all of it verifiable, is available at the click of a button while governments find themselves relegated to just one of many stakeholders in shaping the message. These developments have also seen a greater interest by citizens and electorates in regional and global issues that could influence decisions and policies. To what extent have these digital disruptive factors impacted foreign policies in the region? How are leaders and officials adapting to communicating and even shaping foreign policy in an era of greater public scrutiny? Are we seeing a new normal in terms of messaging and relationships at Track 1 level? What are the implications of the communication of foreign policy in the digital age for regional and international security?

1900 – 2100 **Welcoming Dinner**

Tuesday, 8 May 2018

0900 – 0930 Registration

0930 – 1100 **Keynote Address**

1100 – 1115 Break

1115 – 1245 **Plenary 1: Innovating ASEAN, Preserving Resilience**

Singapore's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2018 aims to focus on strengthening the group's collective resilience and ability to innovate in the context of a dynamic, changing landscape. How can ASEAN capitalise on innovation and technology to connect its economic and business community? What practical measures can it take to maintain agility in managing change and disruption across the different Community pillars? How can ASEAN better prepare for common challenges such as violent extremism, cyber crime, and climate change in ensuring a prosperous,

stable, and secure region? What are the practical outcomes that Singapore can focus on for the remainder of its Chairmanship?

1245 – 1415 Luncheon Address

1415 – 1615 **Plenary 2: America First, China Rising: A New Global Order?**

In recent years and especially since the election of President Trump, opinion has increasingly converged on the idea that a fundamental and profound power shift is taking place in Asia. This session will explore the trajectories that American and Chinese power are expected to take and discuss whether a new regional order will emerge in the coming decades. What are the assumptions behind the assertion that a power shift is taking place? Are they valid? Are we right to focus primarily on America and China? How do other key regional players factor into the evolving equation? How should the rest of the region and the world react and adapt?

1615 – 1630 Break

1630 – 1800 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent 1: Strategic Update: Northeast Asia**

This session designed is to highlight the developments in Northeast Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

- **Concurrent 2: Strategic Update: West Asia**

This session designed is to highlight the developments in West Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

1830 – 2100 Dinner

Wednesday: 9 May 2018

0900 – 1030 **Plenary 3: Politics in South East Asia: Change or Status Quo?**

The year 2018 has been described as a pivotal year for democracy and governance in Southeast Asia with several countries facing national elections over the course of the year. Indonesia is also expecting a hotly contested election in 2019. What are the likely scenarios for these elections? Given the rise of nationalism, populism and anti-establishment sentiments around the world, are voters in Southeast Asia seeking change or continuity in policies and politics? What are some of the hot button issues that could impact interstate relations within ASEAN, and with external powers?

1030 – 1100 Break

1100 – 1230 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent 3: Strategic Update: South Asia**

This session designed is to highlight the developments in South Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

- **Concurrent 4: Strategic Update: Central Asia**

This session designed is to highlight the developments in Central Asia that merit attention by the analytical community. These issues include key political and security trends that impact not only the region itself, but potentially have ramifications for the wider Asia Pacific.

1230 – 1400 Lunch

1400 – 1530 **Concurrent Sessions**

- **Concurrent 5: Technology and the Battlefield: The Evolving Nature of Warfare**

From airpower to nuclear weapons to precision-guided munitions, technology radically shaped the use of armed force in the last century. This session will examine how technology continues to shape the threat and use of force through the emergence of autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and cyberspace. Have these systems altered the thresholds for the use of force? What are the ethical and legal issues that arise as a result of these systems? What does a future battlefield look like?

- **Concurrent 6: Future-Proofing against Violent Extremism**

The military battle against high-profile groups like Daesh in Syria, Iraq and the southern Philippines might have been won, but the war against violent extremism is far from over. While both security and reconstruction are vital for securing and rebuilding devastated conflict zones like Raqqa, Mosul, and Marawi, equally important is establishing an environment where extremist ideologies are unable to take root. What are the strategies pursued by the relevant stakeholders to achieve these goals? What are the factors required to establish resilient societies that could ward off the impacts of a potential terror attack in the future? What is the role of women in understanding and countering violent extremism?

1530 – 1600 Break

1600 – 1730 **Plenary 4: The State of the Region: The Future of APEC and Regional Economic Partnership Arrangements**

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) institution is fast approaching the deadline of “free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2020” (known as Bogor Goals). APEC must now critically reflect on its role in the evolving global and regional economic architecture. While discussions on the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) have been positive over the past few years, FTAAP still remains highly aspirational. Anti-globalisation and protectionist sentiments have raised much doubt about greater economic integration. Yet, a significant step

has been made in the agreement on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). This session will explore the key challenges and opportunities for the future of APEC and its new post-2020 vision. How can APEC remain relevant in the era of rising protectionist and anti-globalisation sentiments? What are the prospects for FTAAP, CPTPP, RCEP and other regional economic cooperation arrangements?

1730 – 1745 Closing remarks

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