## Agenda

**Dancing with elephants? Dealing with great power rivalries in Asia**

**13th Berlin Conference on Asian Security**

November 7 – 8, 2019  
Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Ludwigkirchplatz 3–4, 10719 Berlin

### Day 1, November 7

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<td>9.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration of Participants</td>
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| 9.15 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. | Welcome Remarks  
**Barbara Lippert**, Director of Research, SWP |
| 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. | **Session 1:** Where is Asia heading? Tales from the “grand chessboard”  
Chair: Felix Heiduk, SWP |
|               | “The End of the American Tributary System and the Return of the Chinese System?” (Khong Yuen Foong, National University of Singapore) |
|               | “Many players, many layers: The Indo-Pacific long game” (Rory Medcalf, Australian National University) |
|               | “From Globalization to Fragmentation? The Erosion of Confidence in the Asia-Pacific” (Rosemary Foot, University of Oxford) |
| 11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. | Coffee Break |
| 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. | **Session 2:** Alternative ideas and concepts of order in Asia  
Chair: Eric Ballbach, SWP |
|               | “Indonesia and Indo-Pacific: Seeking the Proper Response to Great Power Politics” (Shafiah F. Muhibat, Centre for Strategic and International Studies) |
|               | “Making Multilateralism Matter – Middle Powers in the era of the U.S.-China Competition” (Kim Joo Hee, Pukyong National University) |
|               | “Towards a New Sino-centric world order? How China Views Global order” (Jinghan Zeng, Lancaster University) |
| 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. | Lunch |
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| 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. | **Session 3:**
|               | What sort of regional order would be desirable from the perspective of small and middle powers – both in terms of foundational values as well as in terms of its structure?  
|               | (Buzz Groups followed by moderated plenary discussion)
|               | Facilitator: *Lars Brozus, SWP*                                        |
| 3.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. | Coffee Break                                                           |
| 3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. | **Session 4:**
|               | Balancing, bandwagoning, staying neutral, or hedging – or else? How to best approach Asia’s (changing) order?  
|               | Chair: *Alexandra Sakaki, SWP*                                         |
|               | ▪ “The ‘JAI’ (Japan-America-India) Trilateralism and China: Understanding the Undercurrents” (*Jagannath Panda*, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses)
|               | ▪ “From Appeasement to Soft Balancing? The Duterte Administration’s Shifting Policy on the South China Sea Imbroglio” (*Renato Cruz de Castro*, De La Salle University)
|               | ▪ “Institutional Platforms and Resources: ASEAN and Asia’s Large Power Mix” (*Alice D. Ba*, University of Delaware)
| 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. | **Wrap-up Day One**
|               | Facilitator: *Bart Gaens, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)* |
| 6.00 p.m. | Dinner |
## Day 2, November 8

### 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

**Session 5:**  
**A new great game, but with local rules?**  
Chair: Angshuman Choudhury, SWP (GIBSA Visiting Fellow) / Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

- “From ‘The Malay Dilemma’ to Malaysia’s Dilemmas: The Political Economy of Mahathir’s China Policy since May 2018” (Liu Hong, Nanyang Technological University)
- “Midfield or Margin? Myanmar and Neighbours in the Game” (Thi Thi Soe San, University of Mandalay)
- “The EU’s Connectivity Strategy towards Asia” (Ville Varjola, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland)

### 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

**Coffee Break:**  
“Sip and Chat” breakout sessions  
Facilitator: Felix Heiduk, SWP

### 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

**Session 6:**  
**Beyond sovereignty? Connectivity, infrastructure, and economic corridors**  
Chair: Kirsten Westphal, SWP

- “Security Order and State Transformation in Asia: Beyond Geopolitics and Grand Strategy” (Lee Jones, Queen Mary University of London)
- “The Idea of Connectivity in International Politics” (Nadine Godehardt, SWP)
- “Mekong Countries in the Context of the Connectivity Competition” (Thearith Leng, Asian Vision Institute)

### 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

**Lunch**

### 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

**Session 7:**  
**Stepping it up? How to (better) engage great powers?**  
Chair: Marco Overhaus, SWP

- “The Role of Domestic Political Constraints in Navigating Great Power Relations: The Case of South Korea” (Seo-Hyun Park, Lafayette College)
- “Dancing with Elephants: How to engage with major powers in new context” (Tran Viet Thai, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam)
- “Reflections on Sri Lanka’s Engagement with the US and China” (Ganeshan Wignaraja, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute)

### 3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

**Wrap-up**  
Facilitator: Hanns Maull, SWP
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