

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

**Emerging Security Order in
Asia Pacific and its Impact on
South Asia**

Organized by



Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

in Collaboration with



**Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Germany
(Pakistan Office)**

**Crystal Ballroom
Marriott Hotel, Islamabad**

November 17-18, 2015

Concept Note

The Asia Pacific region is in world focus for its growing political importance, its fast economic development, and its strategic position on the sea lines of communication (SLOCs). It has 60 per cent of the world population, a GDP of more than US \$40 trillion and hubs of economic power that now compete with the West. It has four sub-regions spanning the Asian continent bordering the Indian and Pacific oceans: Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania and South Asia. Its seas command the vital and busy pathways of maritime activity. Three of the most important straits Malacca, Sunda and Lombok situated here permit shipping of trade and energy vital to East and West. China's rise has added a new dimension to the region's geo-strategic importance.

Regional security order which is a complex combination of actors and factors is no longer associated exclusively with political and economic interdependence. The Asia Pacific region has undergone fundamental changes in its regional organization, security order, and power structure in the post-Cold War era. The region has become a powerhouse of global economic and geo-political transformation as part of Asian ascendance in comparison to the West which in general perception is no longer the world's centre of gravity. In popular opinion, the focus has shifted from the Atlantic to the Asia Pacific since the end of the Cold War. The accretion of military power that inevitably followed the region's economic growth is altering the balance of power within the region and between Asia and the West.

The key strategic issue today in East Asia is the rise of Chinese power. For nearly three decades the Chinese economy has been growing by 7 to 10 per cent annually. It is being doubled every decade. China's defence expenditure has risen by an even larger percentage. Chinese leaders assert China's "peaceful development", but analysts for long accustomed to power politics of the West have their doubts. They think China will exert its weight towards seeking hegemony in East Asia which might lead to conflict with the United States and Japan. Another factor which has tilted the balance of power is Japan's economic slowdown and relative decline in its influence in the region. To hedge against a possible security gap, countries of the region Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, Australia and others are boosting intra-regional bilateral defence diplomacy, selling military equipment to each other, and conducting joint military exercises, sponsored by the United States which views China's rapid growth with apprehension. This does not mean that the US is playing a back seat role in this strategy. Its decision to rebalance its forces so as to deploy 60 per cent of its combat ships in the Asia-Pacific region by 2020 did not come as a surprise. It has

built a web of strong alliances around China's periphery by developing cooperation with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and India. This proactive involvement of the US in the region and its unabashed propping up of its declared strategic partners in South Asia as a kind of "counter weight" to China only translates into what is generally and not so wrongly understood as its China containment policy. This has raised concerns in South Asia.

On its part, China is now attracting regional states with its economic power and is offering a competing vision of shared destinies in economic progress as a soft power to the US-centric "hub and spoke" system of alliances that was largely established in the post-World War II period. China's alternative is largely being constructed around trade relationships and diplomatic initiatives manifest in the East Asia Summit, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) + 3 forums, various Chinese bilateral free trade initiatives, and China's "charm" offensive.

As a result, a new web of power relations is emerging in Asia today inspired by China's rise and the perceived relative decline of the US. The countries of the region are bolstering mutual ties eclipsing the US-led model of alliances by a broader, more complicated and more diffused web of relationships in which Asian countries are the primary drivers. This developing web has provided an impetus to USA's new grand strategy in the region of leveraging relationships among like-minded countries to share the burden with the United States of managing China's rise and preserving a balance of power in the region. Yet the current dynamics of the US-China-Japan triangle will continue to daunt the region and may even confront the present cosy ASEAN-driven model of security with new challenges.

Closer to more real fault lines than the spectre of rising China is the South China Sea issue that will remain a bone of contention among China and the other claimants Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Vietnam on the one hand and between the US and China on the other. Lately Vietnam and the Philippines have also asserted their claims. ASEAN states are divided over the role of extra regional powers in the South China Sea. Some regional countries are leaning on the US to get more deeply involved but China is averse to any outside interference and wants to resolve the issue bilaterally.

The Asia Pacific region's diversity requires a security order of its own. China's "new concept of security" encourages economic interdependence and stresses on finding solutions of non-traditional security challenges like terrorism, environmental degradation, disaster management, water management, drug trafficking and health related issues.

Rising China due to its capacity and stakes in the region will continue to be the key player in such an order. This might strain the existing structure of regional relationships. The important question is how the region would address the competing

interests of China and the United States.

With the current emphasis on economics as the driving force in international relations, regional flashpoints such as territorial disputes in the South and East China Sea, Kashmir, Tibet and the North Korean nuclear issue tend to get overshadowed. But that does not lessen the danger they pose to regional security as they continue to cause tension and mar growth of bilateral relations.

For South Asia, the strategic shift from Eurasia to Asia Pacific has become an urgent concern in the wake of withdrawal of US-led forces from Afghanistan. Geographically, Pakistan is important for trade and commerce between South and Central Asia, East and West Asia. In its efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan, Pakistan has been contributing significantly to establishing a new security model in the region. Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan constitute a relevant regional power base in this respect. Pakistan can give practical shape to her proposal of providing “connectivity” to ASEAN via western China and Central Asian Republics by both land and sea through the Gwadar Port and the prospective China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which is introducing a new and positive dimension to the emerging Asia Pacific scenario.

Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation, Islamabad Office is organizing an international conference on “Emerging Security Order in Asia Pacific and its Impact on South Asia” in Islamabad, Pakistan on 17-18 November 2015. The conference will discuss current policies of regional actors, future security developments, emerging alliances and suggest options for Pakistan to play its due role in the dynamics of Asia Pacific politics.

Besides Pakistan, scholars from Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and the US are being invited to present their views.

Inaugural Session

Tuesday, November 17, 2015

- 0900-0945 hrs **Registration**
- 0945-0950 hrs **Recitation from the *Holy Quran***
- 0950-0955 hrs **Welcome Address**
Ambassador Sohail Amin
President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)
Islamabad
- 0955-1000 hrs **Opening Remarks**
Mr Kristof Duwaerts
Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation
(HSF), Pakistan Office, Islamabad
- 1000-1020 hrs **Inaugural Address by the Chief Guest**
Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed
Chairman, Senate Committee on Defence & Defence
Production and Parliamentary Committee on China-
Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)
- Presentation of Mementos**
- 1020-1025 hrs **Group Photo**
- 1025-1040 hrs **Refreshments**

Session I: Overview of Emerging Security Order in Asia Pacific

Chairperson	Mr Inamul Haque Former Minister & Secretary of Foreign Affairs Chairman, Board of Governors, IPRI
Paper I 1040-1055 hrs	Emerging Trends in the Security Architecture in Asia Pacific <i>Ambassador (R) Shamshad Ahmed</i> <i>Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan</i>
Paper II 1055-1110 hrs	South China Sea in ASEAN-US-China Relations <i>Mr Bunn Nagara, Senior Fellow</i> <i>Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)</i> <i>Malaysia</i>
Paper III 1110-1125 hrs	US-Japan -China- Russia Relations: Conflict and Cooperation in Asia Pacific <i>Mr Takaaki Asano, Research Fellow</i> <i>Tokyo Foundation, Japan</i>
Paper IV 1125-1140 hrs	US Policy Towards South Asia <i>Dr Stephen P. Cohen</i> <i>Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution, USA</i>
1140-1210 hrs	Discussion and Remarks by the Chair Presentation of Mementos

Session II: Rising China and US Re-engagement in Asia Pacific

Chairperson	Maj. Gen. Noel I. Khokhar Director General, Institute for Strategic Studies Research and Analysis (ISSRA)
Paper I	Rising China and Regional Stability: South Asian Perspective
1210-1225 Hrs	<i>Mr Ameen Izzadeen, Deputy Editor Sunday Times, Sri Lanka</i>
Paper II	Advancing Defence Cooperation in Asia Pacific and the US Rebalancing Strategy: The Reality of an American-Indian Strategic Partnership
1225-1240 hrs	<i>Dr David R. Jones, Visiting Faculty, School of Politics & International Relations (SPIR), Quaid-i-Azam University Islamabad</i>
Paper III	Conflict and Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific: Indian Perspective
1240-1255 hrs	<i>Dr Swaran Singh, Prof & Chair, Center for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi</i>
Paper IV	Conflict and Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific: Pakistani Perspective
1255-1310 hrs	<i>Dr Rizwan Nasser, Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations COMSATS, Islamabad, Pakistan</i>
1310-1340 hrs	Discussion and Remarks by the Chair
	Presentation of Mementos
1340 hrs	Lunch

Session III: Regional Connectivity and Trade in Asia Pacific

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

0900-0940 hrs

Registration

Chairperson

Ambassador (R) Fauzia Nasreen
Member IPRI Board of Governors and Advisor
Center for Policy Studies, COMSATS Institute of
Information Technology, Islamabad

Paper I

ASEAN and Geopolitics of the Trans-Pacific
Partnership Agreement (TPPA)

0940-0955 hrs

Dr Fazal-ur-Rahman, Executive Director
Pakistan Council on China, Islamabad

Paper II

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: An Opportunity
for Regional Prosperity

0955-1010 hrs

Dr Liu Zongyi, Research Fellow, Institute for World
Economic Studies and Centre for Asia Pacific Studies,
Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)
Shanghai, China

Paper III

Revitalising SAARC for Economic Prosperity

1010-1025 hrs

Mr Javed Jabbar, Former Federal Minister for
Information & Broadcasting, Chairman, J.J.
Media (Pvt.) Ltd. & Project One (Pvt.) Ltd.

1025-1100 hrs

Discussion and Remarks by the Chair

Presentation of Mementos

1100-1120 hrs

Refreshments

Session IV: Power Politics in the Asia Pacific: Implications for South Asia

Chairperson	Ambassador Ali Sarwar Naqvi Executive Director Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) Islamabad
Paper I 1120-1135 hrs	India as a Linchpin of US Strategy in Asia Pacific and Policy Options for Pakistan <i>Mr Majid Ali Noonari</i> <i>Area Study Centre, Far East & Southeast Asia</i> <i>University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan</i>
Paper II 1135-1150 hrs	Geo strategic Competition in the Asia Pacific Region and Security Implications for South Asia <i>Dr Sinderpal Singh, Senior Research Fellow</i> <i>Institute of South Asian Studies</i> <i>National University of Singapore</i>
Paper III 1150-1205 hrs	Major Powers' Interests in Asia Pacific: A Way Forward for Building a Cooperative Security Order in the Region <i>H.E. Sun Weidong</i> <i>Ambassador</i> <i>Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Islamabad</i>
Paper IV 1205-1220 hrs	Building a Cooperative Security Order for Asia Pacific: A way Forward <i>H.E. Ms Margaret Adamson</i> <i>High Commissioner, High Commission of Australia,</i> <i>Islamabad</i> <i>(To be confirmed)</i>
1220-1250 hrs	Discussion and Remarks by the Chair Presentation of Mementos

Concluding Session

- 1250-1300 hrs **Presentation of Conference Recommendations
by an IPRI Scholar**
- 1300-1320 hrs **Concluding Address by the Chief Guest**
His Excellency Mr. Sartaj Aziz
Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 1320-1330 hrs **Concluding Remarks**
Mr. Kristof Duwaerts
Resident Representative
Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF)
Pakistan Office, Islamabad
- 1330-1340 hrs **Vote of Thanks**
Ambassador Sohail Amin
President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)
Islamabad
- Presentation of Mementos**
- 1340-1345 hrs **Group Photo**
- 1345 hrs **Lunch**

Notes



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