

Navigating the New Geopolitics of Asia and Global Order of Tomorrow

A regional programme by FES Asia

In 2023, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Asia expanded the regional programme *Navigating the New Geopolitics of Asia and Global Order of Tomorrow*. We brought together experts and thought leaders across Asia and Europe to our foresight and scenario building labs, which paved way for constructive dialogue and innovative approaches to understand ways to navigate geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges. We also continue to use multiple formats and platforms to present our reports, interviews, and policy recommendations.

AT A GLANCE



In 2023, FES in Asia has brought together and engaged over **200 stakeholders from 20 countries**. They represented a wide-range of backgrounds, including key thought leaders, policy makers, members of parliament, academics, and journalists. We also created the **FES Asia Newsletter** to update and engage with our network.



We continued to build the **FES Asia Strategic Foresight Group**. This year, we organized a dialogue programme, bringing our network to **Berlin**, Germany with the aim to create mutual understanding and an opportunity to exchange ideas between thought leaders from Asia and key interlocutors from government, parliament and think tanks in Germany. The members' policy recommendations on how to **enhance Germany's engagement in Indo-Pacific** (C. Raja Mohan, Chung Moon In, and Yeo Lay Hwee) were published on our website.



FES in Asia launched a series of scenario building labs and organized **two national and one regional policy labs**, working in close collaboration with FES country offices and partners from across Asia. The labs were executed in partnership with the **Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Executive Education Singapore Futures Team**.



We discussed ways to navigate challenges and explored partnership opportunities in the realm of **Economic Security with experts in South Korea**.



We also convened a **regional conference of Geopolitics Coordinators in Asia**. Working closely with experts in the field, we aimed to create a better understanding among our peers.



In our video series **Geopolitical & Geoeconomic trends and the impact on specific countries**, we asked 5 experts from Indo-Pacific region to share their assessments of geopolitical and geoeconomic trends and the impacts on their countries. We also have an **exclusive interview** with an expert from Myanmar on the country's shifted geopolitical posture after the coup in 2021.



We published three **Asian perspectives on the Asian Monetary Fund (Japan, Malaysia, China)** as part of our policy paper series. We explored the geopolitical and geoeconomic impacts of de-dollarization and the background to the rekindled appetite for such an institution in the Indo-Pacific region. These papers were presented for discussion among our network over a webinar.

PLATFORMS FOR NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EXCHANGE

FES ASIA STRATEGIC FORESIGHT GROUP

The FES Asia Strategic Foresight Group (ASFG), established in 2021, is an interdisciplinary pan-Asian network of thought leaders, decision makers, and experts from 20 countries. This platform encourages insightful exchange of ideas and viewpoints on the future of Indo-Pacific & Europe.

2-DAY REGIONAL GEOPOLITICS LAB



FES Asia convened a 2-day regional lab (30-31 May) in Bangkok, Thailand. The lab attracted over 20 participants from Indo-Pacific countries. Participants jointly analyzed geopolitical and geoeconomic trends, to come up with strategic options that best suited the region towards peace and development.

Read the report [here](#).

INFORMATION AND DIALOGUE PROGRAMME



The dialogue programme in Berlin (12-15 June) created a platform for German decision-makers and Asian thought leaders to share insights and explore ways to strengthen Germany's engagement in the Indo-Pacific region. The delegation visit included experts from Thailand, Pakistan, India, South Korea and Indonesia. This presented a unique opportunity to enhance potential cooperation between Germany and the Indo-Pacific region.

The ASFG members C. Raja Mohan, Chung Moon In, and Yeo Lay Hwee shared their thoughts and recommendations around how Germany can engage with Asian partners across a range of initiatives.

Shafia Muhibat and Chung Moon In were among the delegation interviewed by International Politics and Society magazine (IPS).

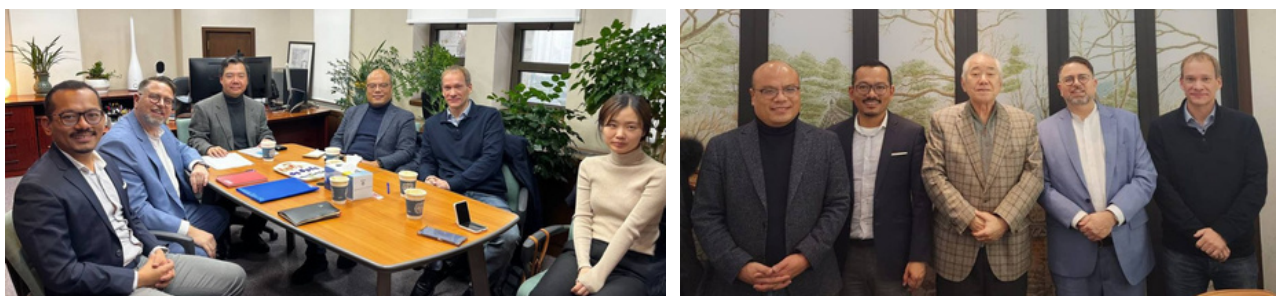
FES STRATEGY AND FORESIGHT LABS



More than 100 thought leaders, decision makers, and experts participated in the Scenario Building and Policy Labs over the course of the year. The lab provided a platform for dialogue and foresight-based policy exploration, allowing participants to consider the major internal and external geopolitical and geoeconomic dynamics that might affect their country and develop scenarios which in turn helped them consider policy options for the future.

This year, two national labs were convened in joint partnership between FES country offices, FES Asia regional programme, and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy: India National Lab (26-27 July) and Nepal (27-28 September).

SOUTH KOREA AND THE NEW GEOPOLITICS OF ASIA



FES Asia visit to South Korea was an opportunity to strengthen and expand the network in the country while allowing the team to introduce our programme to key interlocutors. We engaged with thought leaders and experts in South Korea to find collaborative approaches and explore partnerships towards Economic Security ways in the midst of many geopolitical challenges.

VIDEOS

We interviewed ASFG members from five countries and asked them to explain key geopolitical and geoeconomic trends and how they impact on their countries: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Korea. We also had the opportunity to do an exclusive interview with the ASFG member Min Zin, Executive Director of the Institute for Strategy and Policy (ISP) to explore the shift in Myanmar's geopolitical posture after the 2021 coup.



ARTICLES

Bridging the gap: To become partners, Europe and Asia need a better understanding of each other

Marc Saxer explores the controversial debate over the appropriate answer to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has laid open a disconnect between the West and many countries in the Global South.

A geoeconomic tsunami

Marc Saxer opines that the reorganization of the world economy is in full swing. In this piece, he argues that to survive, not only companies but entire nations need to adapt their development models

India and Germany: Potential for collaborations towards a secure Indo-Pacific region

Prof C. Raja Mohan looks at India's changing approach to China and reviews the possibilities for cooperation between India and Germany in reshaping Asian security and reordering the relations between Europe and Asia.

A Singaporean perspective on the EU's and Germany's engagement with China

Singapore is significantly intertwined with both US and China - even as the rivalry between them increases. Dr Yeo Lay Hwee shares her observations on Singapore's geopolitical posture and locates it in the context of the EU and Germany China strategy. She offers several ideas that can build on the partnership with their Indo-Pacific partners.

US-China strategic rivalry, South Korea's strategic choices, and implications for German and South Korea cooperation

The US-China strategic rivalry has placed South Korea in a difficult position. Prof Chung-in Moon takes a look at the country's domestic debates and contending strategic options in response to these challenges. He draws implications for German-South Korean cooperation with specific suggestions for German foreign policy.

The rekindled appetite for an Asian Monetary Fund: The Perspective from Japan

The idea of an Asian Monetary Fund has been regaining traction among the economies of the Indo-Pacific region, nearly 30 years since it was proposed by Japan as a response to the region's 1997 financial crisis. Some of the arguments in favour remain; but much of the context has shifted, with Japan in particular no longer as keen to play standard-bearer to the project.

The rekindled appetite for an Asian Monetary Fund: A Malaysia perspective

The idea to set up an Asian Monetary Fund (AMF) has been revived after 30 years by Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim amid increasing worries about overreliance on the US dollar in the region. The US federal reserve's rate hikes reminding analysts of the 1997 Asian financial crisis has added credence. However, others will argue that stabilization measures have been put in place in the ASEAN region and there are multiple factors and driving forces behind the proposal.

The rekindled appetite for an Asian Monetary Fund: A China perspective

The renewed interest in an Asian Monetary Fund is a continuation of existing regional currency cooperation since the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Rising geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and US interest rate hikes has greatly exacerbated economic vulnerabilities among trade-dependent Asian countries and therefore a search for alternative mechanisms. While some argue this is an attempt at de-dollarization and an attempt by China to locate the renminbi as the global currency of exchange, the reality may be more nuanced.

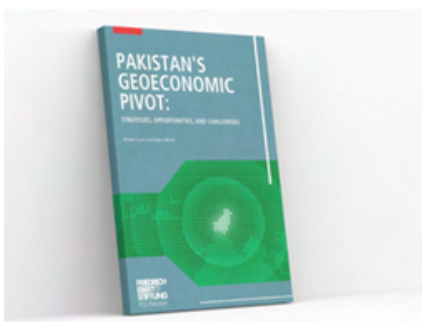
PUBLICATIONS



China and its central bank digital currency
Felix Klein and Nadim Baker



The transitioning security order in the Indo-Pacific
Rajeshwari Krishnamurthy and Richard Ghiasy



Pakistan's geoeconomic pivot: Strategies, opportunities, and challenges
Moeed Yusuf and Rabia Akhtar



China's international development cooperation: History, development finance apparatus, and case studies from Africa
Marina Rudyak

For more publications by our FES country offices throughout the region, [visit their websites](#).

CONTACT

Marc Saxer
Director
FES Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia
marc.saxer@fes.de

Stefan Pantekoek
Desk Officer
Asia Division, FES Berlin
stefan.pantekoek@fes.de

Dinkim Sailo
Senior Programme Manager
FES Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia
dinkim.sailo@fes.de



Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the oldest political foundation in Germany, is committed to the advancement of socio-political and economic development in the spirit of social democracy, through civic education, research, and international cooperation.

© 2024 Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
Office for Regional Cooperation in Asia

Responsible:
Marc Saxer | Director
T: +66 22545456-57

asia.fes.de [f](#) FESinAsia [t](#) FESinAsia