

# Navigating the New Geopolitics of Asia and Global Order of Tomorrow

A regional programme by FES in Asia

2021 marked the launch of a new regional programme by FES: *Navigating the New Geopolitics of Asia and Global Order of Tomorrow*. It puts the spotlight on the rapidly changing geopolitical and geo-economic environment across the region and aims to unpack what this means for partners in Asia and Europe. In its inaugural year, the project has created an inclusive platform for constructive dialogue and innovative thinking, with thought leaders and a diverse set of stakeholders from 25 countries generating insights and policy recommendations in interactive formats.

## AT A GLANCE



Through the FES Asia Strategic Foresight Group, we established a **wide-ranging network of thought leaders** from Asia and Europe.



Within the last 12 months, FES in Asia has engaged over **200 stakeholders from 25 countries** through innovative formats that include **workshops, policy papers, vlogs, podcasts and interviews**.



We convened a total of three national and three regional policy labs, bringing together **30+ key partners and experts** in each. The labs were implemented in partnership with the **Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Executive Education Programme**.



In our new vlog **Unpacked: The European Union in the Indo-Pacific**, we asked 21 leading experts from Asia, Europe and the United States to share their assessments and expectations of the EU's new strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.



2021 also saw the return of our podcast **Disrupted Asia** for a second season. In 7 new episodes, we continued our conversation with leading experts about the rapidly changing geopolitical and geo-economic environment in the region.



We interviewed eminent analysts from India, Singapore and Thailand to examine the implications of the new security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (**#AUKUS**) for the region's security architecture.

## ESTABLISHING PLATFORMS FOR NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EXCHANGE

*Over 200 thought leaders from a wide variety of backgrounds came together in one high-level roundtable and five strategy & foresight labs to table recommendations for their countries' and the region's future development paths and to discuss innovative policy solutions that are aimed at jointly moving beyond a "zero sum" logic in the geopolitics of Asia.*



### HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE: A joint European Strategy for the Indo-Pacific? Perspectives from Asia and Europe

The kick-off event of our new regional FES initiative on 27 April 2021 focussed on the European Union's role in the Indo-Pacific and brought together key decision makers and senior experts to unpack the case for greater cooperation and share their expectations of the EU's role within the region. It marked the successful beginning of the project's goal to create structured avenues for exchanges between stakeholders from Asia and Europe and to discuss emerging geopolitical developments.

### FES ASIA STRATEGIC FORESIGHT GROUP

The FES Asia Strategic Foresight Group (ASFG), a new and interdisciplinary pan-Asian network of thought leaders from 20 countries, is a key driver of the analytical work. As a neutral platform for dialogue and strategy development with Asian and European partners, it provides insights, advice and outreach to strengthen the regional programme. To mark the inauguration of the ASFG, we hosted a virtual workshop on 17-18 May 2021 that discussed the most pressing geopolitical issues in the region. [Read the summary here.](#)

### STRATEGY AND FORESIGHT LABS

The project puts a special focus on the development paths and models of FES partner countries in Asia. To this end, a new series of national strategy & foresight labs provides a platform for dialogue and creative thinking. The labs allow participants to analyse their country's position within the regional geopolitical theatre, identify key dynamics and trends and develop scenarios as well as tailored policy options for the future. In 2021, three national labs were successfully convened in joint partnership between the FES country offices, FES Asia regional programme and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy: [Philippines](#) (16-17 June), [Bangladesh](#) (4-5 October) and [India](#) (29-30 November).

Our first [regional lab](#) on 22 July 2021 zoomed in on the pandemic, assessing the systemic implications of the corona crisis in four key areas shaping geopolitics in the region: Trade and supply chains, labour migration and social protection, vaccine diplomacy and health security, and the future of work. For each thematic field, participants took stock of the current state of affairs, discussed potential scenarios for the short and medium term and developed strategic options and policy recommendations.

*The analysis and policy insights from the regional and national labs were supplemented by innovative new outputs and formats that provided timely insights on the impact of fast moving and dynamic geopolitical developments.*

### VLOG: Unpacked – The European Union in the Indo-Pacific



The Indo-Pacific is widely considered the most important geopolitical theatre of the 21st century. The future international order, security, trade and the global economy will be decisively shaped in this region. The launch of Indo-Pacific strategies and guidelines by France, Germany and the Netherlands and the publication of a joint EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific speak to the strategic relevance of this vast space stretching from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific Island states.

3 minutes, 3 questions, 3 answers: We spoke with 21 leading experts from Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, and many other countries in Asia, as well as thought leaders in Europe and the United States, to unpack what the EU's announcements mean for the region in our vlog: [Watch here.](#)

### PODCAST: Disrupted Asia



In season two of our successful podcast series, we continued our discussion on some of the most pressing questions around the changing geopolitical environment and how this is shaping the global order of tomorrow. Throughout the year, we produced a total of seven podcast episodes, covering a wide range of important topics from vaccine diplomacy and the role of small and landlocked countries in the new geopolitics of Asia to the geopolitics of artificial intelligence and technology: [Listen here.](#)

### INTERACTIVE MAP: The New Geopolitics of Eurasia



Wider Eurasia has always been subject to great power rivalries. An interactive map by FES puts the often-confusing multitude of smaller clashes, economic projects and political alliances into the wider context of recent struggles over regional and global hegemony: [Explore here.](#)

### COMMENTARY: AUKUS and a new regional security balance



The publication of the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy coincided with the announcement of AUKUS, the new security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and United States, creating a flurry of geopolitical waves across the region and beyond. In three short interviews, we shared insights and analyses from thought leaders to put the complex strategic implications of these developments into perspective. Our experts from [India](#), [Singapore](#) and [Thailand](#) also shared their expectations for Germany's future foreign and defence policy after the recent elections.

## PUBLICATIONS



[The EU's New Trade Policy – An Autonomous Assertion of Strategic Objectives?](#)  
By Dr Steven Blockmans



[Supply Chains under Tension – The Impact of COVID-19](#)  
By FES Asia Regional Office jointly with the  
Singaporean-German Chamber of Commerce

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

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