



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

REGIONAL PROGRAMME
POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH ASIA
ACTIVITIES IN 2014



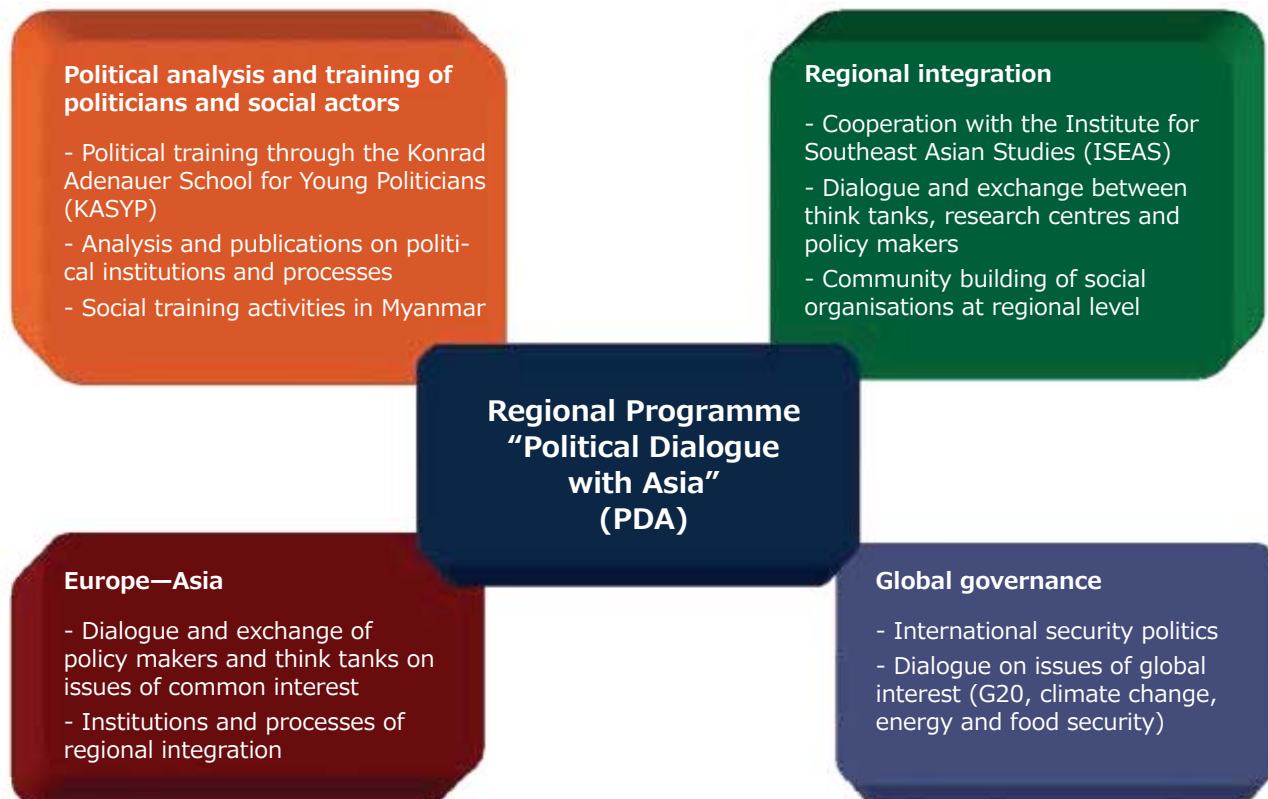
Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

THE KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (FOUNDATION)

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation of Germany. Its mission is to promote democracy, human rights, rule of law, social market economy, sustainable development, regional integration and international dialogue. Together with its local partners in more than 120 countries, the foundation offers civic education and political trainings, organises national and international conferences, conducts research, grants scholarships to students, and cultivates international understanding. With its international activities and projects, KAS makes a substantial contribution to international cooperation. It is named after the first Chancellor (Prime Minister) of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967).

The KAS regional office in Singapore comprises three regional programmes that focus on political dialogue, media development and the rule of law respectively. The Political Dialogue Programme (PDA) seeks to foster democratic processes, regional integration and international dialogue between Asia and Europe.

PDA's main activities include training programmes for members of political parties and civil society organisations, political dialogue between parliamentarians and politicians within Asia and between Asia and Europe, intellectual exchange between representatives from leading think tanks from Europe and Asia, political analysis of and consultancy for political institutions, and conferences on key issues for international understanding and global governance. In Singapore, KAS cooperates closely with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in organising events that further regional integration within ASEAN. PDA also supports the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT) in its efforts to promote regional cooperation and integration among the member states of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) located in Kathmandu, Nepal. Resulting from this broad range of activities, the foundation publishes books and papers as well as the bi-annual journal *Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs*.



WELCOME TO OUR 2014 ACTIVITIES REPORT

The year 2014 has been full of ambiguous political events and developments in Asia. On the one hand, we observed the electoral processes in the two most populous Asian democracies, India and Indonesia, which produced in both countries a change of government. And we have also been witnesses to the very impressive elections in Afghanistan, with a high turnout of voters who resisted the threats of terrorists. The increased number of women who participated in these elections is especially remarkable. Undoubtedly, the elections in India, Indonesia and Afghanistan affirm that the vast majority of people in Asia want to have free and fair elections; they want to select their governments and they want to have a say on the priorities of government policies. Democracy based on the universal concept of human rights and the recognition of political and civic liberties is an integral part of Asian values. On the other hand however, we also have to acknowledge the shortcomings or even the complete break with democratic processes in some countries in the continent. In Thailand, for instance, a military coup has again interrupted the democratic process. Even in countries where elections are traditionally held under unfree and unfair conditions, the ruling parties nevertheless acknowledge that they need democratic legitimacy. But even in democratic countries, there are cases of mismanagement, corruption, and lack of transparency and accountability. Wherever this happens, it is unfortunate when the aspirations of the people for democratic and transparent governance are disappointed by their rulers.



The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's (KAS) regional programme "Political Dialogue with Asia" (PDA) aims to contribute to the analysis and dialogue on issues of political development, and regional and international relations in Asia. Our programme focuses on political issues because politics is about organising societies, decisions on policies, promotion of sustainable development, and enhancement of regional and international cooperation, security and stability.

KAS is guided by the belief that politics must be based on values that undergird ideas, political projects and decisions. Politics also requires institutions, which provide the framework for public debate and participation in decision-making processes. With our regional programme, we seek to address these different levels of politics by organising forums that foster dialogue about political values, visions, institutions and processes. In the same vein, we try to contribute to the training of future political leaders.

With our small team in Singapore we have carried out a substantive number of activities and programmes across Asia and Europe in the course of 2014. We present the major ones in this brochure. Although the scope of our activities is limited we very much hope that we can offer added value to national, regional and international understanding and cooperation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wilhelm Hofmeister".

Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister



1. Political Education and Training Programme

KONRAD ADENAUER SCHOOL FOR YOUNG POLITICIANS (KASYP)

Political parties are the link between state and society. Ideally, political parties are responsible for selecting political candidates, forming government leadership, representing civic interests and developing the national agenda. Parties play a crucial role in sustaining and consolidating the democratic political order.

With the aim of strengthening political parties, we started the “Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians” (KASYP) as a regional project in Asia. KASYP is a two-year training programme for young members of political parties. KASYP seeks to groom young political leaders who will take the lead in advancing the responsiveness and accountability of political parties. The training programme is designed to enable participants to enhance their theoretical knowledge of political theories and concepts as well as their practical skills for political action and responsibilities, and, not least, professionalizing their respective political parties. With increased skills and competencies, KASYP participants shall make a difference within their political parties and ultimately in their respective countries.

In February 2014, KASYP started the programme for the fifth batch of participants, which included young political leaders from the Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, India, Timor-Leste and Pakistan, who will attend training courses in 2014 and 2015. In addition to new knowledge and experience on political parties, these courses offer a unique opportunity to meet like-minded young people from other countries, foster friendships across borders and enable participants to share a common vision on building Asia’s democratic future. The training programme covers topics such as the functions and organisation of political parties, strategic political project planning, political communication, local development and electoral campaigning. The two-year training programme concludes with a study trip to Germany, where the young politicians from Asia can learn about political party organisation and local politics in this European country.



KASYP Inception Training (5th Batch)

POLITICAL PARTIES: FUNCTIONS AND ORGANISATION IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES

Yangon, Myanmar, 3-8 February 2014

The first session of the 5th batch of the Konrad Adenauer School for Young Politicians (KASYP) took place in Yangon, Myanmar. The aim of this workshop was to give the participants an insight into the functions of political parties in democratic societies and to familiarise them with a modern party structure. Important topics of politics like democracy, parties and parliaments, human rights, leadership, political communication, political power and ethics were covered in the programme. We also had two young politicians, Mr. Lee Chean Chung and Mr. Erik Bertram, share their experiences of being young political leaders. The training programme concluded with a two-day workshop on strategic political party planning and introduction to project management.

KASYP Third Training Session (4th Batch)

ELECTIONS AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-29 March 2014

During this workshop, the participants were introduced to different electoral systems, the election process in general and campaigning in democracies. Speakers and participants took a close look at past elections in Germany, Malaysia and the United States as well as the upcoming elections in Indonesia, and deliberated on different campaign strategies and planning. In workshop sessions, German young politicians Dr. Mario Voigt and Mark Hauptmann shared their experiences in developing campaign strategies while Mr. Yong Kai Ping gave an introduction to the role of social media in electoral campaigning.



KASYP Second Training Session (5th Batch)

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

Singapore, 27-30 August 2014

This workshop addressed the topic of decentralisation and its importance for effective local government and politics. In this context the participants were shown that local governance is an important condition for sustainable development. Participants were introduced to the theoretical background and overview of local governance, decentralisation and the current state of affairs in Asia. The participants also met and heard from practitioners like Mr. Jolovan Wham, from the Humanitarian Organisation of Migration Economics, and Ms Louisa May-Khoo, from the Centre for Liveable Cities, on several political initiatives at the grassroots and state planning level in regards to social policy making and urban planning in Singapore respectively. Site visits to various national agencies, such as the Singapore City Gallery at the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the ENVision Gallery at the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) and the NEWater Visitor Centre at the Public Utilities Board (PUB), deepened the insights gained concerning local politics and development in Singapore.



KASYP Fourth Training Session (4th Batch)

KASYP GERMANY SEMINAR 2014 – “POLITICAL PARTY ORGANISATION AND LOCAL POLITICS IN GERMANY”

Berlin and Erfurt, 7-13 September 2014

The fourth batch concluded their KASYP programme with a study tour to Germany. In Berlin, the participants were introduced to the socio-political history of Germany and its “social market economy” model as well as the role and importance of the European Union and its principles of “subsidiarity” and “solidarity”, which laid the context for discussions for the forthcoming days. The participants visited and interacted with various political actors in Berlin, including the Bundestag (Federal Parliament), CDU Federal Headquarters, Jungen Union Federal headquarters, and Berlin Senate for Integration and Migration. In Erfurt, the participants similarly visited and engaged with the State Secretary, City Council Chairman as well as municipality service providers, so as to learn about the German model of local governance. The final part of the KASYP programme in Germany was a trip to Apolda, to attend a campaign rally with Chancellor Angela Merkel. This was a good note to formally conclude the KASYP programme for our fourth batch of participants as they experienced all the different aspects of governance in Germany and met with various political actors who were able to provide informative insights into the work that they and their organisations undertake.



KASYP Alumni Meeting

“REGIONAL INTEGRATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY IN ASIA”

Penang, Malaysia, 27-30 November 2014



The KASYP alumni meet was held in Penang with over 40 participants from Batch 1 to Batch 4 attending. The main objective of the KASYP alumni meet was to create informed politicians who are the main drivers of the KASYP programme, and who may eventually address cross-border issues impacting countries through this network. The alumni meet began with an invigorating keynote speaker session with Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who presented the keynote speech “The Future of Asian Values”. Issues concerning regionalism, the geostrategic context of Southeast Asia, the ASEAN

Charter, the ASIAN Community and its three pillars, sustainable growth and youth unemployment, migration, and new media and its digital transformation were discussed. The participants also had a site visit to the Penang state government office where they held a dialogue with the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister of Penang. KASYP alumni from India, Korea, Cambodia and Myanmar presented on democracy, good governance and regional integration. The meeting concluded with a look at EU-Asia relations and reiterated the need for continuous engagement between both regions in trade and other policy areas.



2. Regional Co-operation and Integration

COOPERATION WITH INSTITUTE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES (ISEAS)

The Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) is a regional research centre dedicated to the study of socio-political, security and economic trends and developments in Southeast Asia and its wider geostrategic and economic environment. The aim of the institute is to nurture a community of scholars interested in the region and to engage in research on the multi-faceted dimensions and issues of stability and security, economic development, and political, social and cultural change. The intention is not only to stimulate research and debate within scholarly circles, but also to enhance public awareness of the region and facilitate the search for viable solutions to the varied problems confronting the region. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has been collaborating with ISEAS for over twenty years by annually sponsoring a series of ISEAS activities that promote Southeast Asia's regional integration.

PROJECT WITH THE CAMBODIAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION AND PEACE

The Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) is an independent, neutral, and non-partisan research institute based in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. CICP promotes both domestic and regional dialogue between government officials, national and international organizations, scholars, and the private sector on issues of peace, democracy, civil society, security, foreign policy, conflict resolution, economics and national development.

In 2014, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung cooperated with the CICP in the realisation of a series of events in Phnom Penh. Beside a series of public lectures on Cambodian foreign policies and regional processes in ASEAN, CICP organised two international conferences which were aimed at analysing issues of relevance for Cambodia and its neighbours.



Regional Conference on “ASEAN Community 2015 and Beyond: Cambodia’s Preparedness and Challenges”
21-22 August 2014



Regional Conference on “The Future of CLMV: Challenges and Responses to Water, Food and Energy Security”
3-4 April 2014

COOPERATION WITH THE CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES AND THE CONSORTIUM OF SOUTH ASIAN THINK TANKS

The Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS) is a fully independent, non-political, secular, research think tank based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It organizes conferences and conducts research in the areas of South Asian regional cooperation, peace and conflict in South Asia, non-proliferation of small arms, trade and connectivity and strategic issues concerning South Asian countries as well as Nepal's conduct of international relations. CSAS is a member of the Consortium of South Asian Think Tanks (COSATT), which brings together leading think tanks in South Asia to foster cooperation in the region.

In 2014, the PDA programme of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung cooperated with CSAS and COSATT to organise various regional events and publish several books. These activities were aimed at promoting mutual understanding and fostering regional cooperation in South Asia.

International Conference

THE EUROPEAN ELECTION: LEADERSHIP CHANGES - CHALLENGES AND IMPACT ON EU'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Singapore, 8 May 2014

Prior to the European elections in May 2014, KAS assembled a panel of experts to discuss the challenges and impact of the elections on the EU's external relations. The event was conducted in cooperation with the EU Centre. Distinguished speakers in the panel analysed the various issues being faced by the EU, primarily the Eurozone economics, the crisis in Ukraine, negotiations for a EU-US Free Trade Agreement and bi-lateral US-EU relations, which were overshadowed by mistrust because of the spying scandal. The panel discussion offered a very good analysis and insights into the actual challenges and developments of the European Union.

International Conference

28TH ASIA-PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-4 June 2014

The Asia-Pacific Roundtable (APR) is a regional forum hosted by the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia since 1987. The APR brings together senior government officials and representatives from think tanks, universities, and the media to discuss the major security challenges confronting the Asian region. Prime Minister Razak of Malaysia addressed the audience and officially opened the 2014 APR. This year the Roundtable focused on the profound shifts in the region's strategic landscape as well as several issues that elevated the risks for regional security. The political situations in Myanmar, India, Indonesia and Japan were reviewed. Furthermore, the ASEAN 2015 agenda and the maritime problems in the South China Sea were discussed.



International Conference

16TH ASIA-EUROPE THINK TANKS' DIALOGUE ON "ASEM: THE WAY FORWARD"

Singapore, 5-7 June 2014

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is a bi-annual summit for dialogue and cooperation among the political leaders of 51 states from Asia and Europe, the European Union and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between our two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) Philippines, the EU Centre in Singapore and the Foundation for International Relations and Foreign Dialogue (FRIDE) jointly organised a dialogue on "ASEM: The Way Forward". This event gathered the heads and senior representatives of major think tanks and institutes in the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, as well as experts and opinion shapers on both sides, to debate the key issues concerning EU-Asia-Pacific relations and the role and future of ASEM. The aim of the event was to contribute a set of recommendations to the ongoing debates on the relevance of ASEM and propose ideas on reinventing ASEM and its agenda.



International Conference

ASIAN WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIAN CONFERENCE 2014 ON "WOMEN, POLICY AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP"

Singapore, 16- 17 October 2014

The aim of this conference was to create a regional caucus for women parliamentarians in Asia who will meet bi-annually to promote, strengthen and develop female political leadership in the region – through policy discussions or capacity-building workshops. Therefore, in collaboration with the Singapore Committee for UN Women, this year the conference brought together parliamentarians from 18 different Asian countries to discuss thematic policy issues on how to strengthen female leadership in Asia. The parliamentarians discussed various policies pertaining to the increasing vulnerabilities of women in Asia as well as the development of instruments of change and strategies in response to these issues with leading practitioners in the respective fields. The conference culminated with a workshop for participants to hone their individual strengths in topics such as communications and policy analysis.



International Workshop

"MYANMAR'S REFORMS: ACHIEVING PROGRESS THROUGH DEMOCRACY"

Myanmar, 16-18 January 2014

This workshop was organised by the Myanmar Institute for Security and International Studies (MISIS) in co-operation with the ASEAN ISIS network – the umbrella group comprising think tanks from all ASEAN countries. Representatives from all ASEAN countries first reviewed the political and economic developments in Myanmar, and Myanmar's role as the ASEAN Chair for 2014. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar also participated in this conference. This opportunity was fully utilised as the delegates put forward their questions and gathered required information from the officials. The controversies in the South China Sea due to the new territorial claims by China, the role of the United States, the rivalry between China and the United States, and the future of the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Community and ASEAN Charter were other issues that were discussed by the delegates.

International Workshop

NATO-ASIA-PACIFIC DIALOGUE – “COOPERATIVE SECURITY IN A NEW STRATEGIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT”

Seoul, South Korea, 24-25 June 2014

The NATO-Asia-Pacific Dialogue has been held annually since 2011. It offers the opportunity for confidence building and sharing of information and analyses, and contributes to the construction of efficient and durable security alliances between NATO, and its member countries, and countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Trans-regional cooperation on common security concerns is gaining in importance for each continent and therefore strategic cooperation has become imperative and a prerequisite for the development of cooperative measures and sustainable security frameworks. NATO and the EU need to ensure that their participation in Asia goes beyond the economic sphere and both have to become more integrated into political discussions at the regional level.

International Workshop

THE ASEAN CHARTER REVISITED – THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FUTURE OF THE ASEAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3-6 July 2014

This workshop was conducted in cooperation with the local civil society organisation to discuss the relevance of the ASEAN Charter, its implementation and arguments for its adjustment in view of the creation of the ASEAN Community. Special reference was paid to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). The workshop concluded with the participants drafting some recommendations for the official deliberation on the reform of the ASEAN Charter.

International Workshop

“HUMAN SECURITY IN ASIA: SHARING EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR VIETNAM”

Hanoi, Vietnam, 11-12 November 2014

“Human security” is a policy framework for addressing widespread and cross-cutting current and emerging threats that have an impact on the security and well-being of individuals and communities. The added value of the human security approach is increasingly recognized by governments and civil society groups. The United Nations acknowledged the usefulness of this concept and its Human Security Unit approved a “Strategic Plan” for the years 2014–17, in which several principles and goals have been defined. During a workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam, international experts deliberated about the concept of human security and its application for policies in Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries to achieve progress in some of the main areas of human security. A special session of the workshop was dedicated to analysing regional cooperation, and identifying areas and approaches for closer cooperation among the CMLV countries (Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam) because no country can provide and guarantee human security outside of a regional context.

Policy Panel

POLICY PANEL ON MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

with Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Singapore, 25 March 2014

In cooperation with the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and National University of Singapore, a panel of policy-makers and experts, including Prof. Dr. Maria Böhmer, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany; Mr. Zainudin Nordin, Chairman of OnePeople.sg and member of parliament, Republic of Singapore; and Dr. Lai Ah Eng, Adjunct Senior Fellow, University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore, discussed issues concerning migrants' integration in Germany and Singapore. As both Germany and Singapore are facing common problems in terms of demographic change, the approaches taken by Germany and Singapore were examined. The main focus was on how to ensure the successful integration of migrants. The impact of disintegration and closed labour markets and the challenges to be overcome in the integration front were also discussed.

Public Debate and Book Launch

MORE THAN A GAME: SPORTS, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

A book launch cum public debate was held on 11 June, a day before the official opening of the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. The intricacies of the sports arena and its impact on society and politics were the main topics of the debate. His Excellency Luís Fernando de Andrade Serra, the Brazilian ambassador to Singapore, opened the event and also elaborated on the effects of the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Experts from the region and Europe further discussed the inter-linkages between sports and politics and its impacts on society. This was followed by the launch of the book.



PUBLICATIONS

PANORAMA: INSIGHTS INTO ASIAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Issue 2014/1

MORE THAN A GAME: SPORTS, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

This issue of *Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs* explored the relationship between sports and politics and the impact it has on societies globally. Although the adage says that sports and politics do not mix, sports is actually more than just games. Sports and sporting events serve a wide variety of political purposes, ranging from being a supposed symbol for peace to a staging ground for rivalries at the local, regional, national and international levels.

Issue 2014/2

EUROPE – SURGING FORWARD

Has Europe failed? If one reads some of the critical comments of recent years, this impression may actually arise. Does all this together mean that the project of ever-closer European union is unrealistic, and that EU member states should instead rely more on national forces again and seek to step away from integration into common European structures and institutions? In this issue of *Panorama: Insights into Asian and European Affairs*, authors from various European countries analysed European integration and the European Union from their respective points of view.



3. EU-Asia Dialogue: Shaping a Common Future for Europe and Asia

The “EU-Asia Dialogue” project aims to enhance exchange and understanding between policy-makers, non-governmental organisations and researchers from Europe and Asia.

The three-year project was started in January 2012 and deals with seven topics which are of concern to both regions. Each cluster includes a research period and takes a practical, rather than theoretical, approach that will help to formulate policy recommendations.

Various conferences, policy dialogues and briefings took place in various countries of both continents, the results of which were disseminated and these enabled direct exchange between relevant stakeholders. Discussions were fostered not only between the regions but also between the two key target groups – policy-makers and researchers.

The “EU-Asia Dialogue” project is co-funded by the European Union and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. All activities are implemented by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Singapore and its partners: the East Asian Institute of the National University of Singapore, the European Policy Centre in Brussels, as well as the EU Centre in Singapore. For more information please visit www.eu-asia-eu.



Policy Dialogue

CLIMATE CHANGE DIPLOMACY AND ECO-CITIES

Yangon, Myanmar, 4-5 September 2014

A landmark conference took place on 4-5 September in Yangon, Myanmar, to enhance discussions between European and Asian partners on “Climate Diplomacy and Urban Resilience”. The dialogue was organized in cooperation with UN-Habitat. In total, 97 people from 20 countries attended the conference. The event aimed to lay the foundation for strengthening regional and local voices, enhancing cooperation, articulating priorities to shape the new climate agreement in Paris 2015 as well as the “new urban agenda”, and establishing linkages between climate negotiators and local governance units.



The conference was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, U Thant Kyaw, and the Deputy Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Zin.

The keynote remarks were delivered by Dr. Nay Htun, Research Professor at Stonybrook University and former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

Additional speakers represented the European External Action Service, Polish, Vietnamese and Italian Ministry of the Environment, the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines, National Development and Reform Commission China, OECD, Climate Change Council Nepal, City of London as well as Iloilo and the Association of the Indonesian Municipalities, among others.

Particular challenges highlighted at the dialogue include promoting active climate change collaboration between local governments as well as national governments to enhance policy dialogue on mainstreaming climate change into urban development; supporting local governments in developing climate change action plans; and fostering awareness, education, and capacity-building that supports the implementation of actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Panel Discussion

ECO-CITIES

Singapore, 4 June 2014

On 4 June, a panel discussion on the topic “Meeting the Energy Demand of Cities” was organized in the context of the World City Summit in Singapore and attended by 79 people.

In the first round of speeches Mr. Bernhard Dohle, GIZ Programme Coordinator for the Cities Development Initiative for Asia, and Mr. Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director for Europe at ICLEI, outlined their perspectives on renewable energies and decentralized energy production in cities.

In the second panel Ms Mariko Sato, Chief of UN-Habitat, Bangkok Office; Mr. William Tompson, Head of the Urban Development Programme at OECD; Ms Louisa-May Khoo, Centre of Livable Cities in Singapore; and Prof. John Wong and Dr. Zhao Litao, representatives of the East Asian Institute, gave their views on comprehensive urban policies and planning across sectors.

Policy Conference

MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 6-7 March 2014

On 6-7 March, a bi-regional conference on trafficking in human beings and irregular migration was organized in cooperation with the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace. The conference “Addressing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking in Europe and Asia” was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and attended by 89 participants.

The keynote speech was delivered by H.E. Mrs. Chou Bun Eng, Secretary of State and Chair of the Secretariat of the National Committee to Lead the Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Labor Exploitation and Sexual Exploitation in Women and Children, Ministry of the Interior, Cambodia. Additional high-ranking speakers included, among others, Khine Myat Chit, senior officer in the ASEAN Secretariat; Hakan Erdal, Coordinator of Human Trafficking and People Smuggling at INTERPOL; Veronica Cody, Head of Unit, Horizontal Issues Asia and the Pacific in the European External Action Service; Rafendi Djamin, Indonesian representative for ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, as well as representatives from the ministries of Malaysia, Poland, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, UNODC and UNIAP. Additional participants came from Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, France, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Serbia, Singapore, and Thailand.



It was agreed that the challenges of irregular migration and combating against trafficking in human beings required more international cooperation. This cooperation should be not only between states, but also between enforcement agencies, police forces, civil society organizations and prosecutors. In particular, sharing of information and joint cross-border capacity-building programmes need to be enhanced and improved. Besides recruitment agencies, companies have to be included in the process. Additionally, protection of victims and structural factors contributing to trafficking in human beings were highlighted.

Policy Panel

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Brussels, Belgium, 17 September 2014

On 17 September, a policy panel on “Trafficking of Minors in Europe and Asia – Tackling a Common Challenge” took place in Brussels and was attended by 78 people. The panel was chaired by Yves Pascouau, European Policy Centre, and saw presentations by Delia Stanescu, Permanent Representation of Romania to the European Union; Zoi Sakelliadou, Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator; Patricia Le Cocq, Belgian Federal Migration Centre; Jedrek Chua Ng, Department of Justice of the Republic of the Philippines; Annette Lyth, United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (UNIAP); and Khine Myat Chit, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The speakers analyzed the situation of minors as victims of human trafficking and the causes of their vulnerability. The panel provided insights into policy responses from different countries and regions. While a multi-stakeholder approach is necessary, it became clear that some governments have tried to offload their responsibilities to, for instance, NGOs.

Policy Conference

SOCIAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION

Singapore, 3-4 November 2014



On 3-4 November, the EU-Asia Dialogue, in cooperation with the Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, held a conference on “Addressing Social Cohesion and Effects of Migrants’ Integration in Europe and Asia” in Singapore. A total of 166 people participated in the event and speakers came from Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia; Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany; Commission on Filipinos Overseas; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland; Ministry of Employment, Sweden; OECD Development Centre; UN-ESCAP; Asian Development Bank; Singapore National Employers’ Federation; ASEAN CSR Network; European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions; and European Trade Union Institute, among others. In addition researchers from Belgium, India, Italy, Hong Kong, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, and Vietnam made remarks. Speakers from both regions explained the different understandings of the concepts of social inclusion, social capital and social mobility. While the state has to provide the framework for social cohesion, it was emphasized that much of the work on the ground was done by non-governmental actors from the civil society, trade unions or business sector through corporate social responsibility. Another focus area of the discussion was the impact migration and integration has on social cohesion.

Policy Conference

MARITIME PIRACY AND SECURITY

Beijing, China, 12 May 2014

On 12 May, the EU-Asia Dialogue and the Center for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at the Institute of International Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences organized a policy conference on “Euro-Asian Cooperation on Combating Transnational Organized Crimes by Sea” in Beijing. The 55 participants came from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Defence, ReCAAP, European Commission DG MARE, Delegation of the EU to China, National Crime Agency of the United Kingdom, Council of Europe, UNODC, Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, Chinese Coast Guards, Dutch Coast Guards, Chinese People’s Liberation Army and research institutes in Belgium, China, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Singapore, South Korea as well as Spain.

It was emphasized that China wanted to improve cooperation and that this should move ahead despite current territorial questions. This included cooperation with its neighbours on search and rescue, piracy, law enforcement, and disaster management, as well as sharing of policy innovations and experiences with the European Union. The new Maritime Security Strategy was presented by the European Commission and it became obvious that this document could have a significantly positive impact on the cooperation with Asia. Further topics discussed included arms trafficking, drug smuggling and human trafficking by sea.

Policy Panel

MARITIME SECURITY

Brussels, Belgium, 18 September 2014

A policy panel on “Protecting the Last Global Common – Towards Stronger EU-Asia Cooperation on Maritime Security?” took place on 18 September, in Brussels, Belgium. The panel included Mika Aaltola, Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA); Ambassador Paola Imperiale, Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union; Yoshihisa Endo, Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP); Jane Chan Git Yin, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies; and Steven Everts, European External Action Service (EEAS). The event, chaired by Rosa Balfour, European Policy Centre, was attended by 65 people. Topics discussed concerned the new EU Maritime Security Strategy, regional cooperation in the context of current instability and the shift from a geostrategic, competition-oriented perspective to a more geo-economic, interconnected view on maritime security.

Policy Conference

FOOD SECURITY

Kathmandu, Nepal, 20 March 2014



On 20 March, 46 people participated in a policy conference on “Food Security in the Context of Climate Change”, co-organized by the Centre for South Asian Studies in Kathmandu, Nepal. Among others, FAO, UNEP, UNDP, World Food Programme, Delegation of the European Union to Nepal, Ministry of Agricultural Development Nepal, Ministry of Justice Vietnam, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Thailand, the research institute of the Ministry of Agriculture Indonesia as well as of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Cambodia, International Rice Research Institute, and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) participated in the event. In addition, researchers from Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, Nepal, the Philippines, Poland, Spain, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, UK, and Vietnam attended the conference.

The first discussion focused on the concrete situation in Nepal. The other sessions discussed the role of food security in the climate change negotiations and whether multilateral fora on food security should be integrated into this approach. The national strategies of several countries that adapted their food production to climate change were highlighted. As urban areas are constantly growing and urban sprawl decreases viable farmland, it was discussed whether urban agriculture can provide a solution.

Policy Panel

FOOD SECURITY

Brussels, Belgium, 18 June 2014

On 18 June, the EU-Asia Dialogue held a panel discussion on “The Water-Energy-Food Nexus – Addressing the Resource Challenge in Europe and Asia” in Brussels, Belgium. The five panellists were Raimund Bleischwitz, University College London, UK; Aditi Mukherji, ICIMOD, Nepal; Handewi Purwati Saliem, Indonesian Center for Agriculture Socio-Economic and Policy Studies, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia; Christine Mueller, DG Clima, Belgium; and Lies Craeynest, OXFAM, Belgium. The discussion was chaired by Annika Ahtonen, European Policy Centre, Belgium, and attended by 41 participants.

There is a need to understand the nexus between different resources in light of a mounting global demand aggravated by the effects of climate change. Water security, energy security and food security are interdependent challenges that cannot be solved in isolation. This event explored how well these interlinkages were recognized and addressed in public policies, and how Europe and Asia could cooperate more to increase food security, while managing the global water and energy challenges.

BRUSSELS EU-ASIA POLICY BRIEFINGS

Brussels Briefing, 17 June 2014

On 17 June, the fourth public Brussels Briefing was held at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Brussels. Dr. Pavin Chachavalpongpun, Associate Professor, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University, Japan, and Rafendi Djamin, Indonesian Representative for ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, Indonesia, spoke at the briefing “Democracy and Human Rights in Thailand and Indonesia”.

WORKSHOP FOR ASIAN JOURNALISTS

Strasbourg, France and Brussels, Belgium, 14-19 September 2014

In order to offer more insights into the preparations for the ASEM Summit in Milan, Italy, the EU-Asia Dialogue organized a study trip for Asian journalists to Strasbourg and Brussels. The ten journalists represented the leading English-language newspapers of their respective countries – China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Discussions and meetings with experts gave the journalists a better understanding of the European institutions and provided them with the opportunity to talk to senior officials as well as members of the European Parliament directly. Visit locations included the Council of Europe, European Parliament, European External Action Service, European Commission, and Directorate-Generals for Energy, Home Affairs, Climate Action, Agriculture and Rural Development.



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