

KAS-RSIS MINISTERIAL FORUM

The Indo-Pacific: Geostrategic Challenges and Opportunities for Germany and Singapore

13 November 2020
8.45am Berlin / 3.45pm Singapore
Zoom

PROGRAM

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| 3.40 pm | Opening of the Zoom Webinar Room |
| 3.45 pm | Welcome Remarks Mr Christian Echle Director Political Dialogue Asia, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung |
| 3.50 pm | Remarks from Germany Ms Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer Federal Minister of Defence, Germany |
| 4.00 pm | Remarks from Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen Minister for Defence, Singapore |
| 4.10 pm | Q&A Session Ambassador Ong Keng Yong (Moderator) Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies |
| 4.45 pm | Closing |

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| Organizers | Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Political Dialogue Asia Arc 380 #11-01, 380 Jalan Besar Singapore 209000 | S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies Nanyang Technological University Blk S4, Level B3, 50 Nanyang Avenue Singapore 639798 |
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SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Mr Christian Echle
Director Political Dialogue Asia,
Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Christian Echle is the Director of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia, based in Singapore, since June 2017.

He was responsible for the foundation's Regional Media Programme Sub-Saharan Africa, based in Johannesburg, from 2012 to 2017. Before that, he served as an online editor and Social Media expert at headquarters in Berlin from August 2007 onwards.

He is a journalist by training and has worked for several newspapers and radio stations in the South of Germany between 1999 and 2007. During this time, he also received Konrad Adenauer Stiftung's scholarship for young journalists.

Christian Echle studied German Literature, History and Sociology in Freiburg, Gothenburg and Munich, graduating with a Magister Artium in 2007. He is married and has two daughters.



Ms Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer
Federal Minister of Defence, Germany

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer was born in Völklingen in 1962 and is Roman-Catholic. She lives in Püttlingen and is married to Helmut Karrenbauer, with whom she has three children.

After her *Abitur* (university entrance qualification) in 1982, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer studied law and political science at the universities of Trier and Saarbrücken, graduating with a Magister Artium in 1990. From 1991 to 1998 she worked as policy and planning officer for the CDU Saar.

She started her political engagement in 1981 when she joined the Christian Democratic Union

(CDU). She subsequently held various political posts at local level in the Saarland. In 1998, she was a member of the German Bundestag and from 1999 to 2018 a member of the Saarland state parliament. During the first two years of her time as a member of parliament, she served as Parliamentary Secretary of the CDU parliamentary group in the Saarland state parliament.

From 2000 to 2004, Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer was Minister of the Interior and Sport in the Saarland. She served as the Saarland Minister of the Interior, Family Affairs, Women, and Sport from 2004 to 2007 and as Minister of Education, Women, Family Affairs, and Culture from 2007 to 2009. After her term as Minister of Labour, Family Affairs, Preventive Action, Social Affairs, and Sport from 2009 to 2011, Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer was elected Minister President of the Saarland in 2011. She held this office until 2018. At the same time, she was Minister of Justice from 2011 to 2012 and Minister of Science and Research from 2012 to 2018 in her state's government.

Since 2010, Ms Kramp-Karrenbauer has been a member of the Executive Committee of the CDU Germany. She was the Chairwoman of the CDU Saar from 2011 to 2018. She was elected Secretary General of the CDU Germany in February 2018 and Chairwoman in December 2018.

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer has been Federal Minister of Defence since July 2019.



Dr Ng Eng Hen
Minister for Defence, Singapore

Dr Ng was first elected as Member of Parliament of Bishan-Toa Payoh Constituency in 2001 and subsequently re-elected for the same constituency in 2006, 2011 and 2015. He was Deputy Leader of the House from 2007 to 2011 and Leader from 2011 to 2015.

Dr Ng was Minister for Manpower from 2003 to 2008 and Minister for Education from 2008 to 2011. Concurrently, he was Second Minister for Defence since 2005, before assuming office as Minister for Defence in 2011. Dr Ng was conferred France's national award of Officer in the Order of Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) in 2017.

Dr Ng was trained as a cancer surgeon, specialising in breast surgery, having obtained his medical degrees from the National University of Singapore and postgraduate training in the USA. He is Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore and member of the American Societies of Surgical Oncology and Clinical Oncology. He

was a Consultant Surgeon in Singapore General Hospital and Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre, before leaving his practice to enter politics in 2001. In 1997, Dr Ng and other members founded the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Dr Ng is married to Ivy, a paediatrician-geneticist and Group Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Health Services. They have four children.



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong
Executive Deputy Chairman,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. He is concurrently Director of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) at RSIS.

Mr Ong continues to hold the position of Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He is also Singapore's non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong has been the Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF) since 2015.

Mr Ong was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from 2011 to 2014. He served as High Commissioner of Singapore to India and concurrently Singapore's Ambassador to Nepal from 1996 to 1998.

Mr Ong served as 11th Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia from January 2003 to January 2008.

Mr Ong started his diplomatic career in 1979 and was posted to the Singapore Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United States of America between 1984 and 1994. From September 1998 to December 2002, he was Press Secretary to the then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong, while holding senior appointments in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the People's Association in Singapore. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Mr Ong graduated from the then University of Singapore with a LLB (Hons). He studied at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., USA, and graduated with a MA in Arab Studies.

About the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)

Freedom, justice and solidarity are the basic principles underlying the work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). The German political foundation is closely associated with the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the party of Chancellor Angela Merkel. As co-founder of the CDU and the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Konrad Adenauer (1876-1967) united Christian-social, conservative and liberal traditions. His intellectual heritage continues to serve the foundation both as aim as well as obligation. With its "Political Dialogue Asia" based in Singapore, KAS brings together stakeholders from different countries and regions on various platforms for discussion and exchange. The program focusses on the promotion of a multilateral world order, digital transformation, regional integration, security cooperation and multi-party democracy.

For more details, please visit www.kas.de/singapore

About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) is a think tank and professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. An autonomous school, RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. With the core functions of research, graduate education and networking, it produces research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-traditional Security, Cybersecurity, Maritime Security and Terrorism Studies.



For more details, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg. Join us at our social media channels at www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-social-media-channels or scan the QR code.