

RESTRICTED



Ponder the Improbable 

PROGRAMME

22 February 2023, Wednesday	
8.30 – 9.00 am	REGISTRATION
9.00 – 9.10 am	WELCOME REMARKS Ambassador Ong Keng Yong <i>Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i>
9.10 – 10.40 am	PANEL 1: GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND DE-COUPPING. WHAT DOES ASEAN NEED TO KNOW? This panel will set the scene by providing an overview of current dynamics and challenges and how these are likely to shape trends in the political economy of the Indo-Pacific. <u>Moderator</u> Dr Frederick Kliem <i>Research Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i> <u>Speakers</u> Dr Dipinder S Randhawa <i>Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i> Ms Catharine Kho <i>Economist, ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office</i> Professor Kazuto Suzuki <i>Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo</i>
10.40 – 11.00 am	TEA BREAK

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<p>11.00 am – 12.30 pm</p>	<p>PANEL 2: WITHER TRADE AND INVESTMENT MULTILATERALISM? THE STATE OF APEC, WTO AND REGIONAL FTAs</p> <p>This panel seeks to investigate the current state and likely future of multilateral institutions, from organisations to FTAs, from both an academic as well as industry perspective.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Assistant Professor Frederick Chen <i>Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></p> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <p>Dr Pradumna Rana <i>Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></p> <p>Ms Maes Alconcel <i>Senior Expert on International Trade, EU ARISE Plus</i></p> <p>Dr Denis Hew <i>Senior Research Fellow, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore</i></p>
<p>12.30 – 2.00 pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">2.00 – 3.30 pm</p>	<p>PANEL 3: THE FUTURE OF THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY</p> <p>In the light of current challenges, this panel will discuss where the AEC is headed and how it needs to adapt in order to best serve SEA's economic integration and prosperity. It will also discuss the challenges for Timor-Leste's road towards ASEAN membership and how the country can meet the demands specifically of the AEC.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <p>Dr Joel Ng <i>Deputy Head, Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></p> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <p>Dr Jayant Menon <i>Senior Fellow, Regional Economic Studies Programme, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute</i></p> <p>Assistant Professor Lee Su-Hyun <i>Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore</i></p> <p>Ambassador Roberto Soares <i>Head, Senior Officials' Consultation, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3.30 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">END OF WORKSHOP</p>

BIOGRAPHIES OF PANELLISTS

**in alphabetical sequence according to last/family names*

Maes Alconcel is an international trade expert, with 17 years of experience on international trade negotiations and policies, particularly on advancing trade and development initiatives, expanding market access, leveraging trade facilitation tools and free trade agreements, and business advocacy. Skilled in trade policy research and analysis, Ms. Maes is passionate about strategizing and unlocking trade opportunities for businesses, fostering multi-stakeholder engagements and partnerships, as well as helping small businesses, including women and youth entrepreneurs, participate in international trade.

Maes is currently a senior international trade expert under the EU ARISE Plus project where she supports ASEAN Governments in the implementation and usage by businesses of key ASEAN trade facilitation tools, particularly the ATR and ASSIST. Prior to this, she worked for the Philippine government as a trade negotiator for over nine (9) years, and for the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) as the Head/Deputy Director of the FTAs and International Relations Department. She also worked with the International Trade Centre (ITC) from 2021 to 2022 as the National Project Coordinator for the EU-funded ARISE Plus Philippines project, ensuring the alignment of project activities with the needs of Philippine MSMEs, including women and youth entrepreneurs.

Maes has obtained her Master's degrees in Public Administration from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore) and in International Trade from the IE University (Madrid, Spain). She also participated in the 2022 leadership program for emerging ASEAN young female leaders organized by the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) in the US.

Frederick Chen is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Multilateralism Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His research focuses on how economics and security can interact to influence international relations and foreign policy, particularly through domestic political mechanisms. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *International Organization*, the *Journal of Politics*, *World Politics*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, among others. He received the David A. Lake Best Paper Award from the International Political Economy Society. Frederick earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (2022), M.A. in International Relations from Peking University (2016), and B.A. in International Politics from Tsinghua University (2013). In 2021–22, he was a Zuckerman Pre-doctoral Fellow with the Centre for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University.

Denis Hew is a Senior Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Prior to this appointment, Denis was Director of the APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) from 2011 to 2022. PSU is the research arm of the APEC, which is a regional grouping that promotes trade and investment liberalisation and facilitation in the Asia-Pacific region. In this position, he led a team of skilled professionals that provided high quality evidence-based research and technical support to APEC Senior Officials, Committees and Working Groups.

Denis also spent two years in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its Southeast Asia department, where he managed technical assistance programs on regional cooperation and integration. From 2001 to 2008, Denis was Senior Fellow and Regional Economic Studies Coordinator at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Singapore, which is one of the region's oldest and most established research institutes. During his time at ISEAS Singapore, Denis was also the Managing Editor of the ASEAN Economic Bulletin, an academic journal that focuses on policy-relevant economic issues in Southeast Asia.

Denis Hew is a financial economist by training and holds a Bachelors (Hons) in Economics from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom and Masters and Ph.D. in Finance from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. He has published extensively on policy issues related to economic integration in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region.

Catharine Kho joined the Regional Surveillance team at ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) in November 2020. She contributes to AMRO's flagship publication, the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook, or AREO, and also serves as the back-up economist for Singapore.

Prior to joining AMRO, Ms Kho was a Senior Economist in Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). During her 11 years with BNM, she conducted macroeconomic surveillance, specializing in the real and external sectors, during various turning points in the global and Malaysian economies from 2009 to 2020. She also led research to develop policy proposals to promote economic growth as well as to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities for the Malaysian economy.

Ms Kho holds a Master's Degree in Economic Policy Management from Columbia University and a Bachelor's Degree in Statistics from the University of Malaya.

Frederick Kliem is a Research Fellow and lecturer at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore. Frederick is with the Centre for Multilateralism Studies at RSIS, and his main research interests are regional integration and multilateralism in as well as the geopolitics of Asia and Europe. He teaches post-graduate courses on the geopolitics of Asia and regional order building. Specific research projects include the study of ASEAN and EU institutions, inter-regionalism and comparative regionalism as well as European Indo-Pacific engagement. He frequently appears on Singaporean as well as international TV, radio and print media as well as on numerous podcasts, including his own. In addition, Frederick is a regular guest lecturer at Singapore's military officers' academy (GKS Command and Staff College) as well as a freelance Consultant and a EU Key Expert on ASEAN-EU matters. His latest book is *Great Power Competition and Order Building in the Indo-Pacific: Towards a New Indo-Pacific Equilibrium* (London and New York: Routledge, 2022).

Su-Hyun Lee is Assistant Professor and the Coordinator of the MSc International Political Economy Programme at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Su-Hyun primarily studies the issues of international and comparative political economy (IPE/CPE) with a focus on trade, labor, distributive, and redistributive politics. Her research focuses on explaining the impact of domestic political institutions and interest groups on foreign economic policy and exploring the political and socioeconomic outcomes generated by countries' integration into the global economy. She is currently working on a book project that explores the political dynamics of US trade policy. Her other research projects examine the consequences of global economic integration, including the electoral effects of localized trade shocks, the skill-bias of tariff protection, and the political and economic consequences of Chinese aid and investment in developing countries. Her research publications have appeared in political science and international relations journals, including *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Political Studies*, *The Social Science Journal*, *Revista Derechos en Acción*, *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*, and *World Development*.

Jayant Menon joined the ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute as Senior Fellow to continue his work on trade and development in the Asian region, following his early retirement from the ADB in 2020. His last post at the ADB was Lead Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist. He began work life as an academic in Australia, spending almost a decade at the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash University, one of the leading centres for computable general equilibrium modelling. He has worked at several academic institutions including the University of Melbourne, Victoria University, the American University in Washington, DC and the ADB Institute in Tokyo. He has served as a Board Director of CDRI, Cambodia, and on the Advisory Board of the University of Nottingham, Malaysia. He holds adjunct appointments with the Australian National University, University of Nottingham, UK and IDEAS, Malaysia. He has authored/edited 15 books, 40 chapters in books and 80 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Joel Ng is Research Fellow and Deputy Head of the Centre for Multilateralism Studies (CMS). His research focuses on regionalism, integration, security, and intervention norms, focusing on ASEAN and its dialogue partners as well as the African Union. He began his career in international affairs working in Uganda on peace, conflict, and refugee issues. He has also worked in the private sector in Singapore in public and investor relations. He is presently in the Singapore committee for the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP). Dr Ng is the author of *Contesting Sovereignty: Power and Practice in Africa and Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2021). He has a DPhil from the University of Oxford, where he was an Oxford-Swire and Tan Kah Kee scholar, and also holds a MA (Distinction) from the University of Sussex, and a BA (Hons) from the University of East Anglia.

Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore since November 2014. Concurrently, he is Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong also serves as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF).

Mr Ong was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from July 2011 to October 2014. He served as Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, for five years from January 2003.

He was Singapore's High Commissioner to India and concurrently Ambassador to Nepal from 1996 to 1998. From September 1998 to December 2002, he was Press Secretary to the then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong. 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.

Dipinder Randhawa is a Senior Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University. His research interests are in the areas of Development Economics, Finance and Banking, Policy formulation and analysis, technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and the economic consequences of the pandemic. Earlier Dipinder held research positions at the Institute of South Asian Studies and the Risk Management Institute. He has taught at Syracuse University and the National University of Singapore and held visiting appointments at Universities in China and Thailand. Dipinder received PhD from the Whitman School at Syracuse University.

Pradumna B Rana is Senior Fellow at the Centre for Multilateralism Studies of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). Prior to this, he worked for 25 years at the Asian Development Bank. His last appointment at the ADB was Senior Director of the Office of Regional Economic Integration which spearheads the ADB's support for Asian economic integration. He obtained his PhD from Vanderbilt University where he was a Fulbright Scholar and a Masters in Economics from Michigan State University and Tribhuvan University. He has authored/edited 20 books, and published over 55 articles in peer-reviewed international academic journals.

Rana recently co-authored books on *China's Belt and Road Initiative: Impacts on Asia and Policy Agenda* (Palgrave Macmillan 2020), *Jump-starting South Asia: Round Two of Reforms and Look East Policies* (Oxford, University Press 2018), *Asia and the Global Economic Crisis* (Palgrave Macmillan 2010), and *South Asia: Rising to the Challenge of Globalization* (World Scientific Publishers 2009). He edited a book entitled *The Renaissance of Asia: Evolving Economic Relations between South Asia and East Asia* (World Scientific Publishers 2012), and co-edited books on *Global Shocks and the New Global and Regional Financial Architecture* (ADB Institute 2018), and *New Global Economic Architecture: The Asian Perspective* (Edward Elgar 2014).

Rana has published widely in internationally reputed journals such as the *Journal of International Economics*, *The Review of Economic and Statistics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *World Development*, *International Trade Journal*, *Journal of Asian Economics*, *Singapore Economic Review*, *East Asian Economic Review*, *Global Governance*, and *Global Policy*.


Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares is currently the Head of Technical Negotiations on the Timor-Leste Land Boundary Negotiations, and Special Assistant to the Chief Negotiator, His Excellency Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão.

Before assuming his current roles, Ambassador Soares served in the IV and V Constitutional Governments of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Ambassador Soares was also a Member of the Consultative Commission of the Council for the Final and Permanent Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary.

As Vice Minister, Ambassador Soares was tasked by the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers to lead the Timor-Leste Negotiations on the Concordat with the Holy See. Ambassador Soares successfully fulfilled this mandate and achieved a historical precedent by bringing the Prime Minister of the Vatican - Holy See, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, to visit Timor-Leste and to sign the Concordat with the Timor-Leste Prime Minister. The signing took place on 14 August 2015 alongside the celebration of five hundred years of Portuguese and Catholic presence in Timor-Leste.

Ambassador Soares earned his highest qualification in Associate Philosophy Studies in Arts and Sciences (equivalent to Baccalaureus Philosophiae - Bachelor of Philosophy (B.Phil)), at the Christ the King Mission Seminary, College, Manila, Philippines. He also obtained a Diploma in Security Studies from the College of Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA in 2003, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), from the University of Berkeley (Michigan, USA), in accreditation with the Institute of Indonesia Management (LMII) Jakarta, Indonesia, 2006.

Kazuto Suzuki is Professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Tokyo, Japan, and Director of the Institute of Geoeconomics at International House of Japan. He graduated from the Department of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, and received Ph.D. from Sussex European Institute, University of Sussex, England. He has worked in the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique in Paris, France as assistant researcher and the Associate Professor at the University of Tsukuba from 2000 to 2008 and served as Professor of International Politics at Hokkaido University until 2020. He served as an expert in the Panel of Experts for Iranian Sanction Committee under the United Nations Security Council from 2013 to July 2015. He currently serves as a member of the National Space Policy Committee of the Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan, and the President of Japan Association of International Security and Trade. His research focuses on the conjunction of science/technology and international relations; subjects including space policy, non-proliferation, export control and sanctions. His recent work includes *Space and International Politics* (2011, in Japanese, awarded Suntory Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities), *Policy Logics and Institutions of European Space Collaboration* (2003) and many others.



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Shaping Perspectives on Global Affairs

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