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THE FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC: Charting a Common Approach

An international conference

January 22-23, 2020

Pan Pacific Hotel

300 - 999 Canada Place

Vancouver, BC

Canada

States across the globe are defining conceptions of, and strategies for engaging with, the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP): an emerging geopolitical construct that extends from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. However, many of these states have different definitions of the geographic scope of the Indo-Pacific, not to mention different visions and interests for the region. Canada has embraced the broad vision of FOIP, but it has yet to define its own strategy, along with other states in the region.

As the Indo-Pacific strategic environment continues to evolve in unpredictable ways, and despite these varying characterizations of FOIP, it is important for Canada and like-minded states across the region to develop multilateral standards and strategies in response to regional issues. To achieve greater regional coordination between such states, frank dialogue around specific opportunities for cooperation is essential.

To this end, the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada), with the support of public and private sector partners, will convene a conference in Vancouver in January 2020 to facilitate such a dialogue.

The Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Charting a Common Approach conference will explore different states' understanding of the FOIP concept as it applies to their domestic, foreign, and security policy-making processes. Speakers and participants will be invited from Canada and Japan, as well as from ASEAN member states, Australia, New Zealand, India, and the United States. Participants will provide an overview of their states' respective understanding of the FOIP concept and outline state-directed activities undertaken in support of FOIP.

In particular, participants will explore the three broad and interconnected themes of **governance, economic interconnectivity, and security challenges**, all with an eye on facilitating unity of action. Within these themes, there are a number of specific issue areas with strong opportunities for regional cooperation. These include, but are not limited to: international law, trade and investment, energy and food security, gender and indigenous relations, supply chain management, maritime security, and peace-support co-operation in the Indo-Pacific.

The Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Charting a Common Approach conference will serve as a venue for informed scholarship and policy discussion – the first step in actualizing a common approach challenges for the Indo-Pacific.

AGENDA - JANUARY 22, 2020

9:00AM	OPENING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stewart Beck, <i>President & CEO, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada</i>- Ambassador Yasuhisa Kawamura, <i>Embassy of Japan in Canada</i>- <i>Government of Canada representative</i> (TBC)
9:30AM - 11:30AM	FOIP REGIONAL INTERPRETATIONS – DEVELOPING A BASELINE: <p>Conference participants will map different regional interpretations of FOIP, including those of the United States, Japan, India, and ASEAN member states. This will help with defining a baseline understanding to provide a framework for charting a common approach to regional issues.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elissa Golberg, <i>Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategic Policy, Global Affairs Canada</i> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sujan R. Chinoy, <i>Director General, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Dehli</i>- Ambassador Abdul Kadir Jailani, <i>Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Canada</i>- Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, <i>Political Scientist, RAND Corporation</i> (TBC)- Prof. Yuichi Hosoya, <i>Professor, Keio University</i>
LUNCH	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
1:00PM - 3:00PM	FOIP GOVERNANCE <p>The issue of governance is central to FOIP, particularly with respect to regional bilateral/multilateral engagement, values and norms, and the development of standards around key areas of cooperation such as climate change; trade and investment; maritime issues; and, gender and indigenous relations. Speakers from academia,</p>

	<p>government, and the private sector will contribute to this discussion by addressing governance areas where Indo-Pacific states have converged, and where there is greater opportunity for coordination.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- David Welch, <i>Chair of Global Security, Centre for International Governance Innovation, Balsillie School of International Affairs</i> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jonathan Berkshire Miller, <i>Senior Visiting Fellow, Japan Institute of International Affairs, Tokyo</i>- Elina Noor, <i>Associate Professor, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies</i>- Dr. Joanne Wallis, <i>Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University</i>
3:00PM - 5:00PM	FOIP ECONOMIC INTERCONNECTIVITY: <p>Economic exchange in the Indo-Pacific is the cornerstone of states’ relations, and provides a solid base for expanded ties. Extending the concept of economic partnership to FOIP further allows states to consider economic relations within the regional context. Presenters will address trade, investment, energy security, infrastructure development, supply chain management, and sustainable development within the FOIP area of operations.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Deanna Horton, <i>Senior Fellow, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto</i> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Steve Dechka, <i>Co-Chair, Japan-Canada Chambers Council</i>- Dr. Kristi Govella, <i>Assistant Professor, Asian Studies Program, University of Hawai’i</i>- Jay Khosla, <i>Assistant Deputy Minister, Natural Resources Canada</i> (TBC)

AGENDA - JANUARY 23, 2020

9:30AM - 11:30AM	FOIP SECURITY CHALLENGES <p>Security is central to the FOIP concept, both with respect to common security challenges and bilateral/multilateral security cooperation. Conference presenters will address common challenges including maritime security; food and energy security; international law; climate change; and great power competition. Panelists will also discuss the role of security cooperation—whether in the form of dialogues, military-to-military exchanges, or peacekeeping—as a coordinating mechanism for state relations in the FOIP concept.</p> <p><u>Moderator</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Jeffrey Reeves, <i>Vice-President Research, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada</i> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Van Jackson, <i>Senior Lecturer, Victoria University of Wellington and Global Fellow, The Wilson Centre</i>- Tsuneo Nishida, <i>Honorary Director, Institute for Peace Science at Hiroshima University</i>- Natalie Sambhi, <i>Executive Director, Verve Research and PhD Candidate, Strategic Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University</i>
11:30AM - 12:00PM	CONCLUSION: CHARTING A COMMON APPROACH: <p>The FOIP region holds more than half the world’s population and gross domestic product, significant resources across a broad range of sectors, and a number of rapidly rising economies. Collective solutions to these issue areas will be critical in supporting a Free and Open Indo-Pacific that is stable and prosperous.</p>

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