

The Indo-Pacific at a Crossroads: Taking Stock and Charting Future Trajectories

WORKSHOP BROCHURE

*Manila, Philippines
Sept 18-19, 2025*



ASIA PACIFIC
FOUNDATION
OF CANADA





WELCOME

The Indo-Pacific region stands as the epicenter of global geopolitical and economic dynamics, contributing over 60% of global GDP and encompassing vital maritime trade routes that underpin the international economic system. Since 2020, the region has undergone profound transformations that demand critical analysis: the evolving nature of China's regional influence, the strengthening of the QUAD framework, the operationalization of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), significant shifts in U.S. foreign policy under President Trump, escalating regional tensions (e.g., Thailand-Cambodia disputes), and the reconfiguration of supply chains driven by secondary tariffs and the "China+1" strategy. Additionally, the region grapples with pressing challenges, including climate vulnerability affecting over 70% of the world's at-risk populations, rapid technological disruption, and persistent maritime security concerns.

Being hosted jointly by the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi, and the Department of International Studies at De La Salle University, with generous support from the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the workshop seeks to critically evaluate these developments in the Indo-Pacific since 2020, distill actionable insights, and outline strategic priorities for stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and civil society. It will examine the implications of these emerging challenges on diverse actors and assess adaptive strategies to navigate the region's complex and evolving landscape. Through expert dialogue and collaborative analysis, the workshop aims to foster a deeper understanding of the Indo-Pacific's strategic imperatives and promote informed decision-making for a resilient and sustainable future.



Central to the workshop's discussions will be the pivotal role of middle powers and smaller states in influencing regional dynamics, particularly in the context of strategic realignments and the balance between multilateral and minilateral frameworks. Drawing from panels on geopolitical dynamics and framework assessments, the event will scrutinize how these actors contribute to regional stability by navigating great power competition, enhancing ASEAN-led mechanisms, and fostering inclusive cooperation. It will evaluate the effectiveness of minilateral arrangements like the QUAD in complementing or challenging traditional multilateralism, identifying barriers to broader collaboration and opportunities for smaller states to shape agendas that integrate security, economic, and technological priorities.

We warmly welcome the distinguished participants, including ambassadors, scholars, and experts from across the Indo-Pacific and beyond, and extend our sincere thanks for their invaluable insights and contributions to this vital dialogue.

Dr. Charmaine Willoughby

Chairperson

Department of International Studies, De La Salle University

Vina Nadjibulla

Vice-President of Research & Strategy

Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Dr. Gaurav Saini

Co-Founder

Council for Strategic & Defense Research, New Delhi



About the Department of International Studies, De La Salle University, Manila

The Department of International Studies at the De La Salle University, traces its origin to the International Studies Division created by Dean Wilfrido Villacorta under the College of Liberal Arts in academic year 1983-1984. The Division originally comprised of the Japanese Studies Program, the Chinese Studies Program, and the American Studies Program. Later, the supervision of the Japanese and Chinese Studies Programs were consolidated under the Area Studies Division, together with the French Studies Program (the precursor of the European Studies program).

In 1992, upon the initiative of DLSU President Br. Andrew Gonzalez, the International Studies Department was established as a formal department under the College of Liberal Arts. Today, the Department offers undergraduate programs in American Studies, Chinese Studies, European Studies, and Japanese Studies. The Department has also introduced the Master of Arts in International Studies, Major in European Studies and in Asian Studies in 1998.

The Department of International Studies aims to become a regional hub of diverse scholars, seeking and providing global perspectives in the service of the Lasallian Community. It also seeks to develop socially responsible, competent and technologically proficient Christian Achievers who will be in the forefront of the emerging global society, and to foster the emergence of a critical and culturally-sensitive global citizen





About the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC)

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC), established in 1984, is a leading not-for-profit think tank based in Vancouver, dedicated to enhancing Canada's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region. Through rigorous research, policy analysis, and cross-sectoral dialogue, APFC provides actionable insights on economic, security, and societal dynamics shaping Asia. Its work focuses on strengthening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties, with initiatives like the Asia Pacific Business Network and programs promoting digital innovation, climate resilience, and gender-inclusive policies. APFC's research covers critical areas such as supply chain diversification, maritime security, and regional cooperation frameworks, influencing Canadian policy and global partnerships.

APF Canada's Indo-Pacific Initiative Programs aim to increase and deepen Canada's engagement with the Indo-Pacific region while advancing policy discussions and public discourse on key issues of relevance to both Canada and its partners across Asia. The programs, supported by the Government of Canada through its Indo-Pacific Strategy, convenes strategic dialogues and roundtables, supports the region's next generation of young leaders, engages three categories of fellows from across the Indo-Pacific: researchers, visiting scholars, and journalists, and supports the India-Canada Research Initiative (ICRI) based in New Delhi at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) providing a platform to strengthen bilateral relations between India and Canada.





About the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR)

The Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR) is an independent, New Delhi-based think tank providing strategic analysis and policy recommendations to governments, businesses, and institutions. CSDR addresses critical global challenges through rigorous research and a deep understanding of regional dynamics. Its work integrates global perspectives with practical experience, ensuring that its partners receive innovative and context-specific solutions.

CSDR's expertise spans foreign policy, geopolitical risk, connectivity and geoeconomics, defense and aerospace, military strategy, strategic technologies, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, climate change, energy security, and technology policy. CSDR specializes in the Indian subcontinent, Eurasia, and the Indo-Pacific region.

Read more at www.csdronline.com



INAUGURAL SESSION
THURSDAY 18 SEPT
1130 – 1330



Roof Deck, 15th Floor
Henry Sy Building, De La
Salle University

Welcome Remarks



Dr. Ador R. Torneo
Dean of the College of Liberal
Arts, De La Salle University



Dr. Charmaine M. Willoughby
Professor & Chair of the
Department of International
Studies, De La Salle University

Panel Discussion

Adapting to New Realities in the Indo-Pacific



Amb. David Hartman
Ambassador of Canada
to the Philippines



Amb. Harsh Kumar Jain
Ambassador of India
to the Philippines



Vina Nadjibulla
Vice-President of Research
& Strategy
Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada



Amb. Endo Kazuya
Ambassador of Japan
to the Philippines



Amb. Marc Innes-Brown
Ambassador of Australia
to the Philippines



Philippe Jones Luhlrier
Conference Room,
Learning Commons, 14th
Floor Henry Sy Building,
De La Salle University

DAY 1: THURSDAY, 18 SEPT

1330-1430

LUNCH

1430-1445

WELCOME INTRODUCTIONS, WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE, AND OVERVIEW

- *Dr. Gaurav Saini*, Co-Founder, Council for Strategic and Defense Research

1445-1615

SESSION 1. SETTING THE STAGE: STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF THE INDO-PACIFIC LANDSCAPE

This opening panel will provide a thorough overview of the Indo-Pacific's evolution since 2020, establishing the strategic context for subsequent discussions. The session will examine major inflexion points, structural changes, and emerging trends that have reshaped regional dynamics. Senior experts will assess the cumulative impact of recent developments on regional stability, prosperity, and cooperation, thereby laying the analytical framework for the workshop's in-depth investigations.

Key Questions:

- What have been the most significant strategic shifts in the Indo-Pacific since 2020?
- How has the regional order evolved in response to recent challenges?
- What are the key metrics for assessing regional stability and cooperation?
- Which developments have had the most lasting impact on regional dynamics?
- What emerging trends warrant particular attention from policymakers?

Key Speakers:

Dr. Hunter Marston

Dr. Yujen Kuo

Dr. Nanae Baldauff

Dr. Premesha Saha

Kim Heriot-Darragh

Moderator - Don McLain Gill



1615-1630

COFFEE BREAK

1630-1800

SESSION 2: GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS: TAKING STOCK OF STRATEGIC REALIGNMENTS

This panel will evaluate the effectiveness of major power strategies in the Indo-Pacific since 2020, examining successes, failures, and unintended consequences. It will specifically focus on the impact of strategic competition on regional stability and the lessons learned from recent diplomatic initiatives. The discussion will revolve around the effectiveness of major power engagement strategies, the role of minilateral arrangements in shaping regional dynamics, and the implications for the strategic autonomy of smaller states.

Key Questions:

- How do the strategies of major powers influence the Indo-Pacific's stability and security?
- What role do middle powers and smaller states play in shaping the region's dynamics?
- How effective are current strategic alignments, such as the QUAD, in addressing regional challenges?
- What are the militarization risks in the Indo-Pacific, and how can they be mitigated?
- How can multilateral diplomacy enhance trust and cooperation among regional actors?

Key Speakers:

Dr. Shofwan Choiruzzad

Jennifer K Hong Whetsell

Dr. Satoru Nagao

Wen-Ti Sung

Blake Berger

Moderator - Angelo Miguel Galang



Philippe Jones Luhliller
Conference Room,
Learning Commons, 14th
Floor Henry Sy Building,
De La Salle University

DAY 2: FRIDAY, 19 SEPT

0930–1000 MORNING COFFEE

1000–1130

SESSION 3: MARITIME SECURITY: LESSONS FROM RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

This session will examine recent maritime security incidents, enforcement challenges, and collaborative initiatives to derive practical lessons for policymakers and security practitioners. The discussion will focus on assessing the effectiveness of current security frameworks and identifying best practices in maritime law enforcement collaboration, freedom of navigation operations, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

Key Questions:

- What are the primary maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific?
- How can regional actors balance national interests with collective security?
- What role does UNCLOS play in mitigating disputes, and how can it be strengthened?
- How can technology and intelligence-sharing improve maritime domain awareness?
- What are the prospects for multilateral naval exercises in fostering trust and cooperation?

Key Speakers:

Kim Heriot-Darragh

Warisa Intaratana


Dr. Kuyoun Chung

Dr. Premesha Saha

Jonathan Gabriel Mendoza

Moderator - Dr. Gaurav Saini

1130–1200 COFFEE BREAK



1200-1330

SESSION 4: ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: EVALUATING ADAPTIVE RESPONSES

This panel will evaluate the effectiveness of various economic resilience strategies implemented since 2020, analyzing both successful adaptations and persistent vulnerabilities within the regional economic framework. The session will examine key success factors, including supply chain diversification, the impact of digital transformation initiatives, and the role of regional trade agreements in promoting economic integration.

Key Questions:

- How have recent geopolitical developments impacted trade connectivity in the Indo-Pacific?
- What strategies can enhance the resilience of regional supply chains?
- How can emerging technologies support inclusive economic growth in the region?
- What role do trade agreements like RCEP play in fostering economic integration?
- How can public-private partnerships drive innovation and economic connectivity?

Key Speakers:

Blake Berger

Daisuke Kawai

Sanjay Pulipaka

Grace Stanhope

Moderator -Dr. Dennis Trinidad

1330-1430

LUNCH


1430-1600

SESSION 5: . MULTILATERAL AND MINILATERAL FRAMEWORKS: EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT

This session will critically evaluate existing multilateral mechanisms, examining their adaptability and effectiveness in addressing regional challenges. The discussion will include an analysis of the performance of key regional frameworks, crisis response mechanisms, and the success factors in multilateral cooperation.

Key Questions:

- How effective are existing multilateral frameworks in addressing Indo-Pacific challenges?
- What are the key barriers to greater regional cooperation?



1430-1600

- Is minilateralism gaining more salience vis-à-vis traditional multilateral formats? What does this say about ASEAN-led mechanisms?
- How can multilateralism be made more inclusive and representative?
- What role do smaller states play in shaping multilateral agendas?
- How can regional frameworks better integrate security and economic objectives?

Key Speakers

Dr. Satoru Nagao

Dr. Kumari Mansi

Dr. Hunter Marston

Dr. Shofwan Choiruzzad

Moderator - John Louis Benito

1600-1615

COFFEE BREAK

1615-1745

SESSION 6: TECHNOLOGY AS A PUBLIC GOOD: SHAPING REGIONAL COOPERATION, CLIMATE RESILIENCE, AND ACCESS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

This panel will explore how emerging technologies, including climate tech, space, cyber, and the critical minerals nexus, can be leveraged as public goods to foster regional cooperation, enhance climate resilience, and promote equitable access in the Indo-Pacific. It will assess the role of multilateral and minilateral frameworks in advancing these technologies as shared resources, evaluate barriers to inclusive access, and explore strategies to balance competition while fostering collaborative approaches for regional stability, sustainability, and resilience.

Key Questions:

- How can emerging technologies be harnessed as public goods to strengthen Indo-Pacific cooperation?
- What are the key challenges to ensuring equitable technology access across the region?
- How effective are minilateral frameworks in promoting technology as a shared resource compared to multilateral ones?
- What strategies can be implemented to enhance inclusivity in technology-driven regional frameworks?
- How do non-state actors contribute to shaping tech-focused policies for resilience?



1615-1745

- *How can technology integration address both climate and security priorities?*

Key Speakers

Genevieve Donnellon-May

Jennifer K. Hong Whetsell

Dr. Sherwin Ona

Sanjay Pulipaka

Moderator - John Louis Benito

1745-1815

CONCLUSION AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

Vina Nadjibulla

Don McLain Gill

Dr. Gaurav Saini



Experts



Dr. Charmaine M. Willoughby

Dr. Charmaine M. Willoughby is Professor and Chair of the Department of International Studies at De La Salle University, Manila. She is also a Nonresident Scholar at Carnegie China, where her work examines China–Philippine relations and maritime security in Southeast Asia. Her research interests span international security, alliances, maritime and blue security, and Southeast Asian regional dynamics.

Dr. Willoughby has published widely on Philippine foreign and security policy, including recent works on the South China Sea, the Philippine–U.S. alliance, and China’s Belt and Road Initiative. She is Senior Editor of *Asian Politics and Policy* and Co-Editor of *Bandung: Journal of the Global South*.

She has been a fellow of the Institute of East Asian Studies and Käte Hamburger Kolleg at the University of Duisburg–Essen (2017–2018), the Daniel K. Inouye Asia–Pacific Center for Security Studies (2015), the Japan Foundation (2014), and the US–ASEAN Fulbright Program (2013).

Beyond academia, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the National Interest and is a member of the Asia Strategic Foresight Group of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. She is also a frequent speaker in Track II dialogues and government-hosted roundtables on Philippine and regional security.



Vina Nadjibulla

Vina Nadjibulla is Vice-President, Research & Strategy at the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APFC), where she leads the Foundation's research agenda, fellowship programs, education initiatives, and Indo-Pacific regional programming. She also plays a central role in strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and advancing the Foundation's public policy impact.

An international security and peace-building expert with over two decades of experience, Vina has worked with governments, international organizations, think tanks, and philanthropic institutions across Canada, the U.S., China, and Central Asia. Her areas of expertise include conflict resolution, human rights, multilateral diplomacy, and strategic risk. She is a frequent commentator on Canadian foreign policy and Indo-Pacific affairs, with a focus on Canada's evolving relationships with China and India and the region's security and trade dynamics.

Vina is also an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, University of British Columbia, and a Senior Research Fellow at The Soufan Center in New York.



Dr. Gaurav Saini

Gaurav is the Co-founder of the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR), a leading New Delhi think tank focused on foreign policy, defense, and strategic affairs. At CSDR, he leads on project design and implementation, crafting frameworks that explore India's foreign policy evolution, assess technological impacts on national security, analyze internal security challenges, and examine India's relations with East Asia, Europe, and the Indo-Pacific. His expertise extends to designing annual geopolitical assessments, scoping defense industry collaborations, facilitating Track 1.5/2 dialogues, and leading multi-stakeholder research programs.

With a PhD in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, focusing on India's strategic culture toward China (1998–2014), Dr. Saini has been an Emerging Quad Think Tank Leader and a European Union exchange fellow.

Dr. Saini has written extensively on global policy debates, addressing themes such as India-Australia defense and security partnerships, Indian foreign policy transitions, the Quad's strategic resilience, US-India relations amid global shifts, India-Europe defense cooperation, the Global South's geopolitical rise, India's counter-terrorism doctrines, India-China dynamics within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, India's military manufacturing advancements, Brazil-India defense synergies, and China's engagements in the Indo-Pacific.



Don McLain Gill

Don McLain Gill is a geopolitical analyst, author, and lecturer at the Department of International Studies, De La Salle University (DLSU). He is also an Indo-Pacific Research Fellow at the Asia Pacific Foundation (APF) of Canada and a non-resident fellow at the Stratbase ADR Institute. He specializes in Philippine foreign policy, maritime security cooperation, and India–Southeast Asian relations. He has written extensively in the form of books, book chapters, peer-reviewed international journal articles, newspaper columns, and commentary/ analysis articles for major international affairs publishers.



Dr. Hunter Marston

Dr. Hunter Marston is an Adjunct Fellow (Non-resident) with the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). His research examines great power competition in Southeast Asia, U.S. foreign policy in the Indo-Pacific, and the evolving dynamics of regional alliances and security cooperation. He is also an Adjunct Research Fellow at La Trobe Asia and an Associate with 9DashLine.

Previously, Dr. Marston served as Senior Research Assistant with the Center for East Asia Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution and as a researcher in the CSIS Southeast Asia Program. He was also a Harold Rosenthal Fellow in International Relations at the U.S. Embassy in Myanmar. His work has been supported by fellowships from the Pacific Forum (WSD-Handa, 2021) and the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

Dr. Marston's scholarship and commentary have been widely published, including in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*.

He holds a PhD in International Relations from the Australian National University's Coral Bell School of Asia-Pacific Affairs, and dual master's degrees in Southeast Asian Studies and Public Administration from the University of Washington.



Dr. Yujen Kuo

Dr. Yujen Kuo is Director and Professor at the Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. He also serves as Vice President at the Institute for National Policy Research (INPR), where he chairs the Global Risk Assessment Team, and is Secretary-General of the Taiwan Society of Japan Studies. Since 2016, he has been an adviser to Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, as well as to the Chinese National Association of Industry and Commerce.

A leading scholar on Japan's defense and security policy, Dr. Kuo's research focuses on the Japanese defense industry, the U.S.-Japan alliance, and security issues in the Indo-Pacific. He has authored numerous academic books and articles in Chinese, English, and Japanese, contributing to policy debates across the region. His expertise has led to formal invitations to brief institutions including Japan's Ministry of Defense, the U.S. Department of State, and France's Ministry of Armed Forces.

Dr. Kuo holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Southern California. He has held prior appointments at National Taiwan Normal University, the University of Tokyo, and Taiwan's National Applied Research Laboratories. His work bridges academia and policy, advancing understanding of security challenges in Northeast Asia and beyond.



Dr. Nanae Baldauff

Dr. Nanae Baldauff is Senior Non-Resident Associate Fellow at the NATO Defense College and Associate Research Fellow at the United Nations University Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies (UNU-CRIS) in Belgium. She is also Senior Researcher at the Keio Research Institute at SFC, Japan, and serves on the board of the International Security Industry Council Japan.

Her research spans Japan's defence policy, Indo-Pacific security, Japan-Europe cooperation (NATO and EU), space security, and the defence industry. She is the author of *"Japan's Defense Engagement in the Indo-Pacific: Deterrence, Strategic Partnership, and Stable Order Building"* (2024), and has published widely in peer-reviewed journals, policy briefs, and research papers on space security and defense technology cooperation.

She has also lectured at universities internationally, including courses at the NATO Defense College, where she continues to serve as an academic mentor. Dr. Baldauff earned her PhD in Political Science from Ghent University, Belgium, in 2022 and was awarded the Japan Foundation Fellowship in 2021.

In 2024, she became the first Japanese national appointed as a Research Fellow at the NATO Defense College. Her work contributes directly to understanding Japan's role in shaping the evolving Indo-Pacific strategic environment and advancing cross-regional security cooperation.



Dr. Premesha Saha

Dr. Premesha Saha is a Senior Policy Fellow at Asia Society Australia, where her research focuses on emerging trends in Indo-Pacific geopolitics and regional security architecture. Her expertise spans multilateral frameworks, great power competition, maritime security in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia, and India's strategic engagements in East and Southeast Asia, Oceania, and with Australia under its Act East Policy.

She was previously a Maitri Fellow at Asia Society Australia, supported by the Centre for Australia–India Relations, where she led a project on strengthening India–Australia cooperation in Southeast Asia to support ASEAN centrality. Before that, she was a Fellow with the Strategic Studies Programme at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in New Delhi.

Dr. Saha has held prestigious fellowships, including the Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership Fellowship, the US State Department–sponsored Indo-Pacific Security Studies Fellowship at DKI APCSS in Honolulu, and visiting fellowships at ASPI, JFIR, CSIS Jakarta, and Indonesia's BRIN. She was also a Darmasiswa Scholar in Jakarta.

Her publications appear in leading journals and outlets such as *Maritime Affairs*, *The Washington Quarterly*, *The Hindu*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Jakarta Post*. She is co-editor of *“India, South Korea and the ASEAN: Middle Power Diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific”* (2024).



Dr. Shofwan Choiruzzad

Dr. Shofwan Choiruzzad is Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia, and serves as Executive Secretary of the university's ASEAN Studies Center. He also manages research, publications, and social services at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

His work bridges the global and the local, with a particular focus on foreign policy, regionalism, political economy, and governance transformations in Southeast Asia. He earned his PhD from the Graduate School of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, and has been recognized with numerous awards and grants, including from the Global Challenge Research Fund, the British Academy, and Indonesia's Ministry of Research and Higher Education. He was also an ASEAN–Canada Junior Fellow (2014–15).

Dr. Choiruzzad's publications reflect his wide-ranging engagement with Indo-Pacific dynamics and regional governance. His works include studies on ASEAN's evolving centrality in the Indo-Pacific, Indonesia's decolonization and Cold War experiences, and governance challenges in sustainable palm oil. He has also written on environmental security, including the links between tropical peatlands, conservation, and pandemic risks.

At the ASEAN Studies Center, he contributes to regional policy discussions on how Southeast Asia navigates the shifting balance of power and institutions in the Indo-Pacific order.



Jennifer K. Hong Whetsell

Jennifer K. Hong Whetsell is Senior Director at the Institute for Indo-Pacific Security and Managing Director at Pacific Solutions. She brings more than a decade of U.S. federal government experience, having served at the Department of State and the National Science Foundation, where she worked on human rights, anti-trafficking, and strategic communications across Asia and the Pacific Islands.

A former Presidential Management Fellow, she has extensive expertise in strategic planning, program management, and cross-sector partnerships, with a career spanning diplomacy, foreign policy, and security affairs. Her recent work focuses on the Indo-Pacific's emerging security frontiers, particularly space cooperation.

She has published widely on U.S.–ROK and Japan–ROK collaboration in space security, as well as the strategic implications of China's growing space presence. Her analyses have appeared in *The Diplomat*, *Korea Pro*, *Chosun Daily*, and academic outlets, including Waseda University's study on the future of the Quad.

Jennifer holds a Master in Public Policy from the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and a B.A. in Legal Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. Fluent in Korean, she continues to contribute thought leadership on Indo-Pacific security, alliance management, and the evolving role of space in regional strategy.



Dr. Satoru Nagao

Dr. Satoru Nagao is a Nonresident Fellow at Hudson Institute, Tokyo, specializing in US–Japan–India security cooperation and alliance strategy in the Indo-Pacific. He earned his PhD from Gakushuin University in 2011 for his groundbreaking dissertation on India's military strategy, the first such study produced in Japan.

Dr. Nagao is also Senior Research Fellow at the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies and holds affiliations with leading Indian institutions including the Observer Research Foundation, Tillotoma Foundation, and O.P. Jindal Global University. He previously served as a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington DC, and has worked with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a security analyst.

A former First Lieutenant in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces, Dr. Nagao has published extensively on Indo-Pacific security, maritime strategy, and Japan–India defence cooperation. He is a regular columnist on Japan–India relations at Nikkei Business and frequently contributes to policy debates on regional security, alliance networks, and strategic stability in the Indo-Pacific.



Wen-Ti Sung

Wen-Ti Sung is a Nonresident Fellow with the Atlantic Council's Global China Hub and a sessional lecturer in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the Australian National University (ANU). He is also affiliated with ANU's Australian Centre on China in the World.

A political scientist by training, his research examines US-China-Taiwan trilateral relations, with a particular focus on Taiwanese politics, Chinese elite leadership tracking, and US-Taiwan strategic engagement. Sung's analyses have been published in leading policy platforms including *The Conversation*, CSIS PacNet, *The Interpreter*, *East Asia Forum*, and *The Diplomat*.

A frequent commentator on cross-Strait and Indo-Pacific security dynamics, his insights have been cited by major international media such as *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, and *TIME*. He has also provided expert commentary on networks including CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP, ABC, and NPR. In addition to his academic and policy work, Sung contributes Mandarin-language commentary as a columnist for *Up Media* and *Yahoo News Taiwan*.

His work bridges domestic politics and international strategy, highlighting how grassroots political dynamics inform foreign policy choices within the US-China-Taiwan strategic triangle.



Blake Berger

Blake Berger is a Consultant with the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) in New York, where he contributes to policy research and dialogues on the Indo-Pacific. He previously served as Associate Director at ASPI, advising on U.S. foreign policy, East and Southeast Asian affairs, and regional security and development issues. Prior to joining ASPI, he was a Research Associate at the Centre on Asia and Globalisation at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

His expertise covers ASEAN, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), regional integration, the political economy of development, and the evolving U.S.–China competition in East and Southeast Asia. He has led and implemented major initiatives including a multi-stakeholder track-two dialogue on international development cooperation across the U.S., China, Southeast Asia, and Africa, and the creation of a digital toolkit to support host communities of BRI projects. He also directed ASPI's Quad-related research and online platforms.

Blake's publications include reports and op-eds on U.S. and Chinese development strategies, BRI investments, and Southeast Asia's positioning amid major power competition, with work featured in *The Straits Times* and ASPI reports. He holds an MA in Comparative Politics (Southeast Asia) from American University and a BA in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston.



Angelo Miguel Galang

Angelo Miguel Galang is a Lecturer at the Department of International Studies, De La Salle University. His research focuses on strategic studies and military modernization, with a particular interest in the evolving security environment in the Indo-Pacific.

He holds a Master of Arts in International Studies from De La Salle University and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Philippine Christian University.



Kim Heriot-Darragh

Kim Heriot-Darragh is a Research Fellow at the Australia India Institute, where his work focuses on India–Australia defence cooperation and Indo-Pacific security. He also serves as a Non-Resident Fellow at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR), New Delhi.

A strategic and defense analyst with over 14 years in government service, Kim has worked extensively on regional security and alliance management. From 2019 to 2023, he was posted to the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, where he became the first Australian civilian to graduate from India's year-long National Defence College course. His career has also included postings with the Australian government in Washington, DC, and deployments as a civilian on military operations in Timor-Leste and Afghanistan. Kim's expertise spans strategic policy, defence cooperation, and the geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific.

A former Indonesian linguist, he brings linguistic and cultural fluency to his analysis of Southeast Asia. He holds a Master of International Law and continues to publish and engage on issues of regional security, defence partnerships, and Australia–India strategic relations.



Warisa Intaratana

Warisa Intaratana is a Policy Analyst in the Maritime Security Division at the Office of the National Security Council (ONSC), Thailand. She has extensive experience in political analysis, policy and plan development, and cross-cultural communication and negotiation.

Her areas of expertise include international politics in the field of counter-terrorism, transnational crimes and their human rights implications, disarmament and non-proliferation cooperation, strategic trade management, contemporary warfare, maritime security, and strategic competition in the Asia-Pacific.

At ONSC, Warisa serves as the primary contact for international maritime cooperation. Her responsibilities include preparing annual maritime situation assessments, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national maritime policies, and identifying gaps in stakeholder projects to propose effective policy solutions.

She actively engages with a wide range of stakeholders—including government agencies, private sector representatives, and academic researchers—in fields such as the blue economy, oceanic research, maritime logistics, and maritime law.



Dr. Kuyoun Chung

Dr. Kuyoun Chung is Associate Professor of Political Science at Kangwon National University, South Korea. Her research focuses on U.S. foreign policy, the Korean Peninsula, and Indo-Pacific security, with expertise in alliance politics, regional security architecture, nuclear politics, maritime security, and emerging technologies.

She received her B.A. and M.A. in Political Science from Korea University and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Previously, she served as a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at UCLA, a visiting professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy, and a research fellow at the Korea Institute for National Unification.

Alongside her academic career, Dr. Chung has extensive policy experience. She has served as a policy advisor and committee member for multiple government bodies, including the National Security Council under the Office of the President, the Ministry of National Defense, the Republic of Korea Navy, the Ministry of Unification, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

She has also advised the Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control and the National Unification Advisory Council. Dr. Chung's work bridges academia and policy, contributing to both scholarly research and national security policymaking in South Korea.



Jonathan Gabriel Mendoza

Jonathan Gabriel Mendoza is a practicing attorney and Assistant Professorial Lecturer in International Relations at De La Salle University, where he teaches in both the International Studies and Commercial Law departments.

Balancing law practice with academia, Mr. Mendoza has taught courses on European foreign relations and politics, European governments, international law, international organizations and development, and international business agreements. His academic and professional work reflects a dual expertise in legal practice and international affairs, particularly in the intersections of law, governance, and global politics.

He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in International Studies, with a specialization in European Studies, from De La Salle University. He later pursued his Juris Doctor at the Ateneo de Manila University–School of Law. Through his combined roles in legal practice and teaching, Mr. Mendoza brings both practical and theoretical perspectives to the study of international relations, global governance, and international law.



Daisuke Kawai

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His research and policy work focus on digital governance, information management, and security governance in the Philippines. Dr. Ona has served as technical consultant to key Philippine government agencies, including the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, the Department of Science and Technology, the Commission on Higher Education, and the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

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NOTES



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to the following individuals from CSDR, De La Salle University & AFPC for their efforts in making this workshop possible.

- **Amen Naithani – Research Associate, CSDR**
- **Zitni Wattal – Program Associate, CSDR**
- **Akanksha Baruah – Program Assistant, CSDR**
- **Don McLain Gill – De La Salle University**
- **Dr. Charmaine M. Willoughby – De La Salle University**
- **Suvolaxmi Dutta Choudhury – Program Manager, APFC**



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