Panel Discussion

“Asia & Europe: The Dawning of a New Era?”

Thursday, 8 June 2017, 4-6 pm
Singapore
On the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and on the side lines of the 36th ASEF Board of Governors’ Meeting, ASEF, together with the Foreign Correspondents’ Association Singapore (FCA) and the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSSP) are organising a Panel Discussion on the state and future of Asian-European relations.

US President Donald Trump has called into question major general geo-political issues such as globalisation, the post-Cold War balance of powers and free trade. He challenged America’s traditional political, security and economic relations both with Asia and with Europe: the bilateral US-Asian alliances, NATO, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

This is forcing Asian and European countries to not only reassess their respective relationships with the United States, but also rethink their own regional and global positions and roles. While these changes in the international environment are posing new challenges, they may also offer opportunities for Asians and Europeans to reflect within their respective regions, to take a fresh look at each other, and to adjust or even reinvent their relationships.

The Panel will be discussing the following questions:

1) Can the new times of uncertainty offer a chance for Asian and European countries and regional organizations to come closer together? Can they together reaffirm fundamental principles of international political and economic relations, such as multilateralism, rule of law and free trade? Can they perhaps even jointly provide a new global leadership?

2) The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process has been in existence as a political dialogue forum for 20 years, promoting dialogue and cooperation between Asian and European governments. Should the upcoming 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (ASEM FMM13), for instance, be used as a platform for a strong joint statement in support of free trade and against protectionism?

3) The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has been bringing Asian and European people and institutions, particularly those from the civil society, together for the past 20 years to promote better mutual understanding and cooperation between them. How could ASEF’s unique role of complementing the government-led ASEM Process contribute to tackling the emerging challenges and opportunities facing Asia and Europe and the inter-regional relationship?
PROGRAMME

Venue: Auditorium, Level 3, Block B, Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) Bukit Timah Campus, 469G Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259776

15:30 Registration

16:00 Welcome Remarks
by Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

16:05 Keynote Speech
by Prof Kishore MAHBUBANI, Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)

16:20 Panel Discussion
Moderator:
Ms Sharanjit LEYL
Presenter and Producer, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
President, Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) (Singapore)

Panellists:
Ambassador-at-Large Prof Tommy KOH
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Prof Dr Helmut HAUSSMANN
AUFHGFEDUHL SGEHGERMANY since 1997
Vice President, Capgemini Deutschland Holding GmbH
Former German Federal Minister of Economics

Dr KIM Gwang-jo
Director, UNESCO Asia & Pacific Regional Bureau of Education

Prof Beatrice WEDER DI MAURO
Professor of Economics, University of Mainz, Germany
Distinguished Fellow-in-residence Emerging Markets Institute, INSEAD Singapore

Ms Hillary BRIFFA
Doctoral Candidate & Graduate Teaching Assistant, King’s College, London

17:20 Questions and Answers

17:50 Closing Remarks
by Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

18:00 Networking Reception
Venue: Lobby, Oei Tiong Ham Building, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP), 469C Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259772
Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE
Executive Director,
Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

Ambassador Karsten WARNECKE is the 7th Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in charge of the management and administration of the organisation, the implementation of its programmes and policies, and representing the organisation. He joined ASEF as the 6th Deputy Executive Director in August 2012.

Before joining ASEF, Ambassador WARNECKE dealt mainly with Germany’s and the EU’s involvement in ASEAN and in the ASEM Process as part of his portfolio as Counselor at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, where he served as Deputy Head of Division for Regional Organizations and Cooperation in Asia-Pacific.

A seasoned career diplomat with over 25 years of experience, including almost 20 years with Asia, Ambassador WARNECKE is adept at working in cross-cultural settings and in bringing people together from diverse backgrounds. Previous postings have seen him serve in the German Consulates-General in New York, USA, and Chennai, India, as well as the German Embassy in Singapore.

Ambassador WARNECKE holds an M.A. in International Relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., after studying Political Science at the Free University in Berlin.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof Kishore MAHBUBANI
Dean, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP)

Kishore Mahbubani is the Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS. Concurrently, he serves in the Boards and Councils of institutions around the world. Before that, he served in the Singapore Foreign Service for 33 years (from 1971 to 2004) – notably as Singapore’s Ambassador to the UN, President of the UN Security Council (in January 2001 and May 2002), and Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Ministry (from 1993 to 1998). He speaks and writes extensively on public policy issues, and is the author of Can Asians Think?, Beyond The Age Of Innocence, The New Asian Hemisphere, The Great Convergence, Can Singapore Survive, and co-author of The ASEAN Miracle.

MODERATOR

Ms Sharanjit LEYL
Presenter and Producer, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
President, Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) (Singapore)

Sharanjit is a Singaporean presenter and producer of global news with a truly international perspective.

Sharanjit Leyl is an experienced Producer and Presenter with twenty years of broadcasting experience. With the BBC World News, she regularly anchors Asia Business Report and Newsday from the BBC’s Singapore studio. She is also a reporter and producer on the shows along with World Business Report. Born and brought up in Singapore and the US, she is unique in bringing her local connections and perspectives to bear on global issues.

Sharanjit joined the BBC in 2003 and was previously with Bloomberg TV in Tokyo and Bridge Information Systems financial news service before that. She began her journalism career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in 1997 after earning her degree in Journalism and English Literature from The University of Maryland College Park (Washington DC) and her Masters degree in English Literature from the University of British Columbia.

In 2016, she was elected the first Singaporean president of the Foreign Correspondents Association in its six decade long history.
Ambassador-at-Large
Prof Tommy KOH
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore

Ambassador Prof Tommy KOH is currently Ambassador-At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Special Adviser to the Institute of Policy Studies, and Chairman of the Governing Board of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He is the Chairman of the International Advisory Panel of the Asia Research Institute (NUS) and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Master's Degree on Environmental Management (NUS). He is also the Co-chairman of the Asian Development Bank’s Advisory Committee on Water and Sanitation. He is Rector of the Tembusu College, at NUS, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the SymAsia Foundation of Credit Suisse.

He had served as Dean of the Faculty of Law of NUS, Singapore's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador to the United States of America, High Commissioner to Canada and Ambassador to Mexico. He was President of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for and the Main Committee of the UN Conference on Environment and Development. He was the founding Chairman of the National Arts Council, founding Executive Director of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and former Chairman of the National Heritage Board. He was also Singapore’s Chief Negotiator for the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. He acted as Singapore’s Agent in two legal disputes with Malaysia. He has chaired two dispute panels for the WTO. He is the Co-Chairman of the China Singapore Forum, the Japan-Singapore Symposium and the India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue.

In 2006, Prof Koh received the Champion of the Earth Award from UNEP and the inaugural President’s Award for the Environment from Singapore. He was conferred with honorary doctoral degrees in law by Yale and Monash Universities. Harvard University conferred on him the Great Negotiator Award in 2014.
Helmut Haussmann was Minister of Economics of the Federal Republic of Germany from 1988-1991. Subsequently he took up the position of parliamentary speaker for European affairs from 1991 to 2002 and became member of the government’s foreign trade advisory board in 1991. He additionally assumed the vice presidency of Capgemini Deutschland GmbH from 1991 onwards.

Due to his long-lasting political and international experience, Helmut Haussmann is a highly appreciated member of several national advisory committees and international boards of directors. Since 1997 he is Germany’s representative in the Asia-Europe-Foundation (ASEF), Singapore.

Helmut Haussmann teaches at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg at the Department of International Management for more than 30 years. In 2010, he joined the Department of International Business as adjunct professor.
Born in the Republic of Korea, Dr Kim holds a Bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from Korea University (1978), a Master’s degree (1984) and a PhD (1994) in Education from Harvard University.

Dr Kim began his senior responsibilities in Korea, where he advised and assisted former President Young Sam Kim in the fields of education and social policy (1995–1997). He played a key role in the planning of the nation-wide education reform initiative, entitled “531 Education Reform” aimed at restructuring the entire Korean education system.

Between 2001 and 2004, Dr Kim was affiliated with the World Bank as Senior Education Specialist at its Headquarters in Washington DC.

In 2004, Dr Kim was appointed Director-General of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MOEHRD) in Korea where he led and prepared cross-ministerial human resources development policies, i.e., the Five Year National Human Resources Development Plan. From 2005 to 2008, Dr Kim was Deputy-Minister of Education and Human Resources Development of the Republic of Korea. He coordinated cross-ministerial human resources development policy initiatives and initiated and launched the Global Human Resources Forum in Seoul in 2006.

Dr Kim is a member of various professional associations on education policy, finance and economics, has published works in his area of expertise on education, and has represented the South Korean Government at various ministerial-level meetings.

In 2009, Dr Kim was appointed Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Asia-Pacific, as well as UNESCO Representative to Thailand, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Singapore.
Beatrice Weder di Mauro is professor of Economics and holds the Chair of Economic Policy and International Macroeconomics at the University of Mainz in Germany. Presently she is Distinguished Fellow in residence at the Emerging Markets Institute of INSEAD in Singapore.

She has provided high-level policy advice to European governments, the European Commission, several international organizations and various central banks. For eight years she served on the German Council of Economic Experts, the highest advisory body for economic matters reporting directly to the German chancellor. She has been a member of strategic advisory groups for the Swiss and the Austrian governments, led research projects and acted as a consultant for the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Central Bank, the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the G20.

She received her PhD from the University of Basel and subsequently worked as economist in the European and the Fiscal Affairs department of the International Monetary Fund. She held visiting scholar positions at Harvard University, the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge MA, the United Nations University in Tokyo and INSEAD in Singapore. She is a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) in London, a senior fellow of the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research (ABFER) in Singapore, a senior fellow of the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) in Toronto and a member of the Committee on International Economic and Policy Research (CIEPR) at Brookings in Washington DC.

Weder di Mauro has served as nonexecutive director on the boards of globally leading companies in banking, development finance, pharmaceuticals, technology and insurance. Currently she is a member of the board of Bombardier in Montreal, of Robert Bosch in Stuttgart and of UBS Group in Zurich.

Her research addresses policy related questions in international macroeconomics. Recent publications have focused on reforms of the euro zone, debt sustainability, cross-border banking regulation, financial integration, international competitiveness, G20 and the global financial architecture. She has published extensively in leading academic journals, writes regular op-eds and contributions to the public policy debate. Weder di Mauro is among the top three percent on RePEc’s ranking of economists by scholarly citations.
PANELLIST

Ms Hillary BRIFFA
Doctoral Candidate & Graduate Teaching Assistant, King’s College, London

Hillary Briffa is currently reading for a doctorate in War Studies at King’s College London, querying whether small states can have a Grand Strategy. She currently teaches second year undergraduates on the module “Grand Strategy and the Foundations of the Anglo-American Strategic Tradition”.

In her capacity as Youth Ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe for Malta for two years, she worked closely with the international institution, ranging from the development of the organisation’s Declaration on Youth and Security, to patrols with the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, and the running of workshops in Kyrgyzstan.

In London she recently completed an internship at the Malta High Commission to the UK, and undertook research with FromOverHere strategic consultancy.

In April 2016 she was a recipient of the U.S. State Department’s inaugural Emerging Young Leaders award for her extensive efforts in counter-radicalisation, implementing grassroots educational projects in Malta and the UK, and carrying out peace-building initiatives in the frozen conflict nations of Eastern Europe.
ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF’s activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals.

For more information, please visit www.ASEF.org

The Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) of Singapore is one of the oldest and largest foreign journalist organizations in Asia.

The group was founded in April 1956 as the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southeast Asia. Among its early members were famous Observer correspondent Dennis Bloodworth and Wee Kim Wee, the one-time United Press International (UPI) bureau chief, and later President of Singapore.

The FCA seeks to be the voice of a new generation of journalists and members who are deeply interested in Singapore and the world around them. To that end, the FCA offers informative and thought-provoking programs and also try to have some fun.

They are committed to serving traditional media and are also reaching out to 21st century forms of news dissemination.

For more information, please visit www.fcasingapore.com
ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Part of the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) was established in 2004 with the mission of being the leading global public policy school in Asia. Their strategic location in Singapore – a city-state widely known for its strong governance and efficient civil service – enables students to study in one of the best public policy laboratories in the world, while accessing the wider Asia-Pacific region in a distinctively global environment.

The school enrolls some 400 students from over 70 countries in its four Masters and Ph.D. programmes annually. Its curriculum spans across multiple disciplines and is complemented with case studies and a problem-based learning approach. Students from the LKYSPP can expect to extend their learning well beyond the walls of the classroom, and to benefit from strong empirical evidence and contextual narratives that emphasise Asian and international dimensions. The School boasts a pool of research-active faculty who addressed many vital global challenges. It has also cultivated an extensive network of international partners. In 2007, LKYSPP became the first Asian school to join the Global Public Policy Network (GPPN), which was established by the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs in the United States, the London School of Economics and Sciences Po. By providing opportunities for the education and training of the next generation of Asian policymakers and leaders, the LKYSPP aims to raise the standards of governance throughout the region, improve the lives of the people in the region and, in so doing, contribute to the transformation of Asia.

For more information, please visit http://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg