



Global South Network

2025

**Global South and
Southeast Asia**

10-12 June 2025

ORGANIZER

Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia
Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation
The Institute for a Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China
Shanghai Chunqiu Institute for Development and Strategic Studies

Words for the Forum

The concept of the "Global South" emerged after the Russia-Ukraine conflict and has gained widespread popularity in recent years due to its relevance to international political realities.

Clearly distinct from the West, the Global South consists of latecomers in the modernization process, imitators of Western modernization, marginal followers of the modern world system, and, above all, victims of the unjust and unreasonable international order.

After World War II, the Western colonial system collapsed, and a large number of Asian, African, and Latin American countries gained independence. In their quest to establish a new world order, newly independent Southern nations gave rise to the "Bandung Spirit" in the 1950s, which included the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence", the Non-Aligned Movement and so on. The world has been transformed by the Global South. However, the path of modernization has not been smooth for Southern countries. In more than 70 years since the war, few have successfully completed modernization, and most still face formidable challenges in development and nation-building. Development remains the primary agenda for the Global South.

For decades, the development agenda has been deeply influenced by Western countries. In terms of development knowledge, institutional building, development models, and technological pathways, Southern countries have been profoundly shaped by the Western model of modernization. Yet, practice for decades have shown that the Western model is not universally applicable to Southern countries. The Western development theories that prevailed in the post-war era have led to one failure after another.

Today, countries of the Global South have entered an era of intellectual awakening. On the path of modernization, Southern nations must establish their own epidemic awareness, construct their own intellectual subjectivity, and break free from the state of imitation and dependence on Western knowledge.

With these above backgrounds in mind, the "Global South Network" (GSN) will be such a transnational civil initiative led by intellectuals from Southern countries. Its mission is to foster development models and knowledge discourse systems rooted in the historical, cultural, and national realities of their respective countries, regions, and ethnic groups, and to use these to guide and explain the development undertakings of Southern nations.

As the world enters an era of instability and complexity, the upheavals in the United States and the West are steering humanity toward an unpredictable future. Therefore, the Global South should assume a more active role, and intellectuals from the Global South should be more self-aware and participate in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Southeast Asia, as a close neighbor of China and a significant force in the Global South, requires greater unity between itself and the broader Global South. It is a responsibility of the intellectual community in China and Southeast Asia to promote the unity of Southeast Asia and the Global South.

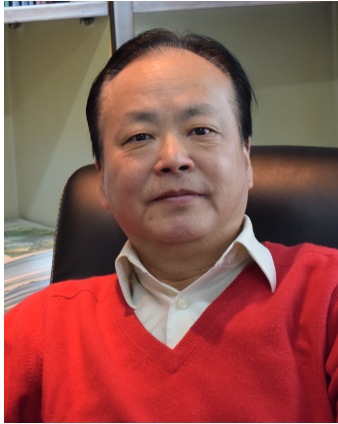
This is the original aspiration behind this forum. We look forward to sharing insights with all participants.

Yang Ping

Initiator of GSN

Chairman of Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation

President of BCR Magazine



Yang Ping

Mr. Yang Ping is the founder of BCR Magazine, one of the most influential academic periodicals in contemporary China. The journal epitomizes the academic thoughts of the most important scholarly community in China's intellegensia, reflecting Chinese thinkers' perspectives on major issues confronting China and the world today. In the 1990s, Mr. Yang also founded Strategy and Management, another leading academic peiodical in China's intellectual community at the time, which influenced two entire generations of academia in the 20th century.

As an accomplished scholar, Mr. Yang has profound expertise in political economy, international politics, and intellectual culture. He has edited major collections such as General Theory of Chinese Civilization and Liberalism as a Political Ideology, and authored articles including The Evolution and Potential Challenges of China's Social Structure in the New Era, Socialism 3.0: The Reality and Future of Chinese Socialism, and Building a New International System for the Global South, which have exerted wide influence across intellectual and societal spheres.

Starting from a 40-year media background, Mr. Yang has gradually transitioned into a host of academic journals and a scholar dedicated to intellectual pursuits. Characterized by intellectual acuity, a talent for identifying issues, and a macro-level vision, he excels at exploring Chinese problems through international and historical comparisons, demonstrating strong comprehensive intellectual capabilities. He stands as a highly influential and representative thinker in contemporary China.

Mr. Yang Ping currently serves as the Chairman of the Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation.



Winnie Kao

Ms. Kao was born in Taiwan and graduated from the Department of Political Science at National Taiwan University, University of Pittsburgh, and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA. Before coming to mainland China, she was a career diplomat. In 1990s, she served as chief of staff in the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Taiwan Legislative Yuan, the Office of the Director of the Information Bureau, and the Taipei Forum Foundation.

In 2000, Ms. Kao went to Guilin, Guangxi and worked as head of the public relations and sales marketing department of Merryland Resort, which was invested by Taiwan's largest brokerage firm. That 2 billion RMB project was the largest foreign direct investment in Guangxi at the time. In 2002, she started the CICC Management Consulting company which focused on assisting China's small-medium banks to invite foreign strategic investors and improve banks' productivity management, helping small banks to examine their business models and establish internal quantitative management mechanisms.

In 2004, Ms. Kao invited 21 Taiwanese entrepreneurs to participate in launching "SEE Ecological Association" initiated by 70 mainland entrepreneurs and served as the first vice president. SEE was China's first ecological NGO with entrepreneurial members as its core. Currently, it has more than 900 members and is the most influential civil non-gov non-profit environmental protection foundation in China.

In 2009, Ms. Kao was invited to be Deputy Secretary-General of the Beijing Agricultural Development Poverty Alleviation Foundation. That foundation was originated from a women microfinance program in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. It had received funding from Ford Foundation, Bangladesh Grameen Bank and Citigroup, and received strong support from the State Council Poverty Alleviation Office. In 2010, she started her own poverty alleviation NGO called "Agricultural Incubation Network" to support rural women in self-employment through small, low-interest loans. During the following 10 years, AIN has covered more than 700 counties and thousands of villages in China, supporting more than 10,000 rural families.

In 1990s, Ms. Kao taught eastern and western political thought classes at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan. From 2006 to 2010, she was invited to be lecturer in banking professional training courses at the School of Continuing Education of Tsinghua University, training senior managers of small-medium banks in China.

In 2024, at the invitation of Mr. Yang Ping and Mr. Eric Li, she served as Secretary-General of the "Global South Network, GSN", committed to build a Global South intellectual network and influenced southern elites, ruling party, media and civil society in the future.

Global South and Southeast Asia Host



Zhang Yanqiu

Zhang Yanqiu is a professor of Communication and the Deputy Dean of the Institute for a Community with a Shared Future at Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China. She also serves as the Director of Africa Communication Research Center at CUC. She won her PhD at Renmin University of China (2005), MA and BA at Communication University of China. She has dedicated

much of her research to international communication, African media studies, constructive journalism, public diplomacy and media literacy.

She won the Special Award for Canadian Studies (2003), and was a visiting scholar at the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia (2004), and a visiting fellow at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), UK (2008).

She has published or edited 6 books and 70+ academic articles and chapters. Her books include “International Communication Planning”, “Understanding Media Literacy: Origins, Paradigms and Approaches”. She has chaired over 20 funded projects, such as Chinese National Image Study in Africa, the Chinese National Social Science Fund Project. She visited 40+ countries for academic conferences and lectures around the world.

Global South and Southeast Asia Agenda

Forum Dates: June 10 - 12, 2025

Forum Location: University of Indonesia, Kn Depok Campus, South Jakarta

June 10

- Afternoon Arrive in Jakarta, airport transfer will be arranged.
Accommodation:
The Margo Hotel, Margonda St. No.358, Kemiri Muka, Beji District, Depok City, West Java 16424. TEL: +62 2129515888
- 17:00-18:00 **Quick supper**
Place: Margo Buffet Restaurant
- 18:30-21:30 **Evening Movie - Welcome Night**
Gathering Time: 18:15
Gathering Place: Margo Lobby
Content: Movie & Salon
Movie: Perang Kota (Walking distance from Margo)
As a creating opening event of the forum, UI will present a characteristic Indonesian movie for attendees. After the movie, through relaxed and vivid salon discussion, Dean Semiarto Aji Purwanto will lead attendees into the Southeast Asia cultural and social atmosphere behind the scene.

June 11

- Gathering Time: 08:15
Gathering Place: Margo Lobby
Transportation: UI Shuttle Bus (10-15mins drive)
- 9:00-9:20 **Opening Remarks**
Speakers:
• **Dr. Ir. Heri Hermansyah, S.T., M.Eng., IPU. (Indonesia)**
Rector of University of Indonesia
• **Mr Yang Ping (China)**
Initiator of GSN; Chairman of Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation; President of BCR Magazine
Chairman of Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation

Topic 1: Ontological Awakening in the Global South

- 9:20-10:35 **Explanation:**
The world has long been defined by Western countries and led by Western values, discourses, and knowledge. Today, with the rise of the Global South, countries in the Global South are faced with a historical opportunity and task of knowledge awakening. We need to establish our own propositions regarding our global perspectives, shared values, development models, and future visions.

9:20-10:35

Speakers:

• **Syed Farid Alatas (Singapore)**

Associate Professor of Sociology, National University of Singapore (NUS)
Critique and Construction in Knowledge Creation: Taking Decolonization Seriously

• **Yin Zhiguang (China)**

Professor in international politics, Fudan University
Theorising the Future: Bandung Spirit and the Continuous Making of the World Order in Motion

• **Qin Beichen (China)**

Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University
Southern Theory and Southeast Asia's Economic Catch-up

• **Hoang Hue Anh (Vietnam)**

Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies, Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS)
The Vacuum Period of Universal Values and the Role of The Global South

• **Max Lane (Singapore)**

Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute
The Indonesia Contradiction: A Major Global South Country in Denial

10:35-10:50

Coffee Break

Topic 2: What Kind of Global South Do We Want?

10:50-12:20

Explanation:

In contrast to the Bandung era, today's global South faces a new era of global development with a markedly changed mission for the times. In this context, how to define new tasks, new goals and new visions of the Global South?

"Development should undoubtedly be the core task of the Global South. But the development model formed after World War II has not solved development dilemma of most southern countries. What is the root of the problem?

Countries in the Global South contain diverse values, cultural traditions, development levels and interest demands. How should we understand the internal structure and order of this cluster?

In an era of dramatic upheaval in the global order, how has the Global South, as a cluster of countries, grown to become an important political trend?

Speakers:

• **Vannarith Chheang (Cambodia)**

Chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia
ASEAN and the Global South

• **Awang Azman Awang Pawi (Malaysia)**

Professor at the Department of Sociocultural, Academy of Malay Studies, University of Malaya
Rethinking Development in the Global South: Lessons from Malaysia with a Focus on Sarawak's Contemporary Trajectory

· **Lucio Blanco Pitlo III (Philippine)**

President of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies and
Research Fellow for Asia-Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation
The Values and Future Visions of the Global South

· **Hilmar Farid (Indonesia)**

Director-General for Culture at Indonesia's Ministry of Education and
Culture
Beyond Infrastructure: Cultural Sovereignty and Digital Flows in the
China-ASEAN interface

· **Zha Daojiong (China)**

Professor of International Political Economy in the School of
International Studies and the Institute of South-South Cooperation and
Development, Peking University
The Global South: a Chinese Perspective

· **Tran Thanh Hai (Vietnam)**

Deputy Director General of Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic
Studies (IFPSS), Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV)
The Future of the Global South: Towards a Global, Inclusive, and
People-Centered Vision

12:20-14:20

Lunch

Lunch Place: Margo Buffet Restaurant
Gathering Time: 13:45
Gathering Place: Margo Lobby
Transportation: UI Shuttle Bus (10-15mins drive)

Topic 3: The Global South and Neo-Developmentalism

14:20-15:50

Explanation:

Development is undoubtedly the primary task of southern countries. However, looking back at history, various modernization development models promoted by the West since World War II have not been successful. Many southern countries are still struggling in the whirlpool of poverty and turmoil. To this end, southern countries need to view the lessons learned from 70 years of development after the war in theory and practice, explore new development paths and models, and construct "new developmentalism" and "new development theory" that are different from traditional developmentalism.

Speakers:

· **Jomo Kwame Sundaram (Malaysia)**

Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya, Fellow, Academy of Science, Malaysia, Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya Bandung, Non-Alignment for Our Times, and Progress

· **Li Xiaoyun (China)**

Chair Professor of China Agricultural University (CAU) and Honorary Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA)

New Developmentalism: The Epistemic Awakening of the Global South

· **Yang Ping (China)**

Initiator of GSN; Chairman of Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation; President of BCR Magazine
The Political Economy Connotation of Development and the Innovation of Development Theory

· **Zhou Yongmei (China)**

Professor of Practice in Institutional Development and Director of Global Partnership, Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development
Is Good Governance a Necessary Condition for Development?

· **Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad (Indonesia)**

Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia
Global South Agency and Post WW II International Order

· **Neak Chandarith (Cambodia)**

Associate Professor and the Director of the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy (IISPP) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh; Founding director of the Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Centre
Re-examining Modernization of the Global South

15:50-16:05

Coffee Break

Topic 4: Development Models and Experiences

16:05-17:50

Explanation:

Beyond the trend of neoliberalism, it is inevitable for southern countries to explore and form a development model that conforms to the laws of modernization while having their own characteristics. Among them, the East Asian models have attracted the most attention. Summarizing these experiences is of great significance to the development of southern countries.

Speakers:

· **Semiarto Aji Purwanto (Indonesia)**

Dean & Professor of Anthropology at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (FISIP UI)
Beyond Modernization: Indonesia's Cultural Policy and the Search for Contextual Development in the Global South

· **Fernando T. Aldaba (Philippine)**

Professor of Economics and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ateneo de Manila University
Alternative Development Models: From a Philippine and ASEAN Perspective

· **Xu Liping (China)**

Senior Research Fellow of National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS); Director of Center for South East Asian Studies in NIIS, CASS
The Islamic Elements in Southeast Asia's Development Model

· **LYE Liang Fook (Singapore)**

Associate Senior Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Singapore; Founders Associate at Contemporary China Studies
Retaining Agency and Pursuing Cooperation in a Changed World: A View from Singapore

• **Narong Petprasert (Thailand)**

Dean of the Faculty of Economics at Rangsit University
Thai Political Economy

• **Kong Tao (China)**

Head of the Research Division at the Institute of Social Science Survey;
Senior Research Fellow of Institute of Digital Finance, Peking University (PKU)

Expanding the Middle Class as a Critical Pathway for Constructing a New Development Paradigm: A Comparative Study of China, Indonesia, and Malaysia

• **Rommel Banlaoi (Philippine)**

Chairman of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence, and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR); President of the Philippine Society for International Security Studies (PSISS)

China's Development Model and Experiences: Lessons for the Philippines

17:50-19:20

Dinner

UI Shuttle Bus

Dinner Place: Margo Buffet Restaurant

Face-to-Face Night

19:30-21:30

Gathering Time: 19:15

Gathering Place: Margo Lobby

Place: Monsieur Spoon, Margo City Ground Floor, North Lobby (Walking distance from Margo)

Host:

• **Ms Zhang Yanqiu**

Professor, Deputy Dean of the Institute for a Community with a Shared Future, Director of Africa Communication Research Center
Communication University of China (CUC)

June 12

Gathering Time: 08:15

Gathering Place: Margo Lobby

Transportation: UI Shuttle Bus (10-15mins drive)

Topic 5: Southeast Asia Sub-regional Cooperation

9:00-10:30

Explanation:

Cooperation between China and Southeast Asia has a long history. In today's era, this cooperation faces a variety of challenges, including geopolitical changes, the impact of the new technological revolutions, and the sustainable development agenda. Addressing the issues of sub-regional cooperation between China and Southeast Asia in the new era will provide important references for cooperation in the Global South.

Speakers:**· Wang Min (China)**

Tenured Associate Professor at the National School of Development, Peking University; Deputy Director of the Center for Environmental and Energy Economics at Peking University

Renewable Development in China: From Policy-Driven Growth to Market-Led Expansion

· Kin Phea (Cambodia)

Director General of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia (IRIC) at RAC

Strengthening Sub-Regional Cooperation: China-ASEAN Infrastructure Development and Poverty Reduction (The Case of Cambodia)

· Xu Jintao (China)

Boya Distinguished Professor of Economics at the National School of Development, Peking University; Deputy Director of the University's Economic and Management Division

China's Timber Trade and Sustainable Global Forest Management

· Helio A.X. Mauquei (Timor-Leste)

Vice-Rector for Administration, Finance, and General Management at Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)

Southeast Asian Energy Economy

· Fachru Nofrian (Indonesia)

Lecturer, Research at Faculty of Economics and Business, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta

Indonesia and China Collaboration in Extractive and Renewable Energy Industry and its Impact on Labor and Income in Indonesia

· Maria Monica Wihardja (Singapore)

Visiting Fellow and Co-Coordinator of the Media, Technology and Society Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute

ASEAN-China Cooperation: The Southeast Asian Perspectives

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

Topic 6: Cooperation and Rethinking in Southeast Asia

10:45-12:30

Explanation:

Industrialization is an unavoidable task of the times in Southeast Asia. However, it faces many new challenges nowadays. Among them, issues such as the supply chain dilemma, digitalization of industries and improvement of the social protection system are new challenges. All of these lead us to rethink our way forward.

Speakers:**· Hong LIU (Singapore)**

Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor in Public Policy and Global Affairs at the School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore; University's Associate Vice President and Director (Research & Executive Education) of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA)

China and the Global South: A Perspective of Transnational Knowledge Transfer

• **Chang-Yau Hoon (Brunei)**

Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, and former Director of the Centre for Advanced Research, Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Rethinking the Global South: A Cultural Reflection from Southeast Asia

• **Vivi Alatas (Indonesia)**

Senior Advisor to Policy Team for Social Prosperity under Coordinating Ministry for Community Empowerment in Indonesia
The importance of strategic collaboration in harnessing digitization, technology and AI

• **Shandre M. Thangavelu (Malaysia)**

Head (President) of Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia and Senior Fellow at Jeffrey Sachs Centre for Sustainable Development at Sunway University, Malaysia
Goeconomics Fragmentation and Resilience of Global Production Value Chain in Southeast Asia

• **Pan Yue (China)**

Associate Research Fellow, Deputy Director of the Indonesian Research Center, School of International Relations, Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University; Deputy Director of the Center for Indonesian Studies
Mutual Learning between Chinese Modernization and Indonesian Development: A Perspective Based on "Domain Knowledge" and Joint Practices

• **Elan Satriawan (Indonesia)**

Associate Professor in Department of Economics, Universitas Gadjah Mada
Developing Social Protection System to Promote People Resiliency and Inclusive Economy

• **Hoang Thi Ha (Singapore)**

Senior Fellow and Co-coordinator of the Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute
The Global South and Southeast Asia

12:30-14:30

Lunch

UI Shuttle Bus

Lunch Place: Margo Buffet Restaurant

Gathering Time: 13:45

Gathering Place: Margo Lobby

Transportation: UI Shuttle Bus (10-15mins drive)

Round Table Discussion Part A (All Speakers)

Host:

• **Chheang Vannarith (Cambodia)**

Chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

• **Li Xiaoyun (China)**

Chair Professor of China Agricultural University (CAU) and Honorary Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA)

14:30-16:05

Topics For Reference:

- Southeast Asian and Chinese intellectuals' top concerns about the Global South
- The influence and reflection of Western thought on Southeast Asia
- The impact and reflection of China's experience on Southeast Asia

16:05-16:20

Coffee Break

Round Table Discussion Part B (All Speakers)

Host:

· **Jomo Kwame Sundaram (Malaysia)**

Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya, Fellow, Academy of Science, Malaysia, Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya

· **Yang Ping (China)**

Initiator of GSN; Chairman of Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation; President of BCR Magazine

16:20-18:00

Topics For Reference:

- In the face of the Trump administration, whether the current situation of Southeast Asian countries "relying on China economically and relying on the US militarily and politically" is sustainable
- The relationship between China's production capacity output and Southeast Asia's independent development
- The impact of the U.S. tariff war on relations between China and Southeast Asia
- Suggestions on strengthening cooperation between Southeast Asia and China

18:00

Farewell Dinner

UI Shuttle Bus

Dinner Place: Senayan Restaurant (Indonesian Cuisine)

Host: Mr Semiarto Aji Purwanto, Mr Yang Ping, Ms Zhang Yanqiu

June 13

All Day

Departure, airport transfer will be arranged.

Global South and Southeast Asia

Our Speakers *(In alphabetical order of surnames)*

Brunei



Chang-Yau Hoon

Chang-Yau Hoon is Professor at the Institute of Asian Studies, and former Director of the Centre for Advanced Research, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. He is also Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, Honorary Director of Institute of Brunei Studies at Guangxi Minzu University, and Advisor of Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at South China Normal University. He was Visiting Professor at Sciences Po Lyon in March 2025 and Visiting Senior Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in 2023-2024. Additionally, he serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Asia in Transition book series at Springer. Professor Hoon specializes in

Chinese diaspora, identity politics, multiculturalism, and religious and cultural diversity in contemporary Southeast Asia. His latest books include *Christianity and the Chinese in Indonesia: Ethnicity, Education and Enterprise* (Liverpool University Press, 2023); *Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements* (with Ying-kit Chan, Lexington Press, 2023); and *Stability, Growth and Sustainability: Catalysts for Socio-economic Development in Brunei Darussalam* (co-edited, ISEAS Publishing, 2023). His article published in *Asia Pacific Viewpoint* was awarded Wiley Top Cited Article 2022-2023 and his *Asian Ethnicity* article in 2006 was ranked the most cited article of all time.

Cambodia



Vannarith Chheang

Vannarith Chheang is a public intellectual and social innovator. He is currently serving as the Chairman of the Advisory Council of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia. He was the President of the Asian Vision Institute (2019-2023), Southeast Asia Consultant at the Nippon Foundation (2016-2018), Lecturer of Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Leeds (2013-2016), Executive Director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (2008-2013). He received his PhD in Asia Pacific Studies from the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in 2009, MA in International Relations from the International University of Japan in 2006, and

BA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam in 2002. His research interests focus on geopolitics and geoeconomics of the Asia-Pacific.



Kin Phea

Dr. Kin Phea is the Director General of the International Relations Institute of Cambodia (IRIC) at RAC. He joined IRIC in 2005 following his work at the Ministry of Interior (1998–2003) and the RAC’s Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (2003–2005). During his tenure at IRIC, he held several leadership roles, including Director of the Department of Diplomatic Studies in 2009, Deputy Director-General in 2016, and Director-General in 2017.

In addition to his work at IRIC, Dr. Kin Phea has contributed to both national and international academic initiatives. He became a Special Senior Research Fellow at the National Institute for Global Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in 2016, and has been a member of the National Council of Khmer Language since 2017, chairing its Committee on Political Science Terminology.

Dr. Phea holds a Ph.D. and Master’s in Political Science from RAC in 2011 and 2003, respectively, as well as multiple other academic qualifications.

Dr. Phea’s Research interests: Cambodian foreign policy, national governance, Cambodia’s relations with China, Russia and the US, and China’s Belt and Road Initiative.



Neak Chandarith

Dr. Neak Chandarith is an Associate Professor and the Director of the Institute for International Studies and Public Policy (IISPP) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Additionally, he is the founding director of the Cambodia 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Research Centre. His research interests focus on, contemporary Cambodian studies, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Mekong-Lancang Mechanism, and state-society relations in Southeast Asia.

China



Kong Tao

Dr. Sherry Tao Kong is Head of the Research Division at the Institute of Social Science Survey and a Senior Research Fellow of Institute of Digital Finance, Peking University (PKU). She also teaches Quantitative Analysis for Area Studies at the Institute of Area Studies, PKU.

She received her Ph.D. in economics from the Australian National University (ANU). Prior to her joining Peking University in 2012, she worked at ANU as a research fellow (2006-2012) conducting research on labor migration and its impacts in China and Indonesia. Between 2005 and 2007, she served as an economist

consultant to the World Bank undertaking poverty assessment for China. Her research has appeared in numerous international journals, including *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies*, *China Economic Review*, *The China Journal*, *China and World Economy*. Her current research interests include income distribution, poverty and inequality of opportunity, Micro-, Small- and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries, and digital economy (e-commerce and fintech).



Li Xiaoyun

Prof. Li Xiaoyun is currently a Lead Chair Professor at China Agricultural University (CAU) and Honorary Dean of College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA)/China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA). His research area covers international development, aid, agriculture and rural development, poverty reduction, gender and development, sustainable resource management. His extensive research and practice in poverty reduction and international development has won him the reputation “the Chinese development pioneer” (both in research and practice) and

numerous awards. His many concepts and ideas on poverty reduction, rural development and international development reforming China’s aid system have influenced China’s policy circles. He is also Chair of the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST), and Chair of China International Development Research Network. He was a senior advisor for the Chinese Government, the World Bank (WB), United Nations (UN), German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), The Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and many other international development organizations.

He received China Poverty Eradication Award (research) in 2005, Outstanding Individual for Poverty Alleviation Award in 2011 and 2021, National Poverty Reduction Award in 2017 by China’s State Council. His pioneering work in philanthropy has won him the reputation of People of the Year of the China Philanthropists 2018 and 2021.



Pan Yue

Pan Yue, Ph.D., is an Associate Research Fellow, Deputy Director of the Indonesian Research Center, School of International Relations, Academy of Overseas Chinese Studies, Jinan University, and Deputy Director of the Center for Indonesian Studies. She is also a Master's supervisor, a board member of the Chinese Association of Southeast Asian Studies, and a former Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Indonesia. She holds a Ph.D. in International Politics from Sun Yat-sen University and earned her bachelor's degree in Indonesian Language and Literature from Peking University. She is also an expert in the National Multilingual Translation Talent Pool of China International Communications Group.

Dr. Pan specializes in Indonesian and Southeast Asian studies. She has published 65 academic papers in both Chinese and English, and was listed among the Top 5% Highly Cited Scholars on CNKI in 2024. She is the principal investigator of one National Social Science Fund (NSSF) project on Chinese Academic Translation and one Guangdong Provincial Social Science Fund project. Additionally, she has led three sub-projects under major NSSF and Ministry of Education humanities and social sciences grants.

She has published 15 independent translations in Indonesian and Malay across China and Indonesia. Her translated works have been covered by major Indonesian media outlets such as Harian Nusantara and International Daily upon release.



Qin Beichen

Qin Beichen is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University (jointly trained with the London School of Economics and Political Science). He holds a Master's degree from the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford, and is a member of the Young Forum for Political Science and International Studies (YFPS). Previously, he served as a Research Specialist at Peking University and a Visiting Research Associate at Ateneo de Manila University, conducting long-term fieldwork in the Philippines, Laos, and other regions.

Research Interests: Southern Theory, Southeast Asian Studies, International Political Economy.



Wang Min

Min Wang received his Ph.D. in Economics from Iowa State University in 2011 and is currently a tenured Associate Professor at the National School of Development, Peking University. He also serves as Deputy Director of the Center for Environmental and Energy Economics at Peking University and as a Co-Editor of China Economic Review. His research interests lie in environmental and resource economics, energy economics, climate change, and macroeconomic development. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed papers in economics, including in top field journals such as *Economic Theory*, *Journal of Environmental Economics*

and *Management*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, and *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*. In addition to his academic work, Professor Wang is actively engaged in policy research. His work has contributed to national discussions on renewable energy subsidy policies, land reform, and field-based research conducted in African countries under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.



Xu Jintao

XU, Jintao is the Boya Distinguished Professor of Economics at the National School of Development, Peking University. He also serves as the deputy director of the University's Economic and Management Division, and director of China Center for Environmental and Energy Economics. His previous professional experience includes jobs at the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Peking University.

His researches span the topics of economic analyses of forest sector reform and development, forest carbon, industrial pollution control, climate policy instruments, etc.

His academic services include co-editor for *Environment and Development Economics*, associate editor for *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and editorial board member of *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*.

He has been a visiting professor at the Grantham Institute of London School of Economics and Political Sciences, and visiting research scientist at Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions.

He received his bachelor of engineering from Jilin University of Technology (1984), graduate certificate in forest economics from Beijing Forestry University (1986), MA in economics (1996) and Ph.D in natural resource economics (1999), both from Virginia Tech.



Xu Liping

Prof. Liping Xu is a senior research fellow of National Institute of International Strategy (NIIS), Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS). He is also a Ph.D. supervisor in CASS University. He acts as Director of Center for South East Asian Studies in NIIS, CASS. And he is also a vice president of China Society for Southeast Asian Studies and acts an adjunct senior fellow of China Foundation for International Studies.

Current Studies including BRI, the relationship China and Neighboring Countries, non-traditional security issues and the political transition of Southeast Asian Countries etc.

He has published a few books, among others: Nationalism: A Study of Among China's Neighboring Countries (2017), Common Community of Shared Future of China and its Neighboring Countries: Design and Approaches (2016), Contemporary Neighboring Countries' View of China (2013), Contemporary Islam in Southeast Asia: Development and Challenge (2008), The Extreme Forces in Asia (2007)



Yin Zhiguang

Dr Zhiguang Yin is a Professor in international politics at the Fudan University. His research interest lies mainly in the area of Chinese modern intellectual and legal history, Marxist political economy, imperial history, and the global south modernization. His research and teaching centre on a theoretical interests in understanding the making of the modern world order through the dynamic tension between domination and resistance. His most recent monographs include: A New World: Afro-Asian Solidarity and the PRC's Imagination of Global Order (Chinese, 2022), and Politics of Art: The Creation Society and the Practice of Theoretical Struggle in

Revolutionary China (Brill, 2014). His articles appear in English and Chinese academic journals such as European Journal of International Law, Third World Quarterly, History, Turkish Journal of Sociology, Shehui Kexue (Social Sciences), and Kaifang Shidai (Open Times).

He is currently the principal investigator of a 5-year project funded by The National Social Science Fund of China - Major Project Grant. The project looks into the issue of development in the Global South from a Marxist political economic perspective. This project also hopes to integrate modern AI technology, statistical tools, and Marxist political economy to develop a fresh epistemological and methodological approach to tackle the issues of modernization in the Global South.



Zha Daojiong

Zha Daojiong is Professor of International Political Economy in the School of International Studies and the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development, Peking University. His areas of expertise include non-traditional security studies and contemporary China's international economic relations. His academic publications cover such topics as energy security, Chinese economic diplomacy, international development cooperation, and the politics of international public health cooperation.

Dr. Zha is a regular participant in Track II dialogues between China and the United States on issues ranging from trade and investment to public health. He also contributes opinion pieces to the South China Morning Post and other platforms. He held visiting research fellowships with the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (2009 and 2011), the Asia Society in New York (2016), the Isak Yusof Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore (2018), and the Paul Tsai China Center, Yale Law School (2023).

Dr. Zha studied at the University of Hawaii and the East West Center, where he earned a Doctorate in Political Science. Before joining the faculty of Peking University in August 2007, he taught at the University of Macau, International University of Japan, Miyazaki International College, and Renmin University of China.



Zhou Yongmei

Professor Zhou Yongmei received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1999, specializing in new institutional economics and development economics. She worked for the World Bank during 1999-2020. During 1999-2012, she served as a policy and institutional development advisor for government leaders in African and South Asian countries. During 2012-2014, she managed the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group to make the World Bank a more effective development partner in fragile and conflict-affected states. She then served as a Co-director of the "2017 World Development Report-Governance

and the Law", the World Bank annual flagship publication. From 2017 to 2020, she was based in Jakarta, Indonesia and led the largest country program in the World Bank on Economics, Finance and Institutions. Since 2020, Prof. Zhou joined the Institute of South-South Cooperation and Development as a Professor of Practice in Institutional Development and Director of Global Partnership. Her research interest focuses on policy effectiveness and institutional development.

Indonesia



Vivi Alatas

Dr. Vivi Alatas is senior advisor to Policy Team for Social Prosperity under Coordinating Ministry for Community Empowerment in Indonesia. Formerly she was a Lead Economist of World Bank where she led a team of seasoned local and international economists in producing several flagship reports for national and global audiences, including ‘Targeting Poor and Vulnerable Households in Indonesia’, ‘Making Poverty Work in Indonesia’, ‘Indonesia’s Rising Divide’, ‘Indonesia Jobs Report’ and “Aspiring Indonesia – Expanding the Middle Class”. She has presented various of these research findings to high level policy makers from Indonesia and several other countries. She also has written several journal papers on poverty, inequality and labour issues. Some of the papers were written in collaboration with Nobel Laurettes Abhijit Banerjee and Angus Deaton who was also her advisor in Princeton.



Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad is an Associate Professor at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia. He also serves as the Executive Secretary of the University's ASEAN Study Center. His research interests are issues on the entanglements between multiple scales of governance: global, regional, national, local. His works have appeared in various academic platforms, including Asia Europe Journal, Asian Perspective, East Asian Policy, China Pulse, Contemporary Southeast Asia, Forest Policy and Economics, Asian Politics & Policy, Indonesia, Good Governance Africa, and Global: Jurnal Politik Internasional, among others, as well as popular media such as The Jakarta Post, Nikkei Asia, Kompas, Tempo, Media Indonesia, and others. Apart from academic works, Shofwan often helps government agencies, private sectors, and civil society organizations develop better strategies. Shofwan also co-founds Bebas Aktif Podcast and Kontekstual.com as initiatives to provide Indonesian perspectives on international affairs. He can be reached at shofwan.albanna@ui.ac.id.



Hilmar Farid

Hilmar Farid is a historian who teaches at the Graduate School of the Jakarta Arts Institute, with research interests spanning history, cultural studies, and digital humanities. From 2016 to 2024, he served as Director-General for Culture at Indonesia's Ministry of Education and Culture, where he led major reforms in cultural policy and heritage management. Known for his critical engagement with Indonesian historiography and decolonial thought, Hilmar has long been active in grassroots movements and independent cultural initiatives. His current work explores how digital technologies reshape cultural production and

historical memory in Southeast Asia.



Fachru Nofrian

Fachru Nofrian, Ph.D

Lecturer, Research at Faculty of Economics and Business,
Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran Jakarta

Previously working in the Committee of National Economy and
Industry, Republic of Indonesia; the Indonesian Central Bank;
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Main interest: industrialization, innovation, choice



Semiarto Aji Purwanto

Prof. Dr. Semiarto Aji Purwanto is a Professor of Anthropology at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Universitas Indonesia (FISIP UI), and currently serves as the Dean of FISIP UI for the 2021–2025 term. He earned his doctoral degree from Universitas Indonesia in 2010. His research interests are diverse, beginning with a focus on agriculture, forestry, and environmental issues in the early 1990s, and later expanding to topics such as health, ethnicity, and development studies.

For six years starting in 1995, he was involved as an assessor, expert panelist, and developer of sustainable forest management and ecolabel certification systems in the forestry and plantation sectors. For his doctoral dissertation, he conducted intensive fieldwork among urban farmers in Jakarta during the periods of 2006–2007, 2010–2011, and 2019–2020. He extended his research on urban agriculture to Manila (Philippines, 2007–2008), Melbourne (Australia, 2012), as well as Tokyo and Kyoto (Japan, 2014).



Elan Satriawan

Elan is an Economist with significant experience in both academic and policy areas. In academics, he is an associate professor in Department of Economics, Universitas Gadjah Mada. His main research interest includes impact evaluation of anti-poverty and social programs and human development related issues involving frontier empirical techniques including randomized experiments, and published among others in *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of Development Economics*, and *Journal of Health Economics*. In policy areas, he led a high-profile government policy think tank to

advise high level policy makers in taking strategic decisions on poverty alleviation, stunting reduction, and other welfare-related topics. He has long solid experience in policy analytics, monitoring and evaluation as well as using the knowledge generated from research for policy advocacy, capacity building and knowledge management. One notable experience in advocating evidence-based program reforms is when he, working closely with some of government agencies, transitioned National Rice in-kind transfer into voucher based food assistance in 2017-2019.

Malaysia



Awang Azman Awang Pawi

Datuk Professor Dr Awang Azman Awang Pawi is a Professor at the Department of Socioculture, Academy of Malay Studies, University of Malaya, and a Research Fellow at the University of Malaya Center for Democracy and Elections (UMCEDEL). He holds a PhD in Malay Studies (Malay postcolonialism) and has over 25 years of academic experience specializing in Malay socioculture, political culture, and literature. He sits on the board of the Journal of The Malaysian Parliament and is a regular columnist for Utusan Sarawak and Sin Chew Daily. He is a member of EUROSEAS and SEALG.



Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Jomo Kwame Sundaram is Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya, Fellow, Academy of Science, Malaysia, and Emeritus Professor, University of Malaya. He was Founder Chair of International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS), UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and (Honorary) Research Coordinator for the G24 Intergovernmental Group on International Monetary Affairs and Development from 2005, and then Assistant Director General for Economic and Social Development, Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. In 2007, he was awarded the Wassily Leontief Prize for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought and several honorary doctorates. The World Academy of Sciences has announced he will share the 2026 TWAS Award in Social Sciences. He has authored and edited over a hundred books and translated ten volumes besides writing many academic papers and media articles. He has taught in Malaysia since 1974 and at Harvard, Yale, and Cornell. He has also been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and the National University of Singapore. He studied at the Penang Free School, Royal Military College, Yale and Harvard.



Shandre Mugan Thangavelu

Professor Shandre M. Thangavelu is currently the Head (President) of Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia and Senior Fellow at Jeffrey Sachs Centre for Sustainable Development at Sunway University, Malaysia. He is an active researcher on human capital development, technology transfer, foreign direct investment, trade, government infrastructure investment, productivity and economic growth. He also holds a joint appointment at the Institute of International Trade, University of Adelaide, Australia. In October 2021, Professor Shandre was appointed as Trade Advisor to Minister of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce, Kingdom of Cambodia under the Royal Degree. He was awarded (with Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia, Sunway University), the Award of the Royal Order of Sowathara by the Royal Government of Cambodia on 31 January 2023 for his contribution to economic development and trade of Cambodia. The Award was given by the Minister of Commerce and endorsed by the King of Cambodia and Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Shandre Thangavelu was the Managing Editor for Asian Economic Journal (AEJ) in 2009 and currently appointed as the Editor in 2018. Previously, Professor Shandre Thangavelu was appointed as the Head of Research at Ministry of Manpower under the Economist Service at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore from 2001 to 2009.

Philippines



Fernando T. Aldaba

Fernando T. Aldaba is Professor of Economics and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ateneo de Manila University. He was former Dean of the School of Social Sciences (2015-2021) and is currently a Senior Fellow for Eagle Watch, the macroeconomic forecasting unit of the Economics Department. He was former Chairperson of the Economics Department from 2003 to 2009 and has been teaching undergraduate and graduate economics in the university since 1996. His specialization includes macroeconomics, development and labor economics. His current areas of research are social protection, economic growth, poverty, social capital, and labor migration in the Philippines and ASEAN. He was former President of the Philippine Economic Society (2008) and is currently Vice President of the East Asia Economic Association. Mr. Aldaba graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Engineering in 1980 from the Ateneo de Manila University (cum laude) and a Doctorate degree in Economics from the University of the Philippines in Diliman in 1996.



Rommel Banlaoi

Rommel Banlaoi, PhD is a Filipino public intellectual and a celebrity scholar in the Global South. He is a prominent Philippine political scientist, international relations expert, Sinologist and security analyst, specializing in Philippine foreign relations, counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, security and peace research as well as conflict studies in Asia including the South China Sea disputes in the context of Philippines China relations.

As the Chairman of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence, and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR), his various publications examine the nexus between local extremist organizations, particularly the Abu Sayyaf Group and transnational terrorist networks like ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and Al-Qaeda. As President of the Philippine Society for International Security Studies (PSISS), his views on Philippine foreign and security relations focus on balancing Philippine engagements with China, the US and key countries in Asia and Europe. He is often quoted by media and his numerous publications are frequently cited in policy and academic discussions.



Lucio Blanco Pitlo III

Lucio Blanco Pitlo III is President of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies and Research Fellow for Asia-Pacific Pathways to Progress Foundation. He is also Vice President of the Peking University Alumni Association of the Philippines. He is also a Lecturer at the Chinese Studies Program of Ateneo de Manila University. Mr. Pitlo was formerly a technical assistant with the National Coast Watch Council Secretariat, now known as the Presidential Office for Maritime Concerns. He also served as a research associate and consultant for several projects on maritime issues and Philippine security and foreign policy. He obtained his

Master of Laws from Peking University. His commentaries and analyses on security, foreign policy, geopolitics and Southeast Asian affairs appear in the South China Morning Post, China-US Focus, Asia Times, and The Diplomat. He is interested in Southeast Asian affairs, ASEAN's relations with major powers and the intersection of security, economics, technology and geopolitics.

Singapore



Syed Farid Alatas

Syed Farid Alatas, a Malaysian national, is Associate Professor of Sociology at the National University of Singapore (NUS). He also headed the Department of Malay Studies at NUS from 2007 to 2013. He lectured at the University of Malaya in the Department of Southeast Asian Studies prior to joining NUS. His areas of interest are the sociology of Islam, social theory religion and reform, and intra- and inter-religious dialogue. His most recent books are *Ibn Khaldun* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *Applying Ibn Khaldun* (Routledge, 2014). He is currently researching on Salafism in the Malay world.



Hoang Thi Ha

Hoang Thi Ha is Senior Fellow and Co-coordinator of the Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. Before the current position, she was Lead Researcher (Political-Security) at the ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS. Her research interests include major powers in Southeast Asia and political-security issues in ASEAN, especially the South China Sea disputes, ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific discourse and ASEAN's institutional building. Ms Hoang joined the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in 2004. She then moved on to work at the ASEAN Secretariat for nine years, with her last post being Assistant Director, Head of the Political Cooperation Division. Ms. Hoang holds an MA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.



Max Lane

Dr Max Lane, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute (based in Singapore.)

For 50 years he have written articles and books on Indonesian politics, history and culture. He have been a Second Secretary at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta; Principal Research Officer, Senate Committee of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade; written hundreds of articles for newspapers and non-government organisations and am a published translator of Indonesian literary works, including works by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and Rendra. He have been an academic at the University of Sydney, Victoria

University (Melbourne), Murdoch University and the National University of Singapore and lectured at universities in Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States. Dr Max Lane' s current research focus on contemporary Indonesian domestic politics, with emphasis on elite political formations, political conflicts, labor dynamics, and extra-parliamentary political developments, analysis of politically relevant trends in literary and artistic domains, theoretical exploration of Indonesia' s positioning within the Global South-North nexus.



Hong LIU

Professor Hong LIU is the Tan Lark Sye Chair Professor in Public Policy and Global Affairs at the School of Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, where he also serves as the University' s Associate Vice President and Director (Research & Executive Education) of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA). Professor Liu' s main areas of research include the international political economy, Asian governance, Sino-Southeast Asian interactions, and Chinese international migration. He has published more than 30 books and over 100 articles, including China and the Shaping of Indonesia, 1949-1965

(Indonesian version was published as Sukarno, Tiongkok, dan Inspirasi RRC di Indonesia, 1949-1965 (Jakarta, 2015) and The Political Economy of Transnational Governance: China and Southeast Asia in the 21st Century (London & New York, 2022).



Lye Liang Fook

LYE Liang Fook is Associate Senior Fellow at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Singapore and a Founders Associate at Contemporary China Studies that seeks to promote a better understanding of developments in China and in China's relations with other countries. He is an expert on regional affairs covering topics such as China's foreign policy, China's Belt and Road initiative, China-ASEAN relations and China-Singapore relations. He was a key member of a research team that conducted a review of the Suzhou Industrial Park, the first flagship project between China and Singapore. His research extends into other

government-to-government projects between the two countries such as the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city and the China-Singapore Chongqing Connectivity Initiative. His publications have appeared in journals like the International Relations of the Asia Pacific, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies and China: An International Journal and in books by Routledge, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) Publishing, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Publishing, World Scientific Publishing and Eastern Universities Press. He was previously Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Regional Security and Political Studies Programme as well as Coordinator of the Vietnam Studies Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He also headed the Singapore Secretariat of the Network of East Asian Think Tanks (NEAT) and the Network of ASEAN-China Think Tanks (NACT), two Track II bodies that promoted regional cooperation.



Maria Monica Wihardja

Maria Monica Wihardja is a Visiting Fellow and Co-Coordinator of the Media, Technology and Society Programme at ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. She is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore. She serves as a member of the East Asia Forum's Editorial Board, the Asian-Pacific Economic Literature's Editorial Advisory Board and the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies' Board of Directors. Her other affiliations include Global Associate at the Indonesia Project and Honorary Fellow at the College of Asia and the Pacific, Australian National University. Her current main research topics are digital

economy, labour market, regional supply chains, disinformation and electoral propaganda. She has a PhD in Regional Science from Cornell University, a MPhil in Economics from Cambridge University, and a BA in Applied Mathematics-Economics from Brown University.

Thailand



Narong Petprasert

Dr. Narong Petprasert is the Dean of the Faculty of Economics at Rangsit University. He is scholar and policy advisor with a multifaceted career spanning academia, research, and public service. Holding a Ph.D. in Political Economy from La Trobe University (Australia), an M.A. in Social Development from the International Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands), and an M.Econ. from Thammasat University. He also founded and leads the Ph.D. Program in International Political Economy and Development. His professional roles include serving as an Expert Advisor to Thailand's Social Security Fund (Ministry of Labour)

and the Senate's Committee for Economy, Monetary, and Finance. His expertise lies in political economy, labor studies, and social welfare.

Timor-Leste



Helio A.X. Mauquei

Helio Augusto da Costa Xavier Mauquei is the Vice-Rector for Administration, Finance, and General Management at Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) in Timor-Leste. Holding a PhD with research focused on the informal sector in Timor-Leste, he brings over two decades of combined academic, administrative, and policy experience to his role. His primary research interests span informal economies, public administration, development policy, higher education quality assurance, and economic resilience, reflecting a deep commitment to addressing critical societal and institutional challenges through

interdisciplinary expertise and strategic leadership.

Vietnam



Hoang Hue Anh

Dr. Hoang Hue Anh serves as Director of the Centre for Chinese Studies, Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS). With a Ph.D. in International Politics from the Renmin University of China (Beijing, China) as well as a graduate degree in Modern history of China from the Renmin University of China, her research has mostly focused on international politics, Chinese foreign and security policy, major-country relations, domestic politics of China and the Chinese Communist Party.



Tran Thanh Hai

Mr. Tran Thanh Hai is Deputy Director General of Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies (IFPSS), Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV). Prior to joining DAV, he worked at the Department of Northeast Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam. His diplomatic career took him to postings in Northeast Asia (Seoul, Pyongyang, Beijing). The main focus of his work in Hanoi was East Asia Affairs. He received an M.A of International Relations from Seoul National University and School of Advanced International Studies (JHU) in 2003.

Global South and Southeast Asia

Abstract

Rethinking the Global South: A Cultural Reflection from Southeast Asia

Chang-Yau Hoon

The “Global South” is often framed as a geopolitical counterpart to the Global North, emphasizing postcolonial solidarity and alternative pathways to development. As a conceptual framework, it seeks to decenter Euro-American dominance and bring attention to diverse knowledge systems and worldviews shaped by colonial histories. This paper offers a cultural reflection on the idea of the “Global South” from a Southeast Asian perspective, considering how both this concept and the “Asian values” discourse of the 1990s have served as strategies of both empowerment and constraint. While these frameworks emerged as responses to Western cultural and political influence, they have also, at times, been adopted by state actors to reinforce domestic authority and maintain social hierarchies.

The Asian values thesis, advocated by political figures such as Lee Kuan Yew and Mahathir Mohamad, emphasized values like communalism, social stability, and respect for authority, often positioned in contrast to liberal Western ideals. Yet such narratives can also unintentionally marginalize internal diversity and overlook pluralistic expressions within societies. In Southeast Asia, these discourses have at times been used to reinforce conservative values, and traditional social roles and hierarchies. Similarly, the Global South framework can underplay the complexities of Southeast Asian engagement with global capitalism and governance, even while articulating critiques of Western power.

This paper suggests the need for a more nuanced and inclusive rethinking of these frameworks—one that amplifies intersectional, grassroots and counter-hegemony perspectives and recognizes the dynamic negotiations of identity and belonging in Southeast Asia. It advocates for a critical yet constructive approach to cultural politics that transcends rigid binaries, acknowledging the fluid, contested, and context-specific realities that shape contemporary life in the region.

ASEAN and the Global South

Vannarith Chheang

A multiplex world or a fragmented multipolar world order are happening in tandem with global power shifts, intensifying geopolitical rivalries, economic fragmentation, trade and tech war, violent conflicts in different parts of the world, climate crisis, and other non-traditional security threats.

The Global South stands out to be one of the key global movements and platforms to shape an evolving World Order—expectedly to make it more inclusive, fair and democratic in the post-West-led World Order and the erosion of the rules-based international order.

ASEAN remains committed open and inclusive multilateralism and the rules-based international order. It is generally regarded as the key regional actor in shaping a regional architecture.

ASEAN is gaining more relevance as a strategic convener, agenda setter, and honest broker. It provides an inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building and preventive diplomacy, and to a certain extent crisis management. ASEAN’s outward and forward looking approach is the right strategy. The more integrated and connected the ASEAN Members become the more resilient they will be.

The recent China-ASEAN-GCC summit is a case in point showcasing the Global ASEAN. Connections between ASEAN and the Gulf, especially in trade and investment, have strengthened. This summit confirmed that these separate strands of engagement are converging into a structured trilateral framework based on shared interests and practical collaboration.

ASEAN-China relations are deep. economic interdependence and connectivity are the backbone of regional peace, stability and prosperity.

ASEAN is the linchpin of the Global South, connecting various actors from different parts of the world.

Strengthening Sub-Regional Cooperation: China-ASEAN Infrastructure Development and Poverty Reduction (The Case of Cambodia)

Kin Phea

This speech explores the evolving landscape of China-ASEAN cooperation in infrastructure development and poverty reduction, using Cambodia as a focused case study. As Southeast Asia navigates the challenges of a rapidly changing international order, sub-regional cooperation offers new opportunities for inclusive growth and strategic resilience among Global South countries.

The speech highlights Cambodia's experience as both illustrative and instructive. Over the past two decades, Cambodia has emerged as a key partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) framework. China has become Cambodia's largest investor and primary financier of large-scale infrastructure projects, particularly in the transport. These infrastructure investments, when combined with agricultural modernisation and rural development programs, have contributed to a significant decline in Cambodia's poverty rate. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the country's multidimensional poverty rate fell from 36.7% in 2014 to 16.6% in 2022, effectively lifting approximately 2.8 million people out of poverty over 7.5 years. However, the speech also examines concerns over debt sustainability, governance standards, and strategic dependency.

The speech underscores the role of ASEAN in harmonising regional standards and facilitating multilateral frameworks like the ASEAN Master Plan on Connectivity and RCEP. Finally, the speech proposes three normative principles to guide future South-South cooperation: development sovereignty, inclusive growth, and sustainability with accountability. Cambodia's case, ultimately, reflects both the potential and complexity of Global South-led cooperation in shaping equitable and resilient development futures.

Re-examining Modernization of the Global South

Neak Chandarith

Cambodia's Experience with the Belt and Road Initiative as a Model for Balancing Growth and Sovereignty" under the session on Re-examining Modernization of the Global South. This presentation will explore Cambodia's strategic approach to leveraging BRI for economic development while safeguarding sovereignty, offering lessons for the Global South.

Expanding the Middle Class as a Critical Pathway for Constructing a New Development Paradigm: A Comparative Study of China, Indonesia, and Malaysia

Kong Tao

Recognizing the indispensable role of the middle class as both a catalyst for economic dynamism and a stabilizer of sociopolitical equilibrium, this study investigates its dual functions in three major global South nations—China, Indonesia, and Malaysia. As a structural pillar of economic growth and a balancing mechanism for social transformation, the middle class (termed the "middle-income group" in China) embodies complex dynamics across these contexts. Comparative analysis reveals divergent definitional frameworks, measurement challenges, and policy interventions, with China contending with "vulnerable middle-income downward mobility," Indonesia grappling with "resource dependency," and Malaysia addressing "ethnic cleavages." The sustainable expansion of this group necessitates achieving balance across three dimensions: synergistic coordination between policy intervention and market vitality, value harmonization between urbanization efficiency and social equity, and institutional integration between income growth and social safety net. Ultimately, cultivating a resilient middle-class offers a transformative pathway for global South nations to escape the middle-income trap and redefine development paradigms.

New Developmentalism: The Epistemic Awakening of the Global South

Li Xiaoyun

The "Global South" is often framed as a geopolitical counterpart to the Global North, emphasizing postcolonial solidarity and alternative pathways to development. As a conceptual framework, it seeks to decenter Euro-American dominance and bring attention to diverse knowledge systems and worldviews shaped by colonial histories. This paper offers a cultural reflection on the idea of the "Global South" from a Southeast Asian perspective, considering how both this concept and the "Asian values" discourse of the 1990s have served as strategies of both empowerment and constraint. While these frameworks emerged as responses to Western cultural and political influence, they have also, at times, been adopted by state actors to reinforce domestic authority and maintain social hierarchies.

The Asian values thesis, advocated by political figures such as Lee Kuan Yew and Mahathir Mohamad, emphasized values like communalism, social stability, and respect for authority, often positioned in contrast to liberal Western ideals. Yet such narratives can also unintentionally marginalize internal diversity and overlook pluralistic expressions within societies. In Southeast Asia, these discourses have at times been used to reinforce conservative values, and traditional social roles and hierarchies. Similarly, the Global South framework can underplay the complexities of Southeast Asian engagement with global capitalism and governance, even while articulating critiques of Western power.

This paper suggests the need for a more nuanced and inclusive rethinking of these frameworks—one that amplifies intersectional, grassroots and counter-hegemony perspectives and recognizes the dynamic negotiations of identity and belonging in Southeast Asia. It advocates for a critical yet constructive approach to cultural politics that transcends rigid binaries, acknowledging the fluid, contested, and context-specific realities that shape contemporary life in the region.

Mutual Learning between Chinese Modernization and Indonesian Development: A Perspective Based on "Domain Knowledge" and Joint Practices

Pan Yue

The process of Chinese modernization and the "Global Maritime Fulcrum" strategy of the Joko Widodo administration in Indonesia exhibit commonalities in both concepts and practices, particularly in the fields of inclusive development, infrastructure construction, and digital economy transformation. The Chinese diaspora, as a bridge between the two countries, has played a significant role in facilitating mutual modernization through financial investments, technology transfer, and interpersonal networks. Indonesia's perception of China's development model is both pragmatic and cautious. On one hand, Indonesia actively learns from China's modernization experience; on the other hand, it remains vigilant against the risks of over-reliance. Future cooperation between the two countries should transcend the one-way aid model and aim to establish a framework of "joint modernization." First, efforts should focus on strengthening collaboration within emerging industrial chains, such as new energy and the digital economy. Second, cooperation should be promoted on regional public goods through topics like poverty reduction and green governance. Third, fostering South-South dialogue in knowledge production is essential to deconstruct the hegemony of Western-centric development discourse. The collaboration between China and Indonesia can serve as a paradigmatic reference for Global South countries exploring autonomous development pathways.

Southern Theory and Southeast Asia's Economic Catch-Up

Qin Beichen

Contemporary global social science theories remain predominantly Western-centric, largely overlooking the experiences and needs of the Global South. This has given rise to Southern Theory, which advocates constructing a knowledge system by and for the Global South. In the context of economic development, mainstream economics has long prioritized efficiency over structure, failing to explain why many Southern countries struggle to progress. The prescribed solutions have likewise proven inadequate in helping these nations catch up with developed countries. Many Southern countries are experiencing a premature decline in their manufacturing sector before completing industrialization or establishing a foundation for high-value-added services. Southeast Asian nations are entrenched in a similar predicament: while they have achieved initial growth through international industrial relocation, they remain trapped in structural bottlenecks of "low-end lock-in." Against this backdrop, introducing Southern Theory—with its emphasis on structural transformation, state capacity, and global inequality—can help Southeast Asian countries break free from path dependency and forge a more autonomous and sustainable industrialization and development path.

Renewable Development in China: From Policy-Driven Growth to Market-Led Expansion

Wang Min

Over the past 15 years, China has emerged as the global leader in renewable energy, accounting for over 40% of the world's installed capacity in wind and solar power and dominating electric vehicle (EV) sales. This presentation reviews the evolution of China's renewable energy development, focusing on the pivotal role of government policies—particularly the feed-in tariff and EV subsidies introduced in 2009—in jumpstarting the industry. These subsidies enabled rapid cost reductions through economies of scale in manufacturing, laying the foundation for market-driven growth. However, the success came with challenges. Mounting subsidy debt and high curtailment rates prompted a gradual phase-out of subsidies beginning in 2018, culminating in their full cancellation by 2021 for wind and solar, and by 2023 for EVs. Contrary to expectations, the market rebounded quickly, with solar PV, wind power and EV adoption continuing to surge, driven by technological innovation and industrial competitiveness. This presentation will examine how the dynamic interplay between state intervention and market forces enabled China to transition from a policy-driven to a market-led renewable energy model. It will also draw comparative insights from other major economies and discuss the implications of China's experience for energy transitions in developing countries.

China's Timber Trade and Sustainable Global Forest Management

Xu Jintao

Tropical deforestation contributes 6-17% global annual greenhouse emissions. Ending tropical deforestation is crucial to the success of global climate actions and has been high on the world leaders' agenda, evidenced by the COP 26 global leaders pledge in ending and reversing forest loss by 2030. China, as the world largest timber importing and forest

products exporting country, should and could play important role in this anti-deforestation campaign. In this presentation we provide a review of China's tropical timber trade, and the economic and ecological implications of the trade. We discuss the potential economic and political solutions to the deforestation issue. In the end we propose policy recommendations and demonstrate existent progresses both domestically and internationally.

The Islamic Elements in Southeast Asia's Development Model

Xu Liping

In the Malay world of Southeast Asia, Islamic elements play a significant role in its development model. During the formation of nation-states, the localization of Islam served as a crucial driver in shaping the Malay identity. In political participation, Islamic political parties have constructively engaged in governance, advancing the political modernization of the Malay world. In economic modernization, Islamic finance and modern Malay entrepreneurs have assumed indispensable roles. For social stability, the functional contributions of Islamic non-governmental organizations have facilitated the maintenance of social stability in the Malay world. However, the region's development has faced disruptions from extremist ideologies, with radical Islamic forces exerting a negative impact on progress. Addressing these challenges requires collaborative efforts from the Malay world, regional stakeholders, and the global community.

The Political Economy Connotation of "Development" and the Innovation of Development Theory

Yang Ping

The central issue for the Global South is development, and industrialization is a common mission for Southern countries. Over the past 70 years since World War II, Southern countries predominantly adopted development theories and models provided by the West, yet the majority have not succeeded.

The development of Southern countries in the post-war era has been primarily shaped by three intellectual trends:

- The Modernization Theory promoted by the United States during the Cold War confrontation;
- Neoliberalism that emerged in the 1980s;
- The East Asian Development model.

These three trends have each exerted significant influence, yet ultimately proved unsuccessful.

Since the 21st century, the China Model has been gaining prominence.

The history and the realities have demonstrated the imperative to create new development theories and models to guide the development of Global South countries. Such theoretical and practical innovations must be grounded on today's ongoing development processes and practices of Southern countries.

Theorising the Future: Bandung Spirit and the Continuous Making of the World Order in Motion

Yin Zhiguang

The concept of the Global South has returned to the discussion of International Relations and global studies in the recent years. Many IR scholars and policy analysts find it challenging to provide a normative definition for this concept. Hence, it is largely taken as a notion indicating an informal self-identification of developing and under-developed countries. However, particularly in recent years, this term has been used more regularly in Chinese political discourse, almost replacing the BRICS which was popular only a few years ago. This paper argues that the Chinese increasing political interest in using the term the Global South demonstrates not only a shifting strategic priority to the developing world but more importantly a step towards envisioning an alternative vision of global order. This vision connects with the political experiences of Afro-Asian solidarity movement in the mid-20th century. It also echoes the then intellectual aspiration among the left-wing thinkers and politicians who conceive their nation-building projects in the global movement against imperialism. This historical experience of breaking free from imperial domination through cooperation among the peripheries and semi-peripheries has been a crucial but understudied component in the discourse of China's contemporary 'rediscovered' passion to the Global South.

The Global South: a Chinese perspective

Zha Daojiong

As a phraseology of either world affairs or China's approach to managing its ever-external environment, Global South is both recent and tentative. Before the wording re-gained prominence in English language discussions about Westlessness in geopolitical change in the 2010s, there had been virtually no reference to the term in China's media reporting or foreign policy research literature. Ever since, Chinese language reference to the term – put in quotation marks – indicates a search for a more solid consensus over what a distinctively Chinese definition can be.

Still, Global South is a fitting framing for understanding Chinese assessments of the evolution of the geopolitical and geo-economic world and how China adapts itself. This is reflected, among other facets, in Chinese references to Yafeila (亚非拉) in the 1960-1970s and the introduction of Dajingmao (大经贸) in the 1990s.

There exists a discernible continuity of contemporary China's approaches to the Global South: projection of common aspiration for respect and economic development. Since the Bandung Conference of 1955, China has consistently sided with countries in the Global South for championing equality, respect, and a fairer international system. In the area of development, China moved from providing project aid to initiating joint policy planning and offering to share development knowledge. The Chinese approach to development focuses on a trinity of aid-investment-trade, which is based on its own experience of receiving development assistance. The degree of buy-in of Chinese propositions on the part of countries in the Global South will continue to be essential.

Key Words: Global South, China, aspiration, development, big power competition, buy-in

Is good governance a necessary condition for development?

Zhou Yongmei

Good governance has been widely promoted by international aid agencies and often used as a condition or project goal for development aid. There are many debates in academia and among development practitioners whether "good governance is a necessary condition for development" or "Development can happen in weak-governance environment, and institutional building and development go hand in hand". Prof. Zhou Yongmei will share her views on this debate and the three dimensions of institutional functions that should be prioritized for gradual institutional development.

The importance of strategic collaboration in harnessing digitization, technology and AI

Vivi Alatas

I would like to explore the strategic collaboration between Southeast Asia and China in harnessing digitization, technology, and artificial intelligence (AI) to address key socio-economic challenges, including youth idleness, low female labor force participation, and the stagnation of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). I also seek to highlight the potential for enhancing the quality of tertiary education through cross-border academic partnerships and digital learning innovations, as well as advancing industrial complexity through the joint development of high-tech sectors and smart manufacturing ecosystems. I believe this collaboration offers a comprehensive and forward-looking pathway toward inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development in the digital age.

Global South Agency and Post WW II International Order

Shofwan Al Banna Choiruzzad

A strong Great Power bias noticeably marks discussions on the rise (and fall) of the Post-WW II international order. While distribution and configuration and material power do matter in the shaping of international orders, an oversized focus on the role of Great Powers and the lack of attention towards the global South's role has led to an incomplete understanding of our contemporary international order and its future trajectories. This paper attempts to fill this gap by looking at how the Global South had been actively shaping the Post WW II international order and should not be understood as passive responders of the Great Powers' competing visions in the context of their rivalries. In this chapter traces how Global South had shaped the material foundation, normative complex, and fundamental institutions upon which the Post-WW II international order is built, as well as explaining why its role was often overlooked. Finally, it argues that recognition of the role of Global South is important to understanding the past, the current, and the future trajectory of international order.

Keywords: international order, Global South, institution, Great Powers, postcolonial, colonialism

Beyond Infrastructure: Cultural Sovereignty and Digital Flows in the China-ASEAN Interface

Hilmar Farid

Culture is indispensable in any discussion about building future alternatives grounded in genuine solidarity across the Global South. While political and economic frameworks still dominate regional cooperation, it is through culture that people form shared meanings, express aspirations, and imagine new ways of living together. As China and Southeast Asia deepen their engagement through initiatives like the Belt and Road, the human and cultural dimensions must not be left behind. Culture shapes identity, social cohesion, and even economic value, as seen in the growing role of ASEAN's cultural and creative industries. Yet the increasing centrality of digital platforms in everyday life has also introduced new challenges: algorithms that favor dominant languages and aesthetics, and monetization systems that sideline smaller creators. This makes questions of cultural sovereignty more urgent than ever. If we want truly equitable cooperation, we need to invest in policies that support diverse voices: content quotas, regional funding for cultural exchange, and shared digital infrastructure. It's time to imagine a different kind of BRI, one built not just with ports and railways, but with stories, ideas, and collective imagination.

Indonesia and China Collaboration in Extractive and Renewable Energy Industry and its Impact on Labor and Income in Indonesia

Fachru Nofrian

This work is to examine economic growth in Indonesia that is not convincing enough to trigger industrialization process as observed in the profile of labor in the country. This work highlights the profile of informal labor, own worker, and job invention in Indonesia that play major role in the economy. During the period since 1971, the government has implemented forestry, then oil and gas, before palm oil to generate income and job in Indonesia. Nevertheless, the number of informal workers still majority without changes so there is no innovation. With the trend of renewable energy, the government has turned to nickel and extractive industry to produce battery for electric vehicle, expecting innovation. As recognized, China's role has increased in the sector as indicated by its investment and employment. As result with this change, it is important to explain relation between labor and informal worker in Indonesia and the development of nickel, and the collaboration with China. As result with this change, it is important to explain relation between labor and informal worker in Indonesia and the development of nickel and with the increasing of the collaboration, how it will shape labor in Indonesia and what impact on income in Indonesia.

Beyond Modernization: Indonesia's Cultural Policy and the Search for Contextual Development in the Global South

Semiarto Aji Purwanto

My presentation will seek and study Indonesian cultural policy through an anthropological perspective to explore its role in building a development model that goes beyond the dominance of the modernization paradigm. In the search for a more contextual development model in the global south, Indonesia provides some important experiences because of its diverse cultural backgrounds and long history of state-sponsored social transformation. Modernization for some Indonesians, quite often, is a detrimental process for indigenous peoples and local communities when it comes to reforming social systems such as how traditional communities should be transformed into formal and administrative villages; the change of subsistence livelihoods to more market-oriented systems; and the loss of spiritual meaning from daily life practices.

I would focus on the tension between top-down state cultural policies and communities' organic cultural expressions. Given that current state cultural policies tend to promote and maintain cultural heritage and enhance creative industries, they place more emphasis on the recognition of external institutions and market values than on the meaning of specific expressions produced, performed, and maintained by the community. However, some indigenous groups seem to have managed to survive amidst state-directed and global development changes. I will complement the experiences of the Indonesian group comparatively with the cases of Taiwanese and Korean cultural policies to demonstrate the importance of building such policies in a more participatory and community-based manner as a foundation for equitable and more contextual development.

Keywords: cultural policy, development model, modernization, indigenous community, anthropology Indonesia

Developing Social Protection System to Promote People Resiliency and Inclusive Economy

Elan Satriawan

In an era marked by escalating global economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and pervasive conflicts, the imperative for nations to cultivate truly inclusive economic systems side by side with social protection systems has never been more pronounced. The two hand-in-hand systems are not merely a matter of social justice but a pragmatic necessity for national resilience and stability. By deliberately protecting and empowering the poor and vulnerable groups to actively participate in and genuinely benefit from economic opportunities – through equitable access to education, skills development, financial services, and decent work – countries can unlock vast untapped human potential and foster a more diversified and robust economic base. This broad-based participation acts as a critical shock absorber, ensuring that external shocks do not disproportionately devastate the most marginalized, thereby creating a more cohesive, adaptable, and ultimately stronger society capable of navigating and overcoming the multifaceted challenges of the contemporary global landscape.

Rethinking Development in the Global South: Lessons from Malaysia with a Focus on Sarawak's Contemporary Trajectory

Awang Azman Awang Pawi

This paper critically examines Malaysia's development trajectory with a focus on Sarawak's contemporary experience, in light of the broader failure of post-World War II Western development models in the Global South. Despite promises of growth and modernization, many southern nations—including Malaysia—continue to face persistent inequality, ecological degradation, and governance deficits. The case of Sarawak offers a nuanced lens to explore alternative development paths grounded in regional autonomy, participatory governance, and social inclusivity.

The objective of this study is to analyze the shift from extractive, elite-driven developmentalism toward more context-sensitive and inclusive governance models in Sarawak, particularly under the leadership of Abang Johari Tun Openg. Methodologically, this research adopts a qualitative and interpretive approach, synthesizing data from government reports, policy documents, academic literature, and historical analysis.

Findings indicate that Sarawak's developmental model has evolved significantly in recent years. Politically, there has been a reassertion of state rights under the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63), economic diversification through digital economy strategies, and greater social investment in rural and indigenous communities. Nonetheless, democratic participation remains limited, and challenges related to land rights, elite capture, and environmental sustainability persist.

The study concludes that Sarawak exemplifies the emergence of "new developmentalism"—a hybrid model that departs from traditional, top-down paradigms by emphasizing regional leadership, digital innovation, and social equity. This case contributes valuable insights into how subnational actors in the Global South can reframe development in ways that are locally rooted, inclusive, and future-oriented. The Sarawak experience underscores the need for decentralized, participatory, and just governance as the foundation of a renewed development theory for postcolonial societies.

Keywords: new developmentalism, Sarawak-Malaysia, Global South, postcolonial development, state right, democratic politics

Bandung, non-alignment for our times, and progress

Jomo Kwame Sundaram

Realising non-alignment for our times needs to begin with what we already have, rather than abstract, ahistorical principles. The primary reference in Southeast Asia is ASEAN, established in 1967 by Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Indonesia. In 1973, its leaders agreed to establish a Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality (ZOPFAN). 2025 is also the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Non-Aligned Movement at the Asia-Africa summit in Bandung. Despite much rhetoric, there is little commitment in the Global North to peace, freedom and neutrality. More of the Global South has chosen to remain non-aligned. As for peace-making, major powers, especially in the West, have increasingly marginalised the United Nations (UN). The number of military interventions since the Cold War is greater than during the Cold War. But realistically, ASEAN cannot really lead in terms of international peace-making. East Asia has more weight and potential

The world economy is stagnating, mainly due to the West. This is why ASEAN+3 (Japan, South Korea, China) is especially relevant now. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) already exists. The week before President Trump announced his tariffs on April 2nd, the governments of Japan, China, and South Korea met to prepare for them. This rare meeting of the 'plus three' did not involve ASEAN.

Today, ASEAN risks becoming increasingly marginal, partly because of limited economic cooperation since the Chiang Mai Agreement, a quarter century ago, and the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) before it. President Trump's tariffs and Mar-a-Lago proposal make clear that 'business as usual' is over. Washington intends to remake and rule the world. Will East Asia rise to the challenge and go beyond defensive actions to offer an alternative for the economies and people of the region, if not beyond?

Geoeconomics Fragmentation and Resilience of Global Production Value Chain in Southeast Asia

Shandre Mugan Thangavelu

Geoeconomics is used to manage the collective and shared vision and framework at the regional level for economic growth, and to mitigate geopolitical risk and instability in the region. This framework of ASEAN Centrality has been a cornerstone of ASEAN for economic cooperation since its formation in 1967, and shared vision in terms of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), which has provided the stable and economic development for ASEAN. The presentation will cover the key issues related to recent emergence of geoeconomics fragmentation and challenges for ASEAN to create the GVC resilience in the region.

Alternative Development Models: From a Philippine and ASEAN Perspective

Fernando T. Aldaba

As the limitations of neoliberal economics become increasingly evident, countries in the Global South—particularly in Southeast Asia—are reimagining development through models that balance modernization with local realities. From an ASEAN perspective, the rise of new development models rooted in the East Asian experience offers valuable lessons for crafting context-specific strategies that deliver inclusive and sustainable growth.

The East Asian model, characterized by strategic state intervention, export-oriented industrial policy, and human capital development, has deeply influenced the trajectory of several ASEAN economies. While China's rise has drawn global attention, Southeast Asia's own experience—marked by pragmatic policy-making, gradual and managed liberalization, and investment in capabilities—demonstrates a distinct adaptation of this model. Rather than relying solely on market forces, ASEAN states have increasingly embraced coordinated industrial policies, regional integration, and social investments to achieve structural transformation.

This hybrid model rejects one-size-fits-all prescriptions and instead emphasizes policy autonomy, institutional learning, and adaptability. ASEAN's commitment to open regionalism, as seen in the ASEAN Economic Community and participation in RCEP, reinforces this developmental approach by expanding policy space for trade, investment, and technology transfer. Moreover, sustainability and equity are gaining prominence as core pillars of the region's development vision, aligning with global shifts toward green and inclusive growth.

For the Global South, ASEAN's evolving development path offers a compelling alternative to neoliberalism: a modernization strategy grounded in state capacity, regional cooperation, and respect for national specificities. Summarizing and systematizing the diverse experiences of Southeast Asian countries is therefore essential—not only to inform their own policy futures, but also to provide a reference point for other southern countries seeking resilient, equitable, and transformative development in a post-neoliberal world. In this regard, ASEAN is both a beneficiary and a contributor to the redefinition of development economics.

China's Development Model and Experiences: Lessons for the Philippines

Rommel Banlaoi

China's development model known as the "Beijing Consensus" has brought the Chinese society in its current state of prosperity. With the fusion of appropriate state intervention amidst market liberalization or economic opening, China, from a backward state at least 50 years ago is now experiencing miraculous economic growth punctuated by significant poverty reduction, infrastructure development, environmental sustainability, and technological advancement, among others. The Philippines, however from one of the most prosperous countries in Asia, is now lagging behind its Southeast Asian neighbors with rising poverty, poor infrastructure, growing environmental degradation, and low technological advancement. This paper argues that the Philippines can still move out of its current quagmire by learning lessons from China's development model and experiences. This requires a decisive improvement of the two countries' bilateral relations by revisiting the value development diplomacy beyond their current territorial disputes and maritime jurisdictional conflicts in the South China Sea.

The Values and Future Visions of the Global South

Lucio Blanco Pitlo III

Discussion over the role of the Global South in international affairs gained fresh impetus as across-the-board great power competition intensifies. Not wanting to be mere arenas, proxies or bystanders in the escalating clash, developing countries wish to be active shapers of their and the world's future. Global South countries want more options and choices, not locked in rigid binaries or confined to a limited pool of privileged partners. They desire more participation in reforming global institutions to reflect changing times. The growing appeal of BRICS is instructive.

Emerging and developing countries want to assert more agency and autonomy. Every crisis can be an opportunity. Hence, they try to channel great power rivalry – which they know they cannot prevent – in productive fields like trade, investment, infrastructure, and technology. They try to play off one power against another to get the best deal. However, such behavior may work well when there is healthy and civil competition among major powers, not when rivalry becomes too unbridled and overriding, putting pressure on them to take sides.

As major power chasm deepens, the desire for a middle ground may gain resonance. During the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, delegates from newly independent Asian and African countries flocked to Bandung, laying the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement. As competition between the US and China intensify, will there be a Bandung 2.0?

Some incipient responses to the increasingly complex and volatile environment are noticeable. Countries are diversifying partners and mitigating entanglements that can be weaponized to harm their national interests. Resource-rich countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo are trying to leverage US-China competition to gain more value for their finite critical mineral wealth. Some small and middle powers want to keep rival major powers engaged in separate fields through unilateral and broader regional formats. For instance, some Asian countries hope to keep US committed to regional security through alliances and unilateral partnerships like Quad, while expanding economic ties with China through free trade agreements (FTAs) like RCEP. The desire to engage more partners and not be dominated is a strong subtext. Issue-based cooperation may gain more traction. The Global South can influence how great power competition unfolds, hopefully in ways that would avoid conflict and update a rules-based order.

Regional organizations bringing together fast-developing countries like ASEAN are doubling down on their centrality, despite differences among members on certain issues. Such organizations aim to play the role of convenors, allowing their collective to have a greater voice in regional issues and to provide a framework to socialize key external partners. Regional FTAs like RCEP, CPTPP, Mercosur, and Africa's Continental Free Trade Area can help update globalization and create a platform to involve major trade partners. For example, ASEAN-led RCEP can build on existing ASEAN+1 FTAs and serve as a building block for a broader Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific.

Pragmatism, autonomy and pursuit of national interests within an updated multilateral setup may motivate Global South countries in a time of flux.

Critique and Construction in Knowledge Creation: Taking Decolonization Seriously

Syed Farid Alatas

The advancement of resistance to colonialist/Eurocentric discourses requires, among other things, a clear conception of what the decolonization of knowledge means. This is because knowledge creation in the social sciences and humanities throughout the Third World/Global South continues to be in a state of coloniality/Eurocentricity. This paper provides one understanding of decolonization of knowledge. I see it as consisting of three dimensions, each distinct but fundamentally related to one another. The three dimensions are anti-colonial/Eurocentric critique, reconstruction, and original construction (of knowledge). This paper discusses what each of these mean with illustrations drawn mainly from thinking in the Malay world. The paper also makes reference to the place of the Islamic intellectual tradition in the decolonization of knowledge project. Furthermore, I suggest that the concern among certain Muslim scholarly circles with epistemological and theological matters is insufficient to grasp the problem of the coloniality/Eurocentricity of modern knowledge, as far as the social sciences and humanities are concerned.

Keywords: critique, reconstruction, original construction, theory, aesthetics, politics

The Global South and Southeast Asia

Hoang Thi Ha

"The Global South discourse has gained renewed salience in contemporary global politics, driven by the accelerating shift of the world's centre of gravity to the Indo-Pacific, the rise of non-Western powers, and the intensification of strategic competition between major powers. Both China and the US recognise the strategic importance of the Global South but approach it through distinct lenses. China emphasises infrastructure connectivity and economic integration whereas the US traditionally advanced a values-driven development agenda. Yet, with the return of the Trump presidency, US credibility is now seriously undercut by its retreat from global free trade and its tariff wars against not only China but also many other countries in both the Global North and South.

Southeast Asian countries, while geographically and developmentally associated with the Global South, pursue foreign policy decisions anchored in national interests rather than ideological alignment. This pragmatic orientation is evident in their differentiated responses to global flashpoints such as the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Hamas conflict, and maritime tensions in the South China Sea. Economically, the region's resilience and prosperity have hinged on its deep integration with both the Global North and South. Rather than subscribing to binary blocs or rigid ideological affiliations, Southeast Asia has thrived through economic diversification, strategic pragmatism, and its ability to bridge and navigate across competing systems.

The resurgence of economic nationalism in the US in the second Trump administration and the growing fragmentation of the international economic order have heightened the urgency for Global South countries – including Southeast Asia – to strengthen collective agency and economic resilience, including through deepening and expanding South-South economic ties as a hedge against the disruptions of protectionism and the erosion of multilateralism.”

The Indonesia Contradiction: A Major Global South Country in Denial

Max Lane

The Bandung Spirit, let alone Sukarno New Emerging Forces (NEFOs) outlook, was abandoned after 1965. From soon after 1965 until into the 1990s, the dominant spirit was the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) based in the capital of the old coloniser, The Netherlands. The IGGI was a gathering of the major Western governments, as well as the Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank. Indonesian government reported annually before being informed on the extent of new loans it would receive. From 1965 until 1998, when the government changed, the rhetoric of “Pembangunan” (Development) was dominant and carried a highly triumphant tone proclaiming the substantial GDP growth every year. This triumphalism, which ignored the abysmal low GDP starting point for growth that was the colonial legacy, negated Indonesia’s economic status as a Third World or Global South country. It was proclaimed for decades that Indonesia’s escape from underdevelopment was assured. Since 1998, the same tone has remained dominant even though the propaganda focus on “all round development” has been dropped for a single focus on statistical GDP growth.

Indonesia is a very poor country, It has a low GDP per capita and low wealth per capita. It has a total GDP similar in size to that of Australia, a country with 10% of Indonesia’s population. Australia also has infrastructure, including educational, of much greater monetary value and capacity.

Without a strong consciousness of Indonesia’s impoverished situation, the reasons for this economic underdevelopment is not interrogated. The essential origins are the theft of grotesquely massive wealth by Dutch colonialism and the equally grotesque non-development of productive capacity under colonialism. This legacy was not seriously eroded by the 32 years of New Order government. Without this consciousness of its situation, there is a widespread lack of sharing the same fate as the the two thirds of the world in the Global South. Equally, there is a lack of consciousness of the Global North as predators requiring a counter-strategy to defeat that. To defeat the Global North, collaboration among the Global South, needs to be conscious and planned by governments and societies to develop its strength as a whole. It cannot be left to the vested interest loaded, non-workings of the market and the individual initiatives of the corporation, even when by companies owned by Global South governments.

Planned governmental collaboration to strengthen the overall productive powers of the Global South, so it can resist predation, is needed. This would be the true rising up of the Bandung and NEFOs spirit. It is a true economic development project, but it requires the victory of a political ideological struggle first.

China and the Global South: A Perspective of Transnational Knowledge Transfer

Hong Liu

This presentation is concerned with China’s engagement with the Global South from the perspective of transnational knowledge transfer. After a brief discussion about the rise of the Global South in both the international political economy and the arena of cultural narratives, I will examine the four dimensions in China’s interactions with the Global South, namely, historicity, discourse, policy, and practice. It will then use China’s engagement with Indonesia since 1949 as a case to illustrate the modalities, characteristics, and impact of transnational knowledge transfer and the implications for a better understanding of China’s multi-faceted roles in the Global South.

Retaining Agency and Pursuing Cooperation in a Changed World: A View from Singapore

Lye Liang Fook

In a changed world, where a free and open multilateral trading order is no longer a given, when tariffs have become a weapon of choice and with trade tensions gripping the headlines, it is even more important for countries to retain the initiative and double down on efforts to pursue cooperation with each other to uphold international norms and rules of the game that have brought peace, development and prosperity to the international community over the past decades. Although small countries like Singapore cannot dictate the strategic environment they find themselves in, they can play a role by working with like-minded countries to strengthen existing cooperation and explore collaboration in new areas. Small countries are also not without agency and can take the initiative to drive cooperation in areas of common interests such as upgrading existing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and pursue new FTAs to reduce risks, diversify markets and grow their economies. They can further explore opportunities in emerging areas like digital and green

economies and do more to achieve a growth model that balances economic growth with non-economic considerations such as better environmental protection. Finally, it is equally important for countries to work with the US to address trade-related concerns as part of an overall effort to maintain a free, open and inclusive world order.

ASEAN-China Cooperation: The Southeast Asian Perspectives

Maria Monica Wihardja

This presentation is concerned with China's engagement with the Global South from the perspective of transnational knowledge transfer. After a brief discussion about the rise of the Global South in both the international political economy and the arena of cultural narratives, I will examine the four dimensions in China's interactions with the Global South, namely, historicity, discourse, policy, and practice. It will then use China's engagement with Indonesia since 1949 as a case to illustrate the modalities, characteristics, and impact of transnational knowledge transfer and the implications for a better understanding of China's multi-faceted roles in the Global South.

Thai Political Economy

Narong Petprasert

The Thai political economic structure is under, the power of monarchy, military, and monopoly capitalists. The monarchy shapes the believe and ideology of the people, military control the national political economic directions. The monopoly capitalists dominate the Thai economy. These three power classes build up "the Thai bureaucratic political economic system. This makes the untouchable monarchy, special power of military, and super rich monopoly capitalists. In the consequence, the power relations between the power classes and lower classes is highly imbalance. Civil society in Thailand is very weak, meanwhile, the power classes are very strong. Moreover the three power classes join hands for their common interests and their interdependence in political economic movement. So, this creates the very large gap between the power classes and lower classes in Thailand. His academic interests are Thai economy, poverty reduction, labour studies, political economy and international political economy .

Southeast Asian Energy Economy

Helio A.X. Mauquei

It is an honour to represent the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL) at the 2025 Southeast Asia Forum. I sincerely thank the University of Indonesia, Harian Kompas, the Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation, and the Communication University of China for hosting this vital platform for regional cooperation and Global South dialogue.

Timor-Leste continues to deepen its engagement with China and Southeast Asia. In April 2025, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão visited Hunan Province to explore cooperation in agriculture, technology, and education - building on over a decade of partnership between Hunan and the municipality of Manatuto. These engagements reflect the spirit of South-South cooperation and local-level impact.

Academic collaboration has also advanced. The partnership between UNTL and South China Normal University (SCNU) has flourished, marked by mutual visits and the recent establishment of the SCNU-UNTL Joint Laboratory of Optical Science and Smart Education. This initiative reflects the commitment of both countries to the Belt and Road Initiative and the goals of the Global South Network.

This year's forum highlights the clean energy transition - a key issue for the Global South. China's leadership in renewable technologies is helping transform energy systems across Southeast Asia. Timor-Leste, with abundant solar and wind resources, is well-positioned to develop inclusive, decentralized energy models. As a future ASEAN member and a bridge to Portuguese-speaking countries, Timor-Leste can play a strategic role in connecting the Global South across regions. To ensure a just transition, we must strengthen regional cooperation, support small economies, and connect South-South networks in education, research, and innovation.

Let us work together to shape an energy future that is not only green, but also fair, inclusive, and transformative for all.

The Vacuum Period of Universal Values and the Role of The Global South

Hoang Hue Anh

We are currently living in a transitional period, moving from a unipolar order to a new world order. Such a period is defined by instability and uncertainty. This transitional period is also characterized by a "vacuum" in universal values. The liberal value system, previously upheld by the United States and the West, has weakened and lost its appeal and leading role. However, a new set of universal values has yet to emerge. As a direct consequence, international norms and laws, which are largely based on Western values, are now facing a crisis. Meanwhile, the rise of the Global South is becoming increasingly impressive. In this context, Global South countries should work together to establish a system of international laws and norms that genuinely reflects and protects the legitimate interests of the Global South, which have been historically marginalized over the past seventy years. Due to its wide diversity of values and development paths, the Global South is well-positioned to meaningfully contribute toward filling the vacuum in universal values.

The Future of the Global South: Towards a Global, Inclusive, and People-Centered Vision

Tran Thanh Hai

Despite their differences, many Global South countries face shared challenges such as structural dependence on raw material exports and foreign capital, climate vulnerability and environmental degradation, debt burdens and external shocks, etc.

It is a critical time for the Global South to forge a unified vision and an approach that are global, holistic, and people-centered. Based on the principles of non-interference, mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit, Global South countries must enhance cooperation to collectively seize opportunities, overcome challenges, resolve difficulties, and pursue a sustainable and prosperous future. The Global South agenda should focus on three major goals:

First, advocating for more effective and meaningful reforms of regional and global governance institutions is essential. The main focus should be on making United Nations reforms more democratic and efficient, strengthening the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, and reducing trade barriers and unfair competition.

Second, mobilizing and utilizing all social resources efficiently to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Countries should take the lead in ensuring food security, protecting the environment, preventing and responding to disasters, adapting to climate change, and building green, digital, and circular economies. Global South countries need more practical and effective support from developed countries, particularly regarding financial assistance, technology transfer, and capacity building.

Third, promoting new growth drivers, especially in science and technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, should be the cornerstone of all cooperation mechanisms and initiatives. It is essential to intensify efforts to promote South-South trade and investment, support the development of science and technology markets among the Global South countries, and foster innovation ecosystems that effectively and substantively link governments, academic institutions, and businesses, while advancing meaningful regional integration.

Global South and Southeast Asia Special Guests

■ The International Zheng He Society

The International Zheng He Society was established in 2003, as a Society in Singapore, by Dr. Tan Ta Sen and Dr. Leo Suryadinata. The current President, Dr. Zhang Lu, is an author from Singapore and an expert on the Maritime Silk Road. The Society focuses on the study of Zheng He's spirit and the cultural heritage of the Maritime Silk Road, as well as their contemporary applications. It aims to promote the spirit of Zheng He and the Maritime Silk Road culture with a vision for Southeast Asia and the Middle East, and connections across the globe. The Society has a broad and international influence. It serves as a cross-disciplinary, cross-ethnic, and inter-religious non-profit cultural research hub and a platform for international economic, trade, and cultural exchange.

The Society brings together experts and scholars from various countries, including specialists in Ming Dynasty history, Southeast Asian history, ceramics, ancient architecture, shipwreck salvaging, and experts in strategy, international relations and management studies. The Society is composed of outstanding talents from the fields of finance, investment, business, and trade, all dedicated to promoting the spirit of Zheng He and the culture of the Maritime Silk Road. Through academic research and cultural and business exchanges, the Society strengthens cooperation among countries along the Maritime Silk Road. It works to jointly promote the preservation and development of historical heritage, contributing significantly to enhancing international cultural & technological exchange and collaboration. The Society has become a key promoter, and advocate of Maritime Silk Road and Zheng He culture worldwide.



Tang Tuck Meng

Secretary-General, The International Zheng He Society
Bachelor and Master's degree in Management from the National University of Singapore. Director of Procurement for 20 years in the world's top multinational companies, such as Philips, Vosper, Varta and AMP. He possessed a wealth of experience in international vision and strategic promotion.

■ Tanoto Foundation

Tanoto Foundation is an independent philanthropic organization founded by Sukanto Tanoto and Tinah Bingei Tanoto based on the belief that every person should have the opportunity to realize his or her full potential. Tanoto Foundation started its work in 1981 when our founders established a kindergarten and elementary school in Besitang, North Sumatra.

Tanoto Foundation's programs stem from the belief that quality education accelerates equal opportunity. We harness the transformative strength of education to realize people's full potential and improve lives.

Global South and Southeast Asia Organizer



The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia (FISIP UI), founded in 1968, is one of the faculties with the largest number of study programs and students at the University of Indonesia. Until mid-2022, FISIP UI has 20 study programs, with more than 150 lecturers, and more than 3,500 students (odd semester 2022/2023) who are incorporated into seven departments. The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences is one of the faculties within the University of Indonesia which carries out the main tasks and functions, as follows: Education, Research and/or innovation, Community service and devotion, Improvement of the quality of education for students, Improvement of the quality of research and/or innovation, Improvement of the quality of community service and devotion, Improvement of the quality and abilities as well as welfare for lecturers and education staff.



Beijing Longway Economic and Social Research Foundation was established in 2009 and has been rated as a 4A-level non-profit research organization by the Ministry of Civil Affairs twice in China since 2018. The Longway Foundation is committed to cultural reconstruction, exploring the cultural continuity crisis that has been highlighted in China since modern times, exploring the new cultural demands of emerging social classes arising from changes in social structure, and laying a solid basis for the introspection and integration of old and new cultures in the process of social transition. The Longway Foundation is dedicated to building a high-end civil platform of researches and thoughts, adhering to the values of transcending left and right, facing problems directly, and being objective, rational, and constructive.

The Longway Foundation supports the publication of "Wen Hua Zong Heng or BCR" magazine and leads the issues awareness and academic concerns of the Chinese intellectual community with its strong ability of agenda-setting. The main research directions of its research center are ideology, culture, politics, and social structural changes, focusing on the major cultural and social challenges facing China and human society. In 16 years, the Longway Foundation has undertaken more than 100 central, ministerial, provincial and local government as well as entrepreneurial projects, and is renowned in the academic and intellectual community of China.

Meanwhile, "BCR" is also the core journal of CSSCI of the Nanjing University, the core journal of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and an important reprinting source journal of Renmin University of China photocopied newspapers and periodicals. "BCR" new media has covered covered 28 Internet platforms including WeChat, Today' s

Headlines, Phoenix, NetEase, Pengpai, etc., forming a new media matrix, with more than 3 million users across the entire network, and a total reading volume of more than 400 million times. It is an important platform for the exchange of ideas in the public domain in China and has been ranked first in the WeChat comprehensive list of communication power in China's core journal for many consecutive years.



The Institute for a Community with Shared Future (ICSF), founded by the Communication University of China (CUC) in 2019, stands as a distinguished Chinese think tank. Its fundamental objective is to explore the concept of a Community with Shared Future for Mankind from an academic perspective and conduct comprehensive research on its global communication. CUC, a paragon in China's media and information education and research domain, wields far-reaching international influence. Leveraging this influence, ICSF has successfully co-established over 20 centers globally. These centers function as vibrant international platforms, where eminent scholars actively engage in the exchange of innovative ideas, driving forward academic discourse on a global scale.



Founded in 2014, the Shanghai Chunqiu Institute for Development and Strategic Studies is a non-profit research think tank. Guided by the principle of serving the public interests of the state and society, it provides consulting services, publishes reference papers, special research reports, monographs, and hosts various forums and academic training programs. The institute is dedicated to advancing China's social improvement and conducting research on major topics such as China's economic development model, international relations strategy, serving both the nation and society.

Since its establishment, the institute has focused on exploring the "Chinese political and economic development model" and "original Chinese discourse and narrative theories." It has also been committed to maintaining close, benign interaction, and highly complementary relationships with government think tanks, contributing independent academic insights and positive discourse dissemination. The institute continues to strive for the construction of a think tank ecosystem that provides theoretical and public opinion support for China's development model.

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