
Inaugural Korea Centre (EAI, NUS)-Sejong Institute Webinar

Indo-Pacific Concept and Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative: Regional Perspectives

Thursday, 27 April 2023

9.00 am (Singapore time) / 10.00 am (Seoul time)

[Time Zone Converter](#)

Via Zoom

The Yoon Suk Yeol administration has initiated the Republic of Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI) to make its mark as a "global pivotal state" and a middle power. To what extent is Seoul's IPS similar or different from those of the United States and its allies, and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific? Is KASI an evolution and an "upgrade" from the preceding Moon administration's New Southern Policy towards Southeast Asia? How can the Republic of Korea and ASEAN states cooperate for common interests amid intensifying geostrategic competition between the US and Chinese superpowers?

This inaugural webinar seeks to address the above questions, share different perspectives and strengthen the academic networks between the Sejong Institute and the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, and their ASEAN counterparts.

~ Programme ~

As at 27 April

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| 9.00 – 9.05 am
<i>Singapore Time</i> | Welcome Address
Prof Bert Hofman Director, East Asian Institute, NUS
Prof Lee Sang Hyun President, Sejong Institute |
| 9.10 – 9.20 am | Keynote Speech
H E Ambassador Choi Hoon
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Singapore |
| 9.20 – 10.20 am | Session 1 - <u>Seoul's Indo-Pacific Concept: A Comparison</u>
Moderated by Prof Lee Sang Hyun President, Sejong Institute
<i>Time allocation: 10 minutes for each speaker and commentator</i> |
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1. **The Yoon Administration's Indo-Pacific Concept**
Dr Yoon Jung Choi | Sejong Institute
 2. **The United States' IPC, QUAD and AUKUS: Strategic Competition with China**
Dr Ryan Clarke | East Asian Institute, NUS
 3. **ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific**
Dr Nur Shahadah Jamil | University of Malaya

Commentator:

Prof Jungkun Seo | Kyung Hee University and Sejong Institute

Q & A

10.25 – 11.30 am

Session 2 - Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative

Moderated by Dr Chen Gang | Senior Research Fellow and Assistant Director (Policy Research), East Asian Institute, NUS

Time allocation: 10 minutes for each speaker and commentator

4. Indonesian Perspective on KASI: Mutual Interest amid Divergent Position

Dr Resi Qurrata Aini | University of Indonesia

5. A Korean Perspective

Prof Wongi Choe | Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA)

6. Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative (KASI): A Singapore Perspective

Mr Gordon Kang | East Asian Institute, NUS

7. KASI: A Vietnamese Perspective

Ms Hoang Thi Ha | ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore

Commentator:

Ambassador Sungham Lim | Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Korea and Sejong Institute

Q & A

11.30 – 11.40 am

Closing Remarks and Thanks

Dr Yoon Jung Choi | Director, Center of Indo-Pacific Studies, Sejong Institute

Dr Lam Peng Er | Head, Korea Centre, Principal Research Fellow,
East Asian Institute, NUS

End of Webinar

For updates on the programme, please visit

<https://research.nus.edu.sg/eai/2020/11/24/inaugural-korea-centre-eai-nus-sejong-institute-webinar/>. *Thank you.*

Bio profiles of speakers and moderators

~ in the order of the seminar programme ~



Prof Bert Hofman, a Dutch national, is Director of the East Asian Institute (EAI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and Professor of Practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Before joining NUS, he was with the World Bank for 27 years, 22 of which in Asia and 12 of which on China. Prof Hofman was the World Bank Country Director for China 2014-2019, the Country Economist 2004-2008 and the Chief Economist for the World Bank in the East Asia and Pacific region 2011-2014. He also worked on Indonesia, the Philippines, Korea and Mongolia. Before joining the World Bank, Prof Hofman worked at the Kiel Institute of World Economics, The OECD and NMB Bank (Now ING). He has extensive experience in advising governments around the region on a wide range of development issues, and published on fiscal policy, debt issues and China's and Indonesia's recent economic history.



Prof Sang Hyun Lee is President of the Sejong Institute in Korea. He also serves as President of the Korea Nuclear Policy Society (KNPS) and Chief of the Planning and Coordination Committee, the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council. He received his BA and MA from Seoul National University and PhD from the Department of Political Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1999. He was a research fellow at the Korean Institute for International Studies (1987-88), Korea Institute for Defense Analysis (1988-90) and Director-General for Policy Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2011-13). His main research interests include international politics and security, Korea-US relations, inter-Korean relations, nuclear security and nonproliferation, and East Asian security issues. His recent publications include *Biden Administration's Foreign Policy and the Korean Peninsula* (2022, co-authored), *New Global Order and South Korea's Foreign Policy Strategy* (2021, co-authored), "Prospects for the Biden Administration's Foreign Policy" (2021) and *South Korea's Foreign Policy in the Era of U.S.-China Strategic Competition* (2020, co-authored).



Amb Choi Hoon was the Standing Commissioner and Deputy Chairman for International Cooperation at the Financial Services Commission (FSC) from 2019 to 2021. He held various positions at the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MOFE) in 1991, including Director for Financial Hub Cooperation, for 16 years. He was posted to FSC in 2008 and worked as Director-General for Banking and Insurance Bureau, Director-General for Financial Industry Bureau and Director-General for Financial Policy Bureau from 2016 to 2019. He also served as Director-General for Greater Tumen Initiative Secretariat of the United Nations Development Programme China from 2011 to 2015 and Senior Assistant Secretary for Economic and Financial Affairs at the Office of the President from 2015 to 2016. Ambassador Choi holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the Sungkyunkwan University, Republic of Korea (ROK), and a Master degree in International Banking and Finance from the University of Birmingham, UK. In 2017, he completed his PhD in Economics from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China.



Dr Yoon Jung CHOI is the Director of the Center for Indo-Pacific Studies at the Sejong Institute. She received her PhD in international studies at Ewha Woman's University and was a visiting scholar at Columbia University in the City of New York. Her principal research fields include inter-regional cooperation in the Indo Pacific with a particular emphasis on countries in South and Southeast Asia and Europe. Recently, she has been extensively exploring various dimensions of non-traditional security, such as economic and technological security surrounding the Indo Pacific. Her work and contribution to the literature and application of study have been recognised by premier journals, such as *The World Economy*, *Australian Economic Papers* and *National Strategy*. In terms of academic engagement, her recent publications include *The Evolving Korea NATO Relations: Global, Indo Pacific, and Korean Perspectives* (2023, with W Paik), *Changes in Trade Order in the Indo Pacific: Focusing on IPEF* (in Korean) (2022), *Comparison and Implications of Indo Pacific Strategies: Focusing on the United States, Europe, Japan, India, and ASEAN* (2022) and *ASEAN ROK Partnership in the Indo Pacific Era: Consolidation and Expansion* (2022, edit and coauthored). Beyond her academic contributions, Dr Choi has considerable professional and hands on experience in policy development. Her current official assignments include membership within the Policy Advisory Council for the National Security Office in the Office of the President, the Ministry of Unification and the ROK's ARF Experts and Eminent Persons. She works closely with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Korea International Cooperation Agency, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Korea Office's Indo Pacific Advisory Group and ASEAN Korea Centre as a member of the advisory and evaluation committee.



Dr Ryan Clarke is a Senior Research Fellow at EAI, NUS. His career has spanned leadership positions in defence and intelligence technology, investment banking, national/international security, biodefence and strategic net assessments. He holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge.



Dr Nur Shahadah Jamil is a PhD holder in Strategic and Security Studies, National University of Malaysia (UKM). Her PhD dissertation titled, “Evolution in China’s South China Sea Policy Process: A Neoclassical Realism Explanation”, focuses primarily on explaining how structural factors and elites’ perception (after being filtered by relevant domestic considerations) contribute to the evolution of China’s South China Sea Policy, as well as the evolution in the patterns of pluralisation in the policy process from 1949 to 2017. Dr Shahadah is also a research fellow at the East Asian International Relations Caucus, which is a research platform for exchange, engagement and empowerment among foreign affairs professionals and international relations scholars in Malaysia. Her research concentrates mainly on China’s foreign policy, South China Sea, Southeast Asian responses to Belt and Road Initiative and East Asian security. She is currently serving as a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya and can be contacted via email at shahadah@um.edu.my.



Prof Jungkun Seo is a Professor in the Department of Political Science at Kyung Hee University (KHU), Seoul, Korea. During the Spring Semester of 2023, Dr Seo is a Visiting Fellow at the Sejong Institute. He received a PhD and an MA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in Political Science from the Seoul National University. Dr Seo teaches American Politics, US Foreign Policy and Party Politics. Prior to Kyung Hee University, he was an Assistant Professor (tenure-track) in the Department of Public and International Affairs at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington (UNCW) from 2007 to 2012 where he received teaching awards from both KHU (2015) and UNCW (2009, 2010). Dr Seo was a Fulbright Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington DC (2019) and served as the President of the Korean Association of American Politics (2020). His research interests include American politics of foreign policy making, comparative legislative politics and US policy towards East Asia (China, North/South Korea). Dr Seo has published numerous books including *When American Politics Meeting International Relations* in 2019 (in Korean) and *American Politics and US Asia Policy* in 2017 (in Korean). Both books were selected as one of the best books of the year by the National Academy of Sciences in Korea. Dr Seo has also published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals such as *Political Science Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Party Politics*, *Government and Opposition*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Korean Journal of Defense Analysis* and *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*.



Dr Chen Gang is Assistant Director and Senior Research Fellow of EAI, NUS. Since joining the EAI in 2007, he has been tracing China’s politics, foreign policy, environmental and energy policies and publishing extensively on these issues. He is the single author of *Politics of Renewable Energy in China* (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2019), *The Politics of Disaster Management in China: Institutions, Interest Groups, and Social Participation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), *China’s Climate Policy* (London and New York: Routledge, 2012), *Politics of China’s Environmental Protection: Problems and Progress* (Singapore: World Scientific, 2009) and *The Kyoto Protocol and International Cooperation against Climate Change* (in Chinese) (Beijing: Xinhua Press, 2008).



Prof Choe Wongi is a professor and Head of the Center for ASEAN–Indian Studies at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA). His recent writings include “Indo-Pacific Strategy and ROK’s Regional Role in the Indo-Pacific” (in Korean, April 2023); “Indo-Pacific Strategy and ROK-ASEAN Security Cooperation” (in Korean, April 2023); “South Korea’s New Southern Policy: the Limits of Indo-Pacific Geopolitics” (April 2023); “The ROK’s Indo-Pacific Strategy under President Yoon: Key Elements and Strategic Implications” (December 2022); “Is Seoul Turning toward the Indo-Pacific? A Korean Perspective on the Moon-Biden Summit” (2021); “Australia and Korea: Middle Powers in Uncharted Waters” (November 2021); “The Quest for Strategic Balance and South Korea’s Indo-Pacific Conundrum” (August 2021); and *Thirty Years of ASEAN-ROK Relations* (a co-edited volume in Korean, 2019).



Dr Resi Qurrata Aini is a lecturer and researcher at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia. She is the Managing Editor of *Global: Jurnal Politik Internasional* – the oldest university-based journal specialising in international relations in Indonesia, and a mentor of Academic Writing for graduate students at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia. She also serves as a reviewer for Q1 Scopus-indexed journal in ASEAN studies. Resi completed her master's and bachelor's degrees at the Department of International Relations, Universitas Indonesia. Her research interests include East Asian and Southeast Asian security and affairs, geopolitics and regionalism in Asia, middle-power behaviours, maritime security and non-traditional security studies. Her academic works have been published in reputable national and international journals, as well as book publishers, including “Indonesia and South Korea: Two Middle Powers in Concord amid Great Powers Rivalry” (book chapter) in Lam Peng Er (ed.), *South Korea's New Southern Policy: A Middle Power's International Relations with Southeast Asia and India* (London: Routledge, 2023), “Being Bold in Indo-Pacific: The Implications to the ROK's Middle Power Diplomacy and Strategic Partnership with ASEAN” (ASEAN Insights, 2022), “Quasi-Alliance at Play: The Curious Case of South Korea's Aborted Withdrawal from GSOMIA in 2019” (*Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, 2021, Q3 Scopus-indexed), The Implementation of South Korea's Military Technology Reform in The Perspective of Techno-nationalism (*Sospol: Jurnal Sosial Politik*, 2021) and “The Absence of ASEAN - India Cooperation on COVID-19: a Missed Potential?” (ASEAN Insights, 2020).



Mr Gordon Kang is a Research Assistant at the Korea Centre, EAI, NUS. He graduated from The Australian National University's (ANU) Master of International Relations (World Affairs Specialisation) Thesis programme with Commendation and with a dissertation focusing on North Korea, Ontological Security and Poststructuralist Discourse Theory. He also holds a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the ANU. Previously, he has worked as a Research Assistant at the Korean Studies Research Hub and Gender, Environment and Migration Cluster at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne. He has previously written for the Lowy Institute's *Interpreter* and has contributed to *Insider*. His research interests revolve around Politics and Society in the Korean Peninsula (particularly on North Korea), International Relations in East Asia, and Critical International Relations and Security Studies Theory.



Ms Hoang Thi Ha is Senior Fellow and Co-coordinator of the Regional Strategic and Political Studies Programme at ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute. Before her 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 South China Sea disputes, ASEAN human rights cooperation, ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific discourse and ASEAN's institutional building. Ms Hoang joined the ASEAN Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam 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. She holds an MA in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam.



Amb Lim Sungnam spent almost 40 years serving in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Korea from 1981. Most recently, he was Ambassador to ASEAN in Jakarta until his retirement in December 2021. Before that assignment, he was First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs from October 2015 to September 2018, following his tenure as Ambassador to the UK. At the MOFA, he also served as Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs, focusing on the North Korean nuclear issue. Besides, he was with the Embassy in Beijing as Deputy Chief of Mission and Political Minister while having worked in Taipei in the late 1990s. On the other side of the Pacific, he was political counsellor at the Embassy in Washington, DC and also worked at the Mission to the UN in New York during Korea's non-permanent membership of the Security Council. Ambassador Lim received BA and MA from the Department of International Relations, Seoul National University, and AM from the Department of Government, Harvard University. In 2008-2009, he was a visiting research scholar at the University of Tokyo. Currently, he is affiliated with the Sejong Institute as a visiting research fellow.



Dr Lam Peng Er obtained his PhD from Columbia University and is a political scientist. His publications have appeared in international journals such as the *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, *Asian Affairs*, *Japan Forum* and *Government and Opposition: An International Journal of Comparative Politics*. Lam's latest single-authored book is *Japan's Peace Building Diplomacy in Asia: Searching for an Active Political Role* (New York and London: Routledge, 2009). Other books include *South Korea's New Southern Policy: A Middle Power's International Relations with Southeast Asia and India* (London and New York: Routledge, 2023) edited, *Contemporary Korea-Southeast Asian Relations: Bilateral and Multilateral* (London and New York: Routledge, 2022) edited, *Japan's Relations with Southeast Asia: The Fukuda Doctrine and Beyond* (London and New York: Routledge, 2013) edited, *Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power* (London and New York: Routledge, 2006) edited and *Green Politics in Japan* (London and New York: Routledge, 1999). He is an executive editor of the *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* (a journal of the Japan Association of International Relations published by Oxford University Press), *East Asian Policy: An International Quarterly* (East Asian Institute) and *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* (journal of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University). Lam is Singapore Country Coordinator for Network of East Asian Think Tanks and Network of ASEAN China Think Tanks.

Sejong Institute

Established in 1983 with the backing of political and business leaders, the Sejong Institute is the oldest non-partisan, independent think tank in South Korea. Its founders believed that the division of Korea was the cause of the country's pain and suffering and aimed to create a research organization that would promote peaceful unification. Originally established as a part of the Ilhae Foundation in 1986, and renamed as the Sejong Institute in 1988, the institute has undergone many transformations as it has evolved. Over time, it has become a leading research center in the country by producing groundbreaking research in the field of Korean reunification, diplomacy and national security, and area studies. But it has no plans to rest on its laurels, no matter how distinguished they are. It is determined to build on its record and continue to be a center of excellence for the country and for the world.

Despite the current challenges and opportunities in Korea's diplomatic and security environment, the Sejong Institute is committed to expanding its excellent reputation and remaining a center of excellence. The institute will focus on expanding its research capacity in emerging fields, including cyber security, defense, and the 4th Industrial Revolution, and inviting visiting fellows to cover more areas of research. It will also enhance its reputation at home and abroad by increasing its fellows' academic activities, promoting research and publications in English, and collaborating with prestigious institutions from around the world. The Sejong Institute's members are currently working together to turn it into a leading global think tank and increase the synergy effect by encouraging joint projects among fellows and collaborations with other organizations.

Please visit www.sejong.org for more information.

Korea Centre, East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore

Peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula are vital not only for East Asia, but the whole world. South Korea's New Southern Policy Plus has raised its partnership with ASEAN to the level of relations with its traditional four major diplomatic partners of the United States, China, Japan and Russia. For Singapore in particular, its good relations with the United States and North Korea had landed the city-state with the important role of hosting the 2018 US-DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) summit, the first historic summit between the two.

The establishment of a Korea Centre in Singapore is thus timely and serves as the knowledge hub for sharing Korea's development experience. The EAI Board approved the setting up of a Korea Centre in its meeting in June 2021. The Centre has the endorsement of the embassies to Singapore of the ROK and DPRK, and the financial support of the Korea Foundation. It is the first in Southeast Asia focusing on contemporary Korean politics, economy, society and international relations, as well as North-South interaction in the Korean peninsula.

The Korea Centre's mission is to analyse issues on governance, peace and development in the Korean peninsula to enhance understanding and interaction between the two Koreas and ASEAN countries. Its vision is to be the best Korea Centre in the Indo-Pacific outside of the Republic of Korea dedicated to the study of contemporary issues of

public policy, peace and development in the Korean Peninsula and its international relations. Some of its activities include hosting conferences and seminars, publishing a quarterly Bulletin and interacting with its counterparts from the two Koreas.

The Korea Centre has an advisory board and core staff from EAI. The Centre also draws on a network of adjunct research fellows with internationally recognised expertise on the Korean peninsula and manage an ASEAN-Korean peninsula network among interested researchers. Administratively, the Korea Centre is an integral part of EAI. The Centre is headed by Dr Lam Peng Er, Principal Research Fellow of EAI. The Korea Centre operates within EAI's existing budget and through the funding of the Korea Foundation.

Please visit www.eai.nus.edu.sg for more information.
