

Managing a Rapidly Changing World: Perspectives from China, Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia

Tuesday, 23 September 2025 | Singapore

SYNOPSIS

East and Southeast Asia stand at a pivotal moment, facing geopolitical tensions, rapid technological shifts, evolving supply chains, and profound demographic changes. These forces test the region's economic resilience and social cohesion, while also presenting new opportunities, including for increased cooperation.

Against this backdrop, this conference brings together stakeholders from governments, academia as well as the public and private sectors to chart pathways towards more resilience, deeper regional integration, stronger economic partnerships, and more inclusive growth.

Venue:

Royal Pavilion Ballroom II
Level 1, Conrad Singapore Orchard
1 Cuscaden Rd
Singapore 249715

AGENDA

9:30 am – 9:35 am

Welcome Remarks

Prof Alfred SCHIPKE, Director, East Asian Institute; and Professor of the Practice of International Finance, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (NUS)

9:35 am – 9:45 am

Introduction

Dr TEH Kok Peng, Chairman, East Asian Institute, NUS

9:45 am – 10:15 am

Keynote Addresses

- H.E. CAO Zhongming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Singapore
- H.E. ISHIKAWA Hiroshi, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore
- H.E. HONG Jin-wook, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Singapore

10:15 am – 10:35 am

Group Photo & Coffee Break

10:35 am – 12:00 pm

Panel One: Enhancing Trilateral Cooperation and Southeast Asian Engagement in an Uncertain World

This session will bring together leading experts to explore pathways for deepening international cooperation and economic integration across East and Southeast Asia. Panellists will examine prospects for, and obstacles faced, in relation to collaboration in trade, investment, connectivity, and regional stability. This dialogue seeks to enhance resilience and inclusion in the region.

Chair: Prof Barry DESKER, Distinguished Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies; and Nanyang Professor of Practice, Nanyang Technological University

- Prof YANG Yue, Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute of Asian Studies, China Foreign Affairs University
- Prof Akio TAKAHARA, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Tokyo Woman's Christian University; and Emeritus Professor, The University of Tokyo
- Prof SHEEN Seong-Ho, Dean of Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University
- Dr OOI Kee Beng, Executive Director, Penang Institute; and Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch Break

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Panel Two: Navigating Global Uncertainty — The Role of Business
(Chatham House rule applies)

Global companies operating in China, Japan and South Korea are navigating a complex landscape shaped by geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change, and heightened uncertainty. In response to these challenges, many firms are actively seeking ways to mitigate risks and uncover new opportunities—often by deepening their engagement with Southeast Asian markets. At the same time, strong incentives remain to bolster trade, investment, and supply chain connections within East Asia itself. This session will explore how governments in East and Southeast Asia could facilitate companies' efforts in managing risks and positioning themselves to capitalize on emerging opportunities in this dynamic regional environment. It will also examine companies' strategies in response to the evolving policy and business landscape.

Chair: Prof Alfred SCHIPKE, Director, East Asian Institute; and Professor of the Practice of International Finance, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, NUS

- Mr Hirotaka ISHIZAKA, Chief Sustainability Officer, Mitsubishi Corporation Singapore Branch
- Dr Kevin LU, Partner and Chairman of Asia, Partners Group
- Ms Cherie NURSALIM, Vice Chairman, Giti Group
- Mr Salem GHANDOUR, Senior Vice President, Institutional and Government Relations and Projects, Maybank
- Mr KOK Ping Soon, CEO, Singapore Business Federation

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Coffee Break

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Panel Three: Ageing and Migration in East Asia — Implications for Jobs, Skills, and Economic Growth

(Chatham House rule applies)

China, Japan and South Korea are facing significant demographic pressures that challenge growth, public finances, and have wider regional implications. This panel will explore how their diverse strategies on technology, healthcare, social policy, and immigration offer opportunities to learn from one another—particularly how Japan's longer experience with ageing can provide valuable lessons for China, South Korea, and other ageing societies in Asia.

Chair: Prof Elaine HO, Provost's Chair Professor at the Department of Geography; and Research Leader of the Migration and Mobilities Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, NUS

- Prof LU Jiehua, Professor, School of Population and Health, Renmin University of China
- Dr Nana OISHI, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Woorim KO, Research Associate Professor, Population Policy Research Center, Seoul National University
- Dr PARK Donghyun, Economic Advisor, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, Asian Development Bank
- Dr ZHAO Litao, Senior Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, NUS

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Dr LAM Peng Er, Head of Korea Centre, and Principal Research Fellow, East Asian Institute, NUS

About the Speakers and Chairpersons *(in order of presentation)*



Professor Alfred Schipke is the Director of the East Asian Institute and Professor of the Practice of International Finance at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at National University of Singapore (NUS).

Before joining NUS, he was Director of the International Monetary Fund–Singapore Regional Training Institute for Asia and the Pacific in charge of technical assistance, training and research. Prior to that he was Assistant Director and Mission Chief for India and Senior Resident Representative and Mission Chief for China providing policy advice, spearheading analytical work, and coordinating capacity development. He has worked closely with key Chinese economic and financial sector agencies including the People’s Bank of China, the Ministry of Finance, and the financial sector regulatory agencies.

At the IMF, he was also division chief in the Asia and Pacific Department leading the department’s work on fast-growing low-income countries in Southeast Asia (Frontier Economies) and was Mission Chief for Vietnam. In the IMF’s Western Hemisphere Department, he negotiated several successful IMF programs including for El Salvador and St. Kitts and Nevis.

He has taught international finance at Harvard Kennedy School and the National School of Development at Peking University and has authored and edited several books and articles. He holds a PhD from Duisburg-Essen University, an MPA from Harvard, and a BA from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Dr Teh Kok Peng is the current Chairman of the East Asian Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS), succeeding Professor Wang Gungwu in 2018.

Before his retirement in 2011, Dr Teh served as President of GIC Special Investments from April 1999 to June 2011, and oversaw investments in private equity, infrastructure and international venture funds. Prior to this, he was concurrently Deputy Managing Director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Deputy Managing Director of GIC. He began his career with the World Bank, joining its Young Professionals Programme in 1975.

Dr Teh was formerly Chairman of Ascendas Pte Ltd and Azalea Asset Management Pte Ltd. He was a member on various boards, including China International Capital Corporation, Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation, Taikang Life Insurance, Sembcorp Industries, Singapore Life Ltd, Sevia Holdings and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. Dr Teh’s contributions also encompassed the higher education sector, where he served on the boards of the NUS, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and

Institute of Policy Studies. Additionally, he was President of the Economic Society of Singapore from 1992 to 1997, succeeding the late Professor Lim Chong Yah.

Dr Teh currently chairs the Advisory Boards of Granite Asia and Seraya Partners. He is also on the boards of Fullerton Health and CM Capital Corporation.

Dr Teh obtained First Class Honours in Economics at La Trobe University, Melbourne, and a Doctorate in Economics at Nuffield College, Oxford University, England. He attended the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in the fall of 1989.



Ambassador Cao Zhongming has been serving as the 13th Chinese Ambassador to Singapore since March 2024. Graduated with a Master of Laws degree from Peking University, Ambassador Cao joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1989. Prior to his posting in Singapore, he served in the capacities of Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in France, Deputy Director General of the Department of African Affairs of MFA, Chinese Ambassador to Mali, Director General of the Department of Personnel of MFA and Chinese Ambassador to Belgium.



Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi is a career diplomat with 39 years of experience in the Japanese Foreign Service.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, Ambassador Ishikawa was Deputy Minister in the Foreign Minister's Secretariat. He had also served as Director-General of the Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Director of the First China and Mongolia Division, Director of the First North America Division and Director of the National Security Policy Division. He had also served overseas postings to the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and the Embassy of Japan in China.

Ambassador Ishikawa graduated from the University of Tokyo with a Bachelor of Arts in Law in 1986 and obtained a Master of Arts in East Asian Studies from Stanford University in 1990. He speaks Japanese, English and Mandarin.



Ambassador Hong Jin-wook is a career diplomat with over 30 years of experience. Prior to his appointment as Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Singapore, Ambassador Hong was the Special Government Representative for Africa. Ambassador Hong also served as ROK Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 2020 to 2023 and had overseas postings at the Embassies of the ROK to Belgium and the European Union, Italy, Kenya and New Zealand. At the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Hong was the Deputy Director-General and subsequently Director-General for African and Middle Eastern Affairs, as well as the Director for Public Diplomacy. He also served as Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Office of the President.

Ambassador Hong graduated from Seoul National University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1988 and obtained a Master of Arts in Economics from Yonsei University in 1990, as well as a Master of Pacific International Affairs from University of California in 1998. Ambassador Hong was awarded the Service Merit Medal in 2012 in recognition of his public service.



Professor Barry Desker is the Distinguished Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), and Nanyang Professor of Practice, Nanyang Technological University. He is a Member of the Presidential Council for Minority Rights, Singapore and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship. He was the Chair of the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2018. He is the Deputy Chair (Asia Pacific) of the Trilateral Commission.

From 2000 to 2014, he was the Director, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies and served as founding Dean of RSIS from 2007 to 2014. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Trade Development Board from 1994 to 2000 and Singapore's Ambassador to Indonesia from 1986 to 1993.

Professor Desker served as Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Holy See and Spain from 2007 to 2020.

A President's Scholar, he was educated at the University of Singapore, University of London and Cornell University. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Warwick in 2012 and Doctor of Laws by the University of Exeter in 2013. Professor Desker has also been very active in the corporate world serving on the boards of Singaporean and multi-national corporations.



Professor Yang Yue is Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute of Asian Studies at China Foreign Affairs University, China's country coordinating unit of NEAT (Network of East Asian Think-tanks), NACT (Network of ASEAN-China Think-tanks), and NTCT (Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-tanks). She has been actively engaging in Track II diplomacies with a focus on ASEAN-China relations, ASEAN Plus Three (ROK-Japan-China) relations and trilateral relations (ROK-Japan-China).

Professor Yang is Executive Director of the China Asia-Pacific Society and Director of the Diplomatic History Society of the People's Republic of China. She received her PhD in International Relations from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She was a Fulbright Scholar at Georgetown University in the U.S. from 2006 to 2008.

Her research focuses on American politics and foreign policy, ASEAN-China relations, East Asia Regional Cooperation, global health diplomacy and cultural diplomacy. Her most recent books include *Theory and Practice of China's Cultural Diplomacy - An Empirical and Country-specific Study*, *The Belt and Road Initiative: ASEAN Countries' Perspectives*, *ASEAN-China Cooperation for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Energy Development* and most recent articles include "A Decade of Joint Construction of Belt and Road in the Southeast Asia and Future Path of High Quality Belt and Road Cooperation", "The United States' Charm Offensive in Southeast Asia and the Local Response", "Impact of COVID-19 on ASEAN-China Cooperation and Its Prospects", "ASEAN's Perception of and Response to China-US Competition", "Theoretical Analysis and Practical Approaches of Cultural Diplomacy: A Perspective of the 'Civilization Dialogue Theory'", "China's Engagement in East Asian Public Health Governance: Process, Features and Prospects".



Professor Akio Takahara is Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Tokyo Woman's Christian University and Emeritus Professor of The University of Tokyo. He served as Dean of the Graduate School of Public Policy at The University of Tokyo, and as Director of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Ogata Sadako Research Institute for Peace and Development. His research focuses on Chinese politics and diplomacy.

Professor Takahara held visiting appointments at the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong, the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, Harvard University, Peking University, the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), and the Australian National University. He served as President of the Japan Association for Asian Studies and as Secretary General of the New Japan-China Friendship 21st Century Committee.

He currently serves as Senior Adjunct Fellow and Councillor of the Japan Institute of International Affairs, and Trustee of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, among other positions. His publications in English include *The Politics of Wage Policy in Post-Revolutionary China*, and *Japan-China Relations in*

the Modern Era (co-authored). He is currently involved in a research project that looks into how smaller countries proactively interact with China.



Professor Sheen Seong-ho is Dean, Professor of International Security and Director of International Security Center at the Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Seoul National University. He was a visiting fellow at the East–West Center, Washington, D.C., a CNAPS fellow at the Brookings Institution, an assistant research professor at the Asia–Pacific Center for Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii and a research fellow at the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, Cambridge, MA.

He has taught at the University of Massachusetts Boston. In addition, he has advised various government organizations including the Republic of Korea (ROK) National Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Unification, and the ROK National Assembly. His areas of interest include International Security, U.S. Foreign Policy, Northeast Asian Geo-Politics and the Korean Peninsula. Professor Sheen received his PhD and MA from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and BA from Seoul National University.



Dr Ooi Kee Beng is the Executive Director of Penang Institute (2017-), member of the Penang State Government's Penang2030 Advisory Committee, and of the board for Digital Penang, St Xavier's Institution, and Prince of Wales Island International School (POWIIS).

He entered think tank work in 2004 at Singapore's ISEAS – Yusof Ishak Institute, functioning as its Deputy Director in 2011-2017, where he remains a Senior Visiting Fellow.

His PhD in Sinology is from Stockholm University, where he lectured in Chinese History, Chinese Philosophy, and Introduction to China. His other studies, all done at Stockholm University, were in Public Administration (Social Economics and Political Science), and Western Philosophy (Ethics).

He is Festival Director for the George Town Literary Festival (GTLF) held in Penang every November, and founder-editor of *ISEAS Perspective*, and *Trends in Southeast Asia*, *Penang Monthly*, and *ISSUES Policy Briefs*. He is a columnist for *The Edge Malaysia*.

His latest books are *Passing Glimpses of the Present* (upcoming October 2025), *Reluctant Nation: Malaysia's Vain Quest for Common Purpose* (2024) and *Signals in the Noise* (2023). Other notable publications include: *The Eurasian Core and Its Edges: Dialogues with Wang Gungwu on the History of the World*; *Yusof Ishak: A Man of Many Firsts*; *In Lieu of Ideology: An Intellectual Biography of Goh Keng Swee*; the award-winning *The Reluctant Politician: The Life and Time of Tun Dr Ismail*; *As Empires Fell: The Life and Times of H.S. Lee*; and *Lim Kit Siang: The Right to Differ*.



Mr Hirotaka Ishizaka is the Chief Sustainability Officer at Mitsubishi Corporation Singapore Branch. Since joining the company in 1990, he has developed solutions and businesses throughout the world in multiple industries, with a focus on utilizing technology and finance. Previously, he was the Head of the Strategic Planning Department (Business Development and Intelligence) in Singapore, where he worked on developing solutions working with startups to decarbonize the maritime industry, as well as initiate projects in managing carbon emissions. Prior to this, he led the US Japan Venture Capital Fund project team within the company's Private Equity Dept in Tokyo. Currently, in addition to advancing sustainability related initiatives, he is involved in expanding the company's AI ecosystem, as well as developing geo-economical insights. He holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from Keio University and an Master's in Business Administration from International Institute for Management Development.

Mitsubishi Corporation (MC) is a global integrated business enterprise that develops and operates businesses together with its global network of around 1,200 group companies. MC has eight business groups that operate across virtually every industry: Environmental Energy, Materials Solution, Mineral Resources, Urban Development & Infrastructure, Mobility, Food Industry, Smart-Life Creation and Power Solution. Through these eight business groups, MC's current activities have expanded far beyond its traditional trading operations to include project development, production and manufacturing operations, working in collaboration with its trusted partners around the globe.



Dr Kevin Lu is a Partner and Chairman of Asia at Partners Group, a global private equity firm with \$170 billion AUM. He is a member of the firm's Global Executive Board. He chairs the Board of Directors of Partners Group (Singapore) Pvt Ltd, and the International Advisory Council of PG LIFE, the firm's sustainability fund series. Prior to Partners Group, Dr Lu held senior management positions at the World Bank Group in Washington DC, including as the Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank Group's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

Dr Lu is a Lecturer of Management at Yale SOM and Adjunct Professor of Finance at Columbia Business School, teaching graduate courses on private equity and society. He is an Executive Fellow at Yale University International Center for Finance and a Senior Fellow at the Milken Institute. He has additionally served on the advisory boards of the World Bank's Global Infrastructure Facility and International Finance Corporation's Impact Management Principles, Monetary Authority of Singapore's Financial Centre Advisory Panel, the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Investing, and United Nations Sustainable Investment Advisory Council. He co-authored a book "Investing with Confidence: Understanding Political Risk Management in the 21st Century". He was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in 2010, and a Future Leader by the

Institute of International Finance in 2014. Dr Lu has published commentaries in the Wall Street Journal, Foreign Policy, Washington Post, Financial Times, and the Straits Times.



Ms Cherie Nursalim is the Vice Chair of Giti Group. Ms Nursalim co-chairs the United Nations global initiative Sustainable Development Solutions Network Southeast Asia and Tsinghua Southeast Asia based in Kura Kura Bali and is co-founder of the United in Diversity Foundation. Ms Nursalim serves on the Advisory Boards for MIT Sloan School of Management, Columbia University, Tsinghua University, Nanyang Technology University Business School, University of Indonesia Research Center for Climate Change and NUS Medicine International Council.

Ms Nursalim sits on the council of Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Asia Society Policy Institute, International Chamber of Commerce Merchants of Peace, World Economic Forum Network of Global Future Councils and IMAGINE. She is among the co-founding members of the Global Philanthropists Circle with Synergos Institute, Asia Philanthropy Circle and member of Centre for Asian Philanthropy.

Ms Nursalim is a recipient of the Satyalancana Heroes Service Medal from the President of the Republic of Indonesia on the founding of a new global organization G20 Bali Global Blended Finance Alliance. Earlier she was recognised by the Ministry of National Development from the Singapore government as founding board member of the Gardens by the Bay, Baiyulan Award from the Shanghai government and the prestigious David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award. Ms Nursalim's initiatives for HIV AIDS awareness in Indonesia for GT organization have won awards from the Indonesian government, UNAIDS and International Labor Organization.

Ms Nursalim received her Bachelor's in Engineering Science and Economics from Oxford University and her Master's in Business Administration from Columbia Business School.



Mr Salem Ghandour is the Senior Vice President for Institutional & Government Relations at Maybank, Southeast Asia's fourth-largest bank by assets. He leads engagement with sovereign institutions, policy stakeholders and cross-border platforms connecting Asia Pacific and the Gulf, with deep expertise in government relations as a lever for market access, regulatory alignment and institutional trust.

His work focuses on structuring partnerships with governments and sovereign wealth funds to mobilize institutional capital that enables trade, investment and M&A activity amid growing global volatility. He is recognized for navigating bureaucracy, aligning stakeholder agendas and catalysing deal pipelines across both public and private sectors. Previously, Mr Ghandour led International Government Relations at GoTo, Indonesia's largest digital ecosystem superapp, and was the Asia Pacific Head of Government Affairs at S&P Global. He

has advised on partial privatizations, cross-border capital frameworks, political risk and sovereign stakeholder strategies across Southeast Asia and the Gulf.

A former U.S. Department of State Fulbright Fellow and graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr Ghandour is fluent in English, French and Arabic, and conversational in Indonesian.



Mr Kok Ping Soon is Chief Executive Officer of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF), the apex business chamber championing the interests of Singapore's business community in trade, investment and industrial relations matters. SBF represents more than 32,000 companies, as well as key local and foreign business chambers.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr Kok was Chief Executive of the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech), the lead agency driving Singapore's Smart Nation initiative and public sector digital transformation. He also held various positions in the Ministry of Manpower, National Security Co-ordination Secretariat, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore Tourism Board, Contact Singapore (CS), and Economic Development Board (EDB). He spent six years in the United States working for CS and EDB.

Mr Kok serves on the Board of SBF Holdings, SBF Connect, Singapore Business Federation Foundation, Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, Global Compact Network Singapore, Singapore Pools and The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore. He is also a member of Singapore International Arbitration Centre, Singapore International Mediation Centre, NUS Institute of Systems Sciences, National Integration Council and a fellow member of Singapore Computer Society.



Professor Elaine Ho is Provost's Chair Professor at the Department of Geography and Research Leader of the Migration and Mobilities Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. Her research examines the geographies of citizenship through studying various transnational migration streams as well as the ageing and the wellbeing of non-migrant and migrant older adults. She is Editor of the journal, *Social and Cultural Geography*, and the Routledge Series on Asian Migration. She also serves on the editorial boards of geography, citizenship, migration and area studies journals. Her monograph,

Citizens in Motion: Emigration, Immigration and Re-migration Across China's Borders (2019, Stanford University Press) received the American Sociological Association's award for "Best Book in Global and Transnational Sociology by an International Scholar" in 2019.



Professor Lu Jiehua is Professor at School of Population and Health, Renmin University of China, and the founding director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies on Ageing, Peking University. Professor Lu now serves as the vice president of China's Population Association and of China's Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics.

His research areas include demography, gerontology, economics of population, and interaction between population and environment. Professor Lu has been the principal investigator for more than ten key projects and published more than 70 academic papers, including "Chinese Women's Family Status: Analysis of Chinese Decennial Survey, 1990-2010", "Associations of chronic conditions, APOE4 allele, stress factors, and health behaviours with self-rated health", "Patterns of living arrangements of the elderly in Mainland China: changes, consequences and policy implications", etc.



Dr Nana Oishi is an Associate Professor of Japanese Studies at the University of Melbourne. She earned her PhD in Sociology from Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar. Prior to her current appointment, she was a Professor of Sociology at Sophia University in Tokyo and a Policy Analyst at the United Nations agency (International Labour Organisation) in Geneva. Her research expertise encompasses international migration, social integration, and regional development in Japan and Australia.

Dr Oishi has contributed to the United Nations' migration-related work, including its Expert Meeting on Migration, Development, and Social Protection. She has also served on various national advisory boards on migration for the Japanese government, including committees for the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan. Her other professional services include roles as the regional representative of the International Sociological Association's research committee and as a board member of the Japan Association for Migration Policy Studies.

Dr Oishi's recent publications include Handbook on Asian Migration (co-edited with M. Asis & B. Khadria, Edward Elgar Publishing, in press), Regional Revitalisation and Migrants in Japan (Akashi Shoten, forthcoming, in Japanese), Japanese Diaspora: The Lights and Shades of Overseas Migration (Chuokoron Shinsha 2024, in Japanese), "Structural Economic Nationalism and Migration in Japan" (with A. Igarashi) in A. Pickel (ed.) Handbook of Economic Nationalism (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022, pp.353-370). She is the recipient of several accolades, including the ISS-OUP Prize for Modern Japanese Studies.



Dr Woorim Ko is Research Associate Professor at the Population Policy Research Center, Seoul National University (SNU). She has served on various policy advisory committees, including as Advisory Member of the Population and Future Strategy Task Force, Presidential Transition Committee for the 20th President of the Republic of Korea; Member of the Seoul Metropolitan Government Population Policy Coordination Committee (Youth Sector); as well as Member of the Gyeonggi Province Population Policy Coordination Committee (Demographics Sector). She received a Commendation by the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in 2022.

Dr Ko's research interests include applied demography (business demography), population and development, as well as demographic market analysis. Her recent work includes research on the link between population density and determinants of fertility in South Korea, as well as on demographic characteristics' impact on national development in Asia. She holds a PhD and Master's in Public Health from SNU, and a BA in Public Health from Yonsei University.



Dr Park Donghyun is currently Economic Advisor at the Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which he joined in April 2007. Prior to joining ADB, he was a tenured Associate Professor of Economics at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Dr Park has a PhD in economics from UCLA, and his main research fields are macroeconomics, international finance, international trade, and development economics. His research has been published in over 200 refereed journal papers and addresses policy-oriented topics relevant for Asia's development, including fiscal policy, population aging, and entrepreneurship. Dr Park is the Managing Editor of *Asian Development Review*.



Dr Zhao Litao is a Senior Research Fellow at East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University. His research focuses on China's social transformation, governance, and public policy. His work has appeared in *Sociological Science*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *International Journal of Educational Development*, *International Social Security Review*, *The China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, *Social Sciences in China*, and *Journal of Chinese Governance*, and is forthcoming in *The Journals of Gerontology: Social Sciences*.

He has authored, edited, or co-edited many books, including *Chineseness and Modernity in a Changing China: Essays in Honour of Professor Wang Gungwu* (World Scientific, 2020), *China's Development:*

Social Investment and Challenges (World Scientific, 2017), *China's Great Urbanization* (Routledge, 2017), and *China's Social Development and Policy* (Routledge, 2013). He also serves as Associate Editor of *China: An International Journal*.



Dr Lam Peng Er is the Principal Research Fellow at East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore and heads the institute's Korea Centre, established in 2021. He obtained his PhD from Columbia University and is a political scientist. The 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.

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*. Dr Lam is the editor of *Engaging North Korea* (New York and London: Routledge, 2025); *South Korea's New Southern Policy: A Middle Power's International Relations with Southeast Asia and India* (New York and London: Routledge, 2023); and *Contemporary Korea-Southeast Asian Relations: Bilateral and Multilateral* (New York and London: Routledge, 2023).

Other books that he has edited include: *Japan's Peace Building Diplomacy in Asia: Searching for an Active Political Role* (New York and London: Routledge, 2009); *Japan's Relations with Southeast Asia: The Fukuda Doctrine and Beyond* (London and New York: Routledge, 2013); *Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power* (New York and London: Routledge, 2006); and *Green Politics in Japan* (London: Routledge, 1999).

He is an executive editor of the *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding* (Journal of the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University). He is also editor-in-chief of *East Asian Policy*, an international journal published by the EAI.