



TTCSP

THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

ASIA-PACIFIC VIRTUAL THINK TANK SUMMIT REPORT

October 13, 2020

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Introduction

The 2020 Asia-Pacific Virtual Think Tank Summit was hosted by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Taking place during the initial stages of the global wave of the pandemic, the Summit aimed to highlight the crucial role of think tanks in becoming active agents in the society to assist governments and relevant stakeholders in countering the crisis. The first session sought to discuss the social, economic, public health, and political impact of COVID-19 crisis on Asia & the Pacific. During the second session, the panel presented recommendations from the 5 Working Groups at the 2020 Global Think Tank Town Hall and reports from think tanks in the region to help policymakers and the public respond to the COVID19 crisis. In session three, a panel of policymakers, think tank scholars and executives provided their assessment of the programs and policy recommendations presented in panel two. They also made recommendations of their own and discussed strategies for getting policymakers and the public to support them. Below is the access link to the recording of the Summit and a breakdown of the participants, countries, and organizations represented, followed by the Asia-Pacific Think Tank Summit Report.

Access Link To Recording:

<https://youtu.be/ts30i-5mzBw>

Participants

Total Participants Joined for part or all of the Conference	207
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Countries Represented: 30

Afghanistan	Japan	Republic of Korea
Bangladesh	Kazakhstan	Romania
Cambodia	Laos	Senegal
China	Malaysia	Singapore
Colombia	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Hong Kong	Morocco	Thailand
India	Myanmar	United Kingdom
Indonesia	Nepal	United States
Iraq	Pakistan	Vietnam
Italy	Philippines	Yemen

Institutions Registered & Represented: 125

Asian Development Bank Institute - ADBI	Chennai Centre for China Studies	Hong Kong Policy Research Institute	Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE)	Roads and Highways Department, Government of Bangladesh
ANBOUND Research Center (Malaysia)	China Think Tank Research and Evaluation Center	iGCU	Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)	SEI
Anhui Institute of Economic and Social Development	Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies	IMHEN Vietnam	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)	Sejong Institute
ASEAN Studies Center of Chulalongkorn University	Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China (RDCY)	Moroccan Institute for Strategic Intelligence (IMIS)	Korea Development Institute (KDI)	Siam Medical Device Co.,Ltd.

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)	Cornell University	India Think Council	Korea Economic Research Institute (KERI)	Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)
Asia Pacific Initiative (API)	Central University of Finance and Economics, CUFE	Indian Institute for Peace Disarmament & Environmental Protection	Korea Employment Information Service	Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)
Asia Society Policy Institute	CUTS	INSS Sri Lanka	Korea Institute for Curriculum and Evaluation	Synergia Foundation
Asian Development Bank	Consumer Unity & Trust Society, CUTS International	Institute for Foreign Policy and Strategic Studies, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam	Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning	Teach North Korean Refugees (TNKR)
Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)	Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam	Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding, Peking University	Korea Labor Institute	Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI)
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace	East Asia Institute	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	Korea Research Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning	The Asia Foundation
Canon Institute for Global Studies	Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Center	Institute for International Strategy and Information Analysis (IISIA)	Korea University	The Federation of Korean Industries
Center for Agricultural Policy	Economic Relations Division	Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University	Korean National Strategy Institute	The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)
Center for Applied Research and International Partnership	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)	Institute for Social and Economic Change	Marubeni Research Institute	Think Tank Africa WorldWide Group
Center for China and Globalization (CCG)	Economic Research Institute for Industry and Trade (ERIIT)	Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-Nepal (ISET-Nepal)	McKinsey Global Institute	Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program
Center for Engaged Foresight	EdLab Asia Educational Research and Development Centre	Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment	Mekong Development Research Institute	Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research
Center for Indonesian Policy Studies	Eurasian Research Institute	Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University	Middle East Political and Economic Institute	Trends Research & Advisory, Abu Dhabi
Center for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)	FCCU	Institute of Energy Economics of Japan	Millenium Project Caribbean Node	The Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania
Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)	Fidelity International	Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)	Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS)	Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

Center of Policy Research and Governance	Fields of View	Institute of Global Cooperation and Understanding	National Thinkers Forum	Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition
Central Institute for Economic Management	Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia (FPCI) Research and Analysis	Institute of Policy Studies - Islamabad	National Youth Policy Institute	Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies
Centre for Business and Diplomatic Studies (CBDS) Binus University	Gerson Lehrman Group (Asia) Limited	Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe)	Nepal Economic Forum	VIF
Centre for Objective Research and Development	Grinnell College	International Transport Worker Federation (ITF)	NUS	Wilson Center
Centre for Public Policy and Governance, FCCU	Hansun Foundation	Iraqi University	Our Hong Kong Foundation	Berhampur University
Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR)	Health and Global Policy Institute	Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)	Policy & Development Advisory Group	Yangtze Industrial Economic Institute of Nanjing University
Chanakya Chakra	Hong Kong Ideas Centre	Jagannath University	Jinan University School of Communication and Journalism	Yemeni Institute for Strategic Affairs

Event Summary & Key Takeaways

Opening Session: Regional and Global Economic Impact of COVID19 – What Can We Expect in the Next 12-18 Months?

Opening remarks: **James McGann**, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

Adrian Cristobal Jr, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Philippines

Keynote Speaker: **Jeongmin Seong**, McKinsey Global Institute, Republic of Korea

Dr. James McGann opened the panel by highlighting the necessity to re-evaluate the think tanks' traditional business models and research agenda. This need is imperative because of the accelerated wind of change that came with the COVID-19 pandemic. Only better, smarter, agile, and tech-savvy organizations will weather the storm. Those better prepared for the future, need to help think tanks in the region, so they can continue to serve in the post-COVID era. In every crisis there is an opportunity and this is a moment for think tanks to demonstrate their leadership and why think tanks, ideas, and experts matter. Adrian Cristobal Jr spoke about the pandemic's effect on the region, as it exposed the stark reality of social and economic inequality within societies and across countries, evident in unequal access to public health and digital divide.

He then introduced the keynote speaker, Jeongmin Seong of the McKinsey Global Institute, who emphasised that COVID-19 is a humanitarian challenge above all else. Without consensus on how the post-pandemic future will look, think tanks need to step up and provide a fact-based perspective. In Seong's opinion, the post-pandemic future will not be completely new, it will exhibit the accelerated existing trends. One such trend is digitalization, illustrated by the boom in online delivery services, streaming, and digital entertainment. A surprising development has been the digitalization of the less digitized sectors of economy. For example, health care began to rely significantly on telemedicine due to the pandemic even though there was not much demand previously. Further studies into the digitalization of the economy are needed from the think tank industry.

Another trend is regionalization, especially in the context of supply chain. China has been becoming more Chinese, Asia has been becoming more Asian: with production in countries catering to the goals and needs of that population and business showing few intentions to relocate. The third trend is rising

competitive intensity or so-called “super-star effect”. For example, top performers in the sport and entertainment industry are earning the majority of the income. Same tendencies are evident in the business world, 10% companies account for 70-80% of the profits and COVID-19 has accelerated this move toward inequality. The fourth trend encapsulates changes in the consumer behavior with consumers thinking harder on what they buy and practicing more prudent behavior. The fifth trend is about strong public and private collaboration. Governments are implementing policies to maintain household welfare and help the private sector to survive the crisis. In all of these trends, think tanks can create new designs and help leaders around the world make informed decisions.

Session I: The Social, Economic, Policy and Political Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Asia–Pacific

Chair: Stephen Wong, Program Director, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), United States

Panelists:

Kirida Bhaopichitr, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand and Southeast Asia

Rudra Chaudhuri, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, India

Tetsushi Sonobe, Asia Development Bank Institute, Japan

Huiyao Wang, Center for China and Globalization, China

The panel’s focus is social, economic, public health, and political impacts of COVID-19 from the Asian and the Pacific angle. The panel focused on the observation, identification, and analysis of the problems as well as the lessons learned in the crisis. Kirida Bhaopichitr of the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) emphasized Thailand’s ability to effectively contain the COVID19 pandemic at a steep economic cost. Throughout the region, closed borders contributed to a contraction in GDP; in Thailand, the contraction amounted to 12% of GDP income. Strong reliance on exports and tourism also make the region vulnerable to economic downturn. The consequences of the stagnating economy consist of increased unemployment and closing of small and medium enterprises.

There is a tradeoff in keeping the infection rate low while sacrificing the economy. Rudra Chaudhuri of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in India describes a compounded economic crisis with the pandemic adding on to the existing systemic problems. He claims that the solution lies in structural reforms in land, labor, and capital markets. Like India, Japan took few containment measures and instead requested private sectors to maintain social distancing norms and lower levels of business activity. This approach has resulted in comparatively good results which surprised even Japanese citizens. Huiyao Wang, of the Center for China and Globalization in China, identifies Asian cultural values such as collectivism as playing a part in the region's ability to contain the virus. He states that people prefer social harmony and concern about socio-economic prosperity and the collective well-being of the community. Additionally, strong family values make it easier to view family members as a unit. In general, the effects of the pandemic play out in different ways across the region. The Asia Development Bank Institute (ADBI) conducted surveys of small and medium businesses and households in Asia, finding varying effects of pandemic on the sectors. This observation shows that resources need to move between sectors. Vocational training is needed to ensure the smooth re-allocation of materials. Another finding shows that many households and businesses have benefited directly and indirectly from government stimulus. This means, however, that governments face huge fiscal debt. Consequently, countries in the region need to strengthen international tax cooperation to overcome challenges rising in their economies.

Session II: Relevant Recommendations and Action Plans to Save Lives and Livelihoods in Asia–Pacific

Chair: Richard R. Vuylsteke, East-West Center, United States

Panelists:

Nguyen Anh Duong, Department for General Economic Issues, and Integration Studies, Central Institute for Economic Management, Vietnam

Mahfuz Kabir, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh

Megumi Muto, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan

Sokhem Pech, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia

Dong Wang, PKU Institute, Peking University, China

The panel's focus is policy recommendations and concrete action plans to save lives and livelihoods, particularly relevant to the Asia-Pacific region. Richard R. Vuyksteke of the East-West Center in the United States served as chair and moderator of the session. Nguyen Anh Duong of the Central Institute for Economic Management in Vietnam highlighted that nations must incorporate development goals into their post-COVID19 policy packages. There is no one silver bullet to recovery and achieve development. Different countries must adopt a wide range of diverse policies in order to achieve their goals. Policy efforts must center upon reducing gender disparity, fortifying the digital economy, and fostering international cooperation. It is vital to enlarge the role of digital media as a tool for recovery and development, for example, tracing COVID19 cases. Think tanks must encourage governments to pivot towards these strategies. Panelist Sokhem Pech of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI) in Cambodia compared the COVID19 pandemic to SARS, a public health emergency still fresh in the minds of Asia-Pacific policymakers and governments. Often, the immediate reaction to contain such a communicable disease is to close physical borders. However, other steps must be taken to ensure broader protection of civil society, including the economy and social safety net.

Session III: Assessment and Call to Action

Chair: Samir Saran, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India

Panelists:

Kuni Miyake, Foreign Policy Institute, Japan

Celia M. Reyes, Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Philippines

Simon Tay, Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Singapore

Philips J. Vermonte, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

This panel surveyed the remarks and policy recommendations made throughout the summit in order to rally the think tank community to action with the support of private and public partners. The session's Chair, Samir Saran of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in India, identified the particular challenge of prescribing a set of actions to the diverse region that is the Asia-Pacific. He questioned the strategies with which the international community will respond to both wide-reaching micro issues and regional micro challenges. Dr. Celia Reyes of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) emphasized that governments must cooperate with think tanks to collect and wield data to drive solutions, especially concerning vulnerable demographic groups.

Simon Tay of the Singapore Institute for International Affairs (SIIA) maintained that small countries must develop feasible strategies to work with global leaders such as China and the United States, in order to gain access to international distributions of vaccines. Kuni Miyake of the Foreign Policy Institute in Japan emphasized the necessity of an independent and liberal international forum to discuss global issues and propose recommendations. Phillips J. Vermont of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Indonesia echoed these remarks, stating that think tanks must partner with governments to strengthen multilateral efforts to widen supply chains and combat economic downturn. Finally, attention turned to the mitigation of climate change, another pressing global issue that requires careful multilateral policy maneuvers. Panelists remarked that governments must build back “green” and sustainable in order to ensure long-term stability. Think tanks will serve as key impartial evaluators of the effectiveness of these solutions and policies.

Closing Remarks

Sanghoon Ahn, Center for International Development, Korea Development Institute (KDI), Republic of Korea

James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, United States

Sanghoon Ahn of the Korea Development Institute (KDI) in the Republic of Korea delivered a series of remarks to close the event. He stated that think tanks from around the world must convene in order to share knowledge, therefore exciting development and leading to policy innovations and fresh initiatives. He cites KDI as an example of this behavior, as the institution has worked closely with the Korean government to develop and maintain knowledge-sharing programs with other countries in different stages of development. Furthermore, he notes that online communication has become more important than ever, as digitalization and regionalization will bring new opportunities and challenges. Information must be shared globally in a spirit of cooperation and trust. Dr. James McGann reiterated that the international think tank community is responsible for fostering global cooperation and re-energize multilateralism to prepare for future challenges.

A special thank you to those who participated on our Asia-Pacific
Planning Committee:

Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI), United States
Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan
Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), Bangladesh
Brookings Institution (BI), United States
Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Cambodia
Cannon Institute for Global Studies (CIGS), Japan
Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China
Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD), Azerbaijan
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia
Central Institute for Economic Management, Vietnam
East-West Center, United States
Economic Policy and Competitiveness Research Center (EPCRC), Mongolia
Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Indonesia
India Think Tank Council (ITC), India
Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding (iGCU), China
Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) Sri Lanka
Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Japan
JICA Ogata Research Institute (JICARI), Japan
Korea Development Institute (KDI), Republic of Korea
Korea Economic Research Institute (KERI), Republic of Korea
Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Republic of Korea
McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), United States
Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Myanmar
National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) USA
Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India

Our Hong Kong Foundation (OHKF), Hong Kong
Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), Philippines
Sejong Institute (SI), Republic of Korea
Singapore Institute for International Affairs (SIIA), Singapore
Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan
Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand

A special thank you to our panelists:

Opening Session

James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), USA

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania.

He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.



Adrian Cristobal Jr, Chair of the Governing Board, of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Philippines

Attorney Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. was appointed Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in 2015. From 1991-1994, Mr. Cristobal served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Thereafter, he established his own law practice, taught politics and governance at the Ateneo School of Government, and served as adviser to heads of different government agencies. In 2001, Mr. Cristobal was appointed Undersecretary for Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation, and was also designated Supervising Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff of the Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry. From 2005-2009, he served as Director General of the Intellectual Property Office. In 2010, Mr. Cristobal was appointed DTI Undersecretary for International Trade, responsible for the Philippines international trade policy and negotiations, including export promotions. In 2012, he was named Undersecretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy and concurrent Vice Chairman and Managing Head of the Board of Investments. Mr. Cristobal obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the

University of California at Berkeley and his Juris Doctor of Laws at the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.

Jeongmin Seong, Partner, McKinsey & Company, People's Republic of China

Mr. Jeongmin Seong is a Partner at the McKinsey Global Institute. He leads the Institute's China research team, focussing on technology, innovation and China's economic transition.

His expertise in China-related themes extends for more than a decade. He has published numerous works discussing both China and Asian economies. Mr. Seong received his Bachelor's Degree in Korea University. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School.



Session I

Stephen Wong, Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute, Our Hong Kong Foundation, Hong Kong



Mr. Stephen Wong received a B.A. Degree in Economics from the University of Chicago, Phi Beta Kappa, and an M.A. Degree in East Asian Studies (Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies) from Yale University. Since then, he has worked for a number of global financial institutions, including as an Executive Director in UBS (London) and a Managing Director at RBS. Mr. Wong joined Our Hong Kong foundation as Senior Consultant in May 2015, and was appointed Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy in November of the same year. He is now Deputy Executive Director and Head of Public Policy Institute. Mr. Wong's public service includes various advisory roles appointed by the Hong Kong Government, including Board Member of the Financial Services Development Council, Board Member of the Urban Renewal Authority, Member of the Town Planning Board, Members to the Task Force for the Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units, Member of Investment Committee of the Beat Drugs Fund and more. Mr. Wong is also Chairman of the Clean Air Network, Vice Chairman of the Admissions, Budgets & Allocations Committee and Investment Sub-Committee Member of the Community Chest, and Executive Committee Member & Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Social Enterprise and Innovation Platform of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service. Mr. Wong is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Hong Kong University SPACE for the Institute for China Business.

Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr, Research Director for International Research and Advisory Service, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), Thailand

Dr. Kirida Bhaopichitr is the current Research Director for International Research and Advisory service of the Thailand Development Research Institute and has been since 2015. Dr. Bhaopichitr holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Cornell University and also finished her Bachelors degree in Economics at Thammasat University. Before working at TDRI, she was a senior economist at Macroeconomics and Fiscal Policy Management Global Practice and the Country Economist for Thailand of the World Bank Group. Her research largely involves her background as an economist and she authors a bi-annual Thailand Economic Monitor for the World Bank.



Rudra Chaudhuri, Director, Carnegie India, India

Rudra Chaudhuri is the director of Carnegie India. His primary research focuses on the diplomatic history of South Asia and contemporary security issues. At present, he is heading a major research project that involves mapping and analyzing violent incidents and infrastructural development on and across India's borders. He is the author of *Forged in Crisis: India and the United States Since 1947*. His research has been published in scholarly journals such as *International History Review*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *International Affairs*, the *RUSI Journal*, *Defense Studies*, and other academic and policy-focused journals. He is a senior lecturer at the Department of War Studies and the India Institute at King's College London (currently on research leave). In addition, he is the founding director of the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Diplomatic Academy for South Asia. He is also a visiting professor of international relations at Ashoka University, New Delhi. He previously taught at the U.K. Joint Services Command and Staff College. He holds a PhD in War Studies from King's College London.

Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan

Dr. Tetsushi Sonobe is the Dean and CEO of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), the Tokyo-based think tank of the Asian Development Bank that promotes the realization of a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific through policy research and capacity building. Before joining ADBI in April 2020, he served for six years as a vice president of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo. He also previously served as a professor of economics at Tokyo Metropolitan University and GRIPS. He is a recipient of the Nikkei Book Publication Prize and the Masayoshi Ohira Memorial Prize, and a founding board member of the Japanese Association for Development Economics. Dr. Sonobe obtained his PhD in economics from Yale University and BA in economics from the University of



Tokyo. His research interests include the empirics of economic development, particularly industrial development processes and poverty reduction in developing countries.

Huiyao (Henry) Wang, Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG), China

Dr. Huiyao Wang is the founder and president of Center for China and Globalization (CCG), a non-governmental think tank specializing in Chinese public policy and globalization. He also holds multiple concurrent roles in China as a counselor for the State Council, the honorable vice chairman of China Association for International Economic Cooperation (CAIEC) under the ministry of commerce, and the dean of Institute of Development Studies at China Southwestern University of Finance of Economics. Internationally, he serves various advisory roles at global organizations and educational institutions, such as U.N's International Organization of Migration, Paris Peace Forum, Yale University, and Duke Kunshan University. Dr. Wang received his Ph.D in international management from Western University and the University of Manchester. He was also a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School and a visiting fellow at Brookings Institution.



Session II

Richard R. Vuylsteke, President, East-West Center, United States



Dr. Richard R. Vuylsteke took office as the East-West Center's 11th chief executive on 1 January 2017. A former EWC grantee and staff member, he rejoins the Center after several decades living in Asia and serving most recently as President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. Previously he served as President of the American Chamber in Taipei, Editor-in-Chief of the *Taiwan Review*, and Area Studies Coordinator for the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Institute in Taipei. Earlier in his career, he was a research fellow in East Asian Legal Studies at Harvard Law School as well as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Rajasthan, India. As a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Illinois College, Dr. Vuylsteke was an East-West Center grantee in the 1970s while he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, specializing in Western and Chinese political philosophy. He also worked at the Pacific Forum (now Pacific Forum/CSIS). Prior to graduate school, he served three years in the U.S. Army, leaving active duty as a 1st Lieutenant. While in the service, he was stationed in Hawai'i at the U.S. Army Pacific Command (USARPAC) as Chief of the China Desk and later seconded to CINCPAC (now PACOM) as Chief of the Soviet Far East Desk.

Nguyen Anh Duong, Director, Department for General Economic Issues and Integration Studies, Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM), Vietnam



Mr. Nguyen Anh Duong holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Master of Economics, both from the Australian National University (Australia). He joined the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) – the leading think-tank in Vietnam – in 2004. Currently being the Director of the Department for General Economic Issues and Integration Studies,

Mr. Nguyen has various important research papers and policy recommendations to the government of Viet Nam on macroeconomic policies and integration process. Mr. Nguyen is also Viet Nam’s official representative to the Economic Committee, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, where he acts as the coordinator of the Friends-of-the-Chair (FotC) group on Corporate Law and Governance since 2011. He also leads Viet Nam’s agenda for structural reforms under the APEC framework. Mr. Nguyen is currently coordinating the preparation of APEC agenda for post-2020 structural reform.



Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies

Dr. Mohammad Mahfuz Kabir is Research Director at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS). Dr. Kabir holds a Ph.D in Economics from the School of Economics and Finance at Curtin University. His main research focuses are international trade, macroeconomics, and regional trading blocs in the Asia-Pacific region.

Megumi Muto, Deputy Director, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan

Dr. Megumi Muto is currently the Deputy Director of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). She has a BA in Economics, a Masters in Publics and International Affairs, a Doctorate in Philosophy, and an Executive Master of Business Administration. She has held numerous positions inside the JICA, including Deputy Director, Director General for the Global Environment Department, Chief Representative of the France Office, and more. Dr.

Muto has also held different positions at the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OCEF), and the Development Research Institute. She is affiliated with the Japanese Economic Association, and The Japan Society for International Development. Dr. Muto has written numerous works, including “The Impact



of Mobile Phone Coverage on Market Participation: Panel Data Evidence from Uganda”, and “Frontiers of Development Cooperation in Asia.”



Sokhem Pech, Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), Cambodia

Sokhem Pech has over 29 years of experience working at a senior management level with national governments, inter-governmental organizations, international multi-disciplinary research consortiums, and consulting companies in Asia and North America. Dr. Pech’s expertise and experience include: water resources and environmental law and regulations; institutional and organizational development; regional and national policy development for managing, mitigating and adapting to risk related to extreme climate variability such as drought and flood; multi-stakeholder communication/dialogue and consultation; dispute management; and knowledge management. He has been team leader, manager and director in a number of high-profile environmental and climate related projects and programs in Cambodia, China, Canada, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Dong Wang, Associate Professor and Director, Center for Northeast Asian Strategy at Peking University, China

Dr. Dong Wang is an associate professor in the School of International Studies and is the director of the Center for Northeast Asian Strategy at Peking University. His research interests include international relations theory, the history of the Cold War, U.S. diplomacy, and Sino-U.S. relations. He was previously a researcher and a member of the advisory committee at the Center for Chinese Studies at UCLA, and he taught at York College in Pennsylvania. Dr. Wang received his B.A. from Peking University and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from UCLA.



Session III



Samir Saran, President, Observer Research Foundation, India

Samir Saran is the President of Observer Research Foundation, one of Asia's most influential think tanks. He is the author of four books, as well as numerous academic papers, where he frequently writes on India's foreign policy and issues of climate change, artificial intelligence, cyber security, and global governance. He also curates the Raisina Dialogue, India's flagship platform on geopolitics and geo-economics. Samir's other positions include the Director of the Centre for Peace and Security at the Sardar Patel Police University, Jodhpur, India, Commissioner of The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, Senior Advisor at The Asia Group, Member of the World Economic Forum's South Asia advisory board, and Chairman of CyFy. He received a Bachelors from Manipal Institute of Technology, a Masters from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a PhD at the Global Sustainability Institute.

Kuni Miyake, President, Foreign Policy Institute, Japan

Kuni Miyake is the president of Foreign Policy Institute, a private think tank in Japan. He is also a visiting professor at Ritsumeikan University and the research director for Foreign and National Security Affairs at The Canon Institute for Global Studies. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1978. His recent positions include the deputy director-general of the Middle East Bureau, minister at the Embassy of Japan in Iraq, Japan's representative to the CPA, and minister at the Embassy of Japan in China. He graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Tokyo. His research focuses on national security and foreign affairs, such as assessment and analysis of long-term strategic trends in East Asia.



Celia M. Reyes, President, Philippine Institute for Developmental Studies, Director, Community Based Monitoring System (CBMS), Philippines

Dr. Celia Reyes holds a doctor of philosophy degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania. She is the current president of the Philippine Institute for Developmental Studies and the Director of the Community Based Monitoring System. Additionally, she is the current chairperson of the Technical Committee on Poverty Statistics, a branch of the Philippine National Statistical Coordination Board. In the past, Dr. Reyes has served as the President of the Philippine Economics Society and the co-director of the Poverty and Economic Policy (PEP) Network. She has served as an advisor and project leader for many organizations and national governments, including the ASEAN Secretariat, the International Development Research Center, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, and many others. Dr. Reyes specializes in



econometrics and poverty analysis, and she has written a variety of papers on the subjects of poverty, inequality and the impacts of government programs.

*Simon Tay, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs,
Singapore*

Simon Tay is Chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and a tenured Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore, teaching international law. He has served in numerous public positions in the Singaporean Government, including as a Nominated Member of Parliament for three terms, and has chaired the National Environment Agency of Singapore from 2002 to 2008. Recently, he was also appointed as Singapore's Ambassador to Greece in a non-residential capacity. He received his LL.B from the National University of Singapore and received his LL.M. from Harvard University as a Fulbright Scholar.



*Philips J. Vermonte, Executive Director, Centre for Strategic and
International Studies, Indonesia*

Philips J. Vermonte joined CSIS in 2001. He received his Master of Arts degree in international studies from the Department of Politics, the University of Adelaide, Australia, in 2001, funded by the AusAID scholarship. He obtained his Ph.D in Political Science at Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, USA in 2012. He is one of the founding members of the policy research network (ProREP). He is one of the expert respondents (narasumber ahli) of Metro TV and actively contributes to the Jakarta Post and Tempo Magazine.

Closing Remarks

Sanghoon Ahn, Executive Director, Center for International Development, Korea Development Institute (KDI), Republic of Korea

Dr. Sanghoon Ahn received his BA in Economics from Seoul National University and his PhD in Economics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been the Executive Director of the Center for International Development at Korea Development Institute (KDI) since 2019, and was previously the Senior Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for the Ministry of Economy and Finance from 2017-2018. He was also the Director and Vice President for the Department of Industry and Service Economy at KDI from 2016-2017, Senior Economist at OECD, Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation from 2013 - 2015, Managing Director at KDI in 2013, Director and Vice President for the Department of Industry and Competition Policy at KDI from 2012 - 2013 and Adviser for the World Bank (Independent Evaluation Group) from 2010 - 2011. He has been a Fellow at KDI since 2005. He was previously an Associate Professor at Hitotsubashi University, and Assistant Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Economist at OECD's Economic Department, an Adjunct Lecturer at Sciences-Po and ESSEC Business School, and a Visiting Researcher for the Bank of Japan's Institute for Monetary and Economic Studies.



James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), USA



About the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program:

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the Lauder Institute of the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations.

Since its formation, TTCSP has laid the foundation for a global initiative that will help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environment, information and society, poverty alleviation and health. This international collaborative effort is designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that will improve policy making as well as strengthen democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP at the Lauder Institute works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs.

About the Lauder Institute:

Founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph, the Joseph H. Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies provides a fully integrated business education to a new generation of leaders coming of age in a rapidly globalizing world.

About the University of Pennsylvania:

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. As a world-class research institution, The University of Pennsylvania peer institutions are Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Cambridge and Oxford. Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world. Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C. and New York, New York.

About the Director:

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on developments and problems that think tanks and policymakers around the world face, and offers guidance and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to enhance the quality and effect of policy analysis. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Villanova, where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law.

His main research priorities include: analyzing global developments in research on safety and international affairs; influencing United States' foreign and domestic policies through think tanks; strategic advice to BRICS and G20 countries from think tanks and transnational and regional public policy challenges. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has also served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the Public Policy Program Officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Assistant Director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has also served as a Senior Advisor to the Citizens' Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.

“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

The mission of TTCSP is to increase the profile, capacity and performance of think tanks at the national, regional and global levels so they can better serve policymakers and the public.

TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, manages and supports a global network of over 8,000 think tanks and trains future think tank scholars and executives.

TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank.”

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