

# AGENDA & RECORDINGS

## Event Date




☐ Wednesday, November 5   ☐ Thursday, November 6   ☐ Friday, November 7

## Format

☐ Agenda Setting & Keynote Address   ☐ Closing Remarks   ☐ Opening/Special Address   ☐ Ordinary Session   ☐ Parallel Session   ☐ Plenary Discussion  
☐ Plenary Session   ☐ Special Roundtable




Clear filter

### November 5, 2025

-  November 5, 2025
-  5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
-  Apartment 303, 3/F

## Ministerial and Diplomatic Reception (By-Invitation Only - TBD)

Watch Session Brief & Recording

-  November 5, 2025
-  6:15 pm - 8:30 pm
-  Grand Ballroom

## Opening Dinner and Keynote Address (TBD)



### DR. JEFFREY ORDANIEL

*President & CEO, WPS; Lead Convenor, the Manila Dialogue on the South Chia Sea*  
Agenda Setting






### H.E. FERDINAND MARCOS, JR. (TBD)

*President of the Philippines*  
Keynote Address

Watch Session Brief & Recording

### November 6, 2025

-  November 6, 2025
-  9:00 am - 10:15 am
-  Grand Ballroom

## Plenary Session 1: History Versus International Law? - Understanding Historic Rights and Modern Maritime Zones in the South China Sea

The South China Sea dispute is often framed as a clash between history and the modern international law of the sea. For instance, there is an argument that China’s so-called “historic rights” either contradicts or supports the maritime entitlements established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This panel will examine the tensions between history and law: How should colonial-era maps, fishing practices, or vague notions of historic entitlement be weighed against the legal certainty of territorial sea, exclusive economic zones and continental shelf? What lessons can be drawn from the 2016 arbitral award, which rejected expansive historic claims, and how should states balance respect for tradition with the demands of a rules-based maritime order? By unpacking these questions, the session will explore pathways toward reconciling historical narratives with binding international legal norms.



### DR. BILL HAYTON

*Associate Fellow, Asia-Pacific Program, Chatham House, London*  
Presenter



### DR. WU SHICUN

*Founder, Center for South China Sea Studies, Hainan*  
Presenter



### FRANCOIS-XAVIER BONNET

*Senior Fellow, Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia, Bangkok*  
Discussant



### ANTONIO CARPIO

*Chair, Philippine Advisory Board, WPS, Manila*  
Discussant



### TBD

*Tbd*  
Discussant



**DR. BEC STRATING**

*Director, La Trobe Asia*  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 6, 2025
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Grand Ballroom

## Plenary Session 2: Diplomatic Roundtable - The South China Sea as 'Global Commons'

The South China Sea is more than a contested maritime space—it is a vital global commons that underpins international trade, energy flows, food security, and ecological sustainability. Ensuring that it remains open, stable, and governed by international law is a shared interest not only for coastal states but also for the wider international community. This session will feature keynote remarks from Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Maria Theresa Lazaro, followed by a fireside chat with ambassadors from the United States, Japan, Canada, and Germany. Together, they will explore how like-minded states can strengthen cooperation to safeguard the South China Sea as a global commons, uphold the rule of law, and preserve freedom of navigation and overflight for all.



**H.E. MARYKAY CARLSON**

*U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines*  
Panelist



**H.E. MARC INNES-BROWN**

*Australian Ambassador to the Philippines*  
Panelist



**H.E. ENDO KAZUYA**

*Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines*  
Panelist



**H.E. DAVID HARTMAN**

*Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines*  
Panelist



**H.E. ANDREAS MICHAEL PFAFFERNOSCHKE**

*German Ambassador to the Philippines*  
Panelist



**PROF. VICTOR DINDO MANHIT**

*President & CEO, Stratbase Group*  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 6, 2025
- 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
- Invited participants should proceed to Apartment 301, 3/F. Lunch for the rest of the participants will be available at the Grand Kitchen.

## Disinformation and Influence: Addressing the Challenge of Malign Information Operations - A Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Special Working Lunch Roundtable (By Invitation Only/Chatham House Rule)

This roundtable discussion will focus on the growing threat of state-backed disinformation campaigns as an instrument of geopolitical competition, focusing in particular on influence operations attributed to the People's Republic of China. Even though disinformation is often perceived as a digital or a domestic issue, it is increasingly becoming entangled with maritime security concerns, as it shapes public narratives on sovereignty, undermines trust in defense institutions, and polarizes public debate over territorial disputes. Framed within the context of The Manila Dialogue, this discussion will explore how Chinese narratives are deployed to influence perceptions around the South China Sea and regional maritime claims, and how they interact with local political dynamics and media ecosystems in Southeast Asia and beyond. Participants will consider existing countermeasures and examine the roles of governments, media, and civil society in responding to these campaigns, and what regional cooperation can look like in the information domain. The goal of the session is to surface practical and grounded approaches to protect the information space as a crucial dimension of maritime security.



**DR. MARK SPEICH**

*Secretary General, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung*  
Welcome Remarks



**BRIAN HARDING**

*Research Fellow, Southeast Asia Peace Institute*  
Panelist



**DR. MAREIKE OHLBERG**

*Senior Fellow, Indo-Pacific Program, The German Marshall Fund of the United States*  
Panelist



**COMMO. JAY TARRIELA**

*Chief, West Philippine Sea Transparency Office, Philippine Coast Guard*  
Panelist



**MARITES DAÑGUILAN VITUG**

*Editor-at-Large, Rappler*  
Moderator



**DANIELA BRAUN**

*Country Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Philippines*  
Closing Remarks

- November 6, 2025
- 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
- Grand Ballroom

### Plenary Session 3: Securing Submarine Cables in the South China Sea - A Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Philippines Special Plenary Session

Subsea cable sabotage has emerged as a particularly alarming gray zone tactic globally. A noticeable uptick in subsea cable damage reports, often coinciding with reports of suspicious vessel activity by Chinese- and Russian-flagged ships, has been observed in the Baltic Sea, in the East and South China Sea (especially around Taiwan), and the Red Sea in recent years. These incidents have heightened concerns of deliberate sabotage and fears that hostile actors may be using such actions as a form of low-intensity hybrid warfare amid intensifying geopolitical conflicts. However, none of these incidents have resulted in formal legal action or accountability despite growing concern, primarily due to the plausible deniability and the difficulty of attribution surrounding such cases. Nevertheless, given the indispensable role that subsea cables play in global communications, economic stability, and national security, their vulnerability poses a growing risk to international order. In particular, the South China Sea—already a flashpoint for regional tensions and strategic rivalry—represent a high-risk zone for deliberate disruption. Within this context, this KAS Philippines plenary session will discuss why the protection of subsea cables is a critical maritime security concern especially in the South China Sea and explore practical measures to enhance the resilience and defense of these vital systems.



**KATJA BEGÓ**

*Senior Research Fellow, International Security Programme, Chatham House*  
Topic: Recognizing Emerging Threats



**ELINA NOOR**

*Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*  
Topic: Understanding the Regional Significance



**DR. SU WAI MON**

*Research Fellow, Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore*  
Topic: Advancing Multilateral and Regional Cooperation



**Dr. Francis Domingo**

*Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman*  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 6, 2025
- 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
- Grand Ballroom

### Plenary Session 4: Securing Freedom of Navigation and the Rule of Law through Cross-Regional Defense Cooperation

Freedom of navigation and the rule of law are indispensable pillars of peace, stability, and security in the South China Sea. Yet these principles face persistent challenges from coercive actions and unlawful assertions of maritime claims. This panel will explore whether and how cross-regional defense cooperation—through joint patrols, combined exercises, visiting forces agreements, maritime domain awareness initiatives, and other arrangements—can help reinforce international law and safeguard navigational freedoms. By bringing together perspectives from Southeast Asia and beyond, the discussion will examine both the opportunities and risks of involving extra-regional defense partners, and whether such cooperation contributes to a more resilient, rules-based maritime order.



**DR. COLLIN KOH**

*Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies*  
Presenter



**DR. SOPHIE WUSHUANG YI**

*Research Fellow, Marine Studies Center, Grandview Institution*  
Discussant



**ATTY. FRETTI GANCHOON**

*Senior State Counsel, Philippines*  
Discussant



**RAY POWELL**

*Sealight Project – Stanford University*  
Discussant



**DR. JOHN HEMMINGS**

*Deputy Director for Geopolitics, Council on Geostrategy, London*  
Discussant



VINA NADJIBULLA

Vice-President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada  
Chair

Watch Session Brief & Recording

- November 6, 2025
- 5:15 pm - 8:00 pm
- Penthouse No. 66, 66/F

## Special Dinner Roundtable Discussion: Enhancing Security Cooperation for a Free, Open and Rules-based South China Sea

The stability of the Indo-Pacific rests on the ability of states to work together in defending a free, open, and rules-based maritime order. This special roundtable will bring together senior national security officials from across the region to discuss current challenges their countries are facing to generate lessons learned, practical avenues for enhancing security cooperation—ranging from intelligence-sharing and joint exercises to maritime domain awareness and capacity-building. With perspectives from Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific, the discussion will highlight opportunities for greater alignment among like-minded partners in addressing shared challenges to peace and stability at sea. The session will be followed by an informal networking reception.



HON. EDUARDO AÑO

National Security Adviser, Philippines



DATO' RAJA NUSHIRWAN BIN ZAINAL ABIDIN

Director General, National Security Council, Malaysia



HON. AJIT KUMAR DOVAL (TBD)

National Security Advisor, India



HON. JENNIFER ANSON

National Security Coordinator of Republic of Palau



GENERAL TNI (RET.) DJAMARI CHANIAGO (TBD)

Coordinating Minister for Politics and Security, Indonesia



ELINA NOOR

Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Chair

Watch Session Brief & Recording

### November 7, 2025

- November 7, 2025
- 9:00 am - 10:30 am
- Grand Ballroom

## Plenary Session 5: Transparency as Policy - Safeguarding the Information Space Against Malign Influence Operations

Information is increasingly becoming a battlefield, where disinformation campaigns, false narratives, and malign influence operations are deployed to shape perceptions and undermine rules-based foreign policy positions. This fireside discussion will examine how transparency itself can serve as a strategic policy—building resilience through open communication, free press, and cooperative information-sharing, including exposing bad behaviors at sea. Panelists will explore the role of governments, media, and civil society in countering malign influence operations related to the South China Sea and the wider Indo-Pacific, and how safeguarding the information space contributes to maritime security and regional stability.



PROF. HU BO

Director, South China Sea Probing Initiative; Professor, Peking University, Beijing  
Panelist



COMMO. JAY TARRIELA

Commander, West Philippine Sea Transparency Group, Philippine Coast Guard, Manila  
Panelist



DR. TRICIA YEOH

Associate Professor of Practice, University of Nottingham Malaysia  
Panelist



H.E. LAI THAI BINH

Vietnamese Ambassador to the Philippines  
Panelist





ELINA NOOR

Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 10:45 am - 12:30 pm
- Apartment 301, 3/F

Parallel Session A: The Nexus of Maritime Security and Economic Security Angles

Maritime security in the South China Sea is inseparable from the region’s broader economic security, directly affecting global trade, energy flows, and the livelihoods of millions. This session will bring together experts to explore how maritime tensions intersect with economic vulnerabilities, and how regional and extra-regional actors can align strategies to safeguard their economies, including resisting economic coercion. The discussion will consider the risks of conflict escalation, the costs of coercive behavior, and the opportunities for cooperation.



JONATHAN BERKSHIRE MILLER

Senior Fellow, Macdonald-Laurier Institute, Ottawa  
Panelist



PROF. VICTOR ANDRES MANHIT

President & CEO, Stratbase Group  
Panelist



PROF. WONGI CHOE

Head, Center for ASEAN-Indian Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy  
Panelist



DR. SOPHIE WUSHUANG YI

Research Fellow, Marine Studies Center, Grandview Institution  
Panelist



DR. EUAN GRAHAM

Senior Analyst, Australia Strategic Policy Institute  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 10:45 am - 12:30 pm
- Apartment 302, 3/F

Parallel Session B: Assessment of Dispute Management and Risk Reduction in the South China Sea

Managing disputes and reducing risks in the South China Sea remain urgent challenges amid overlapping claims, rising tensions, and competing strategic interests. This session will provide diverse perspectives on practical mechanisms for preventing escalation and fostering cooperation. Topics will include China’s approach to dispute management, the role of marine scientific research in confidence-building, the establishment of marine protected areas, and the prospects for bilateral negotiations and a binding regional Code of Conduct. By bringing together experts from law, policy, and science, the discussion aims to highlight pathways for mitigating risks while clearly identifying malign efforts that serve to obstruct peaceful and rules-based management and settlement of disputes.



CAPT. XIAOBO LIU (RET., PLA NAVY)

Director, Marine Study Center Grandview Institution, Beijing  
Topic: PRC Perspective on Dispute Management and Risk Reduction



DR. ABE WOO

Senior Fellow, WPS  
Topic: Marine Scientific Research



DR. VU HAI DANG

Director, Centre for ASEAN and Maritime Cooperation, East Sea Institute, DAV  
Topic: Marine Protected Areas



ATTY. JAY BATONGBACAL

Director, Institute for Maritime and Law of the Sea, University of the Philippines  
Topic: Bilateral Negotiations and Regional Code of Conduct



CARL BAKER

Executive Director, Pacific Forum, Honolulu  
Chair

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm
- Grand Ballroom

Special Lunch Roundtable: Advancing the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) as an ASEAN Regional Mechanism

With growing challenges to maritime safety and security in Southeast Asia, there is renewed momentum to institutionalize the ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) as a formal regional mechanism for cooperation. This roundtable will convene the heads of maritime law enforcement agencies from Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Cambodia to discuss practical pathways for advancing the ACGF. The dialogue will explore how

stronger coordination in areas such as joint patrols, information-sharing, capacity-building, and humanitarian assistance can enhance ASEAN’s collective ability to safeguard its waters, reinforce regional stability, and uphold international law. They will also explore ways to make the ACGF a more consequential institution for confidence-building and safeguarding regional stability and international law.



**ADM. RONNIE GIL LATORILLA GAVAN**

*Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard*



**MARITIME ADM. DATUK MOHD ROSLI ABDULLAH**

*Director-General, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency*



**PGEN. SAR THETH**

*General Commissioner, National Police Commission, Ministry of Interior, Cambodia*



**VICE ADMIRAL PONGSAK SOMBOON**

*Deputy Secretary-General, Thai Maritime Enforcement Command Center*



**DR. ASYURA SALLEH**

*Associate Programme Officer, UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme Chair*

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
- Grand Ballroom

## Plenary Session 6: Maritime Capacity-Building for a Rules-based, Equitable and Sustainable Maritime Order in the Indo-Pacific

Building maritime capacity is central to advancing a rules-based, equitable, and sustainable maritime order in the Indo-Pacific. As coastal and seafaring nations face mounting challenges—from illegal fishing and environmental degradation to illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive (ICAD) operations at sea—stronger institutions and capable coast guards are essential. This session will gather senior maritime leaders from the Philippines, India, Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia to discuss practical pathways for cooperation, including training, technology-sharing, provisions of patrol ships and maritime domain awareness capabilities, and sustainable fisheries management. Their exchange will highlight how capacity-building can serve as both a security and development agenda, strengthening resilience, pushing back against aggressive and unilateral pursuit of unlawful claims, and ensuring the long-term health of the region’s maritime commons.



**ADM. RONNIE GIL GAVAN**

*Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard*



**ADG DONNY MICHAEL**

*Additional Director General, Indian Coast Guard*



**LT. GEN. LE QUANG DAO (TBD)**

*Commandant, Vietnam Coast Guard*



**VADM. KANOSUE HIROAKI**

*Vice Commandant for Operations, Japan Coast Guard*



**HON. SAKTI WAHYU TRENGGONO (TBD)**

*Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Republic of Indonesia*

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm
- Grand Ballroom

## Plenary Session 7: Fire-side Discussion with Select Ministers and Diplomats - The South China Sea and Perspectives on Defending the Rules-based Order (TBD)

Defending a rules-based order in the South China Sea requires both national resolve and sustained international cooperation. This fireside discussion will feature select ministers and diplomats who will share their perspectives on the challenges to international law, and regional stability posed by unlawful assertion of maritime claims, including dangerous maneuvers at sea. The conversation will cite some of the most recent incidents that underscore the gravity of these challenges and the required sense of urgency to effectively respond. The panelists will also explore how governments can work together—through defense cooperation, diplomatic engagement, and multilateral mechanisms—to uphold maritime norms and deter coercive actions by highlighting concrete steps to ensure that the South China Sea remains to be governed by the rule of law.



**HON. GILBERT TEODORO**

*Secretary of National Defense, Philippines*



**H.E. SARAH HULTON (TBD)**

*Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Philippines*



**H.E. SHRI HARSH KUMAR JAIN (TBD)**

*Ambassador of India to the Philippines*



**TBD**

*Tbd*



**BRAD GLOSSERMAN**

*Director of Research, Pacific Forum, Honolulu  
Chair*

[Watch Session Brief & Recording](#)

- November 7, 2025
- 5:15 pm - 5:45 pm
- Grand Ballroom, Uncategorized

Announcements and Closing Remarks



**DR. JEFFREY ORDANIEL**

*President & CEO, WPS; Lead Convenor, The Manila Dialogue on the South China Sea*

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