



**SOUTH ASIA
DEMOCRATIC
FORUM**



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European Regional Science Association



Conference
**“REGIONAL COOPERATION WITHIN AND ACROSS
SOUTH ASIA”**

*Hosted by Ryszard Czarnecki, Vice-President of the European Parliament
Organised by South Asia Democratic Forum, European Regional Science Association
and the Institute of South Asian Studies, Sichuan University*

*Building ASP, Room A1H1, European Parliament
4 May 2016 16:00-18:30*

16:00 Welcoming remarks

MEP Ryszard Czarnecki (ECR), Vice-President of the European Parliament

16h10 PANEL I

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH AND EAST ASIA

Chair: Prof Jouke van Dijk, Professor at the University of Groningen and President of the European Regional Science Association

Panellists:

- **Peter Nagy, Deputy Head of Division for India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, European External Action Service**
Presentation: EU-India relations including the 30 March Summit
- **Prof Yin Xi-nan, Professor, Institute of South Asia Studies, Sichuan University, China**
Presentation: Sino-Indian People-to-People Exchanges and Regional Co-operation across South Asia and East Asia
- **Dr Wolfgang-Peter Zingel, Associate Member, South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University**
Presentation: India-EU FTA: Indian Bilateralism vs. South Asian Regionalism?
- **Prof Wen Fude, Research professor, Institute of South Asia Studies, Sichuan University, China**
Presentation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Currently Economic Cooperation Between China and India



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17h10 PANEL II EURASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBALIZATION AND INTEGRATION

Chair: Prof Peter Nijkamp, Professor, Free University of Amsterdam

Panellists:

- **Dr Siegfried O. Wolf, SADF Research Director**
Presentation: "One Belt, One Road? The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Perspective"
- **Prof Zhang Li, Research professor, Institute of South Asia Studies, Sichuan University, China**
Presentation: Implications of Maritime Security for South Asian Regional Cooperation: A Chinese Perspective
- **Dr Karima Kourtit, KTH Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm**
Presentation: Migrant entrepreneurs as urban 'health angels' - Risk and growth strategies
- **Prof Tomaz Dentinho, SADF Regional Cooperation Programme Director**
Presentation: "Impacts of the China - India Corridor"

18:00 Interventions from the floor

18:20 Closing remarks

Paulo Casaca, SADF Executive Director

BIOGRAPHIES AND ABSTRACTS

WELCOMING REMARKS



RYSZARD CZARNECKI, Polish politician, Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible for Eastern Policy and the Eastern Partnership. Born in the UK, graduate from University of Wroclaw, where he received master degree in history. Former Minister of the European Affairs, Minister without Portfolio and former Deputy Minister of Culture and Arts. Since 2004 he is a member of the European Parliament. Vice-President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, as well as interparliamentary forum with national parliaments of Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Coordinator in Committee on Budget Control (CONT), member of the Foreign Affairs (AFET) committee in the EP and the Delegation EU - Ukraine. In addition, Vice-President Ryszard Czarnecki is a member of the Delegation DCAS to the EU - Kazakhstan, EU - Kyrgyzstan, the EU - Uzbekistan and the EU - Tajikistan and the Commission to corporations of parliamentary relations between Turkmenistan



and Mongolia. He was awarded high state awards by Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. He holds a Doctor Honoris Causa of the University in Erevan and is the author of 6 books.

PANEL I - REGIONAL COOPERATION IN SOUTH AND EAST ASIA



DR JOUKE VAN DIJK is Professor of Regional Labour Market Analysis and Chair of the Department of Economic Geography at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences of the University of Groningen. He also is Chair of the Board of the Waddenacademie, an institute that sets the agenda and coordinates research activities in the field of Ecology, Geology, Economics and Social Sciences in the Wadden area. In August 2013 he has been elected as President of the European Regional Science Association for the period 2014-2018. His research has a strong focus on labour market issues like unemployment, employment, the dynamics of regional labour markets and migration. Jouke van Dijk serves several scientific journals as Editor, Member of the Editorial Board or reviewer. He is now e.g. Editor of Springer Regional Science Series 'Advances in Spatial Science' and Overseeing Editor of the Journal of Economic and Social Geography. He is acting as advisor and consultant for the European Union, OECD, various ministries, provinces and municipalities, private firms and research institutes, the public employment service, unions and other organisations dealing with labour market issues and regional development. More information can be found at: www.joukevandijk.nl

PETER NAGY joined the European External Action Service (EEAS) from its inception in 2011. Since 2013 he is, as deputy head of division, responsible for EU relations with India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). He served, since 1987, the European Union (European Commission and EEAS) in Brussels on various assignments including the European Neighbourhood Policy, EU enlargement, energy policy and agriculture. Prior to these assignments he served, as lawyer, the Dutch Ministry for Agriculture.

He holds a post-graduate European Law degree (College of Europe, Bruges), a Law Degree (Leyden University, NL) and a candidate degree Biology (Leyden University).

Publications: articles on EU enlargement related matters.

Title of Presentation: EU-India relations including the 30 March Summit

Abstract of Presentation: The EU-India Summit of 30 March 2016 gave a new momentum to the Strategic Partnership. The Summit deliverables testify to this: a broad Joint Statement, an Agenda for Action-2020 (setting out a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the partnership), a Joint Declaration on counter-terrorism, a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility, Joint declarations on Energy/Climate Change and on a Water Partnership. Furthermore, a major European Investment Bank loan to co-finance a metro project in Lucknow city was signed. The Summit addressed bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.



PROF YIN XI-NAN teaches international relations at The Institute of South Asia Studies, Sichuan University of China. His main research areas are Sino-Indian relation, Sinology in modern India, Indian literature and culture, Sanskrit poetics. His publications include: *Indian Images of China*, Beijing: People Publishing House, 2010; *A Comparative Study of Sanskrit Poetics and Western Poetics*, Chengdu: Bashu Publishing House, 2010; *A Historical Study of Indian Perceptions of China*, Beijing: Current Affairs Press, 2014; *A Study of Sino-Indian Cultural Communication*, Beijing: Current Affairs Press, 2015; *A History of Indian Literary Criticism*, Chengdu: Bashu Publishing House, 2015; His present research programme: A History of Chinese Studies in India. He can be reached by E-mail: ronald1966@163.com

Title of Presentation: Sino-Indian People-to-People Exchanges and Regional Co-operation across South Asia and East Asia

Abstract of Presentation: As an important aspect of the regional co-operation between China, a nation in East Asia and the nations like India in South-Asia, Sino-Indian people-to-people exchanges should be highlighted for the time being. Moreover, people-to-people exchanges are facing some hidden and serious issues, of which the mutual perception has loomed large. The multifarious mutual perceptions between all walks of Chinese and Indians in the past 60 years, has changed a lot. The symmetry and asymmetry of Sino-Indian mutual perception deserves to be seriously reflected against the background of Sino-Indian relation in the 21st century. Indian approach to contemporary China is unique for there are two significant turns of its perceptions of China, which can be analysed through three stages. It is argued that India has a long history of dual views on China, i.e. the dominant and the minor attitudes towards China. And Sino-Indian perception asymmetry for more than one century is alarmingly striking. For healthy regional co-operation across South Asia in general and a better and more constructive Sino-Indian relation in particular, both the nations should deal with the so-called “Trust Deficit” and promote people-to-people communications, academic co-operations, etc. India and China should also tell the fantastic stories of their own country in order that the one side could have a good image of the other and build a trust bridge in the long run.



DR WOLFGANG-PETER ZINGEL, Associate Member of the South Asia Institute (SAI) of Heidelberg University; studied economics, history and law; Diplom-Volkswirt (M.A. economics), Dr. rer. pol. (PhD economics). He joined the SAI in the Department of International Economics in 1971 and worked in the fields of agricultural, applied, development and regional economics with a focus on South Asian countries and SAARC. He was also representative of the SAI in Pakistan (1980-82) and India (1990-92). As a DAAD-fellow he taught public finance at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, in 1989 and economic history at the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS) of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in 2011. Dr Zingel also worked on food systems of Dhaka within the DFG programme “Megacities-Megachallenge”. In 2014-15, he was a visiting Fellow at the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. Dr Zingel published widely on South Asian economic, social and political affairs, e.g. China’s Pakistan option (IIC Quarterly, 2015); The economics of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations (India Quarterly, 2014). More information is available on: <http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/abt/intwep/zingel/> Contacts: h93@ix.urz.uni-heidelberg.de



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Title of the presentation: India-EU FTA: Indian Bilateralism vs. South Asian Regionalism?

Abstract of presentation: Regional cooperation within and across South Asia, the topic of the Conference, has been an exercise in hope and frustration for decades. There is no other regional cooperation like SAARC where two of its members have been either at war or on the brink of war for almost 70 years. Little wonder, regional trade hovers around 5 per cent of total trade and less of India's foreign trade.

The European Union is still India's largest trading partner. India's trade with the EU is more than with all her neighbours together, including China, her major individual trading partner. Still, the so called India-EU Free Trade Agreement, under negotiation since years, is not even mentioned in the Foreign Sector chapter of the latest Economic Survey.

The question is, whether India will pursue its policy of exceptionalism, i.e. bilateralism and at the same time trying not to be left out of other international trade groupings – regional, continental or global. In this context: What would be the role of the India-EU FTA?



PROF WEN FUDE is a researcher at the Institute of South Asian Studies in Sichuan University. His research programmes include the reform and development of the Indian economy, as well as its globalization. He has also centred his research on Indian agriculture and finance. He has long embarked on the comparison of Sino-Indian economy. Currently his research focuses on the Sino-Indian economic cooperation. He can be reached at his email: wenfd@sina.com

Title of Presentation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Currently Economic Cooperation Between China and India

Abstract of Presentation: Currently, China is undergoing the construction of OBR, and India is accelerating the development of manufacture industry and the construction of infrastructure sector. Therefore, there are some important opportunities for strengthening the economic cooperation between China and India. First, opportunity for enlarging the goods and services trades; Second, opportunities for increasing the mutual investment; Third, opportunity for enlarging the bilateral economic cooperation. Of course, there are also some important challenges in the economic cooperation between China and India. First, challenge for doubt of India to the construction of OBR; Second, challenge for some social and political environment problems in India; Third, challenge for some economic and law environment problems in India. The prospect of economic cooperation between China and India is broad.



PANEL II - EURASIAN PERSPECTIVES ON GLOBALIZATION AND INTEGRATION



PROF PETER NIJKAMP is professor in regional and urban economics and in economic geography at the VU University Amsterdam. From 2009-2015, he was Honorary University Professor at the same university. He has been president of the governing board of the Netherlands Research Council (NWO) (2002-2009). He is also past president of the European Regional Science Association and of the Regional Science Association International. He is fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, and past vice-president of this organization. In 1996, Peter Nijkamp was awarded the most prestigious scientific prize in the Netherlands, the Spinoza award.



DR SIEGFRIED O. WOLF, Director of Research at SADF (Coordinator: Democracy Research Program); he was educated at the Institute of Political Science (IPW) and South Asia Institute (SAI), both Heidelberg University. Additionally he is member (affiliated researcher) of the SAI as well as a former research fellow at IPW and Centre de Sciences Humaines (New Delhi, India). Before starting his academic career, Dr. Siegfried O. Wolf worked for various consultancies specialising in political communication, e.g. promoting the interaction and cooperation between

academic, political and economic spheres. He is the co-author of 'A Political and Economic Dictionary of South Asia' (Routledge: London, 2006), co-editor of 'Politics in South Asia. Culture, Rationality and Conceptual Flow' (Springer: Heidelberg, 2015), 'The Merits of Regionalisation. The Case of South Asia' (Springer: Heidelberg, 2014), and 'State and Foreign Policy in South Asia' (Sanskriti, 2010), and Deputy Editor of the 'Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics' (HPSACP). Furthermore, he has worked as a consultant for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany, and is member of the external experts group of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force, Federal Foreign Office, Germany.

Title of the presentation: One Belt, One Road? The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Perspective

Abstract of presentation: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion dollar infrastructure investment project, is heralded as a game changer for Pakistan's economy and regional cooperation. Being a crucial part of a major development initiative led by China, known as 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR), to connect Asia with Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the CPEC is much linked to hopes, interests, as well as regional and global geopolitics. However, such a megaproject raises numerous questions especially regarding the feasibility of its implementation, the impact on the region as well as the nature of India's position towards the endeavour. Therefore, the presentation will shed light on involved interests and challenges, and potential impacts for regional cooperation and elaborate on the puzzle of how far the CPEC is a threat or an opportunity for India.



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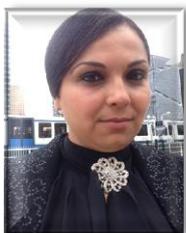


PROF ZHANG LI is teaches international relations at The Institute of South Asia Studies, Sichuan University of China. His expertise covers China's neighbourhood diplomacy, China-South Asia/Central Asia strategic links, and Asia-Pacific security and conflict prevention. He holds a PhD in international politics and is, as visiting fellow, affiliated with some leading global research institutes, including Henry L. Stimson Center (USA), St. Antony's College, Oxford University (UK), Jawaharlal Nehru University (India), and The Institute for Security and Development Policy (Sweden). He writes in both English and Chinese and authors several books and many

journal articles/book chapters. Recent publications (in English only) include "To Manage Conflict in South Asia: China's Stakes, Perceptions and Inputs"; "China-India Relations: Strategic Engagement and Challenges"; "China's Concern over the Indo-Pakistani Rivalry and Sino-Indian Relations"; "China-India-U.S. Encounters in Asia-Pacific: Implications for East Asian Regionalism"; "India's Rise and Regional Ramifications: Perspective from China"; "China Paper: Security and Trade in Greater Central Asia"; "Security Implications of a Stable Afghanistan for China"; "U.S. Pivot to Asia-Pacific and India's Choices"; "China-India Strategic Nexus: Geopolitical Uncertainty vs. Confidence Building"; "Building Mutual Confidence Between China and India: Nuclear Dimensions"; "China and the Kashmir Knot"; and "Six-Party Regime in Addressing the Korean Nuclear Crisis: Gains, Merits and Limitations".

Title of Presentation: Implications of Maritime Security for South Asian Regional Cooperation: A Chinese Perspective

Abstract of Presentation: The Indian Ocean is of growing geo-strategic importance to China and the littoral players alike. The nature of their engagement in the maritime arena will significantly affect the security landscape of the region and beyond. China has tried to secure its overseas energy/trade shipping, move out the so-called Malacca Dilemma by preempting potential challenges, and further bolster its Maritime Silk Road Initiative. For its part, India's enviable position in the water offers it advantages to shape the trajectory there. And India's expanded Look East thrust and efforts to go to the broader Asia-Pacific also enlarge its stake in meeting China. For both China and India, engaging in cooperation based on pragmatism and mutual trust would prove a preference among other options. The collaboration at regional and maritime levels will greatly contribute to stability and development by promoting bilateral and multilateral partnerships. The emerging interaction is expected to cover securing energy/trade transit routes, combating pirates and sea-borne terrorism, conducting humanitarian and disaster-relief missions, and dovetailing their agendas of developing infrastructure in smaller littoral countries. To make this happen, the two Asian powers need to bridge the gap of perception, reconcile their interests and policy objectives, seek substantial settlement of outstanding problems, and avoid acceding to any confrontational security alliance against each other.



DR KARIMA KOURTIT is a post-doc researcher (with a double Ph.D. degree in both economics and geography (*Cum Laude*)), with a profound interest in regional science topics. In 2007 she received her MBA and a double MSc in Teaching Economics and Business Administration. Her main research interest focuses on the emerging 'New Urban World'. Her main scientific research is in the field of creative industries, urban development, cultural heritages and strategic performance management. Recently, she has been involved in the implementation of national and international research



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projects and initiatives, such as NICIS, Smart Cities, ISAAC, SUS-DIV, Mobile Identities, Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) 'Urban Europe'. She had also organized various international workshops in the field of Urban Development, Globalisation, Urban futures 2050, and the 'New Urban World'. Furthermore, she has been involved as a guest editor of several books and many international journals, and has published various papers, articles, special issues of journals and edited volumes. In addition, she has been invited as an expert at various national and international research initiatives related to sustainable diversity, creative industries, socio-economic impacts of cultural heritage, and complex urban development. She was also a member of the Management Board for the development of the Joint Programming Initiative 'Urban Europe', on behalf of the Dutch Ministries for Transport and Infrastructure, Innovation, and Environment, The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and NICIS. And she has operated as a member of an expert group for the Amsterdam Economic Board, and was a member of the Main Panel Board and Secretary for the external research evaluation of North-West University in South-Africa during a 3-year period. Now she is appointed as a member of the main Board and Executive director of the *Regional Science Academy*.

Title of the presentation: Migrant entrepreneurs as urban 'health angels' – Risk and growth strategies

Abstract of your presentation: This presentation highlights the importance of migrant entrepreneurs as change agents for economic vitality ('health angels') in cities in the developed world. The focus will in particular be on transition strategies of second-generation migrant entrepreneurs, as their 'break-out' growth and risk strategies may lead to a convergence of migrant entrepreneurship with mainstream entrepreneurship. Detailed information on their risk and growth strategies was obtained from personal interviews with these entrepreneurs.



PROF TOMAZ PONCE DENTINHO, is SADF's Regional Cooperation Research Programme Director. He is also the coordinator of the Group for Nature Conservation and Management at the Azores University, in Angra, Portugal, and member of the Research Centre for Applied Economics of the Atlantic based in Ponta Delgada. He is the promoter and coordinator of the Master on the Management of Nature Conservation and of the PhD on Interdisciplinary Management of the Landscape (joint PhD with the University of Évora and the Technical University of Lisbon). He is a lecturer on: economics (undergraduate); regional and urban economics (undergraduate, master and doctorate programmes), environmental economics (master), cost-benefit analysis (master) and agricultural economics (undergraduate). His research group, involving around ten researchers undertake studies on regional sustainable development, integrated water management, marine resources' economics, agricultural economics and cost-benefit analysis. Since 2008, he chairs the Portuguese Association for Regional Development (www.apdr.pt). Since 2007 he is a member of the European Organizing Committee of the European Regional Science Association. Since 2010 he is a member of Council of the Regional Science Association International. He is Executive Director of the Regional Science Association International.

Title of the presentation: Impacts of the China - India Corridor

Abstract of the presentation: Regional Cooperation and Development in South Asia is very much linked with the broadly announced Trans-Himalayan Corridors that will connect some of



the bigger economies of the XXI century, India and China involving all the economies of the Region. The aim of this presentation is to analyse the impacts of the Corridor China – Myanmar - Bangladesh – India Corridor on trade, migration, investment flows and development in the various countries of the region. To achieve that a spatial interaction development model is proposed, calibrated and simulated for four scenarios linked to the existence, or absence, of either institutional barriers or physical barriers. Results show that on the short term there are losers and winners in the reduction of physical and institutional barriers, which explain the attitude of some countries in maintaining the barriers institutional barriers. In the long run all the countries benefit from further cooperation but the spatial allocation of the benefits is very much related to the distribution of unrooted benefits.

CLOSING REMARKS



PAULO CASACA, founder and executive director of the “South Asia Democratic Forum”; he is also the founder of the international co-operation association registered in Brussels ARCHumankind, “Alliance to Renew Co-operation among Humankind”, founder of the “Euro Reform Initiative”, of the consultancy company on sustainable development registered in Brussels, Lessmeansmore, Land and Energy Sustainable Systems, Fellow of the German Marshall Fund of the US in the first semester of 2010.

Mr Casaca was a Member of the European Parliament from 1999 to 2009 where, namely, he chaired the delegation for relations with NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He was a member of the national parliament in 1992-1993 and a member of the regional parliament of the Azores in 1990-1991. He was a Councillor in the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union from 1996 to 1999, chief of staff of the Minister for Territorial Planning and Public Works in 1995/1996, economics advisor for the socialist fraction in the national parliament in 1989/1990, 1992, 1994/1995. He was invited professor at the Technical University of Lisbon in 1995-1996, he lectured in the University of the Azores from 1980 to 1987 and in 1991 and in the Accounting High School in Lisbon from 1987 to 1989. He is the author of several books and reports on economics and international politics.

This conference is sponsored by LessMeansMore, Brussels.