

STATE OF ASIA

A yellow outline map of the Asian continent is positioned in the background, partially overlapping the text.

/ NOV 22
2023

The
**STATE OF ASIA
PODCAST**

brings you exclusive,
engaging conversations
with leading minds
on issues that shape
Asia and affect us all.



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EDITORIAL

Dear Guests,

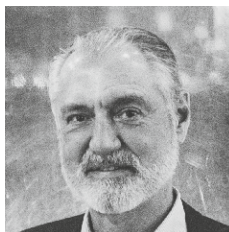
Never has it been more important to understand Asia than today. As Asia's economic, political, and cultural influence continues to grow in an interconnected world, Asia Society Switzerland's flagship annual conference, STATE OF ASIA, provides a condensed overview of the current and future key developments in the region and their global implications.

STATE OF ASIA features a broad selection of leading experts from across Asia, Europe, and the U.S. Their diverse perspectives and in-depth expertise foster dialogue and discussion, making STATE OF ASIA a premier platform for business leaders, government officials, NGO representatives and academics looking to expand their Asia Competence.

Delivering this Asia Competence and leading the dialogue about Asia and with Asian counterparts is the mission of our organization and its 16 centers worldwide. Our work here in Switzerland spans dozens of events each year, a growing library of online content, educational programs, and community initiatives. None of it would be possible without our donors and our member community. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our work.

We thank the Swiss Re Institute for being our generous host and partner for STATE OF ASIA and wish you an engaging and insightful day.

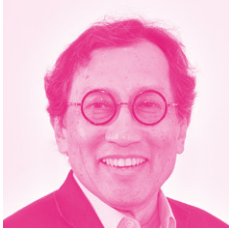
Adrian T. Keller
Chairman
Asia Society Switzerland



Nico Luchsinger
Executive Director
Asia Society Switzerland



SPEAKERS



BILAHARI KAUSIKAN

Former Ambassador and Permanent Secretary of Singapore
Bilahari Kausikan has spent his entire career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During his 37 years in the Ministry, he served in a variety of appointments at home and abroad, including as Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, and as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry. Among others, he is a Member of the Advisory Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).



ALEXANDER GABUEV

Director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center

Alexander Gabuev leads a renowned team of analysts who were formerly part of the Carnegie Moscow Center, which was forced to close by the Kremlin in early 2022.

Gabuev's research is focused on Russian foreign policy with particular focus on the impact of the war in Ukraine and the Sino-Russia relationship. Since joining Carnegie in 2015, Gabuev has contributed commentary and analysis to a wide range of publications, including the *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist*.



SIMONA GRANO

Associate Professor at the University of Zurich and Senior Fellow at the Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis

Simona Grano is an Associate Professor and Director of the Taiwan Studies Project at the University of Zurich. In September 2023, she joined Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis as Senior Fellow.

Grano is the author of *Environmental Governance in Taiwan: A New Generation of Activists and Stakeholders*. Her latest edited volume, *China-US Competition: Impact on Small and Middle Powers' Strategic Choices*, was published in December 2022.



KEYU JIN

Economics Professor at LSE, Author and Board Member

Keyu Jin is a professor of economics at the London School of Economics (LSE), where she researches and teaches international macroeconomics, technology competition, and Chinese economy.

She is the author of the critically acclaimed book *The New China Playbook: Beyond Socialism and Capitalism*. She is also a board member of Richemont and AInnovation, as well as a member of China Finance 40. She has contributed op-eds published in *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time* magazine and many others.

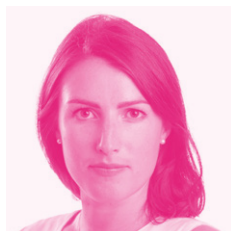


PHILIPP RÖSLER

Former Vice-Chancellor of Germany, Honorary Consul of Vietnam, Consultant

Philipp Rösler holds management consulting mandates as well as supervisory board memberships in known Swiss and international companies.

In 2009, he joined the Government of Germany as a Minister of Health in Chancellor Merkel's second cabinet. In 2011, Rösler was elected as the Chairman of the Free Democratic Party in Germany and changed his portfolio to Federal Minister of Economics and Technology. He also became Vice-Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.



MERCEDES RUEHL

Singapore and Southeast Asia Correspondent, Financial Times

Mercedes Ruehl is the *Financial Times*' Singapore and Southeast Asia correspondent since 2022. Before, she was the newspaper's Asia technology correspondent based in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Previously, she also led the FT's newsletters and audience engagement team in Asia. Prior to that, she spent six years reporting in Australia on business, finance and politics for *The Australian Financial Review* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*.



VERONICA SCOTTI

Chairperson Public Sector Solutions, Swiss Re

Veronica Scotti joined Swiss Re in 1999 in London through the Group's acquisition of Fox-Pitt Kelton, a boutique investment bank specialized in FIG. From 2007 to 2013, she held reinsurance client-facing positions as Head of Business Development EMEA and Key Account Manager Globals, before moving to New York to become Client Executive, MD, with global responsibility for some of Swiss Re's largest reinsurance clients.

In 2015, Scotti was appointed President and CEO of Canada and the English Caribbean based in Toronto, a role she maintained until her return to Zurich in 2018.



MILAN VAISHNAV

Senior Fellow and Director, South Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Milan Vaishnav is the author of *When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics* and host of *Grand Tamasha*, a weekly podcast on Indian politics and policy.

His primary research focus is the political economy of India. Before joining Carnegie, he worked at the Center for Global Development, where he served as a postdoctoral research fellow, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the Council on Foreign Relations.



JÖRG WUTTKE

President Emeritus of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China

Jörg Wuttke was President of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China from 2007 to 2010, 2014 to 2017, and again from 2019 to 2023.

From 2001 to 2004, he was the Chairman of the German Chamber of Commerce in China. Since its establishment in 2013, Wuttke is a member of the Advisory Board of Germany's foremost Think Tank on China, Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS), in Berlin. He lived in China for more than 30 years.

CONFERENCE COMMENTARY

The STATE OF ASIA conference aims to provide participants with a condensed overview of the current and future developments in Asia. To help achieve that ambitious goal, Bruno Maçães, a prolific analyst and commentator, will take the stage at several points throughout the day to offer his real-time commentary and analysis of what has been said, how it relates to other sessions, and what open questions still remain.



BRUNO MAÇÃES

Author, former Minister of European Affairs of Portugal

Bruno Maçães has represented his country in Brussels during the eurozone crisis, the first Ukraine war and Brexit.

He has published four books since 2018, mostly focused on geopolitics, China, Russia, and technology. Maçães holds a doctorate in Political Science from Harvard University and has recently held fellowships at Renmin University in China and the Hudson Institute. Since 2020, he is a fellow at the Wilfried Martens Centre in Brussels and, since 2022, a member of the European Council on Foreign Relations. His latest book, *Geopolitics for the End Time*, was published in September 2021. He specializes in technology policy, the European Union, and Chinese and Russian foreign policy.

GEN A

In its mission to foster Asia Competence, Asia Society Switzerland is committed to empowering young voices in the dialogue with Asia, recognizing youth as a key driver of Switzerland's future success in the region. Since 2020, we offer the *Gen A – Young Leadership Program* to young professionals and advanced students in Switzerland.

Gen A (short for Generation Asia) is designed to inform, inspire, and connect. *Gen A* fellows gain access to leading business, policy, trade, diversity, and cultural thinkers on Asia; join a network of peers who are passionate about Asia, and get the chance to lead projects and represent the network – among others – at STATE OF ASIA.

All 2023 *Gen A* Fellows are participants of today's conference and three of them are actively contributing to it. Throughout this year, the Fellows have worked on projects and topics that represent their curiosity, their expertise, and their ambition.



Go to the website of Gen A



JULIA LECHBINSKA

Gen A Fellow 2023

A gallerist and art historian, Julia Lechbinska serves as a cultural bridge for East Asian contemporary art in Switzerland. Julia's journey commenced in wealth management and later commodity trading, where she managed the East Asian market. This experience piqued her interest in the arts and culture of this region, prompting her to pursue a master's degree in Art History. Julia further honed her skills through art expertise training and gained valuable experience working in an auction house before establishing her own gallery. Now, her role involves connecting artists and an international network of collectors at the Zurich-based Lechbinska Gallery.



ÉMILIE LUTHRINGER

Gen A Fellow 2023

Émilie Luthringer holds a master's degree in Asian studies from the University of Geneva, specializing in Korean Studies. She also holds two degrees in sustainable development and Gender Studies from the University of Montreal, Canada, and has studied at Yonsei University, South Korea, as part of her academic education. She has worked as an Editorial Assistant at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) in Paris and is also Next Gen collaborator of the think tank KEY (Korea, Europe, and You). In October 2023, she started an internship as Project Manager with Asia Society Switzerland.



ROBIN WEBER

Gen A Fellow 2023

Robin Weber is a psychologist with a focus on intercultural topics. During his studies, he completed a semester in Singapore and took part in an exchange program in India that led to his cross-cultural graduation thesis. He is currently interning in a work rehabilitation program and is involved in several international publications as an independent researcher. Privately, he was and is deeply engaged with volunteer work, in China among other places.



Find all episodes of Robin's podcast *Delving Into Asian Psyches* here.

HOST AND MODERATORS

Host



NICO LUCHSINGER

Executive Director at Asia Society Switzerland

Nico Luchsinger has been working with Asia Society Switzerland since its inception in 2016. A medieval historian by training, he previously worked for Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, founded the global entrepreneurial community Sandbox, and ran business development for Swiss startup Mila.

Moderators



NICOLA FORSTER

Social Entrepreneur and Political Thinker

Nicola Forster is the President of the Swiss Society for the Common Good (SGG), Co-Founder of Think Tank foraus, Staatslabor and Operation Libero, President of Fondation Science et Cité, Co-President of the Green Liberals ZH, Member of Swiss UNESCO Commission and Board Member of Asia Society Switzerland.



MARTINA FUCHS

TV Presenter, Business Journalist and Event Moderator

Martina Fuchs is a Europe Business Correspondent for China's state news agency Xinhua, International Consultant for the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, International Advisor for the St. Gallen Symposium, and China Communications Consultant for the world-renowned IMD business school.



SERENA JUNG

Programs and Communication Director at Asia Society Switzerland

Serena Jung has been working with Asia Society Switzerland since 2018. Before, she was an editor and producer for the magazines *Schweizer Monat* and *Literarischer Monat*, responsible for visual development, interviews with authors, artists, and politicians, book reviews, reportages, and special issues on the South Caucasus.

SAVE THE DATE

STATE OF ASIA
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IMPRESSUM

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