

# Dialogue on Democracy, Human Rights and Big Power Competition

## Profile of Speakers and Moderators



**Mr Koh King Kee**  
President, Centre for New  
Inclusive Asia, Malaysia

Mr Koh King Kee is the President of the Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Director of the China Belt and Road Desk, Baker Tilly Advisory Malaysia, and President of Dr Wu LLen-Teh Education Society Malaysia.

He is also the Co-Vice Chairman of the Council of International Advisors of the National Academy of Belt and Road Green Development, CICEC, China, and Vice Chairman of the International Academic Network for a Community with Shared Future..

Mr Koh holds a MBA degree from University of Wisconsin - Madison, USA, and has previously held senior management positions in banks, multinationals and PLCs in Malaysia.

Mr Koh has long been a keen observer of the political and economic developments in China. In recent years, he has focused his interest on the Belt and Road Initiative, China-US relations and geopolitics of the Asia-Pacific. He has delivered talks on China and BRI to financial institutions, business chambers, universities, and spoke in forums and webinars both in Malaysia and China. He has been widely interviewed by Chinese and Malaysian media on Belt and Road and China issues.



**Captain Tian Shichen  
(Retd)**  
Founder & President  
Global Governance Institution

Captain Andy (Shichen) Tian (Retd) is the Founder and President of the Global Governance Institution and Director of the Center for International Law of Military Operations, and is currently pursuing a PhD in public international law at Wuhan University. He has an LLM in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham under the auspices of UK FCO Chevening Scholarship, and an LLM in Military Law from PLA Xi'an Academy of Politics. His academic interests focus on areas of maritime security policy, international law of the sea, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, where he has published extensively in recent years.

After retiring from the military, Captain Tian used to work in the Grandview Institution as VP for Studies from 2019 to 2020, and in Ecological Group of Beijing Orient Landscape & Environment Co. Ltd. as VP & CEO of the Business Development and Investment Department.

Before he retired from the Chinese Ministry of National Défense (MND), Captain Tian headed the Department of Crisis Management and Media Relations, the Information Office of the MND. He has served in various operational, legal and academic positions with the PLA Army, Navy, and the headquarters of MND.



**Xu Qinduo**

Distinguished Research Fellow,  
Centre for New Inclusive Asia,  
Malaysia

Mr Xu Qinduo is a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Centre for New Inclusive Asia, Malaysia.

Mr Xu hosts *Dialogue Weekend* at CGTN, a talk show with in-depth look on current affairs. He also works as a producer of the *TODAY* show at *China Radio International*. As a political analyst who follows Chinese foreign policy closely, Mr Xu frequently contributes to international media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Press TV*, Turkey's TRT, and *Russia Today*.

Mr Xu majored in both English and international studies. His focus of research has been on China's rise and its interactions with the rest of the world. Mr Xu spent four years in the US as chief correspondent of CRI and one year in Australia as a visiting scholar to University of Melbourne. He is a Senior Fellow at the Pangoal Institution and an Adjunct Professor at Renmin University of China.



**Dr. Gal Luft**

Co-director, Institute for the  
Analysis of Global Security,  
Washington, USA

Dr. Gal Luft is co-director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security (IAGS), a Washington based think tank focused on energy, security, and economic trends. He is a senior adviser to the United States Energy Security Council, a cabinet level extra governmental advisory committee. He specializes in geopolitics, geo-economics, energy security, Middle East and US-China relations. Newsweek Magazine called him a "tireless and independent advocate of energy security" and Esquire Magazine included him in its list of America's Best and Brightest.

Dr. Luft has published numerous studies and articles in various newspapers and publications. He is co-author of *Energy Security Challenges for the 21st Century* (2009,) *Turning Oil into Salt: Energy Independence Through Fuel Choice* (2009,) *Petropoly: The Collapse of America's Energy Security Paradigm* (2012,) and *De-dollarization: The revolt against the dollar and the rise of a new financial world order* (2019). He is author of *Beer, Bacon and Bullets: Culture in Coalition Warfare from Gallipoli to Iraq* (2010), and *Silk Road 2.0: US Strategy toward China's Belt and Road Initiative* (2017). He appears frequently in the media and advises various think tanks and corporations worldwide.

He holds a doctorate in strategic studies from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS,) Johns Hopkins University.



**Dr. Dmitry Suslov**

Deputy Director of Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies (CCEIS),  
Senior Lecturer at Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, HSE University, Russia

Dr. Dmitry Suslov is the Deputy Director of the Centre for Comprehensive European and International Studies (CCEIS), HSE University. He is also a Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs / School of International Affairs, HSE University. Dr. Dmitry Suslov conducts research on various issues of World Politics and International Relations, including the US Global Strategy and Russia-US relations, problems of Governance of the International System, EU evolution and policies and Russia-EU relations, problems of European, Atlantic and Eurasian security, Russian Foreign Policy.

He also acts as a regular consultant of the Russian government institutions and business enterprises on US policies and US-Russia relations, EU-Russia relations, and European and Euro-Atlantic security issues.



**Dr. Chandra Muzaffar**

President of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), Malaysia

Dr. Chandra Muzaffar is the President of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), an international NGO based in Malaysia, which seeks to critique global injustice and to develop an alternative vision of a just and compassionate civilisation guided by universal spiritual and moral values.

He has published extensively on civilizational dialogue, international politics, religion, human rights and Malaysian society. The author and editor of 32 books in English and Malay, many of his writings have been translated into other languages. Among Dr. Chandra's latest publications are, *A World in Crisis: Is There a Cure?* and *Reflections on Malaysian Unity and Other Challenges*.

In 1977, he founded a multi-ethnic social reform group called Aliran Kesedaran Negara (ALIRAN) which he led for 14 years. Today, apart from his role in JUST, Dr. Chandra sits on the board of a number of international NGOs concerned with social justice and civilizational dialogue.

Dr. Chandra was Professor and Director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya (1997-1999) and Professor of Global Studies at Universiti Sains Malaysia (2007- 2012).

Dr. Chandra travels abroad frequently, giving lectures and speaking at seminars and conferences. He is also a regular speaker at meetings at home in Malaysia. He is the recipient of a number of international awards related to his scholarship and social activism.



**Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage**

Director General, Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka

Admiral Prof. Jayanath Colombage is the Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies, Sri Lanka.

He holds a Master of Science in Defence Studies from the University of Madras, a Master of Arts in International Studies from King's College London and a PhD from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University. His thesis was titled "Asymmetric Warfare at Sea". He has gained Diplomas in Security Studies, Conflict Resolution, International Affairs and Information Technology. He is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute and has served as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Branch.

He is the current Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, prior to which he served as Additional Secretary to the President on Foreign Relations. He is also currently serving in the Advisory Board of Sea and Coast maritime magazine.



**Dr. Edward Lehman**

Managing Director, Lehman, Lee & Xu Law Firm, China

Dr. Edward Lehman is the co-founder of Lehman, Lee & Xu, a law firm in China and Mongolia. He is the general counsel to AmChamUS, first legal counsel to the American Chamber of Commerce Shanghai, and chairman of Lehman-Bush, a private investment bank, and a professor of law.

Dr. Lehman specializes in the legal aspects of doing business in China. In practice for over 20 years, he has advised on a wide variety of China projects ranging from cars to pharmaceuticals to power plants and websites.

Dr. Lehman has a keen interest in the education and development of legal scholars in China and abroad. He is currently affiliated with the China University of Politics and Law (CUPL), China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Xavier University, Georgetown University, American University, and is an Associate Professor of Law at Macau University of Science and Technology (LL.M. program).



**Dr. Tian Li**

Assistant Professor at  
the Law School,  
Shandong University, China

Dr. Tian Li is an Assistant Professor at the Law School, Shandong University, China. He holds a Master of Law from China University of Political Science and Law, a Doctor in Law from University of Vienna.

His research interests are Public International Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Humanitarian Law. His ongoing research is International Law and Cyberspace



**Dr. Aleksei Bykov**

Associate Professor,  
Department of International  
Journalism, St. Petersburg  
State University, Russia

Dr. Aleksei Bykov is Associate Professor at the Department of International Journalism, the Graduate School of Journalism and Mass Communications, St. Petersburg State University. He also serves as the Head of the Master's Degree Program "International Journalism".





**Prof. Dr. Sanoj Rajan**

Distinguished Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Zhejiang Gongshang University, China  
Affiliate, HHI Harvard University, USA

Prof. Dr. Sanoj Rajan is Distinguished Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou, China. He is also Affiliate, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), Harvard University; Visiting Professor, Al-Farabi National University, Almaty, Kazakhstan; and Visiting Professor, International Christian University, Kinshasa, Congo.

Dr. Sanoj Rajan is an accomplished academician, researcher, administrator and consultant with a PhD in International Law, and progressive experience working at senior levels in International Law and Human Rights for multiple institutions and countries.



**Dr. Syed Mahmud Ali**

Associate Fellow, Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya

Dr. S. Mahmud Ali studied at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies (RUSI), and King's College London, where he earned a PhD in War Studies. After working for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) as a broadcast journalist, analyst and editor for two decades, he was appointed as East Asia International Affairs Programme Associate at the LSE IDEAS. He is currently an Associate Fellow at the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya.

Dr. S. Mahmud has authored ten books including a seven-volume series on US-Chinese strategic insecurity dynamics from 1942 to 2016. The seventh title, "China's Belt and Road Vision: Geoeconomics and Geopolitics" was published in January 2020. He is currently writing his 8<sup>th</sup> volume on US-China mutual strategic insecurity dynamics.

**Mr Howard Huxter**

English Teacher at Beijing Normal University – Hong Kong Baptist University, United International College

Mr Howard Huxter is a British citizen with living and working experience in the UK, France, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Canada and China. After graduating he began his career as an Assistant to the Editor at the Royal Institute of Chemistry in London. He produced the journal Education in Chemistry. He has since acquired extensive experience as an editor, copywriter and in journal publication.

Before coming to China, he worked for many years for La Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie de Reims in their Centre d’Education des Langues, teaching in a very wide range of businesses from Champagne Houses and pharmaceutical companies to automobile parts suppliers.

Mr Huxter was later recruited to work for the newly established Beijing Normal University's International Finance College as an IELTS teacher where he remained until he joined Beijing Normal University - Hong Kong Baptist University, United International College, again at the outset of this new university model. He became an IELTS examiner and specialised in preparing students for the language they would need for entering the workplace and for further education. He specialised in the lexical approach to language learning.



**Dr. Julia Rognifard**

Assistant Professor, School of Politics, History and International Relations (PHIR), University of Nottingham Malaysia

Dr. Julia joined the University of Nottingham Malaysia in September 2019. Prior to that, she was the Director for Foreign Policy at EMIR research, a Kuala Lumpur based think-tank. She has served as a Research Fellow at the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" in 2010-2019 and is currently a Consultant with the PIR Center, a Moscow-based think-tank specialized in international security and nuclear non-proliferation.

Dr. Julia specialized in Iranian and Middle Eastern Studies, matters surrounding Iran's nuclear program, Iran's domestic politics and foreign policy. Her research interests lie in international security, including its non-traditional aspects, interweaving of religion and politics, evolution of Islamism, and counterterrorism.



**Dr. Wu Wenyang**

Distinguished Research  
Fellow, Global Governance  
Institution

Ms. Wu Wenyang graduated as a joint PhD in International Human Rights Law from the Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (GSCASS) and Utrecht University in the Netherlands. She obtained her Master's degree in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University Law Center in the United States. Her main field of research is international human rights law.