

## Workshop Proposal

### Constructing the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Silk Road: Southeast Asia in the Race for Connectivity and Geopolitical Interests

Connectivity has become the new buzzword in the development discourse. In Asia, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (2010), followed by the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, spearheaded the drive towards connectivity. In the meantime, connectivity schemes in the region have proliferated. By far most ambitious of these is China's gigantic "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) or New Silk Road, but other countries such as Japan and India have also indicated their intention to invest massively in Asian infrastructure. In October 2018, the United States joined the fray with its BUILD Act and the European Union (European Commission 2018) is searching its footing within emerging connectivity schemes.

The envisaged workshop on Asian connectivity pursues a four-fold objective: *First*, it seeks to evaluate the developmental impact of the connectivity paradigm. In how far does the current connectivity drive in Asia contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, what are the social and environmental collateral damages, and who stands to gain and lose? Is the envisioned connectivity a win-win endeavor (as frequently claimed by the Chinese government) and how equally are the resulting gains distributed across countries and regions? And finally, what guarantees that the current connectivity agenda generates more sustainable development than many of the ill-fated modernization theory-driven infrastructure development programs of the first two development decades in the 1960s and 1970s?

*Second*, apart from assessing developmental impacts, this workshop seeks to explore implicit geopolitical ideas and objectives of Asia's connectivity schemes. Do connectivity schemes epitomize an intensifying strategic rivalry between the United States and a rising China? What role do other Asian great powers such as Japan and India play in this Indo-Pacific rivalry? How does this geopolitical tug-of-war affect ongoing efforts towards more inclusive and sustainable development?

*Third*, the workshop seeks to explore in how far the connectivity paradigm has repercussions on global and regional institutional architectures. To what extent does connectivity change multilateralism and global governance, what is its impact on the rules and parameters of cooperation, which have largely been defined by Western powers and their dominant voices in international financial institutions in the past? What effect does the formation of new international organizations such as the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) have on the nesting of international institutions? Does it give rise to competitive "forum shopping?" What effects do these dynamics have on economic growth and socio-economic development?

*Fourth*, and last, the workshop concentrates on Southeast Asia, a region in which great power competition has crystallized in recent years and that hence has become a theatre for competitive large-scale infrastructure projects. This immediately raises the question as to how these competing connectivity schemes of various external powers are compatible and how they affect ASEAN's cohesion as a regional organization and its putative centrality in the region.

Participants of the workshop include well-known experts and area specialists that cover a broad thematic and regional expertise on Asian connectivity. The envisioned dialogue will bring together established scholars and early career researchers, who have devoted their research to contemporary connectivity issues and their developmental, geopolitical and institutional implications.

The workshop places an emphasis on interconnecting four AC21 member universities and, hence, seeks to stimulate future cooperative research in a field of study that is of great significance for Asia's

future. As a key result of this workshop, we are planning to select a number of symposium papers as an edited issue of a double-blind peer-reviewed international journal.

### Draft Workshop Program

<i>Time</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
<b>Day 1, 3 July 2019</b>	Arrival of Speakers	
19.30h	Welcome Dinner	
<b>Day 2, 4 July 2019</b>		
8.30-9.00h	Registration	
9.00-9.30h	Welcome of Participants	Vice Rector for Research, Prof Dr <b>Gunter Neuhaus</b> (University of Freiburg) Prof Dr <b>Jürgen Rüländ</b> , Speaker Southeast Asia Research Group, University of Freiburg
9.30-11.00h	<b>Panel 1</b> <b>Connectivity – A New Developmental Paradigm?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Masterplan on ASEAN Connectivity 2010 and 2025</li> <li>• The Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI)</li> <li>• The Partnership for Quality Infrastructure</li> </ul>	Dr Maria-Gabriela <b>Manea</b> (University of Freiburg)  Dr <b>Feng Yuan</b> (tbc) (Free University of Brussels)  Prof Dr <b>Sanae Ito</b> (University of Nagoya)
11.00-11.30h	Coffee and Tea Break	
11.30-13.00h	<b>Panel 2</b> <b>The Geopolitical and Strategic Implications of Competitive Connectivity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China</li> <li>• Japan</li> <li>• India</li> <li>• Indonesia and ASEAN</li> </ul>	<b>Julia Gurol</b> (University of Freiburg)  Prof Dr <b>Hanns W. Maull</b> (German Institute for International and Security Affairs, SWP Berlin) <b>Arndt Michael</b> (University of Freiburg)  Prof <b>Muhadi Sugiono</b> (UGM, Yogyakarta)
13.00-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.30h	<b>Panel 3</b> <b>Competitive Connectivity and its Implications for the Global and Regional Institutional Order</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB)</li> <li>• Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)</li> </ul>	<p>Dr <b>Mikko Huotari</b> (MERICS, Berlin)</p> <p><b>Anita Prakash</b> (Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, (ERIA), Jakarta)</p>
15.30-16.00h	Coffee and Tea Break	
16.00-17.30h	<p><b>Panel 4</b></p> <p><b>The Developmental Impact of Competitive Connectivity: Who Benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Gains</li> <li>• Social Implications</li> <li>• Multiscalar ASEAN Energy Connectivity: Regional Imaginaries and Local Impacts</li> </ul>	<p>Prof Dr <b>Christian von Lübke</b> (University of Applied Sciences Konstanz)</p> <p>Prof Dr <b>Jürgen Rüland</b> (University of Freiburg)</p> <p><b>Anna Fünfgeld</b> (University of Freiburg)</p>
19.30h	Dinner	
<b>Day 3, 5 July 2019</b>		
9.30-11.00h	<p><b>Panel 5</b></p> <p><b>Case Studies of Major Connectivity Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone</li> <li>• Connectivity from below? The “soft infrastructure” of Southeast Asian Labor migration</li> <li>• Kunming-Singapore Railway</li> <li>• The Jakarta-Bandung Railway</li> </ul>	<p>Dr <b>Andreea Brînză</b> (Romanian Institute for the Study of the Asia-Pacific)</p> <p>Dr <b>Stefan Rother</b> (Arnold-Bergstraesser Institute Freiburg)</p> <p><b>Jennifer Stapornwongkul</b> (University of Freiburg)</p> <p><b>Hengky Purwoto</b> (Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta)</p>
11.00-11.30h	<i>Coffee and Tea Break</i>	
11.30-13.00h	<b>Where to Go from Now? Roundtable on the Future of the Connectivity Research Network</b>	Discussion of participants on how to establish a Connectivity Research Network and to ensure sustainability
13.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
Day 4	Departure of Participants	