



Young Scholars Conference

Bridging the Oceanic Divide : Southeast Asia and the Pacific as the core of the Indo-Pacific Construct



29 & 30 October 2026

Room 344, School of International Studies-II, JNU

**Organised by
Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies
SIS, JNU**

**Supported by
Kalinga Sondhi Forum**





Call for Papers Young Scholars Conference



BRIDGING THE OCEANIC DIVIDE : SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AS THE CORE OF THE INDO-PACIFIC CONSTRUCT

Abstract of the Concept Note

It is nearly two decades since the often repeated 'confluence of the two seas' speech in the Indian parliament was seen as epochal. This phase of change referred to a shifting of both economic and security priorities eastwards – indicating a vast maritime space in which the regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific were becoming increasingly significant and more intertwined with the systemic players in the global order, particularly with China, as its rise was reshaping the economic and security parameters in the two interconnected regions. Other countries in the wider region were also similarly re-aligning their respective economic and security perspectives in keeping with the systemic level shifts that were happening. Looking at the regions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific from a historical analysis, the two have always been bound by shared common realities – such as oceanic extents and insular territories; close economic networks; and sustained vulnerabilities to external powers and geopolitical pressures. Lying at the core of the Indo-Pacific, the two regions are at the pivot of the Indo-Pacific construct where the interests of the global powers tend to reshape the existing frameworks that challenge institutional and security architectures.

Tentative Themes

- Domestic Politics / Democratic Regression/ Authoritarian Challenges and Governance.
- Major Power Rivalry and Regional/Strategic Autonomy.
- Non-Traditional Security in Maritime Sovereignty, International Law/UNCLOS South China Sea.
- Regional Multilateralism – ASEAN, Pacific Islands Forum, Blue Pacific, Global (Dis)Order.
- From Economic Interdependence to Stranglehold – Infrastructure, Debt Trap, Supply Chains and Alternatives.
- Human Security and Existential Crisis – Climate and Food Security, Ecological Crisis such as the Haze (Sarawak in recent times), and Rare Earth resources.
- Digital Diplomacy, Critical Technology, Cybersecurity and Technology Wars.
- Human migration as a result of state policy, Identity politics – gender and marginalised groups, ethnic conflicts and statelessness.

Submission Guidelines

- Abstract Submission Deadline: 5th October
- Selected candidates will be informed by 14th October 2026
- Scholars are requested to submit a 500-word abstract to the email address given below
- Conference Dates: 29 & 30 October

Email Address: centreindopacific2022@gmail.com



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