



INSTITUTE OF CHINESE STUDIES DELHI

Title - Sino-Indian Relations and the Changing World Order

Chair: Ashok K. Kantha

Speaker: Prof. Dong Wang

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Seminar Room, ICS

As the world slowly transitions to a new order, throwing up many challenges for global governance, and the Asia-Pacific tilt of the global economy, China and India, with their slowly expanding trade and economic ties, have an opportunity not only to accentuate their time honored associations but also, as the recent standoff at Doklam exposes, to bridge the gap of understanding between each other.

Dr. Wang, leading the first think-tank delegation from China after the Doklam incident , is cautious about the tendentious and pessimistic character prevalent in the discourses of our respective medias, prescribes patience, refrain and a good deal of optimism. Though one could get carried away with the whipped up sentiments, it also needs to note the constructive engagement of the leaders from both sides at the Xiamen Summit. Further disagreeing with the pessimistic assessments of the future and their eagerness to brand the other as an antagonist, Wang invoked the need to perceive the crises as an opportunity; to understand each other, and stressed that both countries need to focus on the commonality of their interests.

Changing mindsets take time and we need dialogue at many levels, that calls for accentuating people to people ties, greater collaboration between think tanks, students and businesses. Their convergence will provide depth and sustenance when it comes managing our differences and addresses the trust deficit.

Though the border incident exposed many gaps and put bilateral relations to serious test, we also need to remember the subsequent recoveries that we've made with similar instances in the past. As with the Rajiv Gandhi visit of 1988, resulting in a template for our relations and which still holds relevance. Improving communications on both sides help develop interests that binds us, interests that not only lie in our immediate neighborhood but also global; BRICS, G20, reformation of global institutions, climate change et al. It keeps in check the eagerness to brand each other as enemies and perceive the other's rise as a threat. The evolving world order will benefit from the step up of our associations and hence pessimism cannot be afforded at this critical juncture.

On an ending note, Dr. Wang was willing to bet that the 19th Party Congress would acknowledge a multipolar order.

Report prepared by Cidarath, Research Intern, ICS.

About the Speaker

Wang Dong is Associate Professor in the School of International Studies and Executive Deputy Director of the Institute for China-U.S. People to People Exchange at Peking University. He also concurrently serves as Secretary General of the Pangoal Institution, a leading China-based public policy think tank. He is Member of the Steering Committee of the East Asia Security Forum, Chinese Overseas Educated Scholars Association, and member of the Advisory Committee for the Carter Center-Global Times "US-China Young Scholars Forum". Dr. Wang has written extensively on international relations and China's foreign policy. His articles and reviews have appeared, among others, in Diplomatic History, The New York Times. He has provided consultation to China's State Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on matters important to Chinese foreign policy. He has been awarded China's Rising Leader by the National Bureau of Asian Research in 2011, and Munich Young Leader by the Korber Foundation at the Munich Security Conference in 2016. Wang Dong received his Bachelor in law from Peking University and M.A. and PhD in political science from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He taught at York College, Pennsylvania with a tenure-track appointment before joining the faculty of Peking University.

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