



**ISDP Hybrid Event**

## **New Supply Chain and India-Korea Global Connect: Can the EU Become a Partner?**

**Organized By**  
**Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs**  
**Institute for Security and Development Policy**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**

**Venue:**  
**Thursday, December 7, 2023**  
**Sweden Time: 12:00 hrs.-16:30 hrs**

The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical crisis like the Ukraine war have acted as shocks to global supply chain networks. Simultaneously, persisting if not growing competition between the US and China has forced states across the world to prioritize supply chain resilience strategies and seek ways to diversify their reliance on any single source. As major economies of Asia (and the world), with strong dependence on China-centric value chains, India and South Korea are increasingly looking to strengthen their supply chain and science and technology cooperation in the era of economic security. While Indian investments in the ROK now exceed US\$ 2 billion, South Korea – as an export-driven economy – is attracted to the potential offered by India’s massive and growing market.

The economic connection between India and South Korea is crucial not only for their bilateral, but global trade networks, including the EU. Economic growth and supply chain stability of India and South Korea can contribute to a more robust global trade environment and ensure a smooth flow of goods and services in the region and beyond. As the EU looks to diversify its own supply chains by reducing dependence on any single market, the growing economic connection between India and South Korea can potentially offer the EU with more options or opportunities for trade and investment ventures.

In terms of science, technology, and innovation particularly – a key area of focus in India-ROK relations – the EU can offer its own technological and industrial expertise to pursue joint tech collaborations and knowledge exchanges. In other words, closer economic relations between India and ROK may enhance the EU’s ability to leverage its relationships with both countries and improve its access to markets in Asia. As major Asian economies, closer India-ROK supply chain ties would lead to a more inter-connected and stable global economy, which is in the interest of all major economic players, including the EU.

In this context, it is vital to explore the diplomatic, technological, security, geo-political, and trade-related dimensions of the India-ROK economic connection, and the significance they hold for the EU.

This hybrid event, supported by the Korea Foundation, is being organized by the Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA) of the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP), Sweden. It brings together Korean, Indian, European/Swedish, and Japanese experts to discuss the new supply chain connection between India and South Korea, factoring Europe as a possible region of global cooperation. This hybrid event is part of the SCSA-IPA research project titled “Framing an India-Korea Connect in Indo-Pacific: Minilateralism to Multilateralism”. This event will focus on the following questions:

1. How does the deepening economic connection between India and South Korea affect the European Union’s bilateral relations with each of these countries individually? Are there any discernible patterns or shifts in diplomatic ties, cooperation, or conflicts between the EU, India, and South Korea as a result of their economic interdependence?
2. To what extent does the economic collaboration between India and South Korea contribute to technological transfer and innovation, and how does this impact the EU’s technological competitiveness and innovation ecosystem? Are there specific sectors or industries where technological spillovers from India and South Korea have influenced the EU’s technological landscape?
3. How does the economic connection between India and South Korea contribute to or hinder the EU’s efforts to enhance supply chain resilience and security, particularly in critical industries? How can the EU work with India and South Korea on critical supply chains, such as that pertaining to semiconductors and critical minerals?
4. What are the potential risks and benefits for the EU in terms of supply chain disruptions and vulnerabilities associated with increased reliance on India and South Korea?
5. In what ways does the economic partnership between India and South Korea impact the EU’s strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region, and how does it contribute to or challenge regional stability?
6. How do the trade policies and regulatory frameworks of India and South Korea align with or diverge from the EU’s priorities, and how does this impact trade negotiations and cooperation between the EU, India, and South Korea? Are there areas where harmonization of trade policies and regulations among these three entities would lead to mutual benefits, and what are the challenges in achieving such harmonization?



## TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

12:00 hrs: Registration

12:00 hrs-13:30 hrs: Lunch

### **Inaugural Session: 13:30 hrs-13:40 hrs**

Welcome Remarks (5 mnts.)

*Dr. Jagannath Panda, Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Special Introductory Remarks (5 mnts.)

*Dr. Niklas Swanstrom, Executive Director, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

### **Session: I: 13:40 hrs-14:40 hrs**

**Why India and Korea Must Have a Global Supply Chain Connect? Can India-Korea-EU envision for a Global Supply Chain Partnership?**

Keynote Speaker: (10 mnts.)

*Prof. Choong Yong Ahn, Distinguished Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Chung-Ang University Seoul.*

Discussants: (5-10 mnts. each)

*Mr. Riccardo Villa, Project Coordinator, Asia Programme, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

*Ms. Mahima N. Duggal, Associated Research Fellow, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden, and Ph. D., GIGA, Hamburg, Germany (**Online**)*

*Mr. Agust Börjesson, Research Fellow, Asia Program, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

*Mr. Kohotaro Ito, Visiting Associate Professor, Institute of General Education, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, and Senior Research Fellow, Cannon Institute for Global Studies, Japan.*

*Dr. Wooyeal Paik, Professor, Yonsei University, South Korea*

### **Fika Break: 14:40 hrs-15:25 hrs**

**Session II: 15:25 hrs-16:25 hrs**

**Framing Strategic Convergence on Science & Technology, Semi-Conductor and Supply Chain: The Case for India, South Korea and the EU**

Special Speakers: (10 mnts. each)

*Dr. Wooyeal Paik, Professor, Yonsei University, South Korea*

*Mr. Kohtaro Ito, Visiting Associate Professor, Institute of General Education, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, and Senior Research Fellow, Cannon Institute for Global Studies, Japan.*

Discussants: (5-10 mnts. each)

*Mr. Johannes Nordin, Junior Research Fellow, Asia Program, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

*Prof. Choong Yong Ahn, Distinguished Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Chung-Ang University Seoul.*

*Mr. Riccardo Villa, Project Coordinator, Asia Programme, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

**16:25 hrs-16:30 hrs: Concluding Remarks**

*Dr. Jagannath Panda, Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

**-End of the Programme-**

*(This event is a part of the Korea Foundation supported research project "Framing an India-Korea Connect in Indo-Pacific: Minilateralism to Multilateralism" of the Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs of the ISDP)*

**LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS**

**Visiting Speakers:**

*Prof. Choong Yong Ahn, Distinguished Professor at the Graduate School of International Studies, Chung-Ang University Seoul.*

*Dr. Wooyeal Paik, Professor, Yonsei University, South Korea*

*Mr. Kohtaro Ito, Visiting Associate Professor, Institute of General Education, Ritsumeikan University, Japan, and Senior Research Fellow, Cannon Institute for Global Studies, Japan.*

**Other Speakers/Participants:**

Dr. Niklas Swanström, *Executive Director, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Dr. Jagannath Panda, *Head, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Ms. Hyun Jae KIM, *Second Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kingdom of Sweden*

Mr. Seoin Moon, *Economic Researcher, Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kingdom of Sweden*

Ms. Mahima N. Duggal, *Associated Research Fellow, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden, and Ph. D., GIGA, Hamburg, Germany (Online)*

Mr. Riccardo Villa, *Project Coordinator, Asia Programme, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Mr. Agust Börjesson, *Research Fellow, Asia Program, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Mr. Johannes Nordin, *Junior Research Fellow, Asia Program, Institute for Security and Development Policy, Sweden*

Ms. Anna Jarmuth, *Outreach Coordinator, Institute for Security and Development Policy*

Mr. Flip Borges Månsson, *Intern, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy*

Ms. Erika Rutonen, *Intern, Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs, Institute for Security and Development Policy*