

A Report on the Conference

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

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On the first day, after registration, I went to the welcome and keynote speech session. The organizers invited prominent International Relation Scholars, Dr. Amitav Acharya, Dr. Joseph Nye Jr., and Dr. T.V. Paul to deliver keynote speeches. The speakers highlighted how the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukrainian Crisis changed the global order, resulting in new global challenges. They also highlighted the dangers of the US-China geopolitical contest to the world. Further, Dr. Acharya and Dr. Paul claimed that the changing world order made global south countries become more influential in the international order. Great powers such as the US, China, and Russia will play a game of tug-of-war to garner their support and solidify their global positions. Further, the global south countries face rising transnational threats that undermine national security and require assistance from the great powers. Therfore, global south countries will play greater role in the new world order.

After lunch, I joined the session on “Irregular Warfare in the Indo-Pacific” where the panelists were preparing a book based on their presentations. They focused on China’s irregular warfare strategies in enhancing their global influence and undermining neighboring countries’ sovereignty. The presenters were curious about the position of countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, which faces direct threat from China, thus, I was given a chance to share my views on the topic.

On the second day, I listened to presentations in “US military engagements in Asia,” “Emerging Partnerships, Technologies, and Urgencies in the Indo-Pacific,” and “Power Struggle over Geo-economics in the Indo-Pacific.” The first panel describe mostly about Taiwan’s precarious position in the Indo-Pacific region, Maldives’ role in the US Indo-Pacific Strategy, and conceptualizing why leaders are sometimes dishonest. The second panel has insights of countries such as Japan and Korea on the US-China technological competition, which is related to my dissertation. The third session further explores other geoeconomics statecraft in the Asia-Pacific, which piqued my interest.

During my panel, I presented my topic “Security or Supremacy? The Logic of the US-China Technology Competition.” The chairperson and discussant praised my effort in presenting the topic, given that it is new. They also offered several suggestions to help me improve my work. The second presentation titled “The Plurality and Specificity of Pacific Regionalism in the Changing World Order” details the intra-regional and foreign interaction of Pacific Island countries amid the US-China geopolitical competition. I gave some comments and suggestions to the presenter to

improve her work, especially when Taiwan has several diplomatic allies in the region.

On the third day, I went to the roundtable discussion titled “How to Create Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in Asia-Pacific.” The panelists were distinguished professors from various institutions and provided their views on the current global order and what countries should do to protect themselves and foster global peace. I ended my trip to the conference after the roundtable discussion.

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