



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING MALAYSIA AND CHINA’S MARITIME COOPERATION THROUGH RCEP UNDER THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS”

22 September 2022 (Thursday)

Virtual (Online via Zoom Application)

**Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) & China Institute for International Strategic
Studies (CISS)**

1. Introduction

The governments of Malaysia and China seek to strengthen bilateral relations between both countries especially in the maritime domain. Both states want to promote cooperation between the two countries in the sectors of economy, connectivity, security, energy, and sustainability. Maritime cooperation between think tanks help cement the bond shared by both states at the Track 2 level. The conference is part of MIMA’s Research Project studying areas of cooperation in the maritime domain to strengthen bilateral relations between Malaysia and China. The conference also seeks to discuss China’s contribution and responsibility to maintain a peaceful Asia-Pacific.

2. Virtual Conference

Thus, MIMA and CISS are jointly organising a virtual conference on 22 September 2022 to examine various issues and opportunities of cooperation to build and strengthen Malaysia’s bilateral relations with China.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the conference are divided into three main themes as follows:

- 1. To identify significant areas of maritime cooperation under Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and identify potential areas of cooperation under RCEP.**
- 2. To analyse rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics in the region and China’s role and contribution to maintain peace and stability for sustainable maritime development in Southeast Asia.**
- 3. To identify potential areas of collaboration between Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China in post-pandemic economic recovery such as connectivity and maritime trade and network.**

4. Expected Outcome

Malaysia and China share common interests in terms of trade, culture, security, and politics. Thus, strengthening the relationship between both states in the maritime sector will add to the bond shared in influencing regional affairs. The conference will add value to existing cooperation and chart the way forward to explore new opportunities.

5. Conference Format

Jointly organised by MIMA and CIISS. This conference will be hosted virtually via Zoom. The virtual conference will have one moderator for each session leading the discussions and four speakers from both Malaysia and China.



**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON
“STRENGTHENING MALAYSIA AND CHINA’S MARITIME COOPERATION THROUGH
RCEP UNDER THE CURRENT GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS”**

22 September 2022 (Thursday)

Virtual (Online via Zoom Application)

**Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) & China Institute for International Strategic
Studies (CISS)**

22 September 2022 (Thursday)

8:30 - 9:00 AM Registration

9:00 - 9:30 AM **Welcoming Remarks**
Datuk Dr. Sabirin Ja’afar
Director-General, MIMA

Major General (Retired) Du Nongyi,
Vice Chairman, CISS

Session 1

9:30 - 10:20 AM **Maritime Connectivity between Malaysia and China**

Malaysia and China’s bilateral cooperation continues to grow as Malaysia ratifies the RCEP, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, like the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL), nears completion. The stability and security of sea lines of communication (SLOC) is of the utmost concern to both states. The largest free trade deal can help Malaysia and other ASEAN states to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen the region’s supply chains and economic connectivity as well as improving trade network. This session will seek to find views and provide areas of cooperation in terms of maritime connectivity and address the non-traditional security threats that could potentially affect connectivity to ensure uninterrupted trade in the region.

Moderator **Prof. Dr. Irwin Ooi Ui Joo**
Professor of Maritime and Transport Law, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Shah Alam

Speakers **Prof. Zhang Renping**
Professor for the College of International Collaboration, Dalian Maritime University

Prof. Dr. Adam Leong Kok Wey
Director, Centre for Defence and International Strategic Studies (CDISS), National University of Malaysia

Sr. Col. (Red) Zhen Zhongxing

Senior Research Fellow, CISS

Dr. Lai Yew Meng

Associate Professor, Politics and International Studies & Dean,
Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning,
University Malaysia Sabah

10:20 - 10:50 AM Questions and Answers

10:50 - 11:00 AM Short Break

Session 2

11:00 - 11:50 AM **China and ASEAN's Cooperation amidst Geopolitical Shifts in the Asia-Pacific**

China and ASEAN continue to enjoy stable and amicable diplomatic relations amidst the dynamic security environment in the Asia-Pacific. Economic and people-people connectivity and multilateral engagement through ASEAN-led frameworks are key in this direction. Therefore, in this session, speakers will address how China can assume a more active and important role in the dynamic Asia-Pacific security and contribute to maintain a peaceful and stable maritime region.

Moderator

Sr. Col. (Red) Chen Wei

Senior Research Fellow, CISS

Speakers

Dr Ngeow Chow Bing

Director, Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya

Dr Hu Bo

Director, Center for Maritime Strategy Studies, Peking University

Capt. Dr Tay Yap Leong RMN

Maritime Security Director, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)

Sr. Col. (Red) Chen Fangming

Senior Research Fellow, CISS

11:50 AM - 12:20 PM Questions and Answers

12:20 – 12:40 PM **Closing Remarks**

Major General (Retired) Du Nongyi,
Vice Chairman, CISS

Datuk Dr. Sabirin Ja'afar

Director-General, MIMA