Conference Programme

First International Conference on

"Middle East Studies: Embracing Multidisciplinary Perspectives"

Venue: Hong Kong Chu Hai College, 80 Castle Peak Road, Castle Peak Bay, Tuen Mun

Date: October 17, 2026 (Saturday)

Venue: Hall 4

Time (HKT)	Session	Details
8:30 - 9:15 AM	**Registration + Networking coffee**	**Main Lobby (outside Hall 4)**
9:15 – 11:50 AM	**Opening Remarks** Zoom ID: **527 287 0622** Password: **210542**	**Prof. Thomas CHAN Man-Hung**, Director, Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College. **Dr. Nadeem AKHTAR**, *Organizing Committee Chair* Associate Professor Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College. **Moderator: Dr. Zeynab FARHADI**, Assistant Professor, Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College.
	Keynote Speeches Zoom ID: **527 287 0622** Password: **210542**	**1. Lord Edwin E. Hitti** President of the Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Arab Cham) in Hong Kong. ***Topic:*** *The Middle East from Hong Kong and East Asian Perspective: The Role of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)* **2. Dr. Abdul Jalil** Professor of Economics, (Director ORIC and Head of Department of Economics), National Defence University Islamabad, Pakistan

		Topic: *From War to a New Economic Order: The Middle East Conflict as a Geoeconomic Shock to the Asian System* **3. Dr. Mohsen Solhdoost** Assistant Professor in the Department of International Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, P.R.China. ***Topic****: War without Settlement in the Middle East: Partial Control and Escalation Substitution in the Iran–Israel–United States Conflict* **Interactive Session and Q&A Session with Keynote Speakers** **Commentator: Mr. Muhammad Fakhar Hayat** Research Fellow at Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College. **Appreciation and Photo Taking**
12:00 - 1:40 PM	**Lunch Break** (Green Basil, walk around 10-15 minutes to venue)	
2:00 - 4:00 PM	**Panel 1: Power, Security, and Foreign Policy in the Middle East** Zoom ID: **527 287 0622** Password: **210542**	**Chair: Dr. Mohsen Solhdoost** **1. Syed Ali Zia Jaffery** Deputy Director, Center for Security, Strategy and Policy Research, University of Lahore. *Topic: Defiance Over Capitulation: Understanding Iran's Resistance to U.S. Coercive Strategy* **2. Jocelyn Chau** Independent geopolitical and policy analyst specialising in international relations, colonialism, and forced migration in the Middle East and China. *Topic: What the Israel-Hamas and Iran Wars Reveal About China's Middle East Strategy* **3. Tang Ying** Institute of Middle East Studies, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Shanghai International Studies University. *Topic: Systemic Pressure, Development Orientation, and the Evolution of ASEAN–GCC Relations*

		4. Haytham Mouzahem Research fellow at the Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute of the Hong Kong Chu Hai College *Topic: The Future of the Arab Gulf States After the US War on Iran* **5. Syed Muhammad Fakhar Hayat** Research fellow at the Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute of the Hong Kong Chu Hai College *Topic: Pakistan's Strategic Pivot: From Mediator to Pillar of Middle Eastern Stability*
4::00 PM - 4:15 PM	**Coffee Break**	
4:15 PM – 6:15 PM	**Panel 2: Beyond Geopolitics: Sustainability, Society, and Identity in the Middle East** Zoom ID: **527 287 0622** Password: **210542**	**Chair: Dr Abdul Jalil** **1. Lihong Yun and Xiaowei Kong** Lihong Yun: Associate Professor at Faculty of Business, Hong Kong Chu Hai College. Xiaowei Kong: Department Head and Associate Professor at Faculty of Business - Department of Finance, Hong Kong Chu Hai College. *Topic: Digital Innovative FDI in Israel – with reference to Chinese firms* **2. Liu Han** Institute of Middle East Studies, School of International Relations and Public Affairs, Shanghai International Studies University. *Topic: The Syrian Druze Cross-Border Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Nabi Shuʿayb in Israel and Its Multifaceted Impacts* **3. Shaimerden Chikanayev** PhD researcher at the Faculty of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong *Topic: Gulf Investments in Central Asia and the Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Pursuing a Just Energy Transition* **4. Wu Yongling** Master's student majoring in International Relations at Shanghai International Studies University.

		Topic: Hydrogen Cooperation Between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council: A Multi-Level Perspective **5. Sumbal Javed** Senior research assistant at the Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute (NSBRRI) of the Hong Kong Chu Hai College *Topic: Humanitarian and Development Cooperation in Crisis-Vulnerable BRI Countries*
6:15 – 6: 30 PM	**Closing Remarks** Zoom ID: 527 287 0622 Password: 210542	**Prof. Thomas CHAN Man-Hung**, Director, Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College. **Dr. Nadeem AKHTAR**, *Organizing Committee Chair* Associate Professor Ng Teng Fong · Sino Group Belt and Road Research Institute, Hong Kong Chua Hai College.