

CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN SOUTH ASIA: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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Jointly sponsored by
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA
German Federal College for Security Studies (BAKS)
Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg

BACKGROUND and OBJECTIVES

Background

The Science, Technology, and Global Security Working Group based at MIT has been for some time involved in promoting nuclear stability in South Asia. The group traveled to South Asia twice last year and, in collaboration with the Pugwash in Pakistan and the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in India, organized workshops in Islamabad and New Delhi, respectively.

Naturally leveraging the Working Group's own expertise on nuclear weapons, missile defense, and space, it focused primarily on those areas in its interactions with technical experts and policy analysts in India and Pakistan. The Group's ability to bring sophisticated technical analysis to aid policy debates was clearly recognized and much appreciated in both countries.

Following the two trips mentioned above, the next step was to hold a conference in the region, which would allow participation of attendees from both countries as well as those from other countries with a stake in South Asian security and stability. The regional conference was postponed due to complexity in logistics. Instead, a conference is being held in Berlin for the same purpose, and with a more expanded agenda as briefly discussed below.

The conference is being jointly sponsored by MIT, German Federal College for Security Studies (BAKS), and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, University of Hamburg. Dr. Rudolf Adam, President, BAKS, has kindly agreed to host the meeting.

Objectives

The primary objective of this conference is to bring together technical and other analysts including government officials from South Asia to discuss a selected number of topics, which we have found from our interactions to be of mutual interest, in an attempt to find common ground for further analysis and engagement.

Recognizing that the security issues in South Asia are an integral part of the security challenges worldwide, the dual purpose of the conference is to examine from a global perspective the challenges and to find opportunities for cooperation.

The chosen topics broadly include missile defense and strategic stability, a global missile-launch warning system, nuclear energy and nonproliferation, and challenges and opportunities for cooperation in space.

Contacts

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