



RCAS Commentary

Beijing Xiangshan Forum Promotes Peaceful Developments

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About RCAS

香港亞洲研究中心| The Hong Kong Research Center for Asian Studies (RCAS) is a nonprofit research organization focusing on Asian affairs. It is a newly established institution founded in February 2022 by Dr. Nian Peng in Haikou and subsequently moved to Hong Kong in September 2023. We currently have an international research team with nearly 100 resident/nonresident researchers from China and other countries.

RCAS aims to become a leading research institute and think tank on Asian affairs in the Indo-Pacific region. To date, RCAS has conducted research programs on maritime disputes in the South China Sea (SCS), China's relations with the Indo-Pacific states, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), terrorism/counterterrorism in the Afg-Pak region, and so on. It is committed to promoting maritime cooperation, regional integration, and regional peace in the Indo-Pacific region at large.

RCAS has published nearly ten books in Chinese and English and more than 20 papers in SSCI/SCOPUS/CSSCI-indexed journals. Recent English publications include *Populism, Nationalism and South China Sea Dispute: Chinese and Southeast Asian Perspectives* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2022); *Pakistan's Foreign Policy: Contemporary Developments and Dynamics* (London: Routledge, 2022); *Crossing the Himalayas: Buddhist Ties, Regional Integration and Great-Power Rivalry* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2021); *The Reshaping of China-Southeast Asia Relations in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Singapore: Springer Nature, 2021); *Territorial Disputes, The Role of Leaders and The Impact of Quad: A Triangular Explanation of China-India Border Escalations* (2023); *Managing the South China Sea Dispute: Multilateral and Bilateral Approaches* (2022); *China-Pakistan Cooperation on Afghanistan: Assessing Key Interests and Implementing Strategies* (2022); *Hedging Against the Dragon: Myanmar's Tangled Relations with China since 1988* (2021); and *China-Pakistan Conventional Arms Trade: An Appraisal of Supplier's and Recipient's Motives* (2020).

RCAS has also published hundreds of articles, and its researchers have been interviewed in various local and international media outlets, such as *The Diplomat* in the United States, *East Asian Forum (EAF)* in Australia, *Bangkok Post* in Thailand, *Jakarta Post* in Indonesia, *Lian He Zao Bao*, *Think China* in Singapore, *South China Morning Post (SCMP)*, *China-US Focus* in Hong Kong, *CGTN*, *Global Times*, *World Affairs* in China. RCAS researchers have actively participated in international conferences or study visits in the United States, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, and other places.

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The 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum commenced from September 17 to 19, 2025. The theme of the forum was ‘upholding international order and promoting peaceful development.’ The forum provides opportunity for dialogue and consultation processes to resolve the conflicts. During the three days, there were four plenary sessions focussing on international order, security, equitable governance, etc.



▲ The Venue for the 12th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in Beijing, China, September 17, 2025. /CFP

Besides, there were many sessions, in which experts debated the emerging technologies merits and demerits for the humanity, arms control and disarmament, regional securities especially Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Ukraine, etc. interestingly, the Palestinians and Israelis shared the same table while discussion the war in Gaza , similarly Russian and Ukrainian delegates shared the same podium.

Indeed, it was a good opportunity for the conflicting parties to exchange views at the neutral forum. Being a speaker in one of the sessions; titled: *The current situation and future of arms control*, I found everyone was allowed to speak his own mind.

The emphasis was on the emerging technologies impact on the nuclear armed states relations. The speakers belongs to Russia, China, United States, Pakistan, etc. It was highlighted that four-day skirmishes between India and Pakistan was alarming for the international community due to the risks of escalation of the conflict involving exchange of nuclear strikes.

It was recommended that both states must start dialogue process and initiate nuclear confidence building measures to prevent the escalation of the conflict and prevent strategic instability in South Asia. It was pointed out that the emerging technologies could destabilise the deterrence stability entailing to strategic instability in South Asia.

On September 1, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the Global Governance Initiative (GGI) at the “SCO Plus” Meeting in Tianjin, China. In February 2023, President XI announced Global Security Initiative (GSI). These initiatives spirits were shared and debated by the speakers.

It was noted that peace and security is the responsibility of states and it's the responsibility of states to build peace and ensure prosperity of the people. The participants appreciated the organisers of Xiangshan forum for providing opportunity to deliberate on contemporary trends in the international politics, dynamics of multipolarity and need for upholding multilateralism.

The scholars noted that President Xi's GSI and GGI are important initiatives for addressing both traditional and non traditional challenges to the humanity. Many speakers including the ministers speaking at the plenary session underscored the significance of the shared future of humanity. They gave their countries perspectives on sustainable development.

The delegates of the forum endorsed and appreciated Chinese endeavours to ensure equal rights of all countries and to provide an institutionalized platform for wider participation in global governance, especially for developing nations. Indeed, peaceful and prosper world requires the upholding of rules based international order grounded on the United Nations Charter.

The participants also highlighted that climate challenge cannot be addressed alone. We need to work together to resolve the climate challenges.

Notably, many Indian scholars participated in the dialogue but there was no separate session for India and Pakistan as they arranged closed door seminars on Ukraine crisis and on the security trends in Middle East.

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