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BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE AS A REGIONAL ECONOMIC ENGINE: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

29 June 2021 | 15:00-17:00

Bangkok Time ICT (Indochina time) UCT/GMT +7 hours

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AIT Belt & Road Research Center

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

China launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013 to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. Six overland economic corridors covering the region have been established and robust infrastructure projects and trading activities have been carried out since then. Today, many new business and trading opportunities from the initiative have touted its benefits for growth and development. Scientific analysis shows that developed Belt and Road corridors have the potential to substantially improve trade, foreign investment, and living conditions for citizens in the Initiative's participating countries. Enormous trade growth between 2.8 and 9.7 percent for corridor economies and between 1.7 and 6.2 percent for the world can be estimated. Most importantly, low-income countries in the region are expected to see a significant increase in foreign direct investment due to the enhanced connectivity by the Initiative.

The Initiative, with its focus on connectivity and integration, shows great potential to contribute to long-term development of the corridor economies. Meanwhile, it faces substantial challenges such as the currently ill-served infrastructure, inefficient and untransparent financial data reporting mechanism, and a variety of policy gaps, etc. This webinar discusses the opportunities and challenges brought by BRI as a regional economic engine and the roles higher education and research have in bringing about sustainable development. Showcasing and experience sharing will be performed by regional experts who are deeply engaged in BRI development and activities.

PROGRAM

15:00 – 15:05

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Eden Woon

President of Asian Institute of Technology

15:05 – 15:25

Distinguished opening speaker:

H.E.Djoomart Otorbaev

Former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan

15:25 – 16:05

Keynote:

Prof. Biliang Hu

Executive Dean, Belt and Road School, Beijing Normal University
Chair, AIT Alumni China Chapter

16:05 – 16:45

Keynote:

Prof. Denis Simon

Professor, Duke University
Former President, Duke-Kunshan University

16:45 – 16:55

Virtual MoA Signing Ceremony and Launching of BNU-AIT Joint Belt and Road Center

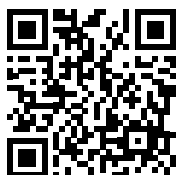
16:55 – 17:00

Closing Remarks

Dr. Wenchao Xue

Director, AIT Belt & Road Research Center

Register Here



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CONTACT

Dr. Wenchao Xue

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Director, AIT Belt & Road Research Center

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PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS



H.E. Djoomart Otorbaev
Former Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan

H.E. Djoomart Otorbaev is now professor of the Belt and Road School, Beijing Normal University. He served as Advisor to the President of Kyrgyzstan (2001), Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan for Economics and Investments (2002-2005 & 2011-2012), First Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan (2013-2014), and Prime Minister of Kyrgyzstan (2014-2015). He also worked as the Governor from Kyrgyzstan in the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (2012-2014).



Prof. Biliang Hu
Executive Dean, Belt and Road School, Beijing Normal University
Chair, AIT Alumni China Chapter

Prof. Biliang Hu is now the Executive Dean of Belt and Road School (BRS) as well as the Dean of Emerging Markets Institute (EMI) at Beijing Normal University, a professor of Economics of the University. Before his professorship, he co-founded DoubleBridge Technologies Inc., an IT consulting firm that was acquired by a listed company in Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 2005; he was the Chief China Economist of SG Securities Asia (part of the financial consulting business of the French bank Societe Generale); he also worked with the World Bank as an economist focusing on analyzing China economy for 3 years in the early 1990s.

He published more than ten books and several hundred papers and articles on a wide range of areas of the Chinese economy, the Belt and Road, world economy, poverty alleviation, and so on. His works won twice (in 1994 and 2006 respectively) Sun Yefang Economic Prize which is the highest economics research award in China.



Prof. Denis Simon
Professor, Duke University

Prof. Denis Simon is Senior Adviser to the President for China Affairs at Duke and Professor of China Business and Technology at Duke's Fuqua School of Business. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, he has more than four decades of experience studying business, competition, innovation, and technology strategy in China. In 2006, he was awarded the China National Friendship Award by Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing.

Prior to returning to Duke, Prof. Simon served as Executive Vice Chancellor at Duke Kunshan University in China (2015-2020). He also has had extensive leadership experience in management consulting having served as General Manager of Andersen Consulting in Beijing (now Accenture) and the Founding President of Monitor Group China.



Dr. Eden Woon
President of Asian Institute of Technology

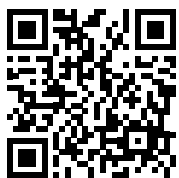
Dr. Eden Woon assumed the position of President of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) on September 1, 2018. He also serves as Special Advisor to the Shaw Foundation in Hong Kong. The Shaw Foundation has funded education projects in Greater China and elsewhere for over 30 years, and is the sponsor of the world-renowned prestigious Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences, Life Science and Medicine, and Astronomy. He was most recently the Vice Chairman of Alba Group Asia. Alba Group, based in Berlin, is one of the world's leading environmental engineering and services companies.



Dr. Wenchao Xue
Director
AIT Belt & Road Research Center

Dr. Wenchao Xue is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate, School of Environment, Resources and Development, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. She lectures in Environmental Engineering and Management Program. She serves as the secretary to the National Committee of Thailand in the International Science Program of Digital Belt and Road.

Register Here



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