

# global-is-asian SPOTLIGHT



## SPEARHEADING CHANGE IN A SHIFTING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

As the year draws to a close, ASEAN and the wider world continue to move through key economic shifts. Alongside changing expectations around work, China's recalibrated approach towards the United States and Southeast Asia's growing geopolitical relevance are shaping global cooperation. At the same time, this period offers a moment to pause, reflect, and place greater focus on well-being as we prepare for the year ahead.

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## China Rewrites its Strategy Towards the US

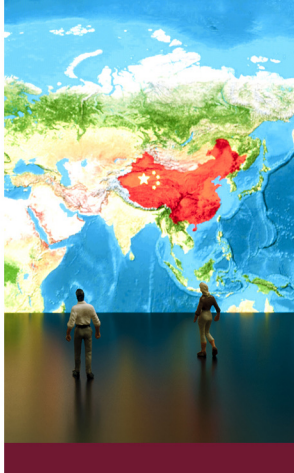
**A New Phase in China's Economic and Foreign Policy Approach**  
China is switching up its strategy towards the US, with a mix of defensive and assertive measures that signal a shift in its long-term exposure. [Gu Qingyang](#), Associate Professor at LKYSPP, analyses why China is making these moves now, the underlying policy logic, and what this means for the future of China-US economic relations.

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## The best example leaders can set is well-being

**Why Prioritising Well-Being Strengthens Leadership**  
As burnout becomes more prevalent across sectors, leaders are increasingly expected to model healthier ways of working. [Dr Reuben Ng](#), Assistant Professor at LKYSPP, and [Anthea Ong](#), founder and chairwoman of WorkWell Leaders, explore how leaders, who prioritise well-being, build trust and shape organisational culture, ultimately improving performance.

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## Southeast Asia in the face of intensifying great power rivalry

**The Region's Strategic Role Amidst US-China Competition**  
Southeast Asia has long been a crossroads for competing economic powers. Today, the US-China rivalry once again places the region at the centre of strategic attention. [Joseph Liow Chinyong](#), Dean & Wang Gungwu Professor in East Asian Affairs at LKYSPP, examines how the two major powers are seeking influence, and how Southeast Asian states are responding to this increasingly complex landscape.

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global-is-asian / **POLICY UNPACKED**  
A PODCAST SERIES BY LKYSPP



## POLICY UNPACKED - ASEAN AMIDST US-CHINA TENSIONS

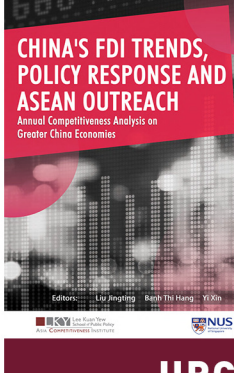
How Southeast Asia Manages Competing Strategic Interests  
The US-China rivalry is reshaping the strategic environment of ASEAN. Join Professor [Khong Yuen Foong](#), Co-Director of Centre on Asia and Globalisation and [Li Ka Shing](#), on this episode, as he explains how ASEAN states balance engagement with both countries while safeguarding their own strategic interests.



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**This shift — from hustle to health, from "selfless" to self-care leadership — requires courage to break free from outdated expectations, including leaders' own conditioning that more hours automatically mean better outcomes."**

Dr Reuben Ng and Anthea Ong,  
The Best Example Leaders Can Set is Well-Being



## FEATURED RESEARCH

**China's FDI Trends, Policy Response and ASEAN Outreach**

China's subdued growth in 2024 and its renewed focus on exports have prompted shifts in foreign direct investment patterns and strategic shifts, particularly towards ASEAN economies. This research traces these developments, offering insights into China's competitiveness, macroeconomic recalibration, and its evolving role in the region.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Start **08:45 AM** **20 and 26**  
End **04:45 PM** **January 2026**

**Singapore Perspectives 2026 "Fraternity"**  
*Singapore's shifting demographics, rapid digitalisation, and rising social divides continue to shape social cohesion. This year's Singapore Perspectives explores how we can strengthen ties, deepen shared identity, and nurture a society grounded in mutual care and collective purpose.*

[SEE WHAT'S ON](#)



## VIDEO SHOWCASE

**S.T. Lee Distinguished Lecture - Is the Disorder of Our Times Unprecedented? Lessons of History**

Has history repeated itself? [Ayse Zarakol](#), Professor of International Relations at the University of Cambridge, believes that it has not. However, perhaps looking into the past can help us make sense of today's geopolitical challenges. Read more [here](#).

[WATCH HERE](#)

## GIA MAGAZINE

How do Singapore and Asia's governance institutions adapt to a rapidly evolving world? Global-is-Asian highlights research and perspectives on innovation, collaboration, and resilience, key ingredients for navigating uncertainty and shaping future-ready policy.



## OUR BRANDS

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