



## **Workshop: Regional Dynamics and Afghanistan in 2014**

GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies  
Neuer Jungfernstieg 21  
Hamburg, Germany

26-27 May 2014

### **Outline**

Afghanistan is still one of the key conflict hotspots worldwide. More than a decade after the ousting of the Taliban by an international coalition in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the country is still extremely unstable, and the security situation remains volatile. The year 2014 is crucial for Afghanistan: on the one hand, the troops of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) are being withdrawn, and the responsibility for security in the country is expected to be handed over to the Afghan security forces by the end of the year. Moreover, the process and outcome of the 2014 presidential elections will be decisive for domestic stability and the consolidation of democracy.

Against this backdrop, the workshop will focus on recent developments in Afghanistan, and will put particular emphasis on the role of the countries in Afghanistan's regional neighbourhood – India, Pakistan, Iran, the Central Asian states, and China. These countries would be potentially most affected by a destabilization of Afghanistan and are seriously concerned about developments there. The international community has tried to promote 'regional solutions' for Afghanistan and would like regional states to assume greater responsibilities in the stabilization of the country. However, regional countries have not been able to develop meaningful forms of regional cooperation. At the same time, a flurry of 'minilateral' diplomatic activities among these states shows that there is, at least, substantial interest in an exchange of information.

The workshop will address internal developments in Afghanistan as well as shifts in the position of the international community since 2001. The main focus will be on how these changes have impacted the perceptions and policies of regional actors. What were the ramifications of the announcement and the implementation of ISAF withdrawal on the policies of regional states? How have regional countries dealt with the dilemmas of Afghanistan's internal instability? Why has regional cooperation been so difficult to achieve in a context of overlapping regions? What can be expected and how are these actors likely to respond to the new set of challenges under these conditions?

## **Programme**

**26 May 2014, Room 550 (5th floor)**

### **14:00 – 14:30 Welcome Address**

Prof. Dr. Henner Fürtig, Acting Vice President of GIGA and Director, GIGA Institute of Middle East Studies

Dr. Sandra Destradi, Research Fellow, GIGA

### **14:30 – 16:30 Panel 1 Domestic and International Developments in Afghanistan**

**Chair: Prof. Dr. Henner Fürtig**

Prof. Dr. Michael Brzoska, Director Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH)

*Post-ISAF Afghanistan – A German perspective*

Brig. Rumel Dahiya, Deputy Director General, IDSA

*India's Perspective on Developments in Afghanistan*

Prof. Dr. Florian P. Kühn, Interim Professor, Humboldt University, Berlin

*Myth and Afghanistan: On the Epistemic Reality of Myth-making in International Conflict Situations*

Vishal Chandra, Associate Fellow, IDSA

*Afghanistan Post-2014: Old Politics, New (Dis-)Order?*

### **16:30 – 16:45 Coffee break**

**16:45 – 18:00 Panel 2 Regional Countries' Responses: Iran and Central Asia**

**Chair: Dr. Meena Singh Roy**

Prof. Dr. Henner Fürtig, GIGA

*Iran in Post-ISAF Afghanistan: How much Continuity, how much Change?*

Azamjon Isabaev, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH)

*Central Asian View of post-2014 Afghanistan*

Dr. Sebastian Schiek, Researcher, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (IFSH)

*The Afghanistan Conflict as a Power Resource for Central Asian States: Strategies of Extraversion before, during and after ISAF*

**19:00 Dinner (facultative)**

**27 May 2014, Room 465 (4th floor)**

**9:30 – 10:45 Panel 3 Regional Countries' Responses: South Asia and China**

**Chair: Dr. habil. Christian Wagner**

Dr. Ashok Behuria, Research Fellow, IDSA

*Conceding Strategic Depth Pakistan Style: The Quest for Control of Afghanistan*

Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Research Associate, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

*China's Wait and See Mentality towards Afghanistan*

Hannes Ebert, Research Fellow/Doctoral Student, GIGA

*Pakistan's Afghanistan Policy under the Sharifs: No Strategic Shift in Sight*

**10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break**

**11:00 – 12:15 Panel 4 Regional Dynamics and Patterns of Conflict and (non)Cooperation**

**Chair: Brig. Rumel Dahiya**

Dr. Meena Singh Roy, Research Fellow, IDSA, and Dr. Sandra Destradi, Research Fellow, GIGA

*Regional Cooperation Patterns*

Dr. habil. Christian Wagner, Head of Research Division Asia, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)

*Prospects and Challenges for a Regional Approach*

**12:15 – 12:45 Concluding Remarks**

**13:00 Lunch**