



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

About Institute of Asian Studies

Institute of Asian Studies (IAS) is an independent think tank established in Bratislava. Institute's main goal is support and implementation of research in a field of Asian Studies and dissemination of knowledge about Asia among Slovakia's professional public, cooperation with organizations dealing with similar issues in Central Europe, and developing partnerships with Asian partners.

We are achieving these goals through organization of conferences, seminars, supporting teaching of Asia-related subjects at universities in the Slovak Republic, and through publishing publications. Our main fields of focus are international relations and safety studies, while geographically, we cover primarily regions of East, South and Southeast Asia. The institute cooperates with similar organizations in other Central European countries for the purpose of maximizing the amount of relevant knowledge about Asia in the Visegrad region.

STATISTICS 2017

- 4 expert reports
- 7 commentaries in media
- 8 issues of Asian Newsletter
- 11 events
- 58 media citations

ACTIVITIES

- Policy papers
- Books
- Chinese Media Watch
- IAS Interviews
- Asian Newsletter
- Seminars and lectures
- Comments on current events

Projects

We are spreading knowledge about Asia. That is the motto of Institute of Asian Studies. For the purpose of its implementation, in 2017, the Institute realized multiple projects focusing not only on organization of public events, but also on its own original research. In 2017, IAS organized 11 public seminars, lectures and debates for both the professional and lay public.

In the first half of 2017, we organized a cycle of debates on China's current politics called **Brno Talks China**. In cooperation with online platform Přeszed.cz, we prepared six debates proposed mainly for Brno students of international relations, political sciences, and related fields of study. The discussed themes included China's internal policies and reforms, media coverage of China in the Czech Republic, U.S.-China relations and Chinese activities within the cyberspace.

During autumn, we organized similar cycle of lectures and seminars in Bratislava in cooperation with the Taipei Representative Office and the University of Economics. The cycle of lectures called **Asia Talks** focused on issues concerning not only China, but also broader region of Asia.

At our autumn seminars, the participants were able to debate the issues such as the security situation in Asia, Taiwan's economic development, the relations between Central and Eastern Europe and Eastern Asia, the trade in Asia, and Slovak policy towards China with the invited panelists. The culmination of the autumn series was a panel discussion on Sino-Slovak relations, with the participation of Mrs. Dana Meager, the State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic and the government's representative for the New Silk Road.

We participated in a research project **ChinfluenCE: Chinese Influence in Central Europe**, in cooperation with Czech and Hungarian partners, in which we analyzed the image of China in the Slovak media.

We also analyzed Slovakia's involvement in the Chinese project of the New Silk Road within the frame of project **Analysis of the potential of the initiative One Belt, One Road for Slovakia**, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. The resulting publication shall be published within the year 2018.

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www.asian.darujme.sk/2343



Expert reports

The IAS experts are devoted to research activities on various aspects of contemporary international relations in East Asia. As the only foreign policy think-tank in Slovakia, we are systematically dealing with the research of relations between Slovakia and other V4 countries with East Asia, especially with China.

During 2017, our researchers published four expert studies, part of which was published in renowned foreign professional journals.

In February, the Energy Policy magazine published a paper written by Richard Q. Turcsányi called **Central European attitudes towards Chinese energy investments: The cases of Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic**, which focused on the attitudes of three Central European states towards Chinese investments in the energy sector.

Richard also published an article in the Journal of Chinese Political Science. In the article **Assessing the Power of China:**

Insights from the Conceptual Thinking about Power, he focused on the phenomenon of power and power handling in the Chinese context based on the example of the conflict in the South China Sea.

As part of the project **ChinfluenCE: Chinese Influence in Central Europe**, in which we cooperated with Czech and Hungarian partners, Matej Šimalčík published an extensive analysis of China's image in Slovak media.

Kristina Kironská, together with Richard Turcsányi, analyzed the Slovak involvement in the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative. Their article **Slovak Policy towards China in the Age of Belt and Road Initiative and 16+1 Format**, written for the China-CEE Institute in Budapest, provides a comprehensive insight into the current policy of the Slovak government towards China.

ASIAN NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter and stay informed about the latest developments of global trends in Asian.

www.asian.sk/azijsky-newsletter



Institute in media

The IAS experts regularly comment on the current Asia-related events. During the year 2017, we were quoted by the Slovak media up to 58 times, which is the most since the institute's establishment. This also serves as a proof that in the course of the past five years, IAS has established itself as a relevant institution in the field of foreign and security policy and is capable of providing specialist opinions on the latest developments.

Our analysts expressed their views mainly on topics related to the development on the Korean Peninsula, the Sino-Slovak relations, and China's internal-political development

related to the Chinese Communist Party National Congress in November.

In addition, our analysts are regularly publishing extensive comments on current events covered both by the Slovak and foreign media intended for both the professional and lay audiences.

When it comes to Slovak media, our comments appeared for example in Denník N and the portal Aktuality.sk. Concerning foreign media, we published articles on the world-famous professional portals The Diplomat and Asia Dialogue.

What awaits us in 2018

In 2018, we also plan to continue with the activities launched in the autumn of 2017, particularly the ChinfluenCE project: Chinese Influence in Central Europe, for which we have planned several publications and events.

We also plan to continue with the successful series of Asia Talks lectures. In addition to

lectures concerning East Asia, we will also focus on new themes relating to Southeast Asia and the ASEAN countries.

We are planning to apply for new grants, which would help us better fulfill our goal of spreading knowledge about Asia.

OP-EDs BY ANALYSTS OF INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES

Chinese threat for TV Markíza? | Denník N (SK)

Slovakia's overdue China Strategy | The Diplomat

OBOR's older brother: Lessons learned from the China-CEE 16+1 platform | Asia Dialogue

China wants to see united Europe as counterbalance to USA | TASR (SK)

Towards 'globalization with Chinese characteristics' | China.org.cn

What was shown the Chinese Congress | Denník N (SK)

Should we worry about security in Pyeongchang? | Aktuality.sk (SK)

IAS team

Dr. LUCIA HUSENICOVÁ | *president of the board*

developments on Korean peninsula, inter-Korean relations, liberal theory in International Relations

Dr. RICHARD Q. TURCSÁNYI | *program director*

Chinese foreign policy, South China Sea conflict, Chinese relations with Central Europe, power in international politics

MATEJ ŠIMALČÍK | *executive director*

Chinese and Japanese security policy, strategic culture, Chinese influence in Europe

Dr. KRISTÍNA KIRONSKÁ | *research fellow*

human rights, Myanmar, South East Asia, democratization and electoral systems

FILIP ŠEBOK | *research fellow*

Chinese domestic and security policy, propaganda, Japanese foreign and domestic policy

MARTIN ŠEBEŇA | *research fellow*

Chinese domestic policy, identity and nationalism in China and Hong Kong

RUNYA T. QIAOAN | *research fellow*

civil society in China, cultural sociology, Chinese relations with Central Europe

KLÁRA DUBRAVČÍKOVÁ | *research fellow*

Chinese domestic propaganda, censorship, modern history of China, Taiwan

INTERNS | Ľubomíra Bodnárová, Michal Hudec, Paula Kulichová, Mária Márkusová, Simona Siegel, Boris Várhelyi, Alex Starun, Žofia Zigová



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