



RCAS Report

Comments on the 20th National Congress of the CPC

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About RCAS

RCAS is a non-profit research organization focusing on the maritime issues and regional integration in the Indo-Pacific region. It is a newly-established institution founded in February 2022 by Dr. Nian Peng, Haikou, China. We, at the moment, have an international research team with resident/non-resident researchers from China and other Asian states.

RCAS seizes the opportunity that China is building Hainan Free-Trade Port in which the Hainan Island will become an important window for China's opening up to the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean to become a leading research institute and think tank on maritime affairs in the Indo-Pacific region. So far, RCAS focuses on the maritime disputes and maritime cooperation in the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean, and various regional cooperation mechanisms such as BRI, LMC, RCEP and so on. It is committed to promoting the maritime cooperation, regional integration and academic exchanges in the Indo-Pacific region at large.

RCAS has received a number of research funding from universities and foundations, and conducted research programs of the South China Sea(SCS) dispute, China-South/Southeast Asian relations, BRI in South/Southeast Asia, terrorism/anti-terrorism in Afghanistan, and so on. RCAS researchers have won various awards from the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Hainan government.

RCAS has published nearly 10 books in Chinese and English, and more than 20 papers on SSCI/SCOPUS/CSSCI-indexed journals. Recent English publications include *The Uncertain Future of Afghanistan: Terrorism, Reconstruction, and Great-power Rivalry*(Springer Nature, forthcoming); *Populism, Nationalism and South China Sea Dispute: Chinese and Southeast Asian Perspectives*(Singapore: Springer Nature, 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); *International Pressures, Strategic Preference and Myanmar's China Policy since 1988*(Singapore: Springer Nature, 2020); *Managing the South China Sea Dispute: Multilateral and Bilateral Approaches*(2022); *Hedging Against the Dragon: Myanmar's Tangled Relations with China since 1988*(2021); *The Budding Indo-Myanmar Relations: Rising But Limited Challenges for China*(2019).

RCAS has also published hundreds of articles and been interviewed in various local and international media outlets such as Asia Centre in France, *The Diplomat* in the United States, *East Asian Forum(EAF)* in Australia, *Bangkok Post* in Thailand, *Lian He Zao Bao* and *Think China* in Singapore, *South China Morning Post(SCMP)* and *China-US Focus* in Hong Kong, *CGTN* and *Global Times* in China. RCAS researchers have actively participated in international conferences or study visits in the US, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Cambodia, and other places. Welcome to visit our website: <http://www.rcas.top>.

Comments on the 20th National Congress of the CPC

The 20th Congress of the Communist Party held the last week, attracted the world's attention as an important trendsetter event for China and the rest of the world. As usual, the five-year report, consisting of 15 parts, and presented by the General Secretary of the party was one of the key agendas.

The report while highlighting the past achievements indicated that though there may be variations, given the past experiences and the changes which are occurring in the political, economic, and strategic environment, the overall direction will continue to be the same. Thus, for addressing the issues of “unbalanced and inadequate” growth people-centered development philosophy will be applied. In this regard, achieving common prosperity and harmony between humankind and nature, and peaceful development will be the goal with the modernization of industry, rural revitalization, urbanization, and innovation-driven development as the key priorities.

While exercising Law-Based Governance on all Fronts was stressed for China, it was also underlined in relation to global governance and international relations. Therefore, “safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core, the international order underpinned by international law, and the basic norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter” were some of the key messages conveyed by XI in his speech. He also stated greater democracy in international relations and making ‘ global governance fairer and more equitable as the driving paradigm.

Xi also highlighted in his speech that “China stands firmly against all forms of hegemonism and power politics, the Cold War mentality, interference in other countries’ internal affairs, and double standards”. Instead, he asserted “China is committed to promoting a new type of international relations, and positive interaction with other major countries to build major deepening and expanding global partnerships based on equality, openness, and cooperation, and broadening the convergence of interests with other countries”, a paradigm that is so desperately needed to improve the global governance and relations between the countries.

The development model of building a human community based on a shared destiny has been one of the most significant themes that Beijing has pursued long. The same will now be put into action under the recently announced ‘Global Development Initiative’ and the ‘Global Security Initiative’ along with a greater emphasis on green development and pollution control.

As a concerned global citizen, one wishes that the Chinese leadership will be able to successfully drive things under an alternative governance paradigm, both within and without.

About Author



Khalid Rahman is Non-resident Senior Fellow at Research Centre for Asian Studies(RCAS), China, as well as the Chairman&Professor of the Institute of Policy Studies(IPS) in Islambad, Pakistan. He is one of the pioneers of the Institute. Initially he served as Director and later assumed position of Director General. His vast experience in research, training and management has contributed significantly into turning IPS a dynamic think-tank. He has conducted over 400 seminars and round-tables organized by the Institute. Masters in Economics. He has been involved in organizing both the research and training programs of the Institute. He is also invited by various research and training institutions as Master Trainer.

The main focus of his research has been on the national and regional politics, Religious Education Institutions and China. He has 19 publications(written/Edited) and a number of papers to his credit. He is also editor of the IPS Journal *Policy Perspectives*. He is on the boards of a number of social and development organizations and contributes frequently on current affairs.

We like to offer congratulations to the 20th national congress of the CPC and President Xi Jinping for winning the confidence of party and people to perform duties for another glorious term. This congress meeting was held during a very turbulent time in world history. We witness war in Europe, heightened tensions, economic recession and extreme weather events. The world expects China to play a key role in mitigating these challenges as an emerging great power. China's peaceful rise and achieving second centenary goals are critically important to the whole world. We wish success to China and brighter future for humanity.

Long live great, glorious and correct CPC!

About Author



Jayanath Colombage is Non-resident Senior Fellow at Research Centre for Asian Studies(RCAS), China. He has served the Sri Lanka Navy for a period of 36 years and retired as the Commander of the Navy on 01 July 2014. He is the 18th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy and was decorated for gallantry and commended for exceptional service to the Navy. He is a graduate of Defence Services Staff College in India and Royal College of Defence Studies, UK. He holds a PhD from General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University(Sri Lanka). His doctoral thesis 'Asymmetric Warfare at sea: The Case of Sri Lanka' is now published. He also holds MSc on Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University and MA on International Studies from Kings College, London.

He is a visiting lecturer at the University of Colombo, Defence Services Command and Staff College(Sri Lanka), Kotelawala Defence University and Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute. He is a Fellow of Nautical Institute, London UK. Admiral Colombage is a Guest Professor at Sichuan University and Leshan Normal University in China and an adjunct professor at National Institute of South China Sea Studies, Haikou, China. In addition. He has been a guest lecturer in several key universities and research institutes in Bangladesh, India, Japan and Pakistan. He has also been an editor and reviewer of a number of internationally

renowned academic journals. In addition, he has served as the Director General of the Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka as well. He is currently a PhD examiner for University of Colombo.

Admiral Colombage held the portfolio of Additional Secretary to H.E the President for Foreign Relations. Admiral Colombage was also the Secretary to the Foreign Ministry from August 2020 to May 2022.

Xi Jinping's report at the 20th CPC is well reflective of the ideation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It succinctly presents a socio-symbiotic association between leadership goals and people's aspirations in all spheres including economic and strategic. The essence, in fact, has been to safeguard the interests of the Chinese people and improve social security. It rightly mentions about the decadal achievements like eradication of extreme poverty, and building a moderately prosperous society. Moreover, impetus on science, technology and innovation, and a focus on developing sustainable ecosystems clearly depicts a vision that carries full domestic acceptance and a high global appeal.

About Author



Faisal Ahmed is Non-resident Senior Fellow of Research Centre for Asian Studies(RCAS), China, as well as Professor in the International Business Area teaching Trade and Geopolitics at FORE School of Management, New Delhi, India. His research and consulting interests include Indo-Pacific region, China's trade and geopolitics, ocean diplomacy, and, trade agreements. He had been consultant to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and other organisations. He has also worked on projects supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. He holds doctorate and master degrees from India. He also holds an executive certification in Geopolitical Analysis from Geneva, Switzerland.

Prof. Ahmed has published papers in refereed journals indexed in ABDC, ABS, Scopus and Clarivate-web of science, and also frequently publishes in popular media. He is the author of the textbook-Business Environment: Indian and Global Perspective(Prentice-Hall of India). The 3rd edition of this book was published in August 2021. He has also published two edited books on India-ASEAN Engagements, and India's Foreign Policy in WANA region. Also, he has

published three monographs on grassroots reachout of India's foreign trade policy; India's experiences in trade agreements; and, EEZ and the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea.

Prof. Ahmed is frequently invited as an Expert and Panelist by leading institutions and think tanks in India and abroad. His latest book titled "The Belt and Road Initiative: Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Aspects" has been published by Routledge from UK and New York. Moreover, Prof. Ahmed's articles have appeared in leading newspapers like *The Hindu Business Line*, *South China Morning Post*, *The Economic Times*, *The Financial Express*, *Bangkok Post*, *The Korea Times*, and *The Straits Times*, among others. He is also interviewed as an expert by national and international media including Rajya Sabha TV, Mirror Now, Vietnam TV and the BBC.

On behalf of China's Communist Party 19th Central Committee, Xi Jinping, while presenting the report to the 20th National Congress, said that comprehensive people's democracy in China is an essential feature of socialist democratic politics which is the most comprehensive, practical and effective democracy. Chinese democracy differs from the ballot-based democracies of the 'people's electorate' in the West. Democracy in China is reflected in 'people's determination where all the powers of the state are vested in the people and the People's Congress system is the basic institutional guarantee of ownership of the country given to the people. China's democracy is a reflection of 'people's freedom'. In China, 'democracy' is used to solve people's problems and protect people's interests.

About Author



Sujit Kumar Datta is the Chairman and Associate Professor in the International Relations Department at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. Dr. Datta graduated with a BA(Honors) and MA degree in International Relations from the Jahangiragar University and completed his PhD in International Politics from the School of Political Science and Public Administration, Shandong University, China. After that, he had worked at the BRAC Training Division(BTD) as a faculty member. He had joined in the department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh as a Lecturer in January, 2010. Now, he is working as an Associate Professor in the same institution. Dr. Datta has authored several articles and book chapters in renowned national and international peer-reviewed journals(Web of Science, Scopus indexed). Dr. Datta has presented several research papers in international seminars and conferences in China, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. In the COVID-19 pandemic period, he had attended several International Webinars as a Resource Person in several countries. Dr. Datta wrote a book named “一带一路国别概览 孟加拉国卷”(Belt and Road Country Overview Bangladesh volume) along with his Ph.D. Supervisor,

Professor Zhang Shulan, in 2019 from the Dalian University Press, China. He supervises several MPhil and Master's students in the department of International Relations, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He is now involved in different research projects granted by home and aboard.