OVERVIEW

In the past year, 2019, the Asia-Pacific Region held its 3rd Regional Conference in collaboration with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. The conference was titled “Asia-Pacific and World Order: Security, Economics, Identity and Beyond.” The Call for Papers is in the Annex to this Annual Report. We held an in-person executive committee meeting at the ISA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference to discuss running the conference and potential future events. The executive committee felt that for our conference to be held every three years, the region should start planning it earlier to allow the maximum amount of time to prepare for it. The executive committee also agreed that the next conference will be held in South Asia thus completing our first tour of the sub-regions under the Asia-Pacific umbrella. The first Regional Conference was held in Brisbane, Australia; the second Regional Conference was held in Hong Kong, Special Autonomous Region of People’s Republic of China; and the third was held in Singapore. Informal discussions with conference delegates in July 2019 suggested that Sri Lanka or Nepal were preferable locations for ease of access for regional members. This will be discussed at the ISA Asia-Pacific Business Meeting at the ISA Annual Convention 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

Since the inclusion of South Asia into the Asia-Pacific remit, the number of members has increased over the past three years. Membership in 2018 was 624; in 2019 was 607; and 834 in 2020. This makes the Asia-Pacific the second largest ISA Region behind ISA-Northeast.

BUDGET

The balance of the Asia-Pacific Region had $21,063 in the account in March 2019.

AWARDS

The Executive Committee agreed to establish and present two awards for academic excellence. One award will recognise the best paper in general presented at the ISA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference and the other award is to recognise the best paper of a graduate student or early career researcher at the ISA Asia-Pacific Conference titled the Best New Scholar award. The recipient will receive a certificate and $200. They will be awarded at the Business Meeting at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association. The Region President will administer the submissions. The ISA Executive Committee excluding the President will form the committee in part or in whole depending on the number of submissions of a total of at least 3 members. For 2019 the awards sub-committee members were Wu Fenghsi (University of Melbourne), Kumiko Haba (Aoyama University, Japan), Chen Ching-Chang (Ryukoku University, Japan), and Kosuke Shimizu (Ryukoku University, Japan).
ACTIVITIES

The success of the ISA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference and partnership with Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, has offered the opportunity for a follow up workshop for graduate students and early career researchers to support them in further developing their conference papers presented at the regional conference into journal articles. This opportunity will be discussed at the ISA Asia-Pacific Region Business Meeting at ISA Annual Convention 2020.

At the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2020, the Asia-Pacific Region will co-host its first reception with the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

ANNEX

International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2019
“Asia-Pacific and World Order: Security, Economics, Identity and Beyond”
Singapore, 4 – 6 July 2019

The rise of populism and authoritarianism worldwide has caused friction to established orders and tested institutional strengths. In the Asia-Pacific the increasingly potent competition between major powers poses significant challenges to the stability and security of states and societies. The region has also witnessed the realignment and restructuring of middle powers’ alliances and foreign policies. The rising politicization of diaspora has affected domestic politics across the region. Competition in the South China Sea has the potential to fracture the status quo regionalism in Southeast Asia and create new coalitions and clubs of states. Climate change and disasters can make or break governments in the Asia-Pacific. Cyber-security has highlighted a new theatre of international security discourse. New developments in long-standing issues on the Korean peninsula have rekindled hopes for peace. Internal conflicts remain unresolved with significant regional implications. State capacities and human development have grown more significantly in the Asia-Pacific than elsewhere. The regional security architecture is multiple and overlapping with contested leadership roles for states but now more pronounced as avenues to articulate traditional and non-traditional security concerns. These strengthened capacities have challenged dominant global narratives to rethink the ways and means of international relations. Often gone unheard are the voices of states and societies in the Asia-Pacific and their understandings and conceptualizations of world affairs and the prospects and challenges for peaceful sustainable development in the region. This ISA Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2019 seeks to explore and debate world affairs engaging scholars and practitioners active in the Asia-Pacific but encouraged to think about the broader implications of their research and scholarship.

In particular, we invite the submission of papers, panels and roundtables on the following topics:

- regional and local articulations of traditional and non-traditional security challenges;
- the rise of aggressive soft power and state competition;
- the impact of climate change and disasters on communities and governance in the Asia-Pacific;
- the rise of populism and authoritarianism and its impact on contemporary international relations;
- the impact of economic security on regional relations;
- South-South Cooperation including China’s Belt and Road Initiative;
- the fluctuation of democracy;
- the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision;
- class, capitalism and social inequality in the region;
- the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific;
- gender politics in the Asia-Pacific;
• regional and local articulations of global norms, and global articulations of local and regional norms;
• the movement of people within, through and out of the region;
• local and regional understandings of international relations theory; and
• interdisciplinary understandings of international relations and international studies.