

**SIDRA-ITI WEBINAR
BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: MARITIME SILK ROAD**

Date: 17 September 2020, Thursday

Time: 4.00 PM to 6.00 PM

Registration: [Click [here](#) to Register]

Registration is complimentary, but space is limited. For enquiries, please contact us at sidra@smu.edu.sg.

Kindly note that Chatham House Rules will apply to this Webinar.

SMU's SIDRA and ITI are pleased to jointly present this webinar on the Belt and Road Initiative: Maritime Silk Road. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a significant development strategy led by China, comprising of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a revival of the ancient Maritime Silk Road. The aim of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road is to deepen economic cooperation, social and cultural exchange through joint cooperation, in order to bring about increased development and prosperity of the countries along the Maritime Silk Road.

Mark McLaughlin, Incoming Global Visiting Assistant Professor at SMU, will introduce and orientate participants to the Maritime Silk Road. Punit Oza is a regular guest lecturer in SMU and a board member of Klaveness Asia. Together with Louisa Follis, Dry Cargo Senior Analyst at Clarksons Platou, they will provide their perspectives as seasoned shipping and maritime experts, on the commercial impact of the Maritime Silk Road on shipping routes and trade. The webinar will be moderated by Baldev Bhinder, a legal expert in the commodities sector.

Participants in the trading, commodities and maritime sectors will hear about how the interplay of geopolitical trends and the Maritime Silk Road has, and will, affect trade and business moving forward.

About the Speakers



Mark McLaughlin is the incoming Global Visiting Assistant Professor at the Singapore Management University School of Law. His research focuses on dispute resolution, the Belt and Road Initiative, and international economic law. Mark has published articles on the Chinese approach to investor-state arbitration and the interaction between state-owned enterprises and mechanisms of dispute resolution. He holds an LL.B. from the University of Glasgow and a Ph.D. from the China University of Political Science and Law, where he was a lecturer in international investment law. Mark was awarded a Chinese Government Scholarship from 2016-2019.



Punit Oza sits on the board of Klaveness Asia Pte Ltd and is a guest lecturer at SMU-ITI on "Geopolitical Risks and their impact on shipping and trade flows". He is also the Executive Director and Registrar of the Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration (SCMA). Punit is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, UK (ICS) and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Singapore Branch of ICS. He has over 26 years of experience in Dry Bulk Shipping. Beginning his career with Precious Shipping, Bangkok, he has worked extensively in Thailand, Hong Kong, Dubai and Singapore with companies such as Noble Chartering, Astra Shipping, Aries Shipbroking and Torvald Klaveness. Punit has a degree in Financial Management and Accounting from the University of Mumbai and an MSc in Shipping, Trade and Finance from City University (now CASS) Business School, London. He also has a LLB from the University of London



Louisa Follis is a Senior Analyst covering the dry bulk markets for shipbroker, Clarksons Platou, based in Singapore. She joined Clarksons in early 2019 after 8 years at grain trader, Bunge, in Geneva where she first managed the freight analysis team and then European agriculture analysis group. Prior to this, Louisa worked as a tanker market analyst for shipbroker Simpson Spence and Young in London and Singapore. Louisa has also extensive experience as a maritime journalist working in Asia, the Middle East and Americas which followed her Master's degree in Shipping Trade & Finance from CASS business school in London. She also has a Graduate Diploma in Law from Nottingham Trent University, UK.

Moderator



Baldev Bhinder is the Managing Director of Blackstone & Gold and is recognised as a trailblazer in the legal sector. He is dual qualified in Singapore and England with more than 15 years of international experience across the world's leading global law firms. Baldev is a leading expert in O&G and Commodities and advises on all aspects of the supply chain from trading and trade finance arrangements to international recoveries and arbitration. He is particularly active in the Indonesian and South Asian markets where he acts for foreign investors, financiers, international companies, and conglomerates.

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