

**18TH
ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE
OF GERMAN BUSINESS**



CONFERENCE REPORT



24.–26. October 2024
New Delhi, India



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

APA

Asia-Pacific Committee
of German Business



Deutsche
Auslandshandelskammern
German Chambers
of Commerce Abroad



MESSAGE BY THE CO-CHAIRMEN

The world experiences an era of change. Our rules-based international system, designed to foster international trade, stability and peace, is increasingly challenged. This makes international dialogue such as this year's APK more relevant than ever. Because the challenges of our time require more cooperation, not less.

Take Sustainability. While we all need to reduce carbon emissions and increase our resource efficiency, our economies are very different. That is why we discussed topics like supply chains, sustainable financing and circular economy thereby bringing together various perspectives to find common ground.

We also spoke about the importance of resilience. It is essential that we safeguard our supply chains and reduce existing dependencies, for example on raw materials. We need to diversify. During the conference, we all agreed that diversification does not only reduce risks, but also offers a lot of opportunities along the value chain.

Another very important topic was innovation: There was consensus that technologies are key to cope with today's big challenges, especially when it comes to carbon emissions. AI and technological innovation already play a crucial role – therefore, further investments in R&D and skill development are evident success factors. We truly enjoyed our dialogues on Tech and AI. The exchange with the Start-ups from seven cities all over the Indo-Pacific was not only inspiring; it was also a lot of fun.

Although the APK continues to be a conference among all partner countries in the Indo-Pacific, India as host country was in the spotlight. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reinforced the importance of German economic engagement in India. Chancellor Olaf Scholz made clear that negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement between India and the EU should progress and be concluded in months rather than years. Both governments and the business communities agreed that the exchange of education and talent must be reinforced for the benefit of both regions. Ultimately, cooperation happens through people – that is: through us all.

Dr. Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business

OPENING SESSION OF THE 18TH APK

” The world needs stability and sustainability, trust and transparency. These values must be emphasized on every front, whether in society or supply chains. Without them, no country or region can envision a brighter future.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



” We need the spirit of openness in today’s world allowing for the free flow of information, resources, and innovation.

Olaf Scholz
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany



“ We cannot afford decades of negotiations on free trade agreements anymore. We German companies should focus on building necessary local ecosystems to foster growth.

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business

“ The fact that this conference is held at the same time as the Indo-German intergovernmental consultations, here at the heart of India, is proof of the tremendous importance of the partnership that exists between India and Germany.

Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor of Germany and
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs



“ We are in a sweet spot where reform, resilience and readiness for the future are available from business from across the world. Let us seize this moment and create a future where the products we make, the industries we lead, the innovations we pioneer touch every corner of the globe.

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

RESHAPING GLOBALISATION

Talk with Ministers from Asia-Pacific

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry, India

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business
President & CEO, Siemens

H.E. Namgyal Dorji

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment,
Kingdom of Bhutan

H.E. Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor & Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action,
Federal Republic of Germany

Shivani Wazir Pasrich

Indian Moderator
Moderation



Fitr: Isabelle Kömer, Piyush Goyal, Roland Busch, Namgyal Dorji, Robert Habeck, Shivani Wazir Pasrich

RESHAPING GLOBALISATION - TALK WITH MINISTERS FROM ASIA-PACIFIC

In an era marked by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity due to geopolitics, climate change and digitalization, the Asia-Pacific region is at the forefront of economic transformation. While different actors in different regions have different approaches to these transitions, all gain from focusing on collaboration and exchange.

“ An India – EU Free Trade Agreement will benefit both sides [...] if we start respecting each other and respect each other's sensitivities we will come up to another level.

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry, India

COMPLEX CHALLENGES

Addressing challenges of economic transformation, safeguarding against external shocks, is a huge generational task. Governments in Asia and in Germany are working hard to identify and mitigate economic risks and develop the necessary regulatory frameworks. The complex challenges of our time call for huge investments and a transformative mindset.

BETTER TOGETHER

Doing it alone is not a viable option. Huge collective efforts are needed to pave the way for an economically resilient, sustainable and interconnected future. Dialogue and personal exchange are necessary to gain new strategic insights. In order to maximize the potential for cooperation all sides must understand different countries' approaches, interests and sensitivities.

“ Our growth model is centred on Gross National Happiness, which integrates sustainable development, cultural preservation, and environmental conservation alongside economic growth.

Namgyal Dorji

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment,
Bhutan



Fitr: Ishan Palit, Anne-Laure Parrical de Chammard, Shivani Wazir Pasirch

KEEN ON GREEN: SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES OF GERMAN AND ASIAN COMPANIES

Sustainability is an economic and environmental imperative for businesses worldwide, with companies from Germany and Asia leading the way in adopting green practices. Strengthening cooperation between both regions in this field can be seen as strategically important to achieve global sustainability goals.

” Investing in energy transition surely is an advantage to be ready for the future – but we need to do it right. We need to be careful not to create disadvantages for the industry.

Anne-Laure Parrical de Chammard
Siemens Energy

” A costumer driven based market strategy supports the creation of better products.

Chana Poomee
Siam Cement Group

DRIVING FORCES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Though sustainability initiatives are more aggressively driven in Germany than in Asia, the impact in Asia is going to be much bigger due to the scale. When it comes to deciding factors for business, sustainability initiatives are mostly impacted both by regulation and economic considerations. The central question is whether the transition should be fostered through economic incentives (e.g. United States). Or whether it is more efficient when driven by regulation (e.g. Europe). In any case, companies are the ones who need to innovate.

ENERGY TRANSITION IS KEY FOR GREEN GROWTH

All countries strive for a sustainability and energy transition, but they are all at different stages and adapting in individual ways. Technologies and AI hold potential to support economic transition and decarbonization. But AI is also going to be hugely energy intensive, with the energy and electric power needed to power data centers equivalent to 200 nuclear power plants. We need to tackle the huge energy surge that will be needed. To achieve this, a tremendous amount of investment in energy technology and green technology innovation is required.



Fitr: Markus Kamieth, Jongbum Park, Anna Maria Braun, Isabelle Körner

THE TRIPLE D: DERISKING, DECOUPLING, DIVERSIFICATION – THE COMPANY PERSPECTIVE

In a rapidly changing and increasingly fragmented geopolitical world, companies face immense strategic pressure to adapt their business models. The key challenge is to strike a balance that minimizes risks while preserving future growth opportunities.

” In the light of the dramatically changed geopolitical situation, the challenge for countries, but also for companies, is to find a new balance between efficiency and resilience.

Markus Kamieth
BASF

” We invest over 30% of our profits in R&D to drive innovation and manage associated risks.

Jongbum Park
Samsung

GLOBAL MARKETS ARE INDISPENSABLE

Even though geopolitical tensions have increased to the point of potential bloc formation, companies continue to rely on functioning international markets and cooperation. It is therefore essential to avoid simplistic world views and overreactions. It is important to remember: Derisking does incur costs. Large markets such as China's cannot be replaced, and the laws of economic gravity cannot be ignored. Risks must be managed in a smart and proactive way, without succumbing to protectionism. Establishing buffers in production can be a valuable strategy.

ASIA-PACIFIC COULD BE THE ANSWER

There is no doubt that the Asia-Pacific region is the driver of the global economy. Even if there is still a long way to go in some cases and production is not equally feasible in all countries, there are still plenty of untapped opportunities to diversify and reduce risks. The potential for deeper economic integration between Germany and the countries of the region is still large. Particular attention should be paid to Southeast Asia.

” Derisking is an overly defensive approach.

Anna Maria Braun
B. Braun

Launching the German Asia-Pacific Startup Award



Fltr: Roland Busch, Sindhu Gangadharan, Andreas Hauser, Robert Habeck, Grace Li, Michael Keppe, Sachin Kumar, Minsung Kim, Thi Bich Phuong Nguyen, Tehsin (Maxwell) Peng

FUTURE AI – APK STARTUP PITCH

For the first time, APK has offered a pitch session to selected startups from all over Asia-Pacific in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). Pairing up fast-moving startups with well-established companies was the focus of this APK-session.

” Collaboration between Germany and Asia-Pacific is essential in order to ensure high-quality documentation that meets German standards as well as local production requirements.

Michael Keppe

Pergamon Labs, Hong Kong

” As a women and entrepreneur from a developing market in Southeast Asia, APK is a wonderful platform for me to share my story with the Asia-Pacific and German business community.

Thi Bich Phuong (Grace) Nguyen

Vietsol, Vietnam

” We are deeply honored to be among leading AI innovators at APK and cherish the opportunity to share our vision alongside global industry leaders.

Grace Li

Capsio Technology, China

FUTURE AI STARTUP PITCHES

Minister Habeck opened the session by emphasizing that innovation means change and change means getting out of your comfort zone. He expressed great respect for the seven finalists for their entrepreneurial spirit, as they had qualified from almost 50 applicants at AHKs in Asia-Pacific. Seven young entrepreneurs from all over the Asia-Pacific region pitched their AI start-up on the big stage. The variety of topics covered ranged from language translation, quantum technology, saving data volume to solutions for the legally compliant technical documentation, reducing the complexity of text volumes without programming knowledge, as well as solutions for data protection.

STARTUPS CHALLENGED BY THE CO-CHAIRS OF APK

While the audience was spoilt for choice in an online vote for the three winners, Minister Habeck and APA Chairman Busch scrutinised the start-ups and asked them about a number of customers and scaling options. Being asked about the difference between markets in Asia-Pacific and Germany, the start-ups admitted: Asia-Pacific offers less regulation. At the end all finalists were honoured by the two conference chairmen and the three equal winners were announced. The quotes on the side reveal who the lucky ones are.



Roland Busch



Roshni Nadar Malhotra

TECH DIALOGUE ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

The panel focused on innovation for the digital and sustainable transformation of industries. The central hypothesis was that AI innovation in India will supercharge the transformation of industries. Roland Busch, Chairman of the APA and CEO of Siemens, emphasized the importance of cooperation between Germany and Asia to strengthen global economies. Together with Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCLTech, they discussed the necessity of investing in digital infrastructure and innovation-friendly governance.

” In the last five to ten years India has really changed – it’s an economy where you can scale. Asia-Pacific as a whole sits on the receiving end.

Roland Busch
APA Chairman

” Young people now are digital natives. Consumers use technology before enterprises do. People are upskilling outside of work.

Roshni Nadar Malhotra
HCLTech

AI’S TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE

Busch emphasized that AI technology enables unprecedented productivity and efficiency across all industries to strengthen the global economy. AI not only automates processes but also creates new business models and services that were previously unimaginable.

Malhotra added that India can play a key role in developing the industrial metaverse. She emphasized that integrating AI and other advanced technologies into India’s manufacturing processes has the potential to make the country a global hub for industrial innovation.

Both agreed that the fear of AI eliminating jobs is unfounded. Instead, they highlighted that AI technologies create new jobs and support the existing workforce through reskilling and upskilling.

Education and training are key to ensure that workforces are prepared for the demands of the digital era. Both emphasized that education systems and professional training programs must be adapted to the rapidly changing requirements of the technology sector.

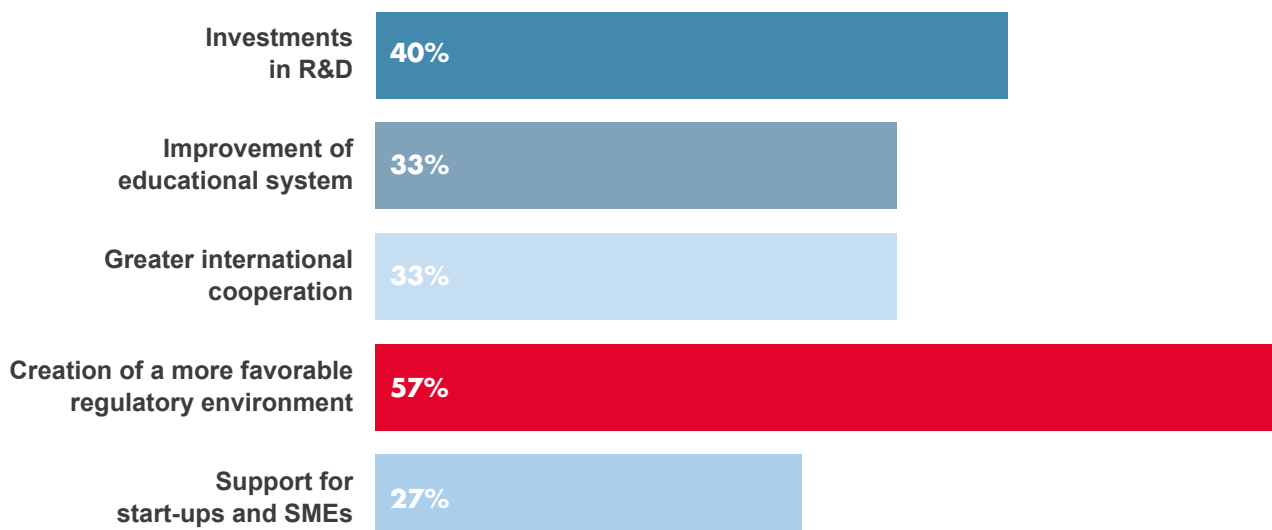
INFRASTRUCTURE & GOVERNANCE ARE KEY

Busch and Malhotra emphasized that robust digital infrastructure is the foundation for any successful digital transformation. They explained that investments in broadband networks and data centers are crucial to building the foundation for advanced technologies. Malhotra emphasized that India's progress in developing its digital infrastructure not only promotes technological

development but also supports the country's economic and social development. Busch added that Germany and other European countries can learn from India's experiences, particularly in terms of rapidly scaling digital infrastructures. Another important aspect was the role of governance in promoting innovation. Both agreed that governments play a crucial role in creating an innovation-friendly environment. They stressed the need for regulations that promote rather than hinder innovation.

APK LIVE POLLING RESULTS TECH DIALOGUE ON INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

WHICH MEASURES SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED TO ADVANCE INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND ASIA-PACIFIC?



NETWORKING



Veda Vaidyanathan

Associate Fellow in Foreign Policy and Security, Centre for Social and Economic Progress

Bernhard Bartsch

Director External Relations, MERICS
Moderation

Ambassador Romana Vlahutin

Distinguished Fellow for Geostrategy, German Marshall Fund of the United States

Filtr: Samir Puri, Veda Vaidyanathan, Bernhard Bartsch, Alicia García-Herrero, Romana Vlahutin

OXFORD STYLE DEBATE – COMPETING OFFERS TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH

“Western offers of development aid and free trade tied to specific criteria have not met the needs of the Global South and as a result, the West is losing ground to rising powers such as India and China. Despite initiatives such as the EU’s Global Gateway this trend will only intensify over the coming years” - this was the motion the two teams on stage had to debate.

” *The world is entering an era of asymmetric multipolarity with differential appraisal models of modernity. We have to change our post 1945 and post 1991 assumptions around what we offer.*

Samir Puri

Chatham House

” *You build an economy on shared interest. We are in a critical moment in time, where we need more transactional and more eye-to-eye partnerships.*

Romana Vlahutin

German Marshall Fund

WHAT WORKED FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS, WILL NOT WORK FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS

The Global South itself can support development partnerships, like India has done since 1949. Contrary to the model of being aid driven, these partnerships are demand driven and suited to the local context – spearheaded by entrepreneurs and technology. The future is called the Asian century with China, India and Indonesia being on the rise. In 20 years from now, the G7 are projected to make up only 30% of the global economy. The world is diversifying, causing an appetite for mixed dependencies and more South to South collaboration.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT AND NEW INDUSTRIAL DIALOGUE

With overlapping interest and offers, the Global South needs investment, which Europe, the US and countries like Japan and South Korea as the world’s largest investors can provide at scale. We see that funding is not going to China as it used to. This provides the Global South with the opportunity for investment at a scale which did not happen before. The past model of development aid is not delivering. We will therefore see a change from development assistance to strategic investment and new industrial dialogue. At the same time, elements of diversification from China are going to be the key in determining the relationship between North and South.



Ftr: Rainer Rudolph, Shamika Ravi, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, Susanne Wiegand

ECONOMIC SECURITY: HOW GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS AFFECT ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Due to geopolitical rivalry, economic security has become a core principle of economic, trade and technology policies. The 'de-risking' of economic relations creates opportunities for collaboration, but it also brings up new challenges for businesses or research institutions.

„ The post-cold war era of full integration and globalization across geographical and political lines is coming to an end. For us as businesses it is important to have a fundamental agreement and understanding when we deal with partners, that we share certain fundamental values.

Susanne Wiegand

Renk Group

„ India's stand on the current geopolitical landscape is based both on short-term interests and long-term interests. Our immediate concern is to manage macroeconomic stability.

Shamika Ravi

Government of India

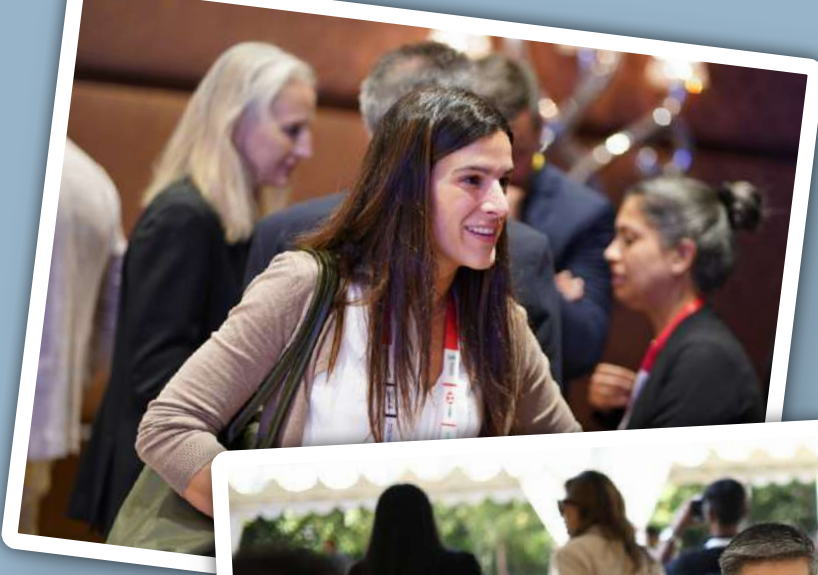
FACING THE NEW REALITY OF A GEOPOLITICAL WORLD

Though there is a continued awareness of the benefits brought to societies through free trade and globalization, geopolitical tensions and security concerns are increasingly shaping international relations, too. The main driving force of intensified geopolitical competition is the rivalry between the US as the existing super-power and China as the rising one. This rivalry has ramifications everywhere in the world. The Indo-Pacific is the epicentre of this battle over global influence. This is a huge challenge for many countries that rely on close partnerships with both the US and China.

COLLABORATION IS KEY

Adapting to new uncertainties and risks is costly. Companies are making their supply chains more resilient by adding suppliers, increasing stock levels, investing alongside the supply chain or developing alternative technologies. In order to reduce costs, governments should focus their economic security strategies less on national self-reliance and more on cooperation among trusted partners. The global challenges we face can only be solved if we work together. Diversification is essential for economic security. Investing in deeper partnerships and creating trust through transparency is key. India, with its dynamically growing market, and Germany or the EU have a lot to gain from coordinating their respective economic security agendas and deepening cooperation in areas such as green supply chains, the defense industry or science and technology.

NETWORKING





Fitr: Isabelle Körner, Miguel López, Alexander von zur Mühlen, Tanuj Kapilashrami

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN TIMES OF GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE

Banks offer a great variety of products to finance the transition to a more sustainable economy. But this is only one aspect of a complex issue. All stakeholders must do their best to ensure that the transition remains a political and economic priority and act accordingly. At the same time, these stakeholders must navigate an increasingly challenging and uncertain geopolitical landscape.

” We need a consistent sustainability regulation that is pragmatic and not dogmatic.

Alexander von zur Mühlen
Deutsche Bank

SUPPORTIVE REGULATION FOR A GREENER ECONOMY

Sustainable finance requires the ability to finance large projects. It is therefore important that banks have critical mass. Banking regulation should be supportive of financial institutions. Adequate sustainability regulation should provide incentives for all companies to operate more sustainably and make especially large projects financially viable. It should also enable international competitiveness. However, legislation such as the German supply chain due diligence act is perceived more as a heavy bureaucratic burden on companies, rather than an effective support for their sustainability efforts.

INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND SKILLS

The level of innovation in the field of sustainability is so high that it has become difficult for businesses, banks, and governments to keep pace. Banks need to close this knowledge gap to assess projects adequately. People with the right skills are needed at all levels, and education systems need to reflect this. Governments also have the responsibility to build sufficient infrastructure. A greener economy requires not only more sustainable products, but also sustainable ways of transporting them.



Filtr: Hubertus Heil, Rashi Gupta, Ralf Wintergerst, Peter Kompalla

SKILLED WORKFORCE: GERMAN-ASIAN COOPERATION SCHEMES

Skilled labour shortages massively influence the competitiveness of a nation and are caused by an ageing society. In order to keep up or even stay ahead of the global economic game, economies need a secure skilled workforce. Germany and the Asia-Pacific as well as their companies need to cooperate regarding skilled labour and in mutual interest to create a triple-win situation, for Germany, for the Asia-Pacific and the skilled workforce.

” In Germany, 6 million people will soon retire. We have to find a way that the lack of skilled labour force will not be a brake on our competitiveness and growth. India and other Asian countries are important partners.

Hubertus Heil

Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs,
Federal Republic of Germany

” Special student programs could guarantee skilled workforce for German SMEs and offer job security to the Indians.

Rashi Gupta

Vision Mechatronics

SKILLED WORKFORCE KEY TO GERMANY'S FUTURE COMPETITIVENESS

For Germany to stay economically dynamic and competitive, it not only needs smart trade policy and cost-efficient energy, but it also needs to secure a skilled labour force. To that end, Germany is relying on important partners in the Asia-Pacific region which have a different demographic structure. In India, for example, every month 1 million people enter the labour market. This and the fact that India is actively encouraging labour migration, is a promising basis for the successful execution of the “Skilled Labour Strategy on India” developed by the German government last year.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESSFUL LABOUR MIGRATION

The German government should reduce and cut red tape, especially making visa processes quicker. In general, migration processes should be as easy as possible as in Australia and as fair as possible to attract skilled workers from abroad. Companies should target talents from different countries carefully depending on their needs. India for example offers great talent in IT while Vietnam has well educated and highly motivated people. SMEs are less likely to be able to afford a welcome package for skilled workers. Therefore, they need support enabling them to benefit from labour migration. Labour migration is about people. Tolerance and wider societal acceptance are key factors for success.

Shivani Wazir Pasricha

Indian Moderator
Moderation

Rowena Smith

Managing Director & CEO,
Australian Strategic Materials

Rohit Pathak

President & CEO,
Birla Copper

Inge Hofkens

Member of the Executive
Board & COO, Multimetal
Recycling, Aurubis



Ftr: Shivani Wazir Pasricha, Rowena Smith, Rohit Pathak, Inge Hofkens

RUDE AWAKENING IN RAW MATERIALS: DEPENDENCIES AND THE QUEST TO DIVERSIFY

Supply chains for critical minerals and rare earths have been overoptimized simultaneously creating significant dependencies for industries in Europe and Asia. Recycling alone cannot meet the demands of green transformation technologies, so primary sources remain essential. This calls for developing resilient supply chains based on Partnership.

“ Today, we are looking at business models which are stuck in classical business models. If we can find the right model for that, then we can go far ahead.

Inge Hofkens

Aurubis

“ It will not be possible for any country to become independent from China in the next 10 years. But in order to diversify we will need to have a diversification premium paid by customers. Otherwise, it will not be possible to meet competitive pricing from China.

Rohit Pathak

Birla Copper

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES

More diversity in raw material sourcing is needed, but developing new mining and processing operations takes time—often 10 to 20 years from discovery to production readiness. Successful supply chains require harmonized regulations, government collaboration, funding, and cooperation between mining and manufacturing. Without sufficient market demand, supply chains struggle to thrive. The Asia-Pacific region, rich in metals and minerals, needs more alternatives to Chinese processing infrastructure. Supply chain risks must be distributed, and funding made available across jurisdictions. Pragmatic partnerships are essential, with all steps established simultaneously to ensure sustainable margins for all parties.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY CONTEXT

Circular thinking is the foundation for efficient processes, allowing eventually to increase margins. We need to remain agile on innovation, recycling should be embraced in all elements. In order to turn the recycling wheel forward, it is required to have a critical mass to make recycling predictable, along with a clear framework, non-conflicting regulation and an incentivizing ecosystem.



Fitr: Julia Braune, Edna Schöne, Michael Schleef

FINANCING FOREIGN TRADE

How have export promotion instruments developed in the last years? How can cooperation between export credit agencies (ECA), banks and exporters be improved? How can we align export finance strategies with global climate goals? These were some of the main questions discussed in this breakfast session.

” Our ambition is to support our clients on the transition and help finance their decarbonisation.

Michael Schleef
HSBC Germany

” Our mandate is shifting. We have now become more pro-active, and we are where the buyers are.

Edna Schöne
Euler Hermes

REGIONAL SHIFT

Euler Hermes supports German companies in developing Asia-Pacific markets, particularly India and China. China's share in Euler Hermes' portfolio has declined as local businesses increasingly replace German equipment exports, while India's share has remained stable and now surpasses China's. Southeast Asian markets like Malaysia and Indonesia hold variable importance, depending on larger transactions. Asia's growing significance is evident, with 25% of Euler Hermes' new business directed to the region. For HSBC, China remains the top market in Asia, followed by India, which is rapidly growing.

UPDATED TOOLBOX TO SUPPORT GREEN TRANSITION

Banks and ECAs are increasingly shifting toward green projects, although fossil fuel products remain in portfolios but are quickly declining. The low-carbon transition has made German companies more reliant on raw materials. Untied financing products, such as Euler Hermes' untied loan guarantees, effectively support sustainability efforts, with more innovative sourcing tools emerging. ECAs are emerging now focusing on a broader range of products to support companies in internationalizing, such as working capital facilities, though traditional buyer credit insurance still plays a key role by providing long-term financing and securing sales of German technology abroad. Banks and ECAs must remain responsive to market demands and adaptable in their approach.



The Indian Hockey Team

HOCKEY MATCH

In hockey, both India and Germany are world-class teams. They finished 3rd and 2nd at the Olympics in Paris. Both teams showed great sportsmanship, winning one game each and needing a shoot-out to determine a winner. “Eye-level” and “mutual respect”, two terms often used during the course of the APK, came to mind watching the players and the game.

SETTING THE SCENE

For the first time, an APK was kicked off with a sports event. An official international friendly gentlemen’s hockey match between host India and Germany. The match gave participants – especially those who had a long journey to Delhi – the possibility to have a relaxing, yet inspiring start to the conference, to meet other delegates in a casual atmosphere, to have the first conversation outside the more formal setting of the conference and to enjoy daylight and have a first “Delhi-experience”.

Starting the conference with this kind of a sports event was a conscious decision. Two world-class teams, a level playing field, clearly defined, transparent rules, a referee with the authority to make binding and final decisions. More analogies to the topics to be discussed in the various sessions of the conference were hardly possible. The teams delivered and set the scene for the APK 2024.



Robert Habeck with young Indian hockey supporters in the stadium

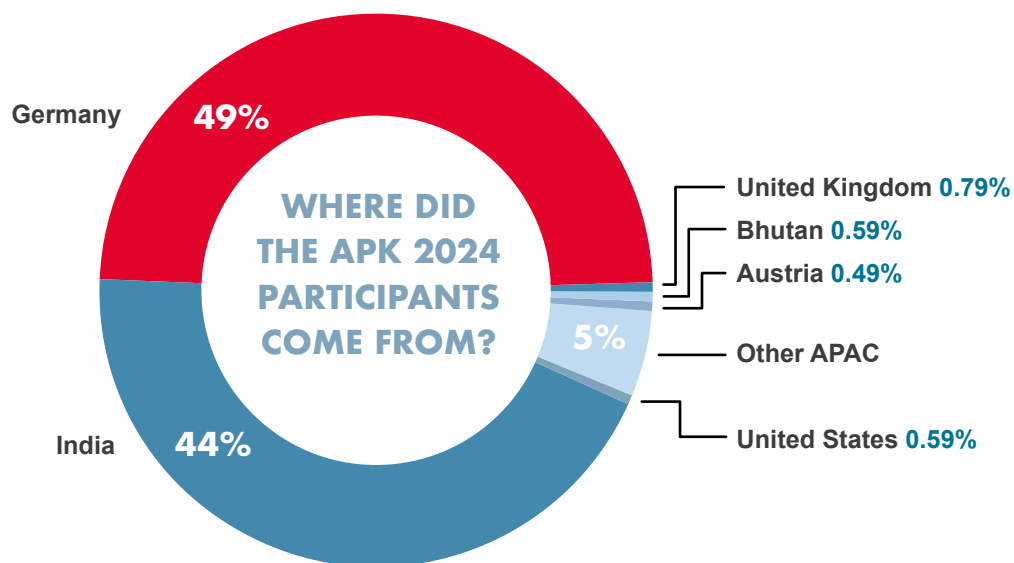
NETWORKING



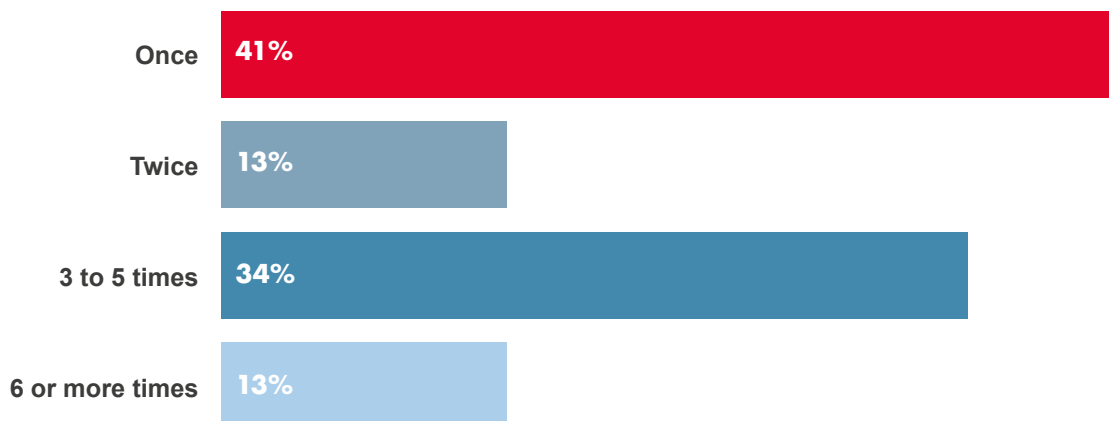
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APK 2024 SURVEY



HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF GERMAN BUSINESS (APK) IN THE PAST, INCLUDING APK 2024?



WHICH PANELS/TOPICS WERE OF MOST INTEREST TO YOU?



1. Future AI – Startup Pitch Launching the German Asia-Pacific Startup Award
2. The Triple D: Derisking, Decoupling, Diversification - A Companies' Perspective
3. AHK Business Lunches
4. Oxford Style Debate - Competing Offers to the Global South
5. Breakfast Sessions: “Labour Skilling” and “Financing Foreign Trade”
6. Economic Security: How the Global Economy Adapts to Geopolitical Shifts
7. Rude Awakening in Raw Materials: Dependencies and the Quest to Diversify
8. Tech Dialogue on Industrial Innovation
9. Sustainable Finance in Times of Geopolitical Change
10. Keen on Green: Sustainability Strategies of German and Asian Companies

18TH APK PROGRAMME

TAJ PALACE CONFERENCE VENUE, NEW DELHI

THURSDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2024

3.00 pm **International Hockey Game**

India vs. Germany

7.00 pm **APK Welcome Reception**

A Deutsche Bank Evening
of Connecting Worlds

FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2024

8.30 – 9.30 am Registration and Coffee

9.45 – 11.30 am **Opening Session
of the 18th APK**

Moderation:

Isabelle Körner

German TV Moderator

Shivani Wazir Pasrich

Indian Moderator

9.45 – 9.50 am **Word of Welcome**

Peter Adrian

President, German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

9.50 – 10.15 am **Opening by Conference
Co-Chairmen and Host Country**

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of
German Business

President & CEO, Siemens

H.E. Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor & Federal Minister
for Economic Affairs and Climate
Action, Federal Republic of Germany

H.E. Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry,
Government of India

10.15 – 10.50 am **Reshaping Globalisation - Talk
with Ministers from Asia-Pacific**

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of
German Business President & CEO,
Siemens

H.E. Namgyal Dorji

Minister of Industry, Commerce and
Employment, Kingdom of Bhutan

H.E. Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry,
Government of India

H.E. Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor & Federal Minister
for Economic Affairs and Climate
Action, Federal Republic of Germany

10.50 – 11.00 am Break

11.00 – 11.15 am **Keynote**

Olaf Scholz

Federal Chancellor of Germany

11.15 – 11.30 am **Keynote**

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister of India

11.40 – 12.00 pm Break

12.00 – 1.00 pm **Keen on Green: Sustainability Strategies of German and Asian Companies**

Anne-Laure Parrical de Chammard

Member of the Executive Board,
Siemens Energy & Siemens Energy
Management

Ishan Palit

Member of the Board of Management &
COO, TÜV Süd

Chana Poomee

Chief Sustainability Officer,
Siam Cement Group

Moderation:

Shivani Wazir Pasrich

Indian Moderator

1.00 – 2.30 pm AHK Business Lunches

India & Sri Lanka

Moderation:

Stefan Halusa

Marie Antonia von Schönburg

George Ettiyil

Senior Director South Asia, Lufthansa Group

Kaushik Shaparia

CEO, Deutsche Bank India and
Emerging Markets

Ranjith Pandithage

Chairman DIMO

Australia & New Zealand

Moderation:

Marko Walde

Monique Surges

H. E. Patrick John Rata,

New Zealand High Commissioner to India

Angelika Yates

Partner, ADDISONS

Sachin Khisti

Managing Partner,
Carrington Associates

H.E. Beate Grzeski

German Ambassador to Australia

H.E. Philip Green

Australia High Commissioner to India

ASEAN: Malaysia & Singapore & Thailand

Moderation:

Nicole Bastian

Chief Foreign Editor, Handelsblatt

Tim Philippi

CEO, Singaporean-German Chamber of
Industry and Commerce

Dr. Jan Noether

CEO, Malaysian-German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry

Dr. Roland Wein

CEO, German-Thai Chamber of
Commerce

Wolfgang Weber

CEO, ZVEI

2.30 – 3.30 pm **The Triple D: Derisking, Decoupling, Diversification – The Company Perspective**

Anna Maria Braun

CEO, B. Braun

Markus Kamieth

Chairman of the Board of Executive
Directors, BASF

Jongbum Park

President & CEO, Samsung
Southwest Asia

Moderation:

Isabelle Körner

German TV Moderator

3.30 – 5.00 pm **Future AI – Startup Pitch**

Including Tech Talk with **H.E. Robert**

Habeck, Vice-Chancellor & Federal

Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate
Action, Federal Republic of Germany

Launching the German Asia-Pacific Startup Award

Moderation:

Sindhu Gangadharan

Managing Director, SAP Labs
India & Chairperson, NASSCOM

5.00 pm End of Conference Day

6.30 – 9.30 pm **India Evening**

SATURDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2024

8.45 – 10.15 am Parallel Breakfast Sessions

Skilled Workforce: German–Asian Cooperation Schemes

Moderation:

Dr. Sabine Stricker-Kellerer,

Lawyer, SSK Asia

Hubertus Heil

Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany

Dr. Rashi Gupta

Founder & Managing Director, Vision Mechatronics

Peter Kompalla

Chief Representative, Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Vietnam

Financing Foreign Trade

Moderation:

Julia Braune

Chairwoman, Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI)

Edna Schöne

Member of the Board, Euler Hermes

Michael Schleef

CEO, HSBC Germany

10.15 – 11.00 am **Tech Dialogue on Industrial Innovation**

Roland Busch

President & CEO, Siemens

Roshni Nadar Malhotra

Chairperson, HCLTech

Moderation:

Shereen Bhan

Managing Editor, CNBC-TV18

11.00 – 12.00 pm **Sustainable Finance in Times of Geopolitical Change**

Tanuj Kapilashrami

Chief Strategy & Talent Officer, Standard Chartered Bank

Miguel López

CEO, Thyssenkrupp

Alexander von zur Mühlen

CEO AP, EMEA and Germany, Deutsche Bank

Moderation:

Isabelle Körner,

German TV Moderator

12.00 – 1.30 pm AHK Business Lunches

Greater China

Moderation:

Dr. Eva Langerbeck

Chief Representative & Executive Director, German Trade Office Taipei

Dr. Clas Neumann

Chairman, German Chamber of Commerce Shanghai

Moritz Berrenberg

Chairman, German Chamber of Commerce Guangzhou

Johannes Hack

President, German Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong

Japan & Korea

Nikolaus Boltze

Country Representative for Japan, Korea and Oceania, Thyssenkrupp

Georg Schmidt

German Ambassador to South Korea

Marcus Schürmann

CEO, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan

Martin Henkelmann

President & CEO, Korean-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

ASEAN: Indonesia & Philippines & Vietnam

Moderation:

Christopher Zimmer

President, German Chamber of
Commerce Hong Kong

Sibylle Thierer

Chairman of the Board of Directors,
HÄFELE

1.30 – 2.30 pm

Rude Awakening in Raw Materials: Dependencies and the Quest to Diversify

Inge Hofkens

Member of the Executive Board & COO
Multimetal Recycling, Aurubis

Rowena Smith

Managing Director & CEO, Australian
Strategic Materials

Rohit Pathak

President & CEO Birla Copper

Moderation:

Shivani Wazir Pasrich,

Indian Moderator

2.30 – 3.00 pm

Coffee Break

3.00 – 4.00 pm

Oxford Style Debate – Competing Offers to the Global South

Alicia García-Herrero

Chief Economist for Asia Pacific,
Natixis Senior Fellow, Bruegel

Samir Puri

Associate Fellow, UK in the World
Programme, Chatham House

Veda Vaidyanathan

Associate Fellow in Foreign Policy and
Security, Centre for Social and
Economic Progress

Ambassador Romana Vlahutin

Distinguished Fellow for Geostrategy,
German Marshall Fund

Moderation:

Bernhard Bartsch

Director External Relations, MERICS

4.00 – 5.00 pm

Economic Security: How Geopolitical Shifts Affect Economic Relations

Shamika Ravi

Member of the Economic Advisory
Council to the Prime Minister and
Secretary to the Government of India

Susanne Wiegand

CEO, RENK Group and Chairwoman,
BDI Committee on Security

H.E. Bettina Stark-Watzinger

Federal Minister of Education and
Research, Federal Republic of Germany

Moderation:

Ambassador Rainer Rudolph

Vice-Chairman, Munich Security
Conference

5.00 pm

Closing of the 18th APK

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of
German Business

President & CEO, Siemens

H.E. Robert Habeck

Vice-Chancellor & Federal Minister for
Economic Affairs and Climate Action,
Federal Republic of Germany

CHAIRS AND SPEAKERS

CO-CHAIRS OF THE APK

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Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Federal Republic of Germany

Roland Busch

Chairman, Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA)
President & CEO, Siemens

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President, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry

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