Evolving Security Dynamics in Asia

Thursday, May 7, 2015
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
E51-115 | MIT Wong Auditorium
2 Amherst St, Cambridge

About the speakers

Ambassador Shivshankar Menon was India's former national security advisor and foreign secretary. While foreign secretary in 2008, Menon was an active voice in negotiations over the India-US civil nuclear initiative, which placed India's civil nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. As a career diplomat, he was India's ambassador to China (2000-2003) and Israel (1995-1997), as well as high commissioner to Pakistan (2003-2006) and Sri Lanka (1997-2000). In addition to this, he served in Japan and in Austria in the Embassy and the Mission to the IAEA. Earlier in his career, Menon was director in the Department of Atomic Energy in Mumbai from 1983 to 1986. Earlier this year, he was at MIT CIS as a Robert E. Wilhelm Fellow and is currently a fellow at Harvard Kennedy School.

Taylor Fravel is associate professor of political science at MIT and member of the Security Studies Program at MIT. He studies international relations, with a focus on international security, China, and East Asia. He is the author of Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China's Territorial Disputes and co-editor of Rethinking China's Rise: A Reader. He is currently completing a book-length study of major change in China’s military doctrine since 1949, entitled Active Defense: Explaining the Evolution of China’s Military. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and Stanford University, where he received his PhD, and has graduate degrees from the London School of Economics and Oxford University.

Vipin Narang is associate professor of political science at MIT and member of the Security Studies Program at MIT. His research interests include nuclear proliferation and strategy, South Asian security, and general security studies. His work has been published in several journals including International Security, Journal of Conflict Resolution, and International Organization. His book Nuclear Strategy in the Modern Era was published by Princeton University Press in 2014. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Government, Harvard University and holds a B.S. and M.S. in chemical engineering with distinction from Stanford University and an M. Phil with Distinction in international relations from Balliol College, Oxford University.

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