

CHINA CROSSROADS

Thursday, July 10th, 2025, 19:30 – 21:00

China and Southeast Asia at the Crossroads: Supply Chains, Energy Transition, and Strategic Agency

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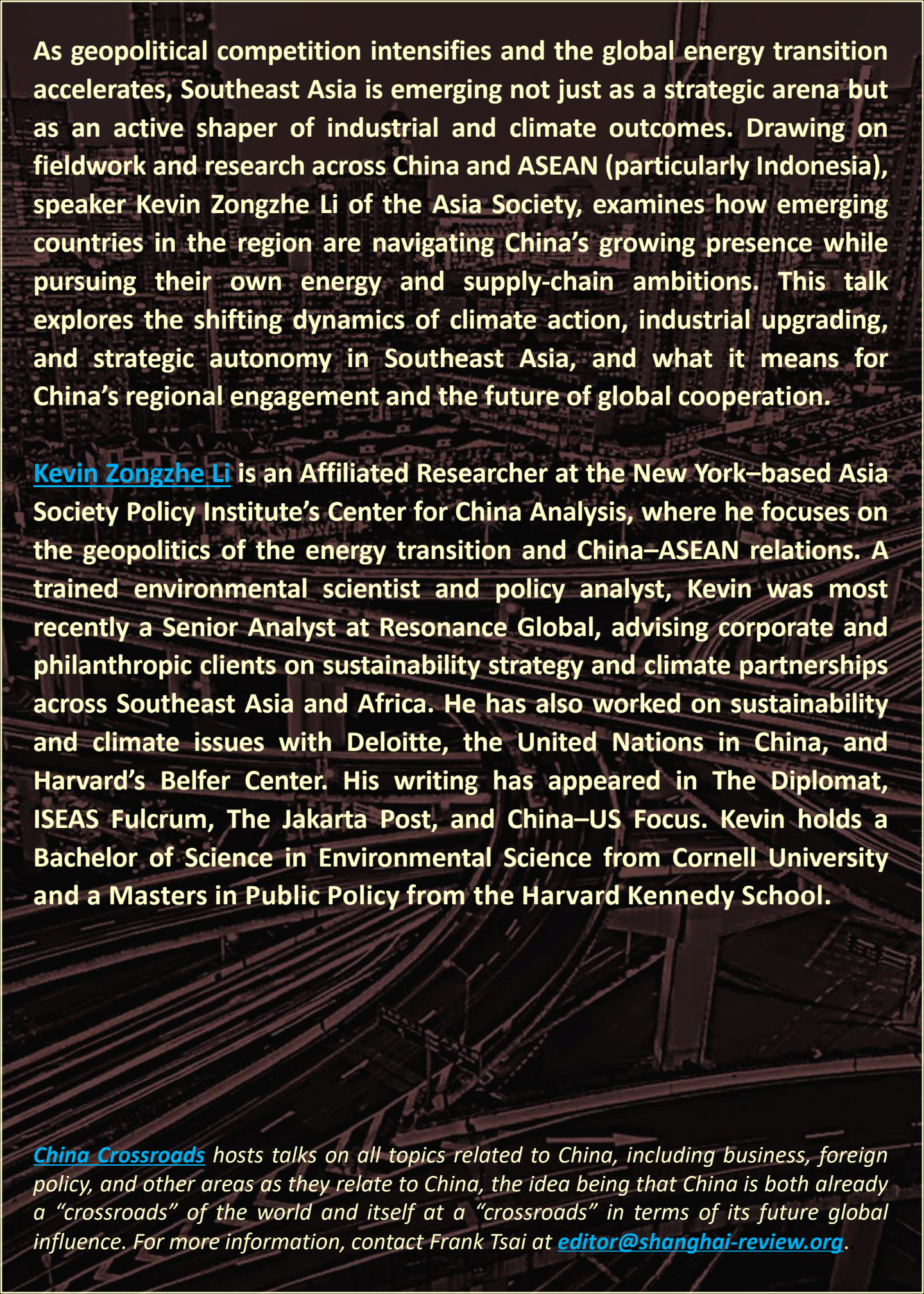
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As geopolitical competition intensifies and the global energy transition accelerates, Southeast Asia is emerging not just as a strategic arena but as an active shaper of industrial and climate outcomes. Drawing on fieldwork and research across China and ASEAN (particularly Indonesia), speaker Kevin Zongzhe Li of the Asia Society, examines how emerging countries in the region are navigating China's growing presence while pursuing their own energy and supply-chain ambitions. This talk explores the shifting dynamics of climate action, industrial upgrading, and strategic autonomy in Southeast Asia, and what it means for China's regional engagement and the future of global cooperation.

[Kevin Zongzhe Li](#) is an Affiliated Researcher at the New York-based Asia Society Policy Institute's Center for China Analysis, where he focuses on the geopolitics of the energy transition and China-ASEAN relations. A trained environmental scientist and policy analyst, Kevin was most recently a Senior Analyst at Resonance Global, advising corporate and philanthropic clients on sustainability strategy and climate partnerships across Southeast Asia and Africa. He has also worked on sustainability and climate issues with Deloitte, the United Nations in China, and Harvard's Belfer Center. His writing has appeared in The Diplomat, ISEAS Fulcrum, The Jakarta Post, and China-US Focus. Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Cornell University and a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.