

Iran's Foreign Policy Challenges and Agendas

Wednesday, April 23 2014, 14:00-16:00

DIIS, Danish Institute for International Studies
Main Auditorium
Gl. Kalkbrænderi Vej 51A
2100 Copenhagen

Background

Iran is in the hub of regional and international security challenges. The November 2013 nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1 has momentarily ceased the tensions over Iran's nuclear program and raised hopes for a permanent solution. However, the ongoing negotiations continue to question if and how relations between Iran and the West can be restored, and how the "crippling" sanctions imposed on Iran may be lifted. At the same time, the security crises in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria challenge Iran and call into question its regional ambitions and aspirations. These regional security issues, which have immense international ramifications, continue to shape the deep-rooted suspicions and diverging agendas between Iran, the West and the GCC countries.

In order to explore how these key security dynamics are perceived in Tehran, DIIS has invited a panel of distinguished scholars from the Institute of Political and International Studies in Tehran to discuss Iran's nuclear negotiations, prospects for enhancing relations between Iran and the West, and Iran's regional role.

Speakers

Mostafa Tork Zahrani, Ph.D., became the new Director General of the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran in December 2013. He is a former diplomat who served at the Iranian UN mission in New York while Mohammad Khatami was the President of Iran.

Seyed Vahid Karimi, Ph.D., is Director for Euro-American Studies at the Institute for Political and International Studies in Tehran. From 1990 he worked at the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as a diplomat at the embassies in Ireland, Germany, Britain and New York.

[Ebrahim Afsah](#), Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen

[Lars Erslev Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Helle Malmvig](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Cindy Vestergaard](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS

[Janne Bjerre Christensen](#), Postdoc Researcher, DIIS

Programme

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|-------------|---|
| 14:00-14:10 | Introduction
Janne Bjerre Christensen , Postdoc Researcher, DIIS |
| 14:10-14:25 | New Government, New Opportunity
Mostafa Tork Zahrani, Ph.D., Director General, Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran |
| 14:25-14:40 | A view from Iran regarding the EU foreign policy and expectations from Denmark |

Seyed Vahid Karimi, Ph.D., Director for Euro-American Studies, Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran

- 14:40-14:55 Developments in Security Politics in the GCC after the Arab Revolte
[Lars Erslev Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
- 14:55-15:10 Coffee break
- 15:10-15:55 Panel debate
Mostafa Tork Zahrani, Ph.D., Director General, Institute for Political and International Studies, IPIS, Tehran
Seyed Vahid Karimi, Ph.D., Director for Euro-American Studies, Institute for Political and International Studies, IPIS, Tehran
[Ebrahim Afsah](#), Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen
[Lars Erslev Andersen](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
[Helle Malmvig](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
[Cindy Vestergaard](#), Senior Researcher, DIIS
[Janne Bjerre Christensen](#), Postdoc Researcher, DIIS
- 15:55-16:00 Closing remarks
[Janne Bjerre Christensen](#), Postdoc Researcher, DIIS

Practical information

The seminar will be in English.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required. Please use our online registration form no later than Tuesday, 22 April 2014 at 12.00 noon.

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