



Institute of Chinese Studies

WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

*China's Industrial Policy:
Past, Present, and Future*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Speaker :

Kyle Chan

21 May 2025

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Speakers: Dr. Kyle Chan, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, Princeton; and, Adjunct Researcher, RAND Corporation.

Chair: Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, Emeritus Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi; and, Fellow, Royal Geographical Society, London.

Date: 21 May 2025

Venue: Zoom Webinar

- The seminar examined the policy frameworks implemented by the Chinese government to sustain its competitive edge in the technology sector. The speaker, Dr. Kyle Chan, emphasised the interplay between rising consumer demand and the role of innovation.
- Dr. Chan argued that China's economic rise as an industrial power can be attributed to careful planning by the Chinese government. He highlighted that the government has incentivised startups through subsidies in key sectors such as the automobile industry, and has attracted foreign investment through SEZs. Allocation of resources to various MNCs, at affordable costs has facilitated the establishment of many factories in previously impoverished regions, allowing for greater development.
- According to the speaker, China was initially an exporter of low-end goods to the global market. As the manufacturing sector developed, Chinese companies started producing high-end products, especially in the EV sector. . In response to the recent shift of foreign investment from China to emerging economies such as India, the Chinese state has intensified efforts to retain control over critical stages of the manufacturing value chain within its borders.
- Dr. Kyle Chan critically evaluated India's growing role in the global manufacturing sector, and described India as a country that is not "too close" to China. He highlighted The relocation of over 20% of iPhone

manufacturing from China to India as a significant indicator of India's potential as a major global manufacturing hub.

- The Chair, Mr. Ravi Bhoothalingam, referred to concerns in India over unfair practices by China such as the delay in the transfer of crucial industrial equipment. , This was understood as China's objective of stalling India's progress in this field. He highlighted the possibility of India leveraging access to its expansive market as a strategic measure to acquire critical technologies.

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