

MARCUS NOLAND

Executive Vice President and Director of Studies, Peterson Institute for International Economics

Good afternoon, my name is Marcus Noland. It is my distinct honour to moderate this panel on Asian security. On the first day, I heard Mr Rabinovich describe going to a church and hearing the preacher preach about a passage in the Book of Matthew, in which Jesus says, 'The last will be first, and the first shall be last'. Well, we are nearly the last, but I think if we are not the most important, we are nearly the most important panel.

We have two speakers who have very tight airplane connections, so I am going to skip reading the bios, because once I started reading them, I realised that all of our speakers are prestigious former government officials or hold prestigious academic positions, and you can read the details. What I thought we would do is start in Northeast Asia because that is where the North Korean issue is most acute; we will start with Mr Yim from South Korea, followed by Mr Hosoya from Japan and Mr Jia from China. Then we will move to Southeast Asia, with Mr Yeoh, followed by Jusuf Wanandi and then Mr Narayanan from India. Mr Narayanan seemed a little displeased about going last, but I had to remind him that, according to Jesus, he has got the most prestigious position on the panel.