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**A Rising China Meets a Rising Region: The Geopolitics of the 'Indo-Pacific'**

Panel: Conflict Resolution 1

It has become increasingly fashionable to describe the geographic area that includes the eastern part of the Indian Ocean and the western part of the Pacific as the 'Indo-Pacific'. For countries such as Australia, its potential attractions and importance are self-evident and it is no coincidence that many of the putative region's champions are based there. It is also significant, however, that it is an area that includes a number of key allies of the United States, and the region's growing discursive prominence coincides with America's 'pivot' to the Asia-Pacific. Consequently, many observers in China see the development of the Indo-Pacific idea as giving substance to a de facto containment policy designed to respond to China's rise and growing strategic importance. This paper traces the emergence of the Indo-Pacific narrative and explores whether China's concerns have any foundation.