

CONIAS Newsletter November 2018

Dear Reader,

Today's headlines are dominated by the Midterm Elections in the <u>United States</u>. For us, the most important thing is our Newsletter № 11, which will give you an overview about what kept us busy and up at night the last weeks. If you don't want to wait another four weeks for new insights from our CONIAS work or have comments and suggestions, please engage with us directly via <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Linkedin</u>.

Hinweis: Ab sofort gibt es den monatlichen CONIAS Newsletter auch in deutscher Sprache. Eine Anmeldung hierfür ist ab sofort möglich und benötigt nur einen <u>Klick</u>.

For now, we hope you enjoy the read and look forward to further exchanges!

Your CONIAS-Team

CONIAS Blog: What made us think last month

Ready to Leap, little Tiger? West Bengal's Rocky Road to "Best Bengal"



According to experts, West Bengal, India's fourth biggest union state, might soon become one of India's top business <u>location</u>. The region recorded more than 11 percent of economic growth per year and currently ranks as the subcontinent's <u>sixth strongest</u> <u>economy</u>. Additionally to a significant coal and mineral industry the region's <u>High-Tech</u> <u>sector</u> has been growing tremendously in past years. But what are the odds that the region formally associated with economic decline and <u>political violence</u> will transform to, as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee put it, "Best Bengal" and <u>surpass</u> other business locations in India?

In her latest **<u>Blogpost</u>**, <u>Annika Naumann</u> examines the question, whether and to what extent West Bengal will be ready to "leap" in the near future and which political risks need to be taken into consideration by investors and international partners.

CONIAS Insight: What you might have missed



The past weeks had been quite turbulent for followers of international relations and political risks. In early October, well-known Saudi Journalist Jamal Khashoggi vanished and was likely murdered in Istanbul, which triggered a major crisis in Saudi foreign policy. In our Risk Report assessing the political risks and likely scenarios for the development of the Kingdom, heir apparent Mohammed bin Salman had been identified as a dark horse for Saudi Arabia's future. Our COO, Dr. Magdalena Kirchner joined German TV-Broadcaster "PHOENIX" for a discussion of the geopolitical implications of the crisis. She also provided comments on the recent Summit on Syria in Istanbul for **Deutsche Welle's Turkish** <u>Channel</u> as well as the prospects of another Turkish military incursion into Northern Syria for Arab News. Magdalena also contributed to a conference on the 8th anniversary of the so called "Arab Spring" at the Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing with an input on Turkish views on the upheavals in 2010/11 and their consequences. Our CEO, Dr. Nicolas Schwank co-authored an article on political risks in Central and Eastern Europe and how especially Austrian companies must and should adjust to them in the 3rd edition of the <u>Austrian Yearbook for Risk-management (</u>in German), jointly published by <u>TÜV</u> AUSTRIA and the Funk Foundation, which made the article and the entire report available for free download. We are curious to find out what awaits us next month.

About CONIAS

In our daily business, we combine hands-on consulting on political landscapes with the steady and research-based improvement of our <u>methods</u>. We think that learning from <u>partners</u> and customers alike and growing with challenges is essential for startups like us, seeking to stay agile and customer-oriented. Curiosity and openmindedness also drives the way we develop our products - the digital solutions from CONIAS help clients to evaluate and monitor suppliers in real-time. Our <u>maps and</u> <u>charts</u> support our partners in presentations for target audiences, customers and coworkers alike. Last but certainly not least, we provide deeper insights and understandings through background <u>reports</u>, webinars and <u>workshops</u>.



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