

**Special Session A**

18:15–19:45

**Can European Integration Inspire Regional Co-operation in East Asia?**

Born in 1959. ZHAO Ai graduated from Nankai University in 1982 and from the Graduate Student School of China Academy of Social Science in 1987. In 1990, he completed a training programme at the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in Switzerland.

ZHAO Ai started his professional career as a Special Assistant to the President of the China National Real Estate Development Group Corporation in 1993 and remained in this position for three years. In 1996, he was appointed Senior Official of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System of the People's Republic of China, a position he held until 1998. Subsequently, he assumed the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of China United Asset Management Co., Ltd., a post held until 2000. ZHAO Ai currently serves as Director General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the Office of the Leading Group for Western Region Development of the State Council of the People's Republic of China.

In addition, ZHAO Ai is a Professor of the Graduate Student School of the China Academy of Social Science.



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