Rich Region, Strong States: The Political Economy of Security in Asia

Sponsored by the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation
Project on the Study of Innovation and Technology in China (SITC) and the
U.S. Naval War College Jerome Levy Chair of Economic Geography and National Security

November 4-5, 2012
La Jolla, California

AGENDA

Saturday, November 3
7:00 pm  Please join us for a casual opening dinner at Mustangs and Burros restaurant at the Estancia Hotel. Our reservation is under “IGCC.”

Sunday, November 4
Village at Torrey Pines, 15th floor, room A

7:45 am  Those people who are staying at the Estancia Hotel can meet and depart the lobby at 7:45 am to walk as a group to our meeting location. There will be walking signage.

8:00 am  Breakfast available in the meeting room

8:30 – 8:45 am  Welcome and Introductions
Tom Mahnken and Tai Ming Cheung

8:45 – 11:30 am  Panel 1: The Economic Underpinnings of Military Power in the Asia-Pacific Region over the Next Decade
Moderator: Tom Mahnken
Panelists: Sugio Takahashi, David Berteau

- What do you see as the key trends in defense spending in the Asia-Pacific region in the next decade? How will defense requirements fare compared to other domestic priorities for countries?
- Will we see continuing tightening of defense spending in U.S. and Japan, which could weaken their military capabilities? How credible is the U.S. strategic rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific given its budgetary austerity?
- Will China continue to increase its defense spending at the same double-digit rate that it has achieved over the past two decades?
• Will India be able to maintain its high rate of defense spending over the next 5-10 years to significantly modernize its military capabilities? How efficiently will India be able to make use of these increased resources?

• How will U.S. security alliances with its key regional partners, such as Japan and South Korea, be affected by economic trends, especially of a constrained U.S.?

• If the Asia-Pacific region were to experience a major economic slow-down such as during the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s, what would be the impact on the military dynamics in the region? Would defense priorities be compartmentalized because of the security dilemmas that many regional countries are facing?

11:30 – 1:00 pm  Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 pm  Panel 2: The Military-Security Underpinnings of Economic Dynamics in Asia: Will Asia be a More Peaceful Region Because of Trade and Investment?
Moderator: T.J. Pempel
Panelists: Peter Dombrowski, Erik Gartzke, Jonathan Markowitz, Stephan Haggard

• Will economic trends make Asia more peaceful or conflictual? What is the case for key bilateral relationships such as China and Japan, across the Taiwan Strait, and between China and the U.S.?

• How does the U.S. strategic rebalancing back to the Asia-Pacific affect its bilateral relationships with its regional allies, such as Japan, South Korea, and Australia?

• Is there any hope for a convergence in regional economic and security architectures or are they structurally compartmentalized?

3:30 – 3:45 pm  Tea Break

3:45 – 5:45 pm  Panel 3: Domestic Dynamics
Moderator: Tai Ming Cheung
Panelists: T.J. Pempel, Susan Shirk, Tom Mahnken

• How does domestic decision-making take place in China, Japan, South Korea, India, and the U.S. on their regional security strategies?

• What is the nature of coalitional politics and alignments in these states? Is the standard interpretation of internationalist vs. statist groupings useful?

• What are the key domestic drivers shaping how national leaderships balance their economic and security policy-making?

6:00 pm  Depart campus as a group for dinner at Piatti.

6:30 pm  Conference Dinner at Piatti
Monday, November 5  
*Village at Torrey Pines, 15th floor, room A*

8:30 am  
Breakfast available in the meeting room

9:00 – 11:30 am  
**Panel 4: Key Trends in the Economic Geography of Security in Asia**  
Moderator: Kevin Pollpeter  
Panelists: Toshi Yoshihara, Tom Mahnken, Brad Kaplan

- In what ways is the economic geography of Asia changing?
- Are maritime disputes in the Asia-Pacific region getting worse, to the extent that conflict is becoming unavoidable and likely sooner rather than later?
- What do the latest disputes in the South China Sea and East China Sea suggest is going on? Are we nearing a tipping point for conflict or can these disputes continue to be managed or kicked down the road for a solution?
- How do states in the region view the sea-lanes of communications? Do they regard continuing unimpeded access to be assured, especially given the role of the U.S. Navy in safeguarding the maritime commons, or is there a growing concern that the maritime rise of the likes of China and India will see challenges to this access?

11:30 – 1:00 pm  
Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 pm  
**Panel 5: Trends in the Military-Security Dimensions of Industrialization, Technology Development, and the Changing Locus of Innovation in Asia**  
Moderator: Brad Kaplan  
Panelists: Tai Ming Cheung, Peter Cowhey, Saadia Pekkanen, Ye Zheng

- What are the evolving patterns of civilian, defense, and dual-use industrialization and technology development in the major powers in the Asia-Pacific region (China, India, Japan, U.S.) and what are the implications for regional security?
- Will China be able to begin challenging the U.S. for military technological leadership anytime soon?
- Besides China, which other countries in the region are willing to build up their defense industrial and technological capabilities to support their own national security or are they willing to depend on the U.S.?
• What are the main trends in the cyber-security environment in the Asia-Pacific region? Which countries are engaging in the development of both offensive and defensive capabilities and how even is this development?
• Is the development of cyber-security capabilities in the region heavily militarized or more civilian in focus?

3:00 – 3:30 pm    Closing Remarks
                   Tom Mahnken and Tai Ming Cheung