



# APAC Journal

FROM THE ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL AT THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE

Fall 2007

## Upcoming APAC Events:

- 1/31 Green Dragon Mixer
- 2/5 Southeast Asia Internship Panel
- 2/8 Lunar New Year Celebration
- 2/11 Environmental Journalism in China
- 2/21 Green Dragon Debate
- 3/26 Career & Networking Event
- 4/8 Green Dragon Lecture
- 4/24 End of Year Party

*(dates subject to change)*

Event/speaker ideas are greatly appreciated. Please email [apaclist@gmail.com](mailto:apaclist@gmail.com) with suggestions.

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## Professor Gerald Curtis on the Post-Abe LDP

by Daniel De Simone

In September 2007, Professor Gerald L. Curtis presented the third in his annual special lecture series. This year's lecture proved especially prescient; the original title of the lecture had been "Can Abe Survive...and Can the LDP Survive Abe?" but was abruptly changed when Shinzō Abe announced his resignation two days prior to the event. Under the new title, "Abe's Gone . . . Is the

LDP Next?" Curtis spoke about Abe's rise to the premiership and the causes of his fall, noting that, in addition to the scandals that had plagued his cabinet, attempting to shift the focus of the election from economic practicalities to ideologies of constitutional revision proved disastrous



*Con'd on page 7*

## Ten Years On, Hong Kong's Future Looks Bright

by Matthew Fulco

On October 18, Hong Financial Secretary John Tsang spoke at a Weatherhead Policy Forum jointly organized by the Weatherhead East Institute and the Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office in New York.

Mr. Tsang began his speech with a reference to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, quipping that he doubted he would "be able to create as much excitement" as Mr. Ahmadinejad had during his visit to Columbia in late September.

In contrast to President Ahmadinejad, Mr. Tsang struck a rather ebullient tone in his speech, emphasizing Hong Kong's considerable economic clout and the growing interdependence of its economy with that of mainland China.

In particular, the Financial Secretary focused on Hong Kong's exceptional economic freedom and the opportunities it affords both the mainland and the rest of the world. As the gateway to China, Hong Kong is the largest single investor in the mainland, accounting for some 40 percent of its total direct investment. Furthermore, Hong Kong has boasted the freest economy in the world for the past ten years, with the rule of law, a strong infrastructure, low corporate taxes and no restrictions on foreign investment making it the logical East Asian headquarters for many multinational firms.

As he described in detail Hong Kong's impressive economic record, Mr. Tsang segued

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Photo: Columbia University

Photo: Courtney Mazzone

## Green Dragon Expert Panel: The Future of China's Environment

by Kerstin Ahlgren

David McCann from the Clinton Climate Initiative, Kyle Meng from Environmental Defense, and Jennifer Holdaway from the Social Science Research Council share a vision for China: to make addressing global climate change economically feasible and necessary. For McCann, this can be done by retrofitting public buildings, and for Meng by ensuring that the price of carbon is embedded in the economy. For Holdaway, advocacy and research (inherent in which is the collective treatment of environmental and health issues) is necessary to convince government institutions that death and disease stemming from environmental issues are causing a huge drain on the Chinese economy. Some estimates translate this loss to 5.8 percent of GDP, a vast underestimation according to Holdaway, and much of it is a direct result of individual poverty.

At the Green Dragon Expert Panel on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, Meng, McCann, and Holdaway talked about confronting similar problems in China, specifically, the willingness of Chinese national leaders to be observers, rather than actors. All three work primarily with government bodies (though also with NGOs), and Meng said that Environmental Defense recognizes the difficulty akin to “being a Chinese NGO based in D.C.” McCann also said that CCI is not aimed at bringing in foreign experts or consultants, but rather encouraging high-level political buy-in and the formation of internal teams to work on climate change. According to Holdaway, who often works on issues that affect the rural poor, such as internal pollution, occupational health, pesticides and solid waste management, “the options for local governments are very limited in poor areas” even when they agree that something must be done.

The most refreshing aspect of the three presentations was the focus on economics. Though, there is an aspect of education in Environmental Defense’s work, none of the organizations seem to think that the fight for action on climate change will be won by convincing people that environmentalism is a good idea. Rather, CCI tries to increase awareness of the co-benefits of good environmental policy (for example, lowered energy costs from using window film) and ED tries to increase the costs of polluting.

While the three speakers’ argument – the commercialization of environmentalism – seems to be the “best one” in the Churchillian sense, an example given by Holdaway brought to mind a couple of questions. Specifically, she mentioned the opportunity costs involved in decisions faced by local governments (and impoverished citizens themselves): for example, the difficulty in resisting offers of polluting industries who offer employment and other benefits. If the rationale for environmental action is purely economic, then, what happens when environmentalism does not make economic sense? What if environmentally intelligent choices are too expensive for developing countries in the short run, and cause decreased industrial output and decreased economic growth (since most countries still do not measure or use “Green GDP” as an indicator of growth)?

Meng, McCann, and Holdaway all clarified this issue to a certain extent. CCI’s work in China tends to make sense within the current economic system. Retrofitting buildings will lower energy costs now, and can be done relatively cheaply, so people only need to be convinced that that is the case. For Meng’s work, economic policy needs to be readjusted so that “decisions on the local level



Photo: APAC

will change.” Current international and Chinese policy makes the use of coal financially viable on the local level. To Meng, US policy creating border allowance requirements (a Lieberman-Warner bill about which is in congress right now) could potentially change that. The biggest obstacle, he said, is still US policy. The task for Holdaway is to create economically viable, alternative livelihoods, which will be accomplished through capacity building, in other words, better coordination between ministries, shared and open information, and improved research.

We encourage all interested parties to attend future Green Dragon events focusing on this issue of vital importance to us all.

***Green Dragon is a series of events that will examine in-depth the intersection between China and the environment. It aims to enhance understanding of the complex environmental challenges emerging in China today and to explore the global linkages and impacts of China’s environmental policies.***



*The Green Dragon logo marries the classical Chinese symbol of auspicious power, the dragon, with the “green” of the environmental movement to create an image that connects the Chinese environmental movement to a universal one. Illustrator David Robinson, who has lived in China and often depicts everyday life in Shaanxi province in his drawings, conceived the symbol for Green Dragon.*

## Student Panel on Internship Experiences in East Asia

by **Chris DeRusha and Travis Mosier**

On 10 October 2007, APAC presented the “East Asia Internship Panel,” where five students shared their experiences working in East Asia during the summer of 2007. Some panelists received travel grant money from the Office of Career Services (OCS), and recommended applying for those grants early in the spring. Some panelists also recommended seeking an internship for the spring semester to expand your network and your skill set.

Below is a brief background on each panelist and their UNI should you be interested in contacting them.

*Virsa Hurt* (vyh2102) worked on labor issues and regional disparities at the American Embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

*Ying-Yin Liu* (yl2325) interned at Merrill Lynch in Hong Kong, provided client relationship, and marketing support to senior advisors.

*Diana Wu* (dmw2117) worked with the microfinance group Association for the Rural Development of Yilong County in Sichuan, China, where she translated an AIDS report and assisted with grant proposals.

*Eunice Ha* (emh2151) interned at the Manna Mission of the USA in Yanji, China, where she assisted Korean-American doctors in bringing medicine from China to North Korea, as well as data-gathering and grant-writing.

*Joyce Yong Hee Shim* (ys2237) conducted social service systems research, translated findings from various inter-governmental conferences at the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Health and Welfare.

## Cha Speaks on America’s Role in East Asia

by **Geoffrey Hartman**

On 26 September 2007, the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and the APEC Study Center co-sponsored a policy forum with Victor Cha, former Director of East Asian Affairs for the United States National Security Council and current professor at the Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. At the forum, entitled “The Past and Future of American Leadership in Asia,” Dr. Cha spoke about his time on the National Security Council, his role in the six-party talks dealing with North Korea’s nuclear program and about the current state of American leadership in East Asia.

On the whole, Dr. Cha presented a rather optimistic view of the current state of affairs in East Asia. Sino-American relations, he argued, have become increasingly close and valued due to interaction between the two countries fostered by the six-party talks. The frequent high-level contact between leaders in the two countries has led to a familiarity and openness of dialogue that stands in marked contrast to the tension that existed in the early years of the Bush administration.

Ties between the U.S. and Japan have also tightened in recent years. According to Dr. Cha, the relationship today is quite possibly as close as it has ever been. Dr. Cha attributed this strong relationship not only to the shared interests of the two countries, but also to the close personal relationship shared by President Bush and former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Relations between the U.S. and South Korea have also improved since a low point coinciding with the election of current South Korean president Roh Moo-Hyun in 2003, in Cha’s view. This improved relationship has been most no-

ticeably demonstrated by the recent signing of a free trade agreement between the two countries. Dr.

Cha spoke of the importance of this free trade agreement and expressed his belief that it would ultimately gain the support of the U.S. Senate. Failure to pass the bill in the Senate would set a dangerous precedent for future American free trade agreements, Cha argued, something he did not believe the Senate would be willing to do.

According to Cha, slow but steady progress is being made in shutting down the North Korean nuclear program. While working at the White House, Dr. Cha was one of the chief negotiators representing the United States in the six-party talks, so he had a great deal to say about the negotiation process that led to the February 2007 joint statement promising the shutdown and resumed inspection of the North Korean reactor at Yongbyon in exchange for fuel aid and diplomatic concessions from Japan and the U.S. He also expressed his belief that, while recent progress has been promising, the process is far from over and continued cooperation between the negotiating countries is necessary to ensure future North Korean cooperation.

Overall, Cha painted a very upbeat picture of America’s position in East Asia. Many regional issues still exist and need to be grappled with, he argued, but developments have been steadily moving in America’s favor and the good relations built between the U.S. and the major countries in the region bode well for future cooperation.



Photo: Columbia University

## An Interview with Myron Cohen

by Kerstin Ahlgren

Photo: Columbia University



**How did you become interested in China and Taiwan?**

When I was an undergraduate I majored in anthropology. At that time, I became attracted to China because, for much of the past 2000 years, it had been the world's largest society and for me the question was, what, in its culture and polity, held it together?

**Francis Fukuyama has said: "Confucianism is in part a doctrine about the state, and it**

**prescribes clear rules for bureaucratic authority." Does your research on family structures tell a similar tale?**

In the West, the study of the Chinese family has undergone major changes in terms of thematic and theoretical orientation; but these changes have rather simply followed social and economic change in the target societies. In the 1940s and 1950s, scholars interested in modernization theory held that the Chinese Confucian family was an obstacle to modern economic development, while by the 1980s, this family was thought to have facilitated rapid economic progress. Confucianism is certainly significant for East Asian culture, but is not useful as an all embracing summary. It must be connected with other elements. For instance, managerial responsibility was very important for the head of the family. Good management was valorized. A huge undivided family living in the same compound with a patriarch was taken by some as a symptom of staying power, of Confucian piety. But also this showed that the patriarch was a good manager, skilled in persuasion and financially successful. These kinds of

notions are being transformed but not dispensed with in East Asia; there is still a strong sense of responsibility and a ready transformation of management foci in the contemporary world. **Did you find there to be a change in family structure during the Cultural Revolution, and how might that relate to the present situation?**

The Cultural Revolution actually was not a time of dramatic change in family structure. In the countryside whole families stayed together, because they had to produce. Ancestor worship was retained, it just retreated indoors. When I did research in Shanghai in the 1990s I was surprised to find that almost every family worshiped their ancestors on the first day of the lunar New Year. I asked about this and they said that they had only stopped for one year during the height of the Cultural Revolution. The big resurgence in popular religion bespeaks of a circumstance in which it went underground – or rather retreated into the private family domain – but was not destroyed. Collectivization, however, did have an impact, one which is still unfolding today and is the result of the Chinese experience under Communism, but which also can be seen as a subset of broader changes in East Asian family life in modern times.

**How do you think development practitioners can learn both from anthropology as a field, and specifically from the historical economic culture of China?**

Don't over or underestimate people in terms of your goals, but rather be guided on the basis of their life circumstances. Often time resistance [to change or development] is not necessarily a conservative reaction, but rather a careful, rational weighing of the assets and risks involved. In working with rural villagers it must be understood that they have an absolutely intimate and detailed knowledge of local conditions; on the basis of their understandings you need to show them viable options that won't entail risks of a kind they are unwilling to take. Like everybody else, they give priority to their own survival.

## Op-ed: What Can ASEAN Do For Burma?

by Maung Win Naing

After a violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrators by Burma's military junta in September 2007, Ibrahim Gambari, special advisor to United Nations Secretary General, made an official visit to Burma. His visit was to accommodate a dialogue between military generals and Aung San Suu Kyi. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) played a vital role in facilitating this trip, particularly Indonesia, Thailand, and Singapore, which all have close ties with the junta. Despite his attempts at constructive dialogue, there has been no substantive progress. This is simply because the generals have shown no real intention of political reform via a dialogue proposed by the UN and ASEAN.

The Burmese regime's State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is one of

the worst human rights violators in the world, according to international human rights groups. Neither free speech nor assembly are allowed. More than 1,000 political prisoners are currently incarcerated. The popularly elected opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has herself been under house arrest for 12 of the past 18 years. Deterioration of the country's economy has forced at least two million to emigrate to Thailand, and thousands of others to Malaysia.

In spite of all of this, Burma's ruling generals have secured a protected status from neighboring countries since Burma's joining ASEAN in 1996. The regime's membership has made it difficult for the United States and European Union to pressure the regime to reform. ASEAN leaders believed that by incorporating the Burmese regime, they could gradually change the character of the

country's leadership through ASEAN's shared values and principles — constructive engagement and a policy of non-interference.

The strongest backers of the Burmese regime are not the 10 member states of ASEAN, but China, India, and Russia — regional competitors with geostrategic interests in Burma and the surrounding area. China and Russia have both used their veto at the United Nations Security Council to protect the regime. China is currently building a natural gas pipeline from Burma's Arakan Coast to China. China and Burma are also engaged in lucrative trade in arms and military technology. India has also become a strategic partner of the junta due to China's deployment of naval bases close to the Indian Ocean. So can what ASEAN do for Burma? There are many reasons to believe that they can do very little. Critics of ASEAN dismiss it as a social club with

## Op-ed: Architecture in a New China

by Portia Hunt

Anyone who visits Beijing today is immediately struck by the visibly rapid urbanization and redevelopment of the city. China's capital literally transforms overnight, every night, as construction workers and demolition crews work around the clock to realize Beijing's dream of becoming a glittering, thoroughly modern city. That which remains of Beijing's historic neighborhoods is a grid of many hundreds of small lanes and alleyways. These are called *hutongs* and their layout dates back to the 14th century. One third of the 62 square kilometers of the old city has been demolished in recent years, including over 1,000 *hutongs* and the

*sibeyuan* (one-story courtyard houses) that comprise them, owing to the high premium on land and the rapid redevelopment of the city as it reinvents itself in time for the 2008 Summer Olympics.

The conflict between old and new Beijing ignites some of the most heated debates in China today. The fundamental principals of Chinese architecture and design have changed little over the past 2,000 years. Traditionalists are angered that ancient Chinese architecture and many of its principles are discarded by today's developers. On the other side are those others who are eager to leap into the

modern world with no looking back. The Chinese real estate market boom shows no signs of deceleration. Urbanization is accelerating and the Chinese government expects that it will increase 0.8-1.0 percent per year. The average Chinese household's disposable income is on the rise, and with it the demand for bigger and better quality housing. This, along with the internationalization of Beijing, has precipitated a sort of architectural identity crisis.

Three styles of architecture prevail in contemporary urban Beijing. First, the traditional architecture of imperial China, perhaps best exemplified by the massive Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Temple of Heaven. After the founding of the People's Republic of China

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## Op-ed: The Khmer Rouge Tribunal: Worth the Wait?

by Joseph Lin

On 20 November 2007, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (commonly known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal) held its first public hearing concerning the Khmer Rouge genocide. Many, including the former King of Cambodia, claim that this entire process is a waste of money. With a price tag of 56.3 million USD and a delay of over 25 years (since the Khmer Rouge seized control of the country), this judicial process is extremely expensive and long overdue. On the other hand, this process represents relief and justice for the millions who suffered under Pol Pot's regime. And in the end, though frustrating and costly, this tribunal process is worth the wait.

Most survivors will not receive complete reconciliation for all the crimes against humanity committed between 1975-1979. It was this era, under the rule of the Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge), that an estimated two million Cambodians were summarily executed. The effects of this regime can still be seen today through the country's poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lasting psychological effects on the population. Cambodians will be short-changed on justice because this tribunal came too late: Pol Pot, the leader of

this movement, died in 1998. In addition, multiple disagreements between the United Nations and the Cambodian government have postponed justice for decades.

Another hindrance against comprehensive justice is that, though thousands were involved in orchestrating the genocide, only 5-8 people will likely be prosecuted. Because so many Cambodians were involved in the Khmer Rouge, including current government officials, the tribunal will only prosecute those most egregiously responsible. This requirement was instituted to ensure that current government officials will not lose face should their past actions come under scrutiny. These officials have not been reluctant to use stall tactics, such as demanding foreign legal bar fees, in gaining leverage with the tribunal.

Critics of the tribunal claim that the process is entirely too costly. The average income per capita for Cambodians is between 300-500 USD per year. Cambodia's human development index is toward the bottom quarter, and unemployment is about 30 percent of the labor force. With millions living in relative poverty, many, including the former king, feel



that the money for the tribunal could be better spent on social services. The poor in Cambodia are concerned less with the tribunal than feeding their families. As one poor farmer said in frustration, "Justice will not feed my family."

Though it is true that justice will not fill stomachs, justice will feed the consciousness of the survivors. Reconciliation is long overdue and the nation cannot progress without moving beyond its traumatic past. The greatest benefit of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal will be in the form of a message: that the international community has not forgotten the plight of the millions who suffered under the Khmer Rouge. It will also communicate to Cambodians that the leaders of the Khmer Rouge will not escape justice. Lastly, the tribunal will give distraught Cambodians something in short supply in a conflict-torn country: peace of mind.

# Japan's Problems and Emerging China: A Japanese Banker's Perspective

by Chris DeRusha

On 20 September 2007, Mr. Masamoto Yashiro presented "Japan's Problems and Emerging China: A Japanese Banker's Perspective" at an event hosted by Columbia's Business School. Mr. Yashiro currently serves as a senior advisor to Shinsei Bank, where he was Chairman and CEO from 2000 to 2005. He also currently serves on several committees which have given him unique access and insight into both China and Japan's banking sectors. Since August 2004 he has been a member of the Council of International Advisers of the China Banking Regulatory Commission, and from September 2004 until June 2007 he was an independent director of China Construction Bank, where he became an advisor in June 2007.

One topic covered by Mr. Masamoto was the current state of China's banking sector. Mr. Masamoto presented a very optimistic picture,

speaking highly of China's Banking Regulatory Commission, and how they are taking timely actions in regulating economic growth. He drew a comparison to Japan, saying when the bubble started to grow in Japan practically nothing was done to contain it, which is the opposite of what he currently sees in China. He says all loans above a certain amount are no longer approved by the bank's regional branches – rather they are signed off by central headquarters, which is helping to reduce the number of non-performing loans issued. He also pointed out that bank auditors at local and regional branches have adopted a centralized approach, and now report directly to central headquarters, improving transparency and accuracy of assessments. Mr. Masamoto asserted that China's banks are spending at least the same amount as major Western banks on their auditing each year, and at times

are billing a lot more hours, and – importantly – are using internationally accredited auditors like KPMG. Due to this, he is optimistic that China's notoriously unreliable accounting books are indeed being brought up to international standards.

Mr. Masamoto is very optimistic about China's ability to sustain its economic growth and said that the bank's leadership has its eyes open to identifying and rectifying all the problems which could lead to a destabilization of China's banking system, which he views as a positive sign. Although some of the banks' new centralizing practices and technologies are causing leadership to realize the vast breadth of challenges it faces, he argues that finding out just how many problems the banks have is a good thing, because identification is the first step towards rectifying problems and making improvements for the future.

## ARCHITECTURE, con'd

in 1949, the strongest influence on Chinese architecture was the Soviets, China's neighbors to the northwest from whom they acquired their political ideology. Between the 1950s and 1970s, the most popular style of architecture was what is sometimes referred to as the "Sino-Soviet" style. It was Stalin's goal to "wipe clean the slate of the past ... and rebuild the world from top to bottom." Tiananmen Square itself is a sprawling expanse of concrete. The Square is home to several important buildings, including the Great Hall of the People, all stamped with the tell-tale Soviet architecture of square columns and concrete.

Third, there are many more modern architectural forms — most noticeably in the area of the Central Business District. These structures have no culturally defining features. They are monuments to economic development which, taken out of context, could belong to any city in any part of the world. China's architectural composi-

tion today is a jumble of old, new, East and West. Critics of this phenomenon assert that although China has a 5,000 year-long cultural history, it is losing the very things that make it unique. Like in many other areas of the world, China has its traditionalists who mourn this departure from convention and the threat it poses to cultural heritage.

The rapid disappearance of Beijing's *hutongs* and *sibeyuan* is more significant to some than just the extinction of a style of architecture unique to Beijing. The very cultural heritage of this ancient city is at risk as well. Those who do not lament the loss of these traditional dwellings site numerous shortcomings that make *hutong*-living less than idyllic. The houses that line *hutongs* lack sanitation facilities and functional infrastructure and are poorly insulated and overcrowded. *Sibeyuan* and *hutongs* cannot easily accommodate the changing needs of Beijing's population, and demolition and redevelopment is more cost-effective than renovation.



That which is lost in this rationale is the intangible cultural history of Beijing's people. Social fabric, community and a way of life face extinction under current methods of urban development. It is this community and humanistic quality that makes a house a home that cannot be replaced.

## Mongolia: Past, Present and Future

by Daniel De Simone

On 24 October 2007, WEAI co-sponsored a Columbia University World Leaders Forum event featuring the President of Mongolia, Nambaryn Enkhbayar. Mr. Enkhbayar was introduced by WEAI director Myron Cohen, and he gave a speech before participating in a question and answer session.

The President's speech traced Mongolia's economic development from the recent past into their future plans, noting throughout that economic development and stability was key for Mongolia's continued autonomy and sovereignty. Mr. Enkhbayar began by describing the devastating effects the dissolution of the Soviet Union had on Mongolia's economy, as Mongolia had been dependent on loans from the USSR. He then described the post-Soviet flourishing of independent political parties, ideologies, religions and media, and the

developments of the Mongolian economy, which reached pre-Soviet-disintegration levels in 2002 and has since grown by 30 percent. Enkhbayar then spoke of Mongolia's future and the necessity to maintain mobility and pursue new avenues of economic growth.

In the short term, Mr. Enkhbayar hopes Mongolia will take advantage of rich mineral deposits, encourage personal savings, promote the middle class, improve the educational system, and make infrastructural improvements both for its citizens and to promote tourism.

In the long term, he hopes that a continuing focus on education will lead to a knowledge-based economy, that Mongolia will, by 2021, reach the level of development of modern South Korea, that the country will experience 12 percent annual

economic growth, and that by 2021 the middle class will become Mongolia's dominant economic group. In the question and answer session, President Enkhbayar fielded questions about political corruption and accountability, relations with Mongolia's neighbors, Russia and China, as well as US-Mongolia relations and the role of international financial institutions in Mongolia's development.

### LDP, con'd

for the LDP in the recent parliamentary elections. Curtis also spoke about Abe's predecessor, Junichirō Koizumi, and made predictions as to who would succeed Abe as Prime Minister. His predictions were soon borne out, as Yasuo Fukuda ascended to the premiership within two weeks of Curtis's lecture. In remarking on the titular question, "Is the LDP Next?" Curtis pointed to the remarkable flexibility and adaptability of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party, and believing that seats recently won by the Democratic Party of Japan reflected anti-LDP more than pro-DPJ votes, Curtis seemed certain that the LDP's electoral struggles would be short-lived.

### ASEAN, con'd

no real power to intervene in a member's internal affairs. ASEAN member states have begun to speak out against the regime; and there is no doubt that ASEAN leaders want to see improvement in Burma's economic, social and political conditions, but they have yet to form an effective strategy to bring about substantive change. China and India's ties to the regime have served to undermine ASEAN's influence, making it unlikely that the status quo will change in the near future. What ASEAN *can* do is utilize its soft power to encourage dialogue between the junta and the opposition; Aung San Suu Kyi expressed willingness to cooperate with the regime. Pressure from ASEAN may gradually bring the regime to the negotiating table. With consistent effort, ASEAN can see its influence grow, to the benefit of the Burmese people.

### HONG KONG, con'd

into a discussion of peaceful coexistence between the Special Administrative Region and the mainland. He challenged audience members' memories when he referred to *Fortune Magazine's* infamous "Death of Hong Kong" article published in 1995. However, Mr. Tsang chose not to dwell for long on the irony of the title. Rather, he illustrated that the success of "One Country, Two Systems" as enshrined in Hong Kong's Basic Law is self-evident. For those unfamiliar with the political jargon, Mr. Tsang explained that "One Country, Two Systems" refers to the coexistence of a capitalist system in Hong Kong and a socialist system in the mainland.

The Financial Secretary was also quick to point out that despite the socio-economic differences between Hong Kong and the mainland, the two belong to "the same family," with the "family care unit" defined as Chinese culture itself. Mr. Tsang seemed to allude to British colonialism when he mentioned that the two family members had had "different foster parents" although he did not elaborate on the identities of the

As he prepared to conclude his speech, Mr. Tsang made an eloquent case for Hong Kong's continued economic advancement. Citing the Special Administrative Region's preferential access to mainland markets per the WTO agreement, he suggested that international companies could use this to increase their market share in China. In addition, he called Hong Kong a "knowledge bank" for financial services and expressed adamantly his hopes that the territory would eventually reach the status of New York and London as one of the world's premier financial centers.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Tsang called for constructive U.S. engagement with Greater China. He told the audience that the Chinese people "share the same dreams we all do." He said that if Sino-US relations could develop peacefully with mutual respect between the two nations that it would be the best possible scenario for the mainland, Hong Kong and the United States.

parents.

*Photos from APAC Events*




# About APAC

Founded and run by students, the Asia Pacific Affairs Council (APAC) is the central forum for students interested in East and Southeast Asian affairs. APAC serves the Columbia University community by organizing events, distributing information, coordinating East and Southeast Asia-related activities and building a community for students interested in the region. APAC works closely with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute to fulfill its mission. Activity highlights include:

- Internship and Career Panels
- Social Events
- Brown Bag Discussions
- Lecture Series
- “Meet the Faculty” Luncheons
- Job and Internship Announcements



Photos: Carissa Dizon / Brian Chang

Please send APAC Journal submissions and comments to [pmh2107@columbia.edu](mailto:pmh2107@columbia.edu) and [cmm2172@columbia.edu](mailto:cmm2172@columbia.edu)  
 To join the APAC List Serve, write to [apaclist@gmail.com](mailto:apaclist@gmail.com).

