Keynote Speech: Mr. Davis, Carlisle R of U.S. Embassy Beijing

Presenter: YU Tiejun (Associate Professor, Peking University)
Presentation title: China in the Shadow of the US-led Alliance System in East Asia

Abstract:

Nations normally enters alliance in order to become more secure than go it alone. But for those nations outside of an alliance, they usually feel more insecure when they are targeted by the alliance. This alliance dynamism repeated itself throughout history and all across the world, though the degree of which depends on the circumstances.

The current security architecture of East Asia includes several types of security mechanism such as military alliances, collective security, cooperative security and concert of major powers, among which the US-led alliance system has occupied perhaps the most prominent position. The “Hub-and-Spoke” system connecting the US and its allies in this region, ROK, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand, had been formed during the Cold War, and remained intact until now.

In recent years, the US-led alliances have gained new momentum. Considering the complex and unstable situations on the Korean Peninsula, the Sino-Japanese tension in and over the East China Sea, and the maritime disputes in the South China Sea, China has many reasons to be concerned with the ongoing development of the US-led alliance system. It is worthwhile to look at how China perceives and responses to this.

Bio:

Yu Tiejun is an associate professor in the School of International Studies (SIS) and Vice President of the Institute of International and Strategic Studies (IISS) at Peking University. Previously, he studied at the University of Tokyo in 1998-2000, and served as visiting fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University in 2005, and also as visiting scholar at the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard University in 2005-06. Dr. Yu has co-edited The Sino-Japanese Security and Defense Exchange: Past, Present, and Prospect (Beijing: World Affairs Press, 2012, with Zhu Feng and Akiyama Masahiro). He is also the Chinese translator of Myths of Empire by Jack Snyder (2007) and Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics by Arnold Wolfers (2006). His research interests include International Security, China-U.S.-Japan Relations, and China’s National Defense Policy. He won the Excellent Teaching Award of Peking University in 2010. Dr. Yu received his Ph.D., M.A. and B.A. from Peking University.
Presentation 3

Presenter: LEE Dong Sun (Associate Professor, Korea University)

Presentation title: The Impact of Economic Interdependence on East Asian Alliances

Abstract:

This presentation investigates how commercial ties affect the cohesiveness of US alliances with East Asian nations. While the conventional wisdom views their effects as positive, we argue that economic interdependence does not markedly reinforce East Asian alliances because the alliances have an asymmetrical structure. To evaluate these competing arguments, we examine the impact of bilateral trade on the US alliances with Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, and South Korea, over the past quarter-century. Our empirical analysis provides little evidence for the conventional view, while supporting our argument.

Bio:

Dong Sun Lee is an associate professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University. Dr. Lee received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago and conducted research for the East-West Center, before assuming his current position. He also was a visiting scholar at the George Washington University in 2010. His research interests include Asian security and international relations theory. His current research focuses on Asian security order, East Asian alliances, and North Korea. He is author of Power Shifts, Strategy, and War: Declining States and International Conflict (Routledge, 2008) and of articles in scholarly journals, including Asian Security, Australian Journal of International Affairs, Journal of East Asian Studies, Korea Observer, Korean Journal of Defense Analysis, and Pacific Focus. He also contributed to edited volumes such as The Long Shadow: Nuclear Weapons and Security in 21st Century Asia (Stanford University Press, 2008) and The International Encyclopedia of Peace (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Presentation 4

Presenter: LEE Jong Won (Professor, Waseda University)

Presentation title: Regionalizing and Globalizing Alliances?: Japan’s Search for Strategy in the Post-Cold War World

Abstract:

For the past decades, Japan has been searching for ways to cope with newly emerging challenges in international and regional security flux. In vibrant debates on national security policy, relative balance and proper combination of bilateral alliances and regional frameworks is a central issue. In early post-Cold War years Japan was active in regional security cooperation, based on the reaffirmation of traditional alliance with the United States. However, in recent years, partly as a
reaction to the “rise of China,” Tokyo and Washington attempt to “regionalize” and “globalize” their bilateral alliance, expanding it into a pillar of the security architectures in East Asia. In this presentation I will examine the recent developments in Japan’s regional security policies, and the problems and tasks in its pursuit of a national strategy.

Bio:
LEE Jong Won is Professor of Korean studies and International Relations at the Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. His areas of research are politics and diplomacy in East Asia, with particular focus on the Korean peninsula. He received Ph. D. from the University of Tokyo, majoring in international politics. He served as a member of presidential advisory committee on policy planning, ROK, from 2003 to 2008, as well as guest scholar at Asahi Shimbun for Asahi Asia Network in 2003. His book The Cold War in East Asia and Korea-U.S.-Japan Relations (Japanese) published by the Tokyo University Press in 1996, won the Ohira Masayoshi Memorial Award and the Best Foreign-language Book Prize of the Organization of American Historians.

Presentation 5
Presenter: PRASIRTSUK Kitt (Assistant Professor), Thammasat University
Presentation title: Between the United States and China: Thailand in the New Power Reconfiguration
Abstract:
Amidst the changing security environment and power reconfiguration, Thailand, a key country in Southeast Asia, came to face a challenge in managing its relations with superpowers. On the one hand, Thailand represented a traditional U.S. ally in Asia and can be considered a linchpin of the American ‘Pivot’ to Asia, as demonstrated by ‘Cobra Gold,’ the major military exercise in the region held annually. On the other hand, Thailand has cordial relations with China in all dimensions, politically, economically, and socio-culturally. China has not only replaced the United States as the largest export destination for Thailand, but also has constituted the biggest share of tourists to the nation.

The presentation analyzes Bangkok’s responses to this challenge, which have implications for both the United States and China. Thailand arguably represents a test case how successful the U.S. manages its allies and how well China manages its relations with ASEAN, all of which have ramifications for regional security.

Bio:
Kitti Prasirtsuk teaches international relations in the Faculty of Political Science and serves as Director at the Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University.

He received his B.A. from Thammasat, an M.A. from Keio University and a Ph.D. from the
University of California, Berkeley (2001). His areas of interest include international relations in East and Southeast Asia, Japanese politics and foreign policy, and ASEAN.


Prof. Kitti also taught “International Relations in Southeast Asia” as a visiting professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and also had special lectures at Wesada University, Yonsei University, and Korea University. He also gave talks at ANU, University of Munich, and Baptist University of Hong Kong. Kitti is regularly invited to speak at various international symposiums.

Presentation 6

Presenter: HE Baogang (Professor, Nanyang Technological University)
Presentation title: Rise of China and Regionalism in Asia: Can Asian regionalism reduce the conflict in the Asia-Pacific?
Abstract:

The rise of China has posed a significant challenge to the primacy of US power in Asia. It has become the main source of economic development in the region and seems likely to sit at the top of a new economic hierarchy in Asia. At the same time the old security order is still in place. America’s hierarchical security order involves a system of bilateral alliances and these exist side by side with Asian regionalism and the new economic order that China is creating. So in this context, the question I ask in my talk is whether ASEAN will become divided and dangerous due to rivalry between the US and China, or whether Sino-US cooperation will lead to regional peace and prosperity, a new wave of regionalism.

There are several challenging questions concerning the idea that regionalism can reduce the security dilemma. Can regionalism reduce conflicts? How can two great powers accept the idea of mediating and managing their conflicts through a regional arrangement? And whose model or version of regionalism has the best chance of reducing conflict? The US-led model of Asia-Pacific regionalism clashes with China’s model of so-called harmonious Asian regional cooperation. Moreover, is it possible for a regionalism alternative to go beyond the US alliance? And can
alliances and regionalism be compatible?

My talk aims to address the above questions. The structure of the talk is as follows. First, I will discuss the scepticism that surrounds the role of regionalism, followed by a brief examination of how regionalism can reduce conflicts in the world. I will provide a detailed investigation of the causal mechanisms through which regionalism can mediate, manage and reduce conflicts between great powers. Finally, I will illustrate three necessary conditions under which Asian regionalism can manage the conflicts in the region.

**Bio:**

Professor Baogang He is the head of Public Policy and Global Affairs program at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and tenured Professor and Chair of International Studies program since 2005, at Deakin University, Australia. Graduated with PhD in Political Science from Australian National University in 1994, Professor He has become widely known for his work in Chinese democratization and politics, in particular the deliberative politics in China.

Professor He has published 4 single-authored books, 63 international refereed journal articles resulting in total Google citation count of 2295 (as of 19 May 2015) and Hirsch index of 25. His publications are found in top journals including *British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Peace Research, Political Theory*, and *Perspectives on Politics*. Many of his books and book chapters were published by very prestigious publishers including Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press and Routledge. Several of Professor He’s research works have been translated and published in other languages such as French, German, Italian, Korean and Russian. In addition, he published 3 books, 15 book chapters and 63 journal papers in Chinese.

With an impressive track record of attracting 20 grants amounting to a total amount of S$2 millions in research funding, Professor He has actively collaborated in several key international research projects.

Professor He has also held several honorary appointments and research fellowships at renowned universities including Stanford University, University of Cambridge, Columbia University, Leiden and Sussex University.