One-day International Seminar

Sino-US Quest for ASEAN Cooperation: Impact on Regional Security

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

At Senate Hall, Al-Haj Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Administration Building, University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Organized by:

Area Study Centre
Far East & South East Asia
University of Sindh,
Jamshoro - Pakistan
ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
SINO-US QUEST FOR ASEAN COOPERATION:
IMPACT ON REGIONAL SECURITY
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Presided by

Professor Dr. Abida Taherani
Vice Chancellor & Chairman
Board of Governors, Area Study Centre,
Far East & South East Asia University of Sindh, Jamshoro

Convener

Professor Dr. Hamadullah Kakepoto
Director, Area Study Centre
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Lecturer, Area Study Centre
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INTRODUCTION

Far East and Southeast Asia Study Centre, University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan started functioning in accordance with the directives of the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan in 1973. Subsequently, National Assembly of Pakistan passed an Act No. XLV of 1975 for the establishment of Area Study Centers in Pakistan. Since then it has successfully carried out the objectives of the Parliamentary Act to earn national reputation for academic excellence and devotion to nation-building process. The main purpose of the establishment of the Area Study Centre for Far East and South East Asia is to find out ways and means to promote teaching and advance research in language, literature, culture, economics, political and sociological studies of Far East and South East Asian countries, with interdisciplinary approach for a better understanding and promotion of the international co-operation through academic exchange programs, cultural collaborations and to collect and provide data for the development of social, political, security and trade relations of Pakistan with Far East and South East Asian countries. Besides that, one of the major functions of the center is to organize conferences, seminars and refresher courses for the development of teaching and research. It also aims to work for providing relevant information and data of the research studies to benefit the concerned students, scholars, academia, professionals and state organizations.

Accordingly, the center has a tradition of conducting international seminar for bringing Pakistan and Fareast Southeast Asian countries closer through high quality research, knowledge and
cultural exchanges. The center has organized a ‘One-Day International Seminar on Sino-US Quest for ASEAN Cooperation: Impact on Regional Security’ on 18 November, 2015 at Senate Hall, Al-Haj Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Administration Building, University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

RATIONALE

During the last two decades Asian Continent has got much attention of policy makers around the world. According to scholars 21st Century is Asian Century, where the centre of gravity of all types of political and economic activities has been shifted from western and European theater to Asian continent. Among the major actors of Asian continent, ASEAN is one of its dominant actors in economic sphere. During the last two decades, the success of ASEAN has inspired many emerging countries around the world to get connected with one of the economically most vibrant organizations. Similarly, emerging China is also very active in establishing linkages with ASEAN for variety of reasons. China is an emerging economy, who is always in search of markets. ASEAN is very easily accessible market for Chinese products. Further, China wants smooth growth and security of energy resources. Thus, cordial relations with ASEAN will help China to secure energy supplies which will ensure its smooth economic growth. Further, China wants to establish cordial relations with its neighboring countries to avoid any confrontation which may disturb its peaceful economic growth.

On the other hand, US is worried about the growing influence of China in the South East Asian region. China’s active presence and
involvement in the Southeast Asian affairs is viewed by the US policy makers with greater suspicion, as it may result in a block led by China which may affect American interests in the region. Therefore, in order to balance the Chinese presence, and check its growing influence, US is also actively engaged with ASEAN and its member countries bilaterally.

Thus, the quest between US and China to catch the cooperation of ASEAN for their respective objectives has created the environment of competition between two powers. So far both of the powers have tried to maintain the balance of presence and avoided any confrontation. But any sort of indirect confrontation between them cannot be ruled out. Thus, competition between US and China for hunting ASEAN region, may disturb the security environment of the region. Therefore, peace and economic growth of the region much depends upon the stable and cordial relations between US and China.

OBJECTIVES

- To explore the factor pushing China for ASEAN Cooperation.
- To explore the American interested in the region.
- To discuss the security environment of the region.
- To discuss challenges and opportunities for US and China.
- To suggest recommendations to maintain peace and security and economic development in the region.
List of Speakers

**Mushahid Hussain Syed**  
Ex-Foreign Minister  
Government of Pakistan,

**Dr. Ravichandaran Moorthy**  
Associate Professor  
School of History, Politics & Strategy  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University Kebangsaan Malaysia  
(National University of Malaysia)  
Malaysia

**Mr. Najmuddin A. Shaikh**  
Former Foreign Secretary,  
Islamabad

**Professor Dr. Sheikh Muthair Ahmed**  
Chairperson,  
Department of International Relations,  
University of Karachi  
Karachi