

## **China in Asia: Regional Institutions and Asian Integration Event Report**

**Date:** November 4, 2005  
**Venue:** American Enterprise Institute, Washington  
**Speakers:** Claude Barfield, Evelyn Goh, Roy Kamphausen, Sheldon Simon  
**Audience:** 100+ participants from government, business, and the policy research community

### **Summary:**

The seminar on “China in Asia: Regional Institutions and Asian Integration” was a follow-on event to the August 2005 conference “Contending Perspectives: Southeast Asian and American Views on a Rising China.” The three panelists (including both research directors from the NBR’s *Contending Perspectives* project) discussed efforts to strengthen economic, political, and security institutions in Southeast Asia, focusing on Chinese initiatives, regional responses, and prospects for increased regionalism.

The seminar was organized by the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the National Defense University (NDU) in collaboration with The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR).

### **Key Findings:**

- ASEAN’s lack of a formal code of conduct and its adherence to a policy of non-interference renders it largely ineffective in addressing key issues among the member states, as well as with regard to relations with the United States and China.
- Southeast Asian states tend to prefer a policy of engagement with China, although the degree to which they maintain close relations with Beijing varies along geographical lines (i.e., the continental-maritime divide) and their traditional relationship with Washington (i.e., allies and other partners versus countries under sanction).
- The United States needs to reassess the way in which it engages Southeast Asia. There is a need for Washington to adopt a more conciliatory approach to diplomacy in the region.
- Terrorism may be a driver toward closer intra-ASEAN cooperation, since greater collaboration will be required to counter non-traditional, non-state-based transnational threats.

### **Additional Information:**

- Seminar agenda and seminar notes

For further information about this event, please contact [mwills@nbr.org](mailto:mwills@nbr.org).