

# GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

January, 2007

## ADDRESSING NEW SECURITY THREATS IN EAST ASIA

### Environmental and Migration Issues

(Proposal: **December 12, 2005**)

**This conference is intended to identify the serious challenges to security posed by emerging threats in Northeast Asia that have not been sufficiently addressed in traditional security studies and present concrete and realistic suggestions as to how those threats can be reduced through multilateral cooperation. The conference will focus on air and water pollution, environmental degradation, the misuse of marine resources and the social instability and conflict engendered by legal and illegal migration as part of an effort to formulate a long-term policy for the nations of East Asia and the United States for resolving these borderless security threats.**

**Scholars and government officials with practical experience will gather together in this conference to consider the root causes of these problems and propose realistic strategies for responding. Questions for consideration will include: Have environmental issues reached the state that they demand modification of our current conception of security? What practical strategies exist for addressing environmental issues and how can current technologies and institutions be adapted to accurately and adequately address these needs? How can we make persuasive arguments to lawmakers to justify greater investments in environmental security?**

**How do cultural and social factors play into the definition of security in the various nations of East Asia and in the United States? To what degree do solutions to pollution, environmental degradation and migration require a multilateral approach?**

The participants from the United States and from East Asia will each present a careful analysis of the specific threat that deviates from our traditional conception of security and suggest a concrete solution. The conference will also consider how these environmental security threats challenge the traditional nation-state centered concept of security and what mechanisms can we develop in the future to address them in a meaningful manner.

**The results of this conference will be written up as a single volume consisting of a concise summary of the salient points made in each presentation and the implications brought up in discussion. The volume will also be translated into Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Malaysian and perhaps other languages for distribution in East Asia and the United States. The conference will present concrete plans for elevating pollution and migration to the forefront for consideration not only in emotional editorials, but over the long term by security professionals.**

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## **First Day**

8:30-9:00 AM Keynote Speech

David Steinberg, Georgetown University

“Rethinking Security in East Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

[Environmental groups and military planners have seen each other as foes in most cases, but can we make a case with regards to environmental issues, and migration

issues, that by redefining the word security, we can bring both sides together. Can we make an effective argument that environmental and migration issues deserve to be at the top of the list in our security threat list? Let us look at the case in East Asia]

**9-10:45 AM Air, water and soil pollution in East Asia**

**11:00-12:30 environmental degradation, overdevelopment and their consequences**

LUNCH

Speaker: [to be announced]

**1:30-3:00 PM Marine resources and National boundaries**

**3:15-5:00 PM Legal and illegal migration: international and local impact**

**5:00-5:30 Closing Remarks**

**Lawrence Wilkerson, George Washington University**

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**Possible Topics:**

**A) Power demands and the environmental impact of satisfying them**

**1) Coal: Environmental impact of mining and power generation for East Asia (possible solutions)**

**2) Hydropower: impact on environment and value as alternative.**

**3) General issue of energy security for East Asia**

**4) Sumatra's forests and the larger impact**

**5) Resulting water and air pollution. Is it worth it? Can we convince people**

**of the value of cooperation?**

**6) Indonesian Mining and its impact?**

**7) Nuclear power and its implications: maintaining safety, proliferation concerns.**

**C) Sea and air pollution**

**1) overfishing and abuse of resources**

**2) overdevelopment of land and dust sand storms**

**3) water pollution and its impact on the seas**

**E) Approaches to environmental security issues**

**1) How are, or are not, multilateral organizations like ASEAN approaching these issues? Is follow up effective?**

**2) How can the United States address these issues? What would it take to have environmental issues listed alongside terrorism and conventional conflict in DoD priorities? How would the culture, the assumptions and the definition of security have to change?**

**3) Could the Six party talks evolve into a multilateral mechanism for dealing with environmental threats and migration issues?**

**F) Legal and Illegal migration and its impact on the perception of security in East Asia**

**1) Legal migration and guest-worker programs**

**2) Implications of the aging urban (and advanced industrial nation) populations**

**3) Refugees and escapees in East Asia: cultural and economic dimensions**

**4) Rural vs. urban migration: China, Indonesia, Vietnam etc.**

**5) Labor shortages and surpluses and implications of global economic trends on migration**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Larry Wilkerson, George Washington University (security issues)**

**David Steinberg, Georgetown University (security issues)**

Kent Butts,

Army War College, [Kent.butts@us.army.mil](mailto:Kent.butts@us.army.mil)

John Feffer, Foreign Policy in Focus

Greg Foster, National Defense University; [fosterg@ndu.edu](mailto:fosterg@ndu.edu)

Geoff Debelko; Woodrow Wilson Center

**Miranda Schreurs, University of Maryland (pollution issues in East Asia)**

**Vinya Sysamouth**, International Rivers Network  
China's Hydropower Development and Its Impact  
on  
Downstream Countries

**Daniela Salaverry**, Pacific Environment  
The Russian Far East, China, and Korea:  
Trans-boundary

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