2008

AMERICA'S ROLE IN ASIA

ASIAN AND AMERICAN VIEWS

Recommendations for U.S. policy from both sides of the Pacific

The Asia Foundation

AMERICA'S ROLE IN ASIA: ASIAN AND AMERICAN VIEWS

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The Asia Foundation

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FOREWORD

For more than half a century, a major objective of The Asia Foundation has been to foster greater understanding and dialogue between the United States and Asia in order to advance our mission of promoting a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open Asia-Pacific region. We believe that if workable solutions to common problems are to be found, perspectives from both sides of the Pacific must be heard. The Foundation's extensive relationships and comprehensive development programs provide extraordinary access to a wide range of U.S. and Asian leaders, both inside and outside of government, who can provide those perspectives.

This year, the Foundation has organized and supported the fourth in a series of quadrennial reports on *America's Role in Asia*, which seek to examine critical bilateral and transnational issues through workshops and discussions on both sides of the Pacific. These discussions have culminated in the following papers, written by American and Asian scholars, which provide policymakers and business leaders with concrete recommendations on how to address challenges and opportunities in Asia – from stability on the Korean peninsula, conflict in Afghanistan, and the global war on terror; to energy security, environmental degradation, and Asia's regional architecture, trade, and investment.

The project's American task force was chaired by two of America's most distinguished former diplomats, Ambassador Michael Armacost, Shorenstein Senior Fellow at the Asia Pacific Center at Stanford University, and Ambassador J. Stapleton Roy, Vice Chairman of Kissinger International Associates. The American task force produced 15 essays that are both specific to bilateral relationships and regional in scope, and address a range of issues that the new U.S. administration will inherit in January.

In Asia, three groups of senior policy specialists led by Ambassador Han Sung-Joo, Chairman of the Asan Institute in Seoul; Ambassador Tommy Koh, Chairman of Singapore's Institute of Policy Studies; and Dr. C. Raja Mohan, Professor at the Rajanathan School of International Studies in Singapore, came together in Seoul, Singapore, and New Delhi to provide their informed Asian perspectives on U.S. policies and roles in Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia.

Comparisons between the two reports are both useful and inevitable. Nevertheless, we believe that each report should stand on its own, articulating aspects of the complex and multiple dimensions of a relationship that is vital to the security and economic prosperity of Americans and Asians alike.

The Asia Foundation is grateful to the five chairs for their consideration, cooperation, and commitment toward the *America's Role in Asia* project throughout 2008, and to all the other participants in the project. We also would like to thank the American International Group (AIG) and Chevron Corporation for their generous financial support. Finally, this project could not have been launched, much less successfully concluded, without the support of many Asia Foundation staff in 17 offices across Asia, as well as our offices in San Francisco

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