



Asia Program

2019 Annual Report



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Introduction

The Asian century has officially begun. In 2020, Asian economies will be larger than the rest of the world combined. By 2030, the region is expected to contribute roughly 60 percent of global growth and will be responsible for 90 percent of the 2.4 billion new members of the middle class entering the global economy. Yet despite its dynamism and vibrant energy, Asia remains riven by historical and territorial disputes, deepening national animosities, and intensifying geopolitical competition.

For four decades, the Wilson Center's Asia Program has been a critical voice in Washington, bringing insightful research to debates about Asia's geopolitics and their meaning for the United States. Dedicated to improving American understanding of the region's dynamics, the Asia Program provides crucial analysis in Washington on political, economic, and security issues in Asia and on U.S. policies and strategies towards the region.

Our work focuses on three core areas: geoeconomics and global development, security and defense, and great power competition. In each of these areas we have produced cutting-edge research and hosted high-level events while at the same time engaging with key government officials, as well as prominent media outlets such as CNN, the BBC, the New York Times, Foreign Affairs, the Washington Post, and outlets across Asia.

Our team is composed of leading researchers with deep experience on today's critical issues. I am honored to work with such an extraordinary group of scholars, policy analysts, and staff. Asia is the most dynamic and geopolitically significant regional in the world, and our program is a key source for insights on the region's critical issues.

Abraham M. Denmark
Director, Asia Program
January 2019

* In terms of purchasing power parity (PPP).

2019 Highlights



Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the Wilson Center
October 24, 2019

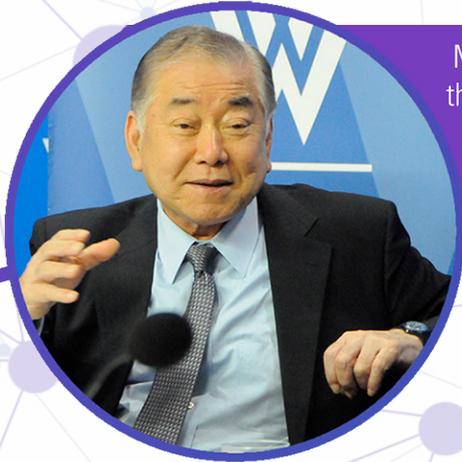
Senators Cory Gardner (R-Colorado) and Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) discuss Indo-Pacific strategy
February 14, 2019



Asia Program staff meet with President Tsai Ing-Wen of Taiwan
September 30, 2019



Afghan Ambassador Roya Rahmani speaks at a private roundtable
March 4, 2019



Moon Chung-in, special adviser to the president of the ROK, speaks at a private roundtable discussion February 27, 2019



Wilson Center experts travel to Jeju and Seoul, South Korea, as part of the Indo-Pacific Speaker Series



Ambassador Alice Wells with President Jane Harman at the Wilson Center. Wells' speech discussing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor drew responses from around the world. November 21, 2019



South Korea's Minister of Interior and Safety, Kim Boo-kyum, speaks at the Wilson Center March 07, 2019



The Asia Program launches the Wilson China Fellowship in October 2019. The inaugural class of fellows will begin in 2020.

Geoeconomics and Global Development

Events

[China's Belt and Road Initiative: Strategic and Economic Consequences](#)

January 7, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with The Royal Society for Asian Affairs and the Lau China Institute of King's College London

[Roundtable on Indian Investment](#)

March 11, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with NASSCOM

[The Evolution of U.S. Trade Strategy: Causes and Consequences for Asia](#)

April 23, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with the Foreign Policy Research Institute

[Ambitions Beyond Growth: Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the UN](#)

April 25, 2019 | Speaker: Sweta C. Saxena, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

[G20 Beyond U.S.-China Tensions: What the G18 Want and Need](#)

June 26, 2019 | Video Available | Speakers: Suman Bery, William E. Pomeranz, Earl Anthony Wayne, David Ottaway, and Marvin Ott

[America's Highly Skilled Workforce, the Talent Pipeline, and H-1B Visas](#)

July 24, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with NASSCOM

[Chilling U.S.-China Economic Relations: Options for Taiwan](#)

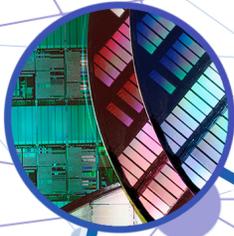
August 27, 2019 | Audio Available | Speaker: Chien-Huei Wu, Taiwan Scholar

[Japan's Global Economic Leadership Beyond the G20](#)

October 18, 2019 | Video Available | Summary Publication Available

[A Conversation with Ambassador Alice Wells on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor](#)

November 21, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Ambassador Alice Wells, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia



Publication

The U.S.-China Trade War and Options for Taiwan
October 31, 2019 | Chien-Huei Wu, Taiwan Scholar

Dispatches

Fighting Two Fronts in the Trade War, With Only One Popular Path
January 15, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Unpacking the Belt and Road Initiative: What Is It and Where Is It Going?
February 5, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

The Dangerous Business of Defining Trade Threats
March 12, 2019 | Shihoko Goto



Eyeing the EU's Overtures to China

April 16, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Southeast Asia Stands to Gain Big on U.S.-China Frictions

May 7, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Paying the Cost for U.S. Withdrawal from TPP

June 4, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

The Aftermath of a Lackluster G20

July 2, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Behind Asia's Other Trade War

July 16, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

Beware Depending on Central Banks to Offset Trade Tension Costs

August 1, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

The Ambiguous U.S.-Japan Trade Deal, Lost in Translation

August 27, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Taiwan's Economic Momentum for Regeneration

September 24, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Calling for a Multilateral Approach to Tackle Political Risk

October 22, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Trade Restrictions May Lead to Increased Competitiveness

November 19, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

The Speech Heard Round the World

December 10, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

Realizing the Singapore-on-Thames Inspiration

December 17, 2019 | Shihoko Goto



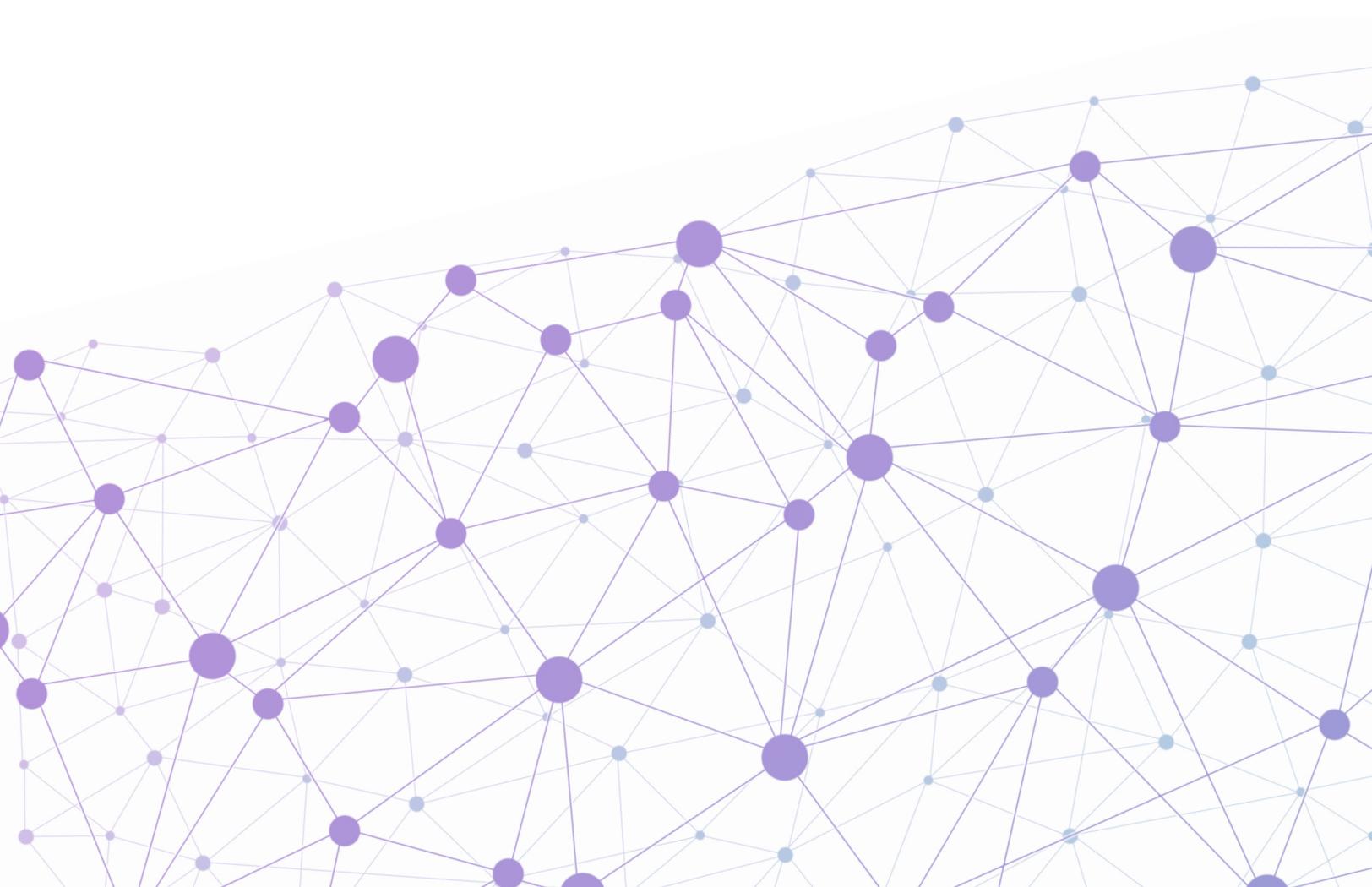
Wilson Center NOW

Taking the Temperature of the Global Economy

September 18, 2019 | With Meg Lundsager and Kent Hughes, Public Policy Fellows

New Leadership and Challenges for the IMF

November 1, 2019 | With Shihoko Goto and Meg Lundsager



North Korea, China, and Great Powers

Events

Geopolitical Implications of a New Era on the Korean Peninsula

January 13, 2019 | Video Available

Book Launch: 'On the Brink: Trump, Kim, and the Threat of Nuclear War'

February 5, 2019 | Audio Available | Speaker: Van Jackson, Author and Global Fellow

The Future of the Indo-Pacific: Views from the Senate

February 14, 2019 | Video Available | Speakers: Cory Gardner, Senator (R-Colorado) and Edward J. Markey, Senator (D-Massachusetts)



The Taiwan Relations Act at Forty and U.S.-Taiwan Relations

April 9, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with CSIS and Brookings

What Do U.S.-China Tensions Mean for India?

September 5, 2019 | Video Available | Speakers: Jagannath Panda, Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, New Delhi and Jeff M. Smith, The Heritage Foundation

ROK-U.S. Cooperation in an Era of U.S.-China Strategic Competition

November 18, 2019 | Audio Available

Publications

Geopolitical Implications of a New Era on the Korean Peninsula

May 2, 2019 | Abraham Denmark, Nobumasa Akiyama, Patrick M. Cronin, and Yoshihide Soeya

Managing the Rise of China's Security Partnerships in Southeast Asia

July 22, 2019 | Prashanth Paramweswaran

Dispatches

We Need a Roadmap: Second Trump-Kim Summit Needs to be More Than Just Another Photo Op

January 22, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

In 2012, Kim Jong Un Put His Father's Plans On Rapprochement With U.S. On Hold; Is 2019 The Year He Carries Out Kim Jong Il's Mission?

February 21, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

The Implications of Declaring an End to the Korean War

February 26, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

"A Stab in the Back" or "A Pat on the Back?"

March 19, 2019 | Jungkun Seo

Is There a Pot of Gold at the End of the Rainbow?

March 26, 2019 | Jungkun Seo

Where Does It Stand and Where Should It Shift? A South Korean Perspective on North Korea Nuclear Diplomacy

April 9, 2019 | Jungkun Seo

Shifting Gears: Post-Hanoi, North Korea's Kim Jong Un Turns Diplomatic Attention to Moscow

April 23, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

The Normalization Of Kim Jong-Un - What Kim Gains From Visit To Russia

April 25, 2019 | Katie Stallard-Blanchette

The South China Sea in Strategic Terms

May 14, 2019 | Marvin Ott

Perspectives from Pyongyang: Highlights from the Jeju Forum

June 11, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

Nuclear Weapons and Their Pride of Place in North Korea

August 6, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

What Does the Rise of China's Security Partnerships Mean for Asia?

August 13, 2019 | Prashanth Parameswaran

Taiwan in a Strategic Whirlwind

October 8, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

Parsing The Propogand: What To Make Of Kim Jong Un On A White Horse

October 29, 2019 | Jean H. Lee

U.S.-China Military Competition Intensifying Over INF Missiles

November 13, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

Two Years On, A Sobering Look At The Human Toll Of The Maximum Pressure Campaign Against North Korea

November 26, 2019 | Henri Feron

Why 2020 Will Be a Big Year for Vietnam's Foreign Policy

December 3, 2019 | Prashanth Parameswaran



Wilson Center NOW

Countdown to Second US-North Korea Summit

January 23, 2019 | With Jean H. Lee

Did the US and North Korea Come Close to Nuclear War?

February 12, 2019 | With Van Jackson

How Post Wars Shape the Present in China, Russia, and North Korea

June 18, 2019 | With Katie Stallard-Blanchette

Need to Know Podcast

Need to Know: Negotiations and Love Notes - Where Do The North Korea Nuclear Talks Stand?

September 5, 2019 | With Jean H. Lee

South Pacific Breezes Blowing - Why Pacific Island Nations Are Looking to DC

November 5, 2019 | With Abraham Denmark



Security and Democracy

Events

Ground Truth Briefing: The India-Pakistan Crisis: What Next?

March 5, 2019 | Audio Available

What's Next for the Rohingya?

April 2, 2019 | Video Available | Speakers: Nehginpao Kipgen, Jindal School of International Affairs and Michael C. Davis, Global Fellow

New Survey Release: What Do Afghans Think About Current Peace and Reconciliation Efforts?

May 2, 2019 | Video Available

U.S.-Japan Relations in Disarray: Who Will Sustain Liberal International Order, and How?

May 7, 2019 | Video Available | In Partnership with Southern Methodist University

Ground Truth Briefing | What to Make of India's Election Results?

May 28, 2019 | Audio Available

India's Election Results: Impacts on the Economy and Economic Relations with Washington

June 10, 2019 | Video Available

Taiwan's Democracy and the Free and Open Pacific: A Mayoral Perspective

July 10, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Cheng Wen-tsan, Mayor of Taoyuan City, Taiwan

Book Launch - Sharia and the State in Pakistan: Blasphemy Politics

July 15, 2019 | Audio Available | Speaker: Farhat Haq, Author

Book Event—Voting in a Hybrid Regime: Bangladesh's 2018 Election and Implications for Politics in Bangladesh and Beyond

September 23, 2019 | Audio Available | Speaker: Ali Riaz, Illinois State University; Former Public Policy Scholar, Wilson Center

Myths and Realities of Japan's Security Policy

September 26, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Narushige Michishita, Global Fellow

Democracy and Human Rights in South Asia: The Inaugural Asma Jahangir Memorial Lecture

October 3, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Ayesha Jalal, Tufts University

Elections, Peace Talks, and U.S. Policy: What's Next for Afghanistan?

October 10, 2019 | Video Available

Democracies, Dictatorships, and Grand Strategy

November 6, 2019 | Video Available | Speakers: Daniel Drezner, The Fletcher School, Tufts University and Jude Blanchette, Center for Strategic and International Studies

How Free Is the Fourth Estate? A Discussion about India's Media Environment

November 18, 2019 | Video Available

Eighteen Years and \$132 Billion: Taking Stock of U.S. Reconstruction Efforts in Afghanistan

November 20, 2019 | Speaker: John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

Before the Indo Pacific: The Legacy of Indian Ocean Geopolitics During the Cold War

December 10, 2019 | Audio Available | Speaker: Berenice Guyot-Rechard, Fellow and Senior Lecturer in 20th Century International History, King's College London

Publications

Managing the Rise of Southeast Asian Coast Guards

February 14, 2019 | Prashanth Parameswaran

Pakistan Policy Symposium Policy Brief Series #1-7

February 21, 2019 | Edited By Michael Kugelman, Athar Javaid, and David Silverman

The Triumph and the Primacy of the Indian Right: Reasons and Ramifications

September 19, 2019 | Kalyani Shanker

Dispatches

[Are Sulu Sea Trilateral Patrols Actually Working?](#)

January 29, 2019 | Prashanth Parameswaran

[Remembering the Rohingya](#)

April 2, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

[Values and U.S. Policy Toward the Indo-Pacific](#)

May 21, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

[An Obscure Organization with Outsize Importance](#)

June 25, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

[Post-Protests, The Dilemma Remains Unsolved in Hong Kong](#)

July 9, 2019 | Alison Chen

[The Lingering, and Complicating, Threat of ISIS in Afghanistan](#)

August 20, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

[America Has a New Strategy in Afghanistan, But It Isn't Actually Very New](#)

September 17, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

[Afghanistan's Silent Tragedy](#)

October 15, 2019 | Michael Kugelman

Wilson Center NOW

[India-Pakistan and the Threat of War](#)

March 25, 2019 | With Michael Kugelman

Need to Know Podcast

Taking a Look at India

June 24, 2019 | With Michael Kugelman

Taliban Talks Collapse...Now What?

September 10, 2019 | With Michael Kugelman



Additional Events and Analysis

Events

[Securing the Games: Tokyo's 2020 Cybersecurity Challenge](#)

March 19, 2019 | Audio Available | Speakers: Motohiro Tsuchiya, Keio University and Keio Global Research Institute (KGRI) and Meg King, the Science and Technology Innovation Program, Wilson Center

[The Seventh Annual Nancy Bernkopf Tucker Memorial Lecture on U.S.-East Asia Relations](#)

April 11, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Jerome Cohen, New York University Law School

[Preparing for the Unpredictable: The ADB and Natural Disasters, Trade Disputes](#)

April 16, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank

[Why Can't Pakistani Children Read? The Inside Story of Education Reform Efforts Gone Wrong](#)

July 12, 2019 | Video Available | Speaker: Nadia Naviwala, Author and Global Fellow

Publication

[Why Can't Pakistani Children Read? The Inside Story of Education Reform Efforts Gone Wrong](#)

July 11, 2019 | Nadia Naviwala

Dispatches

Unlocking Japan's Immigration Policy Potential

February 12, 2019 | Shihoko Goto

Nontraditional Strategy Building: A Mapping of Cultural Movements in the Indo-Pacific

June 27, 2019 | Hyungtae Kim

In Asia, Don't Count the American People Out

September 12, 2019 | Abraham Denmark

Secret Mission: Understanding South Korea-Japan Tensions Through a Popular South Korean Film

October 1, 2019 | Jihoon Lim



#1

in total media mentions at the Wilson Center

The Washington Post

VOA of America



THE NATIONAL CENTER

THE HILL

the Globalist

170K

Website Pageviews

150K



Total Twitter Followers



AP

Washin

IZER

theguardian

410



Print Mentions



FT FINANCIAL TIMES

63



Blog Posts

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

74



Op-Eds

ARAB NEWS

250+



Meetings and Presentations



New York Times

Bloomberg

101



Video Appearances



56



Audio Interviews



NIKKEI ASIAN REVIEW

Outreach and Social Media

Staff

From Top:

Abraham M. Denmark
Director, Asia Program

Michael Kugelman
Deputy Director and Senior Associate for South Asia

Shihoko Goto
Deputy Director for Geoeconomics and Senior Associate for Northeast Asia

Jean H. Lee
Director, Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy

Lucas Myers
Program Associate

Joshua Spooner
Program Assistant

Mary Ratliff
Social Media and Editorial Specialist



Scholars and Fellows

Nobuhiro Aizawa
Japan Scholar

Suman Bery
Public Policy Fellow

Michael C. Davis
Fellow

Berenice Guyot-Rechard
Fellow

Shintaro Hamanaka
Public Policy Fellow

Bill Milam
Senior Scholar

Toshihiro Nakayama
Japan Fellow

Marvin Ott
Asia Fellow

Soojin Park
Public Policy Fellow

Nita Rudra
Fellow

Jungkun Seo
Fullbright Fellow

Hazel Smith
Fellow

Katie Stallard-Blanchette
Fellow

Chien-Huei Wu
Taiwan Scholar



Global Fellows



Robert Hathaway
Director Emeritus, Asia Program



Ishrat Husain
Advisor to the Pakistani Prime Minister



Christina Lamb
Author, Farewell Kabul:
From Afghanistan to a More Dangerous World



Prashanth Parameswaran
Senior Editor, The Diplomat



Nirupama Rao
Former Indian Foreign Secretary
Former Indian Amb. to Washington and Beijing



Farahnaz Ispahani
Author, *Purifying the Land of the Pure: Pakistan's Religious Minorities*



Van Jackson
Senior Lecturer
Victoria University of Wellington



Nadia Naviwala
Writer and Analyst



Neeti Nair
Associate Professor
University of Virginia



Narushige Michishita
Vice President and Professor
National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS)



Huma Yusuf
Columnist, Dawn

Visit the Wilson Center website for more information on fellowship opportunities: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/fellowship-application>

Asia Council

A critical voice in Washington on the complex dynamics between the United States and the Asia-Pacific. We connect you to today's most influential people, innovative research and ideas with impact:

People. Council members have access to world-class scholars and issue experts offering unmatched insights to public policy challenges and opportunities.

Research. The Asia Program emphasizes practical, nonpartisan research into the key issues driving change across this dynamic and complex region. It is home to a diverse array of scholars from the United States and across the Asia-Pacific, and is highly regarded as a credible source of insights and analysis.

Impact. The Wilson Center's deep ties with Washington help the Asia Program connect with policymakers across the political spectrum.

Join the Wilson Center Asia Council



The image shows a grid of 11 Wilson Center program logos: Africa Program, Asia Program, Brazil Institute, Canada Institute, Global Europe, Kennan Institute, Kissinger Institute, Latin American Program, Mexico Institute, Middle East Program, and Polar Institute. To the right of the grid is a 'Celebrating WILSON CENTER' logo. Below the grid is a badge that reads '#1 Regional Studies Think Tank' and 'www.wilsoncenter.org'. At the bottom of the badge, it says '2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report, University of Pennsylvania'.

Membership in the Wilson Center Asia Council provides the means to access a marketplace of ideas where the Wilson Center convenes today's brightest minds to discuss the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing the global community.

Recognized as the #1 regional studies think tank in the world, #6 think tank in the United States, and #10 think tank overall in the world, we invite you to join us.

Why Join the Wilson Center Asia Council?

Membership on the Wilson Center Asia Council ensures that your organization is an active participant in key Asia-U.S. issues. It also deepens your organization's ability to understand how key issues affecting the Asia-Pacific are being discussed in Washington, and provides access to the most influential voices in Washington on American foreign policy toward the region. All Asia Program research is offered to the public free of charge. Contributions from Council members ensure that we can continue to support Asian scholarship and promote strong ties between Asia and the United States.



Anthony Blinken,
Professor, Johns Hopkins SAIS;
Former Deputy Secretary of State



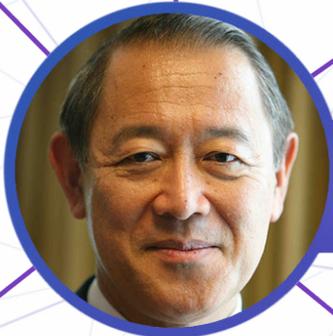
Kurt M. Campbell,
Chariman and CEO, The Asia Group;
Former Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asia and the Pacific



Aaron Friedberg,
Professor, Princeton University;
Former Advisor to the Vice President



Ahn Ho-Young,
Former Ambassador of the ROK
to the United States



Ichiro Fujisaki,
President, America-Japan Society;
Former Ambassador of Japan to the United States



Robert Kaplan,
Author of Monsoon and
Asia's Cauldron



John Negroponte,
Vice Chairman, McLarty Associates;
Former Deputy Secretary of State

