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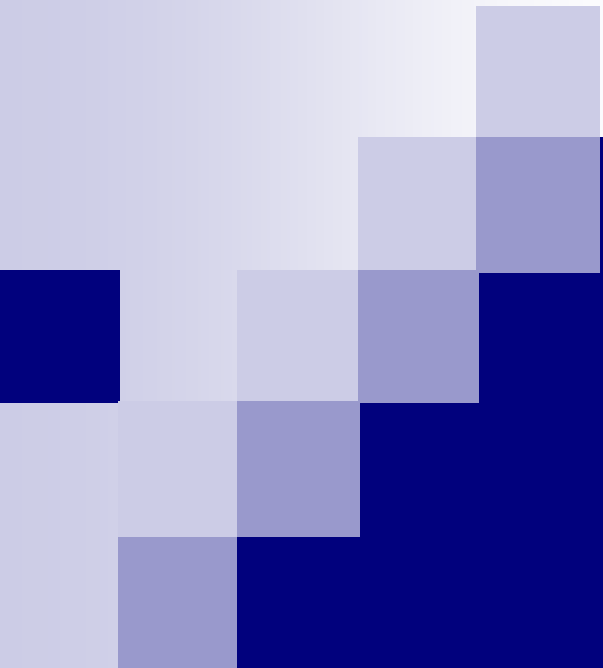
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

Seminar

on

Seminar on East Asia Summit: Strategic and Economic Issues

**Wednesday, 26 April 2006, at 3.00 p.m., RIS Seminar Hall,
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**



East Asia Summit: Strategic Re-Alignment & Economic Re-Orientation in Asia

**RIS, New Delhi,
26 April 2006**

The 3 Geo-Strategic & Geo-Economic Trends in Asia Today

- **The East Asia Summit of Kuala Lumpur, December 2005: Alignments & Re-Alignments centred on an increasing Sino-Japanese Feud & Rivalry in Asia**
- **A Growing Sino-American Rivalry at the Global level & its Consequences on Future Asian Geo-Strategy**
- **A greater “Socialisation” in Asia, amidst further Democratic Development, in order to Moderate the forces of Liberalization & Globalization in Asian Economies**

Strategic Re-Alignment in Asia

- **The East Asia Summit failed to mitigate, but instead, publicly “surfaced”, the existing Asian rivalries**
- **No “Asian Community” is envisaged at this stage**
- **The Absence of the United States, Confirmation of the Pre-Eminence of China, Presence of Russia, Desperate Attempts to Conquer Lost Ground by Japan & the Ultimate “Emergence” of India in Asia**
- **ASEAN plays a central role by default for the moment**

The Existing Geo-Strategy in Asia

- The Summit has clearly shown that the Sino-Japanese feud is intensifying & has the potential of dividing Asia profoundly --- Asia's greatest crisis to come (probably after Taiwan in the shorter term)!
- South Korea is distancing from the United States & operating a "rapprochement" with China
- India and ASEAN would have to try to "balance" between the United States/Japan & China/Russia

The Asian Geo-Strategy in Full Mutation

- **A Sino-Russian Partnership in the making, especially within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?**
- **India intensively courted by the Washington-Tokyo Alliance as a Counter-Weight to China; But New Delhi will play the “Big Balance” between Powers for Strategic Reasons**
- **Asia has thus become the “Grand Theatre of Geo-Strategy & Geo-Economics” in the world for all future Powers**

The Big Sino-American Rivalry on the Global Stage

- Increasing Competition, Cooperation & Rivalry between Washington & Beijing**
- They will be at the Centre of Big International Alliances & “Big Rivalries”**
- Would it be the “Washington Consensus” versus the “Beijing Consensus”?**
- A Clash of Models of Development in Store**

The Big Sino-American Rivalry in Asia

- The “China threat” brandished by Washington, especially with the publication of the 2006 US National Security Strategy Paper
- Beijing firmly believes in “US Containment” & in Containing it
- China is thus promoting “peaceful development” instead of “peaceful rise”, in order to assure its immediate neighbours & other international powers
- But Beijing is also conscious not to “Upset the Balance of Power in Asia”, as claimed by Washington (& Tokyo to a lesser extent)

The Major Socio-Economic Trends Today in Asia

- The Emergence of a Middle Class in this fast growing Asia, amidst increasing Democracy & People's power
- An Impressive Consumption Growth in Asia will Propel Asian Economies Upwards
- But the Asian Society will be more and more divided between the “Nouveaux Riches” & the “Rural Poor”
- Also, a Scramble for Energy & Natural Resources will Ensur in order to Satisfy Asia's Growing Consumption

The Major Socio-Economic Trends in Asia Today

- To Moderate the Negative Effects of Globalization & Liberalization,
- a Policy of “Greater Socialization” has begun in China & in India, amidst deep differences in democracy
- The new “socialist countryside” policy in China & the “New Deal” in India will thus lead this “new” Asian action
- This new trend will undoubtedly spread progressively across an enriching Asia, where growth alone will no longer be the only indicator of success in Asia.

In Conclusion.....

- **Sino-Japanese Rivalry will dominate geo-strategy in Asia in the coming years; unfortunately, there would be no “Asian Community” to envisage in the short to medium term!**
- **On the global stage, Sino-American Rivalry will increasingly dominate the Asian geo-political stage.**
- **Finally, we can expect greater “socialization” in Asia, with important effects on Asian consumption, social stability & its search for energy and natural resources**