

**China, the United States, and the Middle East:
Diplomacy, Strategy, and the Triangular Relationship**

Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)
Abu Dhabi, UAE
October 30-31, 2007

Conference Draft Agenda

October 30, 2007

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction

Emirates Center host

Jon B. Alterman, Director, Middle East Program, CSIS

9:15 a.m. The Stakes: China and the Middle East

- How does the Middle East assess China's broad interests in the region?
- How might the Middle East use its growing relationship with China to balance its ties with the United States?
- What are the obstacles to greater Middle East-Chinese cooperation?

John Garver, *Professor, Georgia Tech*

An Huihou, *Special Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies*

10:30 a.m. The Energy Equation

- What is China's role in Middle East energy development? What can Chinese energy companies offer Middle Eastern governments, and how do they compare to Western competitors?
- To what extent will the development of alternative fuels (and increased use of local coal) affect China's demand for Middle Eastern oil and gas and the broader market?
- How will economic diversification and increasing energy demand in the Middle East affect China?

Jeffrey Bader, *Director, The Brookings Institution's John L. Thornton China Center*

Roger Diwan, *Managing Director, Petroleum Finance*

Li Weijian, *Director of West Asian and African Studies Program, Shanghai Institute for International Studies*

12:00 p.m. Beyond Energy: China-Middle East Economics

- In what kinds of enterprises is China investing in the Middle East?
- What are the local effects of Chinese exports of labor and goods on local markets?
- Will Gulf investment in China influence Chinese-Arab relations?

Kito de Boer, *Middle East Office Manager, McKinsey & Company*
Ma Ying, *Director of Asia-Pacific Studies Program, Shanghai Institute for International Studies*

1:00 p.m. **A New Strategic Partnership? China and the Middle East**

- To what extent is China seen as a potential counterbalance to U.S. policy?
- Does China represent an attractive model for Middle East political development?
- How will a strategic Middle East-Chinese relationship influence U.S. policy in the Gulf?

Geoffrey Kemp, *Director of Regional Strategic Programs, The Nixon Center*
Shulong Chu, *Professor and Director, Tsinghua University Institute for Strategic Studies*

2:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

October 31, 2007

9:00 a.m. **Between Iraq and Iran: U.S., China, and Middle East Diplomacy**

- Is China doing enough to counter the Iranian pursuit of nuclear weapons?
- How do Iranian-Chinese military ties affect the Middle East's relations with China and perceptions of China's interests?
- How might China play a more constructive role in the reconstruction of Iraq to offset the U.S. presence?

Flynt Leverett, *Senior Fellow, New America Foundation*
Dan Blumenthal, *Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute*
Phillip Saunders, *Senior Research Fellow, National Defense University*
Zha Daojiong, *Professor, Peking University*

10:30 a.m. **The Arab-Israeli Conflict**

- Can China play a positive role in balancing U.S. control of the peace process?
- Should the Middle East encourage a more robust Chinese diplomatic role in the Arab-Israeli conflict?
- Is the Sino-Israeli military relationship a source of concern to Arab states?
- How has China's participation in UNIFIL changed Middle Eastern perceptions of China's role in the region?

Ellen Laipson, *President and CEO, The Henry L. Stimson Center*
Wang Suolao, *Professor, Peking University*

12:00 p.m. **The Future of Gulf Security**

- What should China's role be in maintaining Middle East security? Should it build upon its deployment in Lebanon to define a greater role in Middle East security affairs?
- Should the Middle East encourage a Chinese naval presence in the Gulf?
- How would a more robust Chinese role in Gulf security affect U.S.-Gulf relations and security commitments?
- How does the Middle East assess China's military objectives, interests, and capabilities in the region?

Dan Murphy, *Visiting Fellow, CSIS*

Li Guofu, *Senior Research Fellow, China Institute of International Studies*

1:00 p.m. **Competition or Cooperation? The Future of Sino-U.S. Relations**

- What are the most promising areas for Sino-U.S. cooperation in the Middle East?
- What would be the effects of such cooperation on the states of the Middle East?
- How would a Sino-U.S. military rivalry affect the Middle East?
- How will global developments outside the region influence Sino-U.S. cooperation in the Middle East?

Jon Alterman, *Senior Fellow, CSIS*

David Lampton, *Director of Chinese Studies, The Nixon Center*

Xia Liping, *Director, International Strategic Studies Program, Shanghai Institute for International Studies*

2:30 p.m. **Adjourn**