

The Caucasus & Central Asia Program

Institutional >
Central Asia

The Caucasus and Central Asia Program (CCASP) was established in January 2001 at the University of California, Berkeley under the auspices of the Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ISEEES). Its mission is to promote graduate training, scholarly research, and community outreach on the Caucasus and Central Asia. To fulfil these goals, CCASP publishes a newsletter and a working paper series, supports faculty conducting field research in the region, and arranges to bring experts on the Caucasus/Central Asia to Berkeley.

By Sanjyot Mehendale

The Caucasus and Central Asia Program has a very broad regional focus, included in its definition is the Caucasus region and the five Soviet successor states in Central Asia – Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan – as well as Xinjiang Province in western China, Mongolia, and the smaller republics of Buryatia, Tuva, Gorno-Altai and Khakassiya. In addition, CCASP, covering both contemporary and historical issues in the Caucasus and Central Asian region, has a strong cross-disciplinary approach to these regions, hoping to bring together scholars who have traditionally worked in different Area Studies programmes and departments.

The annual CCASP conference titled 'Currents, Cross-Currents and Conflict: Transnationalism and Diaspora in the Caucasus and Central Asia' was held 16-17 March 2002. Bringing together national and international scholars, we explored the roles of diaspora communities in the re-emergence of identities in Central Asia and the Caucasus. How do they influence politics and policies concerning the region? In this context, the conference addressed the following issues:

- What inter-regional and global diaspora communities exist with regard to Central Asia and the Caucasus?
- How are these groups affecting policies in their host nations with regard to their home regions?
- What impact do they have on policies within the home regions?
- Which diaspora groups have been successful in exerting political pressure and why? Which have been unsuccessful?
- What is the role of diaspora communities in regional ethnic conflicts? To what extent have new information technologies played a role in shaping policies and politics of, and toward, the region?
- How has the diaspora necessitated new approaches to notions of 'regions' and how might area studies be reconfigured by these internal and external pressures?

Our hardcopy biannual newsletter includes articles both on modern and ancient Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as information on UC Berkeley activities related to the region. It is hoped that the institutionalization of a Central Asia and Caucasus programme will signal the further development of curriculum and research on this region at UC Berkeley. <

Info >

Caucasus and Central Asia Program (CCASP)

University of California, Berkeley Institute of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 260 Stephens Hall #2304, Berkeley, California 94720-2304
Tel: +1-510-643 5845 / +1-510-643 5844 Fax: +1-510-643 5045
E-mail: ccasp@uclink4.berkeley.edu http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~bsp/caucasus/

School of Foreign Service

Institutional >
Central Asia

The School of Foreign Service (SFS) was established in December 1991 as an affiliate to the National University of Mongolia (NUM). The democratization process and open foreign policy demanded new approaches and attitudes towards the preparation of the national personnel for Mongolia's foreign service. Therefore, the need to expeditiously meet the new tasks, challenges, and re-orientation of international relations required foremost the gaining of up-to-date knowledge and experience of modern concepts, approaches, and methods of globalization, ranging from security policy to human rights issues and economic diplomacy.

By Kh. Bayasakh

The Council of the School and the Academic Council constitute the governing body of the SFS. Its daily operation is managed by a Director subordinated to the NUM President. Senior and young professors make up the faculty of the SFS. The Academic Council promotes the development of programme.

The School of Foreign Service offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate

and post-graduate programmes, including Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Doctor of Philosophy and also offers research programmes. Every programme allows students to choose their own specific and detailed focus of interest.

The SFS provided a BA degree (of four years full-time) programme for nearly 300 students for the academic year 2001-2002. Starting from the academic year 2000-2001, the SFS paid more attention to the graduate studies as well as professor-focused training,

Alliance panel

ASEM in an Evolving Post-9/11 World Order

Report >
General

At the 2002 annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in the capital of the USA, the Alliance organized a round-table on the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Eleven ASEM experts from Asia and Europe reflected on the impact of the attacks on New York City and Washington DC. In view of the upcoming fourth ASEM - the heads of state and government leaders meeting in Copenhagen in September this year - the topic was a controversial one: How can ASEM contribute to a more stable triangular global political environment and what will this mean for its relationship with the USA?

By Sebastian Bersick

It is necessary to set this question in perspective: Before the attacks the balancing dimension of a trilateral world order had been more of a theoretical construction than an empirical datum. Not least because the Clinton administration perceived the attempt of building a so-called missing link between the regions of Europe and Asia as a potential rival to US interests, the institutional and normative format of the ASEM has been conceived as soft and open.

After an introduction by the organizer Director Wim Stokhof of the International Institute for Asian Studies (Leiden/Amsterdam) the chair of the round-table Jürgen Rüland (Freiburg) analysed the role and potential of ASEM in an emerging system of global governance. He set the analytical framework for the following reflections on the future of the ASEM process and US interests after 9/11. In the findings of Heiner Hänggi (Geneva) and David Camroux (Paris), who discussed the changing of ASEM's position in the triad, Hänggi pointed out that there is no security cooperation but a security dialogue within the ASEM process. His point can be attributed to ASEM's format and be explained in the light of the ASEM-actors' intention not to antagonize the USA. Nevertheless, the format supported the development of ASEM and thereby triggered the formation of a new East Asian regionalism. With respect to the interregional, intra-regional and sub-regional cooperation Julie Gilson (Birmingham) and Yeo Lay Hwee (Singapore) analysed the aspect of collective identity building within the ASEM process. Paul

Lim (Brussels) and Sebastian Bersick (Berlin) discussed ASEM and the New EU Asia Strategy in the context of the events of 11 September 2001. In the view of this new strategy the advent of a new kind of terrorism marks a challenge for the cooperation between Asia and Europe. Because of the rising unilateral behaviour of the Bush Jr.-Administration the potential of Asian-European relations and of ASEM as a balancer of the new US policy behaviour is becoming more and more apparent. In that respect the importance of ASEM as a mechanism which enables powerful Asian and European actors to cooperate without a direct interference by the USA has risen after 11 September.

As the PR China is being successfully engaged within the process ASEM can serve as an entity that stimulates multilateralism on the global, the interregional as well as on the intra-regional level. Thereby it hinders the dangers of rising unilateralism and regional divisions in a multipolar post-9/11 world order. The talks of all scholars underlined the rising importance of interregional cooperation within a system of global governance which is based on multilateral and not unilateral behaviour. A book on the round-table findings will be published this year. <

Dipl.-Pol. Sebastian Bersick is a Senior Research Associate at the Center for Chinese and East Asian Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin. A political scientist and sinologist, he is finishing his PhD in International Relations. His area of research is the ASEM process and ASEAN-EU relations. E-mail: beberlin@zedat.fu-berlin.de

International Security and the Asian Heartland

The School of Foreign Service of the National University of Mongolia, in cooperation with the International Institute for Asian Studies and The Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael', will organize a symposium on the Security of the Asian Heartland in International Relations. The aim of the conference is to look at the political, military and economic aspects of the security situation in Central and Northern Asia:

- What are the internal and external factors?
 - Who are the main players?
 - How are they dealing with the issues in the past, the present and the future?
- The idea is to bring academics and policy makers together from:
- Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan
 - China, Russia, Japan, Korea, Iran, and Afghanistan
 - US, EU, Australia, Turkey, India, and Pakistan.

On the basis of papers and interventions in plenary and committee meetings a mutual exchange of ideas will be fostered, ultimately resulting in an English language publication. The symposium is scheduled for June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. On 1 January 2003 the final decision will be made regarding the list of participants and communicated to those who showed interest in this endeavour. <

Contact >

Prof. Kh. Bayasakh, Head of the Department of International Relations, School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia
E-mail: bayasakh@hotmail.com or
Dr Paul Meerts, Deputy Director of the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, the Netherlands and acting Head of the Department of Training and Education.
E-mail: pmeerts@clingendael.nl

At present over 60 students are studying at MA level. All MA students have to complete the two-year programme and students can select a course of study from an array of courses in International Relations, International Economic Relations, and International Law.

In addition to seminars and lectures, the SFS hosts conferences and round tables. The seminars make an important contribution to the academic programme by organizing special lectures, research seminars, conferences and round tables throughout the academic year. These events bring prominent scholars from all over the world to present current research and viewpoints on topics related to world politics, international political and economic relations. Since 1994, the SFS has organized annual national and international conferences on foreign policy, geopolitics, and on the world affairs.

In the past two years alone, SFS

organized 'The Significance of the USA Constitution and Some Aspects of the Separation of Powers, its Checks and Balances' in cooperation with the US Embassy in Ulaanbaatar and the Association of American and Canadian Studies (February 2001), a seminar on international issues in New-Delhi, India (April 2001), and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia, a conference on the occasion of the Ninetieth anniversary of Diplomatic Service and the Tenth anniversary of the preparation of the national foreign service personnel in Mongolia (December 2001).

The SFS strongly emphasizes the importance of exchange programmes of lecturers, and researchers. It is a matter of great satisfaction and pride for the SFS to have awarded: James A. Baker, former US Secretary of State (1996), Mahathir bin Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia (1997), and Paul

W.Meerts, Deputy Director of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' (2001) its Honorary Doctor's titles.

The main objective of the School continues to be high quality service and dedication to its students in meeting the current demands of globalization of world politics and economy.

In collaboration with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations, Clingendael, the School of Foreign Service, the NUM, and the IIAS host the June 2003 conference on 'International Security and the Asian Heartland' in Ulaanbaatar (see the announcement on this page for further information). <

Prof. Kh. Bayasakh is a Senior Professor and Head of the Department of International Relations, School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia. E-mail: bayasakh@hotmail.com