

China and Global Governance

- Panel:** Session 3 (Lilac & Tulip Room)
Date/Time: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 / 15:45-17:00
Speakers: Evan Ramstad, The Wall Street Journal (Moderator)
Kim Jaechun, Sogang University
Li Mingjiang, Nanyang Technological University
Mo Jongryn, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies
Nam Chang-Hee, Inha University
Pang Zhongying, Renmin University of China
Rapporteur: Dawn Murphy, Princeton University

Panel Short Summary

The purpose of this panel was to examine China's contemporary involvement in global governance. Dr. Mo Jongryn, Senior Research Fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, initiated the discussion by posing the following questions: What is China's role in global governance? How is it contributing and what is it capable of contributing? Is China exercising power responsibly through global governance mechanisms?

Dr. Kim Jaechun, Professor at Sogang University, argued that although China is becoming an active contributor to global governance, it is still a relative newcomer to this arena. He specifically discussed China's involvement in the global governance of climate change and human rights and asserted that China is actively contributing to global governance in both of these areas. Overall, China is showing flexibility in its views on global governance and there is an increasing convergence between China's approach and international norms.

Dr. Li Mingjiang, Associate Professor at Nanyang Technological University, also asserted that China is a relative newcomer to global governance. His comments focused on China's voluntary financial contributions to global governance in areas such as United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Based on his assessment of these financial contributions, he argued that China is not taking a

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leading role in global governance and is more focused on bilateral initiatives with select countries rather than multilateral interactions.

Dr. Mo's comments emphasized a South Korean perspective on China's involvement in global governance. He noted that outside of the North Korean nuclear issue, South Korea in general agrees with China's approach to global governance. In particular, he highlighted China's support for South Korea's efforts to increase its own influence in global governance. Despite his overall positive assessment of China's global governance behavior, he did note that China should be cautious about the potential negative effects of linking economic and political issues, especially in a region such as Northeast Asia which still grapples with complicated historical issues.

Dr. Pang Zhongying, Professor at Remin University, emphasized that China is still a developing country and a latecomer to global governance. He argued that China has played a particularly constructive global governance role in the development of Africa, peacekeeping operations and reform of financial institutions. Although there is still a tendency for China to pursue a low profile foreign policy approach, he asserted that in the future China should play a larger role in global governance and become a rule supplier in global governance. Alternative global governance forums, such as the G20 or the BRICS, could provide opportunities for China to play a larger role.

Dr. Nam Chang-Hee, Professor at Inha University, provided commentary on South Korean views of China's engagement with global governance. He argued that South Korea perceives China to be a positive contributor in some functional areas such as UNPKO and financial reform, as a bystander in the functional area of controlling weapons of mass destruction, and a spoiler in the realm of human rights and intellectual property rights protection.

Finally, Mr. Ramstad, Reporter at the Seoul Bureau of the Wall Street Journal, posed questions about what China should be expected to contribute to global governance in light of its level of economic development.

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