

Panel: China's Leadership in Transition (Orchid Room)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 / 10:30-11:45

Talking Points for: Kenneth Lieberthal, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

China is undergoing a large-scale leadership transition during 2012-2013, but the policy implications of this major change are unclear. Broadly, the country needs to shift to the new development model of the 12th Five Year Plan. Given its political economy, these economic changes will also require changes in various mechanisms in the political system. The current development model is now increasing social and other tensions, but very powerful vested interests have formed around key components of this model. It will thus take concerted and sustained efforts to make the required changes. But it is not clear whether there is sufficient consensus among the new leaders on the specific reforms that should be made, the priority that should be assigned to each, and how much political capital to spend on pushing reforms through.

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.