

Panel: China and the ROK-US-Japan “Virtual Alliance” (Orchid Room)

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 / 12:45-14:00

Talking Points for: Gilbert Rozman, Professor of Sociology, Princeton University

Since 2009 the downward slope toward a cold war has been irreversible. To predict the trajectory, we should pay close attention to three questions.

1. How will Chinese explain the causes of the tensions in their narrative on national identity and their overlapping demonization of the ROK, U.S., and Japan on all dimensions of identity?
2. Will the sharp deterioration in ROK-Japan relations and mutual perceptions have an impact on the virtual alliance, especially after new leaders take power in the two countries with contrasting agendas for dealing with China and regional tensions?
3. As Obama reconstitutes his foreign policy team in 2013 in the face of challenges due to nuclear weapons threats from Iran and North Korea, each interlocked with broad regional security realignments, what will be the organizing themes reflecting the gravity of the dangers to the United States, its allies, and stability in both regions?

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