

**APEC Study Center Consortium Conference 2005**

**Issues and Prospects of Maritime Security For Secure Trade  
in the APEC's West Pacific Region**

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General ideas on the current situations

1. I would like to thank the host APEC National Study Center of Korea for this invitation and it is indeed a great pleasure and honor for me to have this opportunity to speak on “Issues and Prospects of Maritime Security For Trade in the APEC's West Pacific Region”.

2. The voyage around Western Pacific rim is vulnerable after 9/11 and the nontraditional threats as well as the traditional are realistic for trade of APEC members. China is truly and increasingly paying more attention to non-traditional security issues and attaches the importance to human security. The non-traditional and human security has been emphasized in China. One new doctrine “putting people first”(yi ren wei ben) has been covering almost all policy papers. I would like to argue that the concept human security falls within a fundamental framework of security studies, basically an expanded range of traditional security meaning (connotation). This is mainly because of sovereignty stated in the UN Charter.

3. APEC transportation agenda has been hardly oriented because of maritime security. We are indeed faced with more threats than ever before. Although we have debated on the concepts of terrorism, issues of secure trade in maritime security should cover the

activities such as drugs smuggling, people trafficking, piracy and armed robbery, even shipment of armaments and possibly weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Many of these threats and issues are cross borders and have more devastating consequences on lives of more nations. We understand no APEC member after September 11 can stand alone in addressing these threats, no matter what economy is, big or small, strong or weak, in East Asia or in the other side of the Ocean.

4. Besides, in the region of Western Pacific rim, there is an unstable political relationship among regional countries constitutes a harmful atmosphere, which would be an adverse influence on solving maritime security. It is necessary for us to have an amicable and cooperative relations among APEC economies. One cannot expect to have a secure and stable maritime transportation in the seas if the suspicions and mistrust remain unchanged.

#### Possible Methods Forward

5. First, political commitment is necessarily continuous. After 9/11 and other terrorist attacks, APEC's activities aiming at enhancing economic growth and prosperity of this region have been in difficulty. Therefore it should be appreciated that Secure Trade in the APEC Region initiative (STAR) was initiated by 2002 APEC Leaders and then three year old STAR activities. APEC agenda's expansion to cover security issues does not necessarily suggest a shift of APEC's core task of trade liberalization and economic cooperation. Rather, it shows APEC's determination to create a safe and secure business environment, which is essential for economic development within APEC region. I believe that the political commitment to tackle terrorist and human security issues should be maintained and continuously push forward for the goal "Towards One Community". Therefore, if security issues have not been solved, we

APEC members should continue its efforts to fight the threats and promote secure trade.

6. Collective and individual action is necessary. We understand that The Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) has made great achievements in counter-terrorism in the region since its establishment in 2003. General Benjamin Defensor from the Philippines, who is excellent and qualified, has been appointed as Chair. I believe this position and task is not easy. Each member has its own priorities in terms of the establishment of security measures. We also have different concepts on terrorism. Combating terrorism is a prime task but some members have their own task on their top internal agenda. I support APIAN's previous project, a reform in APEC institution but enforcement in an institution like APEC at this point is still the focus of developed economies. One commitment should be made and carried on the basis of 2004 APEC economic leaders, making both collective and individual action to fulfill the consensus reached on counter terrorism.

7. Active private participation is necessary. We have had some measures and initiatives to assure maritime security under APEC for years. It may not be sufficient to have governments' commitment but private sector involvement. Government and private sector should strengthen their communication and mutual understanding on matters how to solve maritime security for secure trade. We hope that the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) may play a more dynamic and catalytic role in promoting APEC process in terms of trade and security, and come up with more specific recommendations.

8. UNCLOS-based arrangement is necessary. With the current political situation in the region, maritime security issues should be solved and cooperative activities arranged in terms of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

China and the Philippines had initiated and then Vietnam joined cooperatively to work together based upon UNCLOS in South China Sea. This could be regarded as an important step to contributing to increasing mutual understanding and confidence-building activity in the region.

Profile of Cai Penghong

A short biographical description:

**CAI, Peng Hong** is Director of APEC Research Center, Research Professor at Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), China. Graduated from International Politics of Fudan University in Shanghai (1982), he has since conducted research at SASS, during which he was Visiting Fellow of East-West Center at Honolulu, Hawaii in 1992-3 and Visiting Scholar at IRPS, University of California, San Diego in 1995. His research and teaching interests are international relations in East Asia with an emphasis on China's political and economic relations with East and Southeast Asia, APEC studies. His recent articles and book include "FTAAP and Its Impacts on APEC Institutional Reform", "Bilateral FTA and International Political Economy", "Joint Development in Disputed Sea Areas", etc. Email: [paulcai@online.sh.cn](mailto:paulcai@online.sh.cn); [apecsass@sass.org.cn](mailto:apecsass@sass.org.cn)