



Myanmar's Growing Regional Role

The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) is pleased to announce a major initiative on Myanmar's regional role in Southeast Asia.

The Issues

Myanmar's recent domestic reforms and improved relations with the United States, European Union, Japan, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have opened the door for Myanmar to be an important regional player. The key—Myanmar's foreign policy development and growing regional role—will not only have an impact on the country's own economic development but also have significant implications for the strength and coherence of ASEAN. As Naypyidaw prepares to serve as the 2014 chair of ASEAN, the time is ripe to find ways to support Myanmar's re-emergence and to deepen understanding of the dynamic that will shape the country's new foreign policy.

Project Objectives

- Explore how Myanmar's political and economic reforms open a window for the development of a more robust foreign policy and enhanced engagement with ASEAN, the United States, and the Asia-Pacific
- Offer recommendations for external partners to support Myanmar and a strong, cohesive ASEAN

Project Activities

- In October of 2013, NBR organized a study tour of Myanmar by the project's senior advisors to meet with government, business, and civil society stakeholders. This will lay the groundwork for the subsequent report "Myanmar's Growing Regional Role," which aims to support Myanmar's 2014 chairmanship of ASEAN.
- A public report rollout in Washington, D.C., will highlight the findings of the study trip and implications for U.S. policy.
- A workshop on the West Coast will provide a venue for scholars, civil society representatives, business leaders, and government officials to discuss Myanmar's re-emergence.

Policy Importance

NBR has identified the opportunities and challenges presented by Myanmar's re-emergence and is providing recommendations for Myanmar, the United States, and other regional actors as Naypyidaw assumes a more prominent international role. This includes outlining specific steps the international community can take to facilitate Myanmar's development of a capable foreign ministry, active civil society, and strong cohort of experts integrated into regional networks.

THE NATIONAL BUREAU of ASIAN RESEARCH
SEATTLE AND WASHINGTON, D.C.
NBR@NBR.ORG, WWW.NBR.ORG, @NBRNEWS

1414 NE 42ND STREET, SUITE 300
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 USA
PHONE 206-632-7370, FAX 206-632-7487

1301 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, SUITE 305
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 USA
PHONE 202-347-9767, FAX 202-347-9766



Myanmar's Growing Regional Role

Senior Advisors

Mely Caballero-Anthony

*Associate Professor and Head of the
Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies,
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
at Nanyang Technological University*

Priscilla A. Clapp

*Minister-Counselor (Retired),
U.S. Foreign Service*

Catharin E. Dalpino

*Contract Course Chair,
Foreign Service Institute*

Morten Pedersen

*Senior Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences,
University of New South Wales*

Project Sponsor



Project Supporter



Project Leads

Meredith Miller

*Senior Vice President of Trade, Economic, and Energy Affairs
& Outreach; Director of the Washington, D.C., Office
The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Abraham M. Denmark

*Vice President for Political and Security Affairs,
The National Bureau of Asian Research*

Related NBR Events and Publications

"Myanmar's Health Infrastructure: The Evolving Context for Foreign Engagement," a roundtable with Benjamin Shobert (May 22, 2013, Seattle, Washington)

"The Maritime Boundary Dispute Between Bangladesh and Myanmar: Motivations, Potential Solutions, and Implications," by Jared Bissinger in *Asia Policy* 10 (July 2010)

"Burma/Myanmar: The Practicalities of Engagement," a forum convened by NBR, the Atlantic Council of the United States, and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council (April 26, 2010, Washington, D.C.)

"Burma/Myanmar: Views from the Ground and the International Community," a forum convened by NBR, the Atlantic Council of the United States, and the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council, in cooperation with Refugees International (May 8, 2009, Washington, D.C.)

*For additional information on NBR's previous work,
please visit www.nbr.org.*

THE NATIONAL BUREAU of ASIAN RESEARCH
SEATTLE AND WASHINGTON, D.C.
NBR@NBR.ORG, WWW.NBR.ORG, @NBRNEWS

1414 NE 42ND STREET, SUITE 300
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105 USA
PHONE 206-632-7370, FAX 206-632-7487

1301 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, SUITE 305
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004 USA
PHONE 202-347-9767, FAX 202-347-9766