

PRESS RELEASE  
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## **NBR LAUNCHES TWO PROJECTS UNDER MACARTHUR FOUNDATION'S ASIA SECURITY INITIATIVE**

Seattle, WA – The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has chosen The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) to lead two research projects over a three-year period as part of the Foundation's new Asia Security Initiative (ASI). The Foundation has committed \$68 million over seven years to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation in fostering peace and security in Asia.

NBR will explore opportunities for cooperation on non-traditional regional concerns in South Asia that could potentially become building blocks toward enhancing the regional security architecture in ways that will deepen multilateral cooperation. In particular, research will address human security concerns centered on environmental, health, water, and food issues as well as examine disaster management response mechanisms.

In Northeast and Southeast Asia, NBR will research maritime energy disputes, which continue to challenge regional peace and stability and to block successful development of energy resources in a time of increasing demand. Through examination of three case studies – the South China Sea, East China Sea, and the Gulf of Thailand – NBR will bring together interdisciplinary teams from the region to provide stakeholders with the tools to reduce the prospects for conflict and develop mechanisms for peaceful, cooperative development.

NBR joins twenty-six institutions awarded initial grants under ASI. MacArthur's grants focused on three critical security issues: strengthening regional cooperation, preventing conflict in Northeast Asia, and building international cooperation to respond to internal challenges. NBR representatives Meredith Miller and Roy Kamphausen shared research objectives with delegates from fellow ASI institutions at the initiative's official launch events in Singapore May 27-29, 2009.

"The MacArthur Foundation has always demonstrated a steadfast commitment to promoting peace and security in Asia through innovative international partnerships and analytical research," said NBR President Rich Ellings. "We are honored to be a part of the Asia Security Initiative and are deeply committed to being effective. The mission is critical."

*Founded in 1989 with a major grant from the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, NBR is an independent, nonpartisan research institution committed to informing and strengthening policy in the Asia-Pacific. NBR also helps train the next generation of scholars who concentrate on Asia.*