

ARTICLE ROUND-UP

MARCH-APRIL 2007

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

1. **Toward a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific**

C. Fred Bergsten

Policy Brief in International Economics, February 2007, 13 pages.

At their latest annual summit in Vietnam in November 2006, the leaders of the 21 members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum agreed to seriously consider negotiating a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP). The author examines the benefits of the FTAAP initiative, pointing out that it may well turn out to be the best, or perhaps only, way to catalyze a substantively successful Doha Round.

2. **Trade Promotion Authority Delivers Jobs, Growth Prosperity and Security at Home**

Office of the United States Trade Representative, January 31, 2007, 2 pages.

The United States continues to open markets through free trade agreements in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Over the past six years, ten countries have signed free trade agreements with the United States. This fact sheet illustrates how these agreements have benefited FTA partners by creating jobs, growing the economies, and building international partnerships for security.

3. **Vietnam: Country outlook**

Economist Intelligence Unit - ViewsWire, 1 March 2007, 2 pages

The article provides brief and updated information on Vietnam's development including economic growth, international relations, domestic politics and policy trends.

4. **Making Trade Agreements Relevant for Poor Countries: Why Dispute Settlement is Not Enough**

Chad P. Brown and Bernard M. Hoekman, Brookings Global Economy and Development Working Paper #5, February 2007, 29 pages.

Poor countries are rarely challenged in formal WTO trade disputes for failing to live up to commitments, reducing the benefits of their participation in international trade agreements. This paper examines the political-economic causes of the failure to challenge poor countries and discusses the static and dynamic costs and external implications of this failure.

5. **Rich Countries, Poor People?**

Stiglitz, Joseph. New Perspectives Quarterly. Vol. 24 No. 1, Winter 2007, pp. 7-9

In an interview with the NPQ editor, Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz challenges the U.S. model for globalization, which he says drives down wages in industrialized countries and imposes unfair trade practices on developing countries. He says globalization can only work if the winners share with the losers and warns about a potential protectionist backlash if the current trend continues. He prefers the "Scandinavian model" for economic development which invests heavily in education, research, technology and a social safety net, thereby giving

entrepreneurs the tools and protection they need to take risks. He cautions developing countries against opening up to short-term speculative capital flows and says they should seek long-term foreign direct investment with technology transfers. He says the IMF has lost all legitimacy and needs a more democratic structure.

REGIONAL SECURITY

6. The New World Order

Daniel W. Drezner. *Foreign Affairs*, March-April 2007, 13 pages.

Controversies over the war in Iraq and U.S. unilateralism have overshadowed a more pragmatic and multilateral component of the Bush administration's grand strategy: its attempt to reconfigure U.S. foreign policy and international institutions in order to account for shifts in the global distribution of power and the emergence of states such as China and India. This unheralded move is well intentioned and well advised, and Washington should redouble its efforts.

7. Religion, Culture and 21st-Century Foreign Policy

Madeleine Albright. *New Perspectives Quarterly*, Summer 2006, 6 pages.

In this interview, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright confirms that the global spread of information ties religion, culture and international relations together. Foreign policy decision-makers today should appreciate different beliefs and motivations even if they conflict with American perspectives.

8. How Globalization Went Bad

Steven Weber. *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2007, 7 pages.

From terrorism to global warming, the evils of globalization are more dangerous than ever before. What went wrong?

SOCIAL ISSUES

9. How Democracies Emerge: The "Sequencing" Fallacy

Thomas Carothers. *Journal of Democracy*, January 2007, 16 pages.

Many critics of democracy promotion assert that the rule of law and a well-functioning state should be in place before a society democratizes, but, the author asserts, this strategy of "sequencing" is based on a set of mistaken premises.

10. The Treaty of the Democratic Peace

Tod Lindberg. *The Weekly Standard*, February 12, 2007, 6 pages.

The author argues that mature, liberal democracies never enter into war with each other and always settle disputes peacefully. Mature democracies, he says, have common values and advocate liberal values such as respect for human rights and free and fair elections. He proposes the creation of a new international organization, based on the adoption of a "Treaty of the Democratic Peace" to help new democracies, many of them young and fragile, achieve this ideal.

11. The Starting Gate: Foreign Policy Divides the Democrats

Jeffrey Goldberg. *New Yorker*, January 15, 2007, 7 pages.

The author notes that foreign policy is what differentiates the potential 2008 Democratic presidential candidates from each other and from the Republicans. He cites several studies about the Democratic-voting electorate to explore how the platforms of Democratic candidates Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) compare with Democratic voters' views of foreign policy issues.

12. Information Wars

Heather Greenfield. National Journal, February 24, 2007, 2 pages.

The author examines the effectiveness of using Internet search engines as a new campaign tool, such as search-engine ads tied to key words or phrases, and "Googlebombing" -- a way to push news articles up to the top of Google search results. Both liberal and conservative consultants said this was one of the most effective campaign tools in the final weeks of the 2006 campaigns, and they will be used again in 2008.

13. Bargaining and Accommodation on the United States Supreme Court

Pamela C. Corley. Judicature, January/February 2007, 9 pages.

For justices, bargaining is a simple fact of life. Despite conflicting views on literary style, relevant precedents, procedural rules, and substantive policy, cases have to be settled and opinions written; and no opinion may carry the institutional label of the Court unless five Justices agree to sign it. This article provides insight into the American judiciary system regarding the bargaining and accommodation that has occurred on the Supreme Court.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

14. Ending Oil Dependence

David Sandalow. The Brookings Institution, January 22, 2007, 26 pages.

The author looks at the United States' oil dependence and offers several policy proposals to solve this dependency. He stresses that there are no simple or short-term solutions to this crisis.

15. The 17 Great Challenges of the Twenty-First Century

James Martin. The Futurist, January-February 2007, 5 pages.

By some estimates, humanity has only a 50% chance of surviving the next hundred years. This article focuses on 17 challenges to the human population brought about by the 21st century that must be addressed to ensure the survival of mankind.

16. Foreign Countries' Response to the Avian Influenza (H5N1) Virus: Current Status

Emma Chanlett-Avery. CRS Report for Congress, February 5, 2007, 14 pages.

This report highlights recent efforts by affected countries to control the spread of the avian influenza (H5N1) virus. Included is statistical information on confirmed human cases and deaths through January 2007.

For updates on bird flu developments and research, please visit

http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

17. The New Media Age: End of the Written Word?

Patrick Tucker. The Futurist, March-April 2007, 8 pages.

People in the developed world are spending less time reading books and more time interacting with visual media—television, podcasts, and video games—than ever before. What do these evolving trends mean for the future? The authors explore what our emerging visual culture means for the written word and the future of civilization.

18. Olympic Trial

Kathleen E. McLaughlin. *American Journalism Review*, December 2006/January 2007, 3 pages. China has a government-controlled domestic press and is known to be somewhat heavy-handed in dealing with foreign reporters who break its often ill-defined and ambiguous regulations. This article focuses on how China will cope with an invasion of 20,000 foreign journalists for the 2008 Olympics.

19. A Digital Life

Gordon Bell and Jim Gemmell. *Scientific American*, March 2007, 8 pages.

The article discusses the idea of digital memories that can store everything you sense, as well as some things you cannot. In detecting data you cannot sense, such as the amount of oxygen in your blood, these digital memories can alert you to any medical symptoms you may have, but not notice. By storing data you can sense, they will allow you to record a more detailed personal history. Details on this new technology, with focus given to its capabilities, are included.

20. How to Podcast Campus Lectures

Brock Read. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 26, 2007, 4 pages.

The article looks at how a growing number of professors are recording their lectures and making them available as podcasts, which are regularly updated sets of audio files that students can download to their computers or MP3 players. More and more colleges are trying to help professors who want to try podcasting lectures, also known as coursecasting. The author also presents advice from college officials who have started extensive podcasting services, which includes making the technology easy for professors, asking students what they want, reading the fine print in the contract with Apple, and thinking seriously about intellectual property.

21. Philanthropy - Not Just for Rock Stars: 'Real People' and Digital Donations

Cecelia Hogan. *Searcher*, February 2007, 11 pages.

The author points out that even though we will never amass the amount of money Bill Gates probably carries around in his wallet, that doesn't mean we can't be digital donors. The author tells readers how - and how not - to do it.

U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

22. An Education Strategy to Promote Opportunity, Prosperity, and Growth

Joshua Bendor. *The Hamilton Project Strategy Paper*, February 2007, 25 pages.

The paper presents evidence suggesting that America's educational system is neither in crisis nor reaching its full potential. To better secure the benefits of a strong education system, it outlines an evidence-based strategy that calls for new investments in some areas and structural reforms in others.

23. College Goes Global

William R. Brody. *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2007, 12 pages.

The market of higher education, like any other, is becoming increasingly globalized and dominated by U.S. institutions. But despite predictions that U.S.-based global universities will surge as geographic and disciplinary barriers come down, the era of the global megaversity may not quite be at hand. The role of college campuses in the global marketplace is discussed.

24. Teaching Policy to Improve Student Learning: Lessons from Abroad

Lynn Olson. Education Week, February 14, 2007, 8 pages.

The author argues that a critical issue for any country that hopes to keep its education system internationally competitive is how to recruit, retain, develop, and nurture a high-quality teaching force. She describes eight nations' approaches to strengthening teaching and the implications for the United States.

25. Classroom Transparency

James M. Lang. The Chronicle of Higher Education, April 6, 2007, 4 pages.

The author argues that the best teachers are the ones who take the time to explain to students why they are learning what they are learning. He notes that the most effective teaching is transparent teaching: Both student and teacher know the reasons for the major decisions about a course, from the choice of texts and classroom activities to the weighting of the grades and the design of the exams.

26. Domestic Violence and Human Rights: Local Challenges to a Universal Framework

Karen Morgaine. Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare, March 2007, 21 pages.

This paper summarizes the rise of the international women's movement in relation to human rights and violence against women, citing a number of examples from the global domestic violence movement to illustrate how the tendency towards using universal frameworks may be problematic.

27. The Perpetual Crises of Democracy

Guillermo A. O'Donnell. Journal of Democracy, January 2007, 7 pages.

In a world haunted by wars, domestic and international violence, social inequality, and environmental damage, deep concerns about what democracy is and can be are in order. The author discusses the political system of democracy, trying to see if there is a crisis of democracy, and if there is such a crisis, how is it manifesting itself in different countries and regions. He also examines the capacities of democracy to meet and resolve crises.

TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS

28. From Foe to Friend: Furthering U.S. Engagement in Vietnam

Remarks by Ambassador Michael W. Marine at Chicago Club. 81 East Van Buren Street
March 27, 2007, 5:30 p.m.

"Disability and Ability" - Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, November 2006:

29. U.S. Society and Laws Protect the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Peter Blanck, 5 pages

An expert on the Americans with Disabilities Act discusses the implementation of the law, including important court cases.

30. Securing Access for People with Disabilities: A Community Affair

Michael Jay Friedman, 3 pages

Cities and towns have responded to the Americans with Disabilities Act by providing a variety of services and resources for citizens with disabilities.

31. Hiring People with Disabilities: Good for Business

Elizabeth Kelleher, 3 pages

The Americans with Disabilities Act places a number of requirements on businesses. This article discusses how companies have responded and benefited.

*IRC currently has Vietnamese translated book, “**Handbook of Independent Journalism**” – A publication of U.S. Department of State’s International Information Program, July 2006. Please contact IRC’s staff at 65 Le Loi St. Saigon Center to get it.*