



News from the Jackson Hole Center for Global Affairs

Mroz Explains Approach of Taking Risks for Peace

Members of the Jackson Hole community were offered a rare window into the world of unofficial, “Track II” diplomacy when John Mroz, President of the East West Institute, spoke at the Four Seasons Resort on May 3. “Track II” is an approach which Mroz pioneered 27 years ago, when he had a new idea for pursuing peace and security in a dangerous world and was given the opportunity to establish the East West Institute to test this idea in practice. o



John Mroz, President, East West Institute (l.), with David Wendt of JHCGA (c.) and Laurent Roux of Gallatin Wealth Management (r.)

At the heart of this idea is trust and talking with people with whom you do not necessarily agree. Mroz explained how, on conflicts ranging from the Cold War in the 1980s to current issues of anti-terrorism, he has been implementing this idea by building networks of political, military, and business leaders who conduct quiet discussions seeking to understand and bridge their differences. The East West Institute is the leading contemporary proponent of this approach, with a \$9 million annual budget which includes no financial support from any government.

“I think John Mroz is one of the most remarkable men I have ever met. I nominated him for the Noble Peace Prize.” - former U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-WY), April 17, 2007

The talk, cosponsored by JHCGA with Gallatin Wealth Management, was off-the-record and typified EWI’s low-profile, below-the-radar-screen approach to confidence building and conflict prevention. Usually when we think of the risks of conflict management, we think in terms of threats to national security, including

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Chinese Tourism Delegation Shares “Power of Place”

Jackson’s claim to a special “Power of Place” found its mirror image in China’s Shanxi province when JHCGA hosted a group of tourism officials from that province in mid-December. Shanxi’s claim to this distinction is a small town set at the foot of Wutai Mountain, one of the holiest Buddhist sites in all of China, with numerous temples, shrines and monasteries.



Roger Smith, director of the Raptor Fund, gives a demonstration of his work on raptor rehabilitation to our visitors from Shanxi province

The 15-member delegation brought abundant energy and a number of ideas, including the initiative of a sister city relationship which would embody shared “Power of Place.” They also presented to JHCGA an intricately carved replica of the Yingxian Wooden Pagoda of Shanxi Province. This 220 ft. pagoda was constructed in 1056 and is the tallest and oldest wooden pagoda in the world.



The Yingxian Wooden Pagoda

Members of the delegation and local leaders also identified common interests in tourism which went significantly beyond mutual needs for promotion. For example, tourism in Shanxi is expanding at such a rapid rate that the province now has more hotels than managers. To help address these training needs, the Grand Teton Lodge Company offered to provide internship opportunities for hotel management and staff in Shanxi.

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Wyoming, Shanxi Legislators Find Common Ground

The two top leaders of the Wyoming and Shanxi legislatures met under the auspices of JHCGA in early November 2006 when Wyoming State Senate President Grant C. Larson co-chaired three discussion sessions with



Sen. Grant Larson (l.) and Mayor Mark Barron (r.) with Shanxi Provincial Congress chief Ji Xinfang

Ji Xinfang, chief of the Shanxi Peoples Provincial Congress. The three sessions also included other members of the legislature and elected officials, local and statewide business leaders, and representatives of the Idaho National Laboratory.

The meetings took place at a time which provided an opportunity for Chairman Ji and his colleagues to see democracy in action. In addition to Sen. Larson, who was up for re-election, the group included two other sitting members as well as a major party nominee who was a candidate for election. Mr. Ji expressed his appreciation to the two candidates who had taken time off from their busy campaigns to meet with him.

The leaders of the two states/provinces found in the course of the discussions that they had much in common, including issues of natural resource management, immigration, affordable housing, and responsible fiscal policy, including the allocation of budget surpluses. Both sets of leaders also agreed that keys to effective leadership were the ability to listen and communicate effectively with one's constituents, and the ability to prioritize issues.

There was broad support from both sides for further legislative exchanges of this sort. As one legislator put it, "Legislators represent the people. Therefore, legislative exchanges are a way to involve the exchange of whole peoples."

"Meetings like this between our small state and your province can show the way to new cooperation that can teach our friends and colleagues in Washington, D.C. and Beijing that if we can do it, they can do it; and together we can make a better world." *Bill Scarlett, Meeting with Shanxi Provincial Peoples Congress chief Ji Xinfang, November 2, 2006*

Scholar Afsaruddin Explores Sources of Pluralism in Islam

Those seeking to understand Islam in the context of the threat of global terrorism found grounds for hope in a recent presentation by Notre Dame scholar Asma Afsaruddin. Prof. Afsaruddin's lecture, co-sponsored by JHCGA and the International Studies program of the University of Wyoming, was presented at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in early March.



Prof. Asma Afsaruddin of the University of Notre Dame speaks on Islam at the National Museum of Wildlife Art

Prof. Afsaruddin provided an authoritative scholarly exposition of the Koran, citing the many teachings of the Prophet Mohammad to follow a path of pluralism and tolerance. She also provided an illuminating tour d'horizon of the history of Islam, explaining particular sociological and historical circumstances which at various times had led extremist movements to break off from mainstream moderate Islamic doctrines and tendencies. Most recently, Prof. Afsaruddin explained how mainstream Islamic groups in the U.S. had responded to the September 11 with an emphatic rejection of any tendency to retreat within themselves, renewing their efforts to reach out to other faiths.

This was the first event JHCGA has co-sponsored with UW's International Studies program. On September 13, JHCGA will again join with the University in bringing Oxford scholar Alan Knight to the community. Prof. Knight will speak about current challenges in Latin America at the Jackson campus of the Teton Science School.



Visit to Florida Power Plant Offers Glimpse into Future of Clean Coal

As part of its efforts to help promote the cleaner and more efficient utilization of coal in China, JHCGA has focused attention on a technology that combines coal gasification with power generation, called IGCC (for Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle). As the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, China will continue under any alternative energy scenario to rely for decades on coal for most of its total energy supply. Since coal use in the U.S. and China already accounts for over one fifth of total worldwide carbon dioxide emissions from all fossil fuel sources, finding cleaner and more efficient means of coal consumption is imperative for both countries.



The Polk Power Plant, one of two operating IGCC facilities in the United States

IGCC is only beginning to be proven as an advanced clean coal technology here in the U.S. The Polk Power Plant, located outside Tampa, Florida, is one of two facilities in the U.S. generating power on the basis of IGCC. JHCGA President David Wendt and Director of Communications Olivia Meigs visited this facility in January in preparation for a tour of the plant which JHCGA plans to organize this fall for a group of visiting energy officials from Shanxi province.

The site visit will help to follow up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed last fall. At that time JHCGA took a group of U.S. policymakers and experts to Shanxi province as part of its series of clean energy exchanges with that province. Signatories to the MOU, including JHCGA, General Electric, and the Shanxi provincial government, pledged to work together to explore the mutual benefits of IGCC.

These benefits include increased thermal efficiency, more cost-effective emissions control, conservation of water supplies, and greater potential for separation and subsequent storage or utilization of carbon dioxide and hydrogen in the waste stream. As another part of the follow-up to the MOU, shortly after the meeting GE concluded a deal to supply the province with two retrofitted gas turbines, to be used – in a process akin to IGCC -- in generating power from waste gas emitted from coking ovens in the province.

Two of the misconceptions surrounding IGCC are the notions that it is a less reliable source of electric power than a standard pulverized coal power plant, and that it costs more to operate. These perceptions are refuted by the Polk Power Plant's experience. In fact, IGCC will be the technology of choice for Polk's parent company, Tampa Electric Power Co., as it seeks to expand its current total generating capacity in the next several years by another 600 MW.



JHCGA with a group sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council tour the Polk Power Plant.

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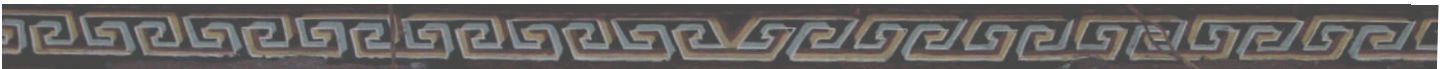
threats to our physical security. Mroz made it clear that conflict prevention, too, entails risks, and that when it comes to conflict prevention through confidence-building, the challenge is one of taking risks for peace.

JHCGA will further explore this issue with another leading practitioner of the approach of “Track II” diplomacy. Douglas M. Johnson, President of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, will share his experience in promoting faith-based reconciliation in a talk to be scheduled later this summer.

Tourism Delegation shares “Power of Place” continued from p. 1

Building on the theme of shared “Power of Place,” the Chinese delegation suggested that both sides explore the idea of a “sister city” relationship between Jackson and Taihuai, the Buddhist town located in the mountains. JHCGA plans to organize a delegation of local leaders, including Mayor Barron, to visit Taihuai on October 21-28, 2007. Those interested in joining the group should contact Olivia Meigs at 307-733-3404 or olivia.meigs@jhcga.org

Harnessing the inspirational power of Jackson Hole, the Jackson Hole Center for Global Affairs brings together public, private, and nonprofit organizations to develop and implement innovative and practical responses to global challenges.



JACKSON HOLE
CENTER FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS
125 S. King St.
P.O. Box 3040
Jackson, WY 83001
phone 307-733-3404
Fax: 307-733-3479
www.jhcga.org

