

The Changing Triangle: U.S., China and Taiwan

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INTRODUCTION

This volume contains a report on a symposium, "The Changing Triangle: U.S., China and Taiwan" that was held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) on April 21, 2001. The Center for International Studies and College of Business Administration, UMSL, organized the event, which was also sponsored by the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City and the World Affairs Council of St. Louis.

The symposium provides a forum whereby academic scholars from different areas and backgrounds could meet and discuss their ideas and understanding of the relationship among the three parties: U.S., China and Taiwan. Thus, the purpose of this symposium enabled scholars to parlay their experiences and participants could hear different viewpoints on that issue. As a result, the symposium sheds a light on the changing dynamics among the three parties in terms of their economic, social and political relationships for the past years and the years ahead.

The relationships among the three parties have become increasingly important and linked over the past years. International trade and business among the three parties have expanded, partly as a result of globalization and partly as the increased dependency among them. Social and political relationships also become an important topic as the new administration in Taiwan becomes more pro independent. Thus, the symposium provided a good resource for discussion and for promoting a better understanding of these changing relationships.

The first paper by Fung, "The Three-Way Economic Relationships Among U.S., Taiwan, and China," examined trade relationship and foreign direct investment among the U.S., China and Taiwan. These economic links have increased over time and some policy implications are drawn.

The second paper by Lee, "Economic Relationships and Outlook of China, U.S., and Taiwan," discussed economic relationship and economic outlook of U.S., China, and Taiwan. In particular, the paper suggests that the Taiwanese government should carefully evaluate the political risk faced by Taiwanese Companies investing in China and should improve its investment environment and upgrade its production.

The third paper by Allen, "Meet the New China," which described how China has changed rapidly on many economic fronts over the past twenty years. As such, countries with strong economic ties with China such as Taiwan and the U.S. have had an opportunity to set the tone. As a consequence, how a productive relationship based on recognition of the new China can pave the way for a productive relationship between China and the entire world.

The fourth paper written by Chen, " Non-Performing Loan Resolutions in China and Taiwan: A Policy Evaluation" examined the severity of the non-performing loan problem in China and Taiwan. This is a problem that has grown in severity and has prompted policy makers in the banking sector in China and Taiwan to develop strategies to better manage the issue. The paper provides comments on policy resolutions that have been undertaken in resolving the bad loan problem.

The fifth article is by Horner, "The Changing Triangle: the U.S., China, and Taiwan." In this article, the author describes China's historical, political, social and economic development and the challenges that the country will face in the future. Additionally, the author discussed the role that the U.S. will play in this evolutionary process.

The sixth paper by Chang, "Taiwan and China Cross-Strait Negotiations: The International Connection," discussed the political relationship among the three parties: The U.S., China and Taiwan. This article was particularly interesting because the author described a framework that could be used by China and Taiwan to improve their relationship in the future. The article concludes with a discussion of the conditions for improving relationships between China and Taiwan over time.

The last paper is by Chiou, "Changing Guards and Changing Policies Toward China: Taiwanese and American Perspectives." This paper tries to examine recent changes in political leaderships and subsequent policy shifts toward China in Taiwan and the United States. The primary focus of the article is on the historic democratic transition and the resulting changes of Taiwan's China policy.