

**WHAT BINDS IS GREATER THAN WHAT DIVIDES US**  
Conference on Asian Development and Peace, January 29, 2016

## **“Development and Peace Challenges in Asia Today: Toward a People’s Perspective”**

Bobby M. Tuazon

### Abstract

The contemporary Asian strategic landscape is characterized by economic growth and the rise of major countries in the midst of a reassertion of American primacy along with the rise of militarism and extremist politics. While the region may enjoy relative peace, there persist inter-state border and territorial disputes while intra-state conflicts have not declined. Meantime, economic growth is challenged by development disparities, unemployment, migration, and human trafficking, among others. These are the pressing concerns of many countries in the region. The dominant state-centric paradigms including in countries where state and political systems are either weak or are targets of contestation are increasingly challenged by people’s perspectives emanating from non-state stakeholders particularly civil societies and NGOs.

*Bobby M. Tuazon used to head the Political Science Committee of UP-Manila where he continues to teach. He is also the Director for Policy Studies and in-house policy analyst of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG), a convener of the multi-sectoral citizens’ election watchdog, AES Watch. An investigative journalist, opinion columnist, editor, and publisher of various mainstream and alternative newspapers and online publications, Tuazon has co-authored and edited 14 books on political parties and electoral reform, governance and corruption, foreign policy and national security, international affairs and the “war on terror,” human rights and peace process.*

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**“Chinese Perspective on Development & Peace in Asia:  
Implications for the Philippines”**

Ericson Baculinao, Bureau Chief, NBC, China

**Abstract:**

China's development and security interests, as determined by its ruling Communist Party, have necessitated a strategy of peaceful rise. For the purpose, China is deploying its resources as the world's second biggest economy to expand areas of peaceful, mutually profitable engagements particularly in the Asian region, with the One Belt, One Road and AIIB projects that by some estimates could involve \$1.4 Trillion of Chinese investments over the years, more than ten times the Marshall Plan. With China's choice of the economic path for its great power ambitions, the Philippines has a unique opportunity to wield economic diplomacy to revitalize bilateral relations, while firmly defending its sovereign rights and interests in the West Philippine Sea. Prioritizing economic diplomacy can shoot two birds with one stone, reaping urgently needed economic benefits while laying the foundation of mutual trust, which is indispensable for the eventual peaceful resolution of the maritime disputes. Renewed economic engagements with China will help for a multipolar balance in Philippine foreign policy.

*Eric Baculinao, Beijing Bureau Chief of American television network NBC News, is a resident of China for more than 40 years. An alumnus of the University of the Philippines, he went to China in 1971 for a short study tour, which turned into a life of exile due to the martial-law regime of President Marcos. He has closely followed the major strategy debates and policy changes in China, from the cultural revolution period of Mao, to the reform era of Deng and his successors. He has won an Emmy award as part of the NBC News Team which reported on China's Tiananmen Crisis of 1989. He is joining the forum in his private capacity.*

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### **“The U.S. Rebalance Strategy in Asia and Its Potential Threats to Asian Peace and Security”**

Roland G. Simbulan

#### Abstract

The U.S. "rebalance" and pivot to Asia is a strategy of a weakening superpower to deploy its military forces to surround China. The U.S. pivot in Asia is two-pronged: 1. military consolidation of its forces through agreements like EDCA, and restructuring U.S. forces in Japan, South Korea and Australia; and 2. economic alliances like the Trans Pacific Partnership.

Meanwhile, China, which has surpassed the U.S. as the world's largest economy according to WB figures, has put the South China Sea as part of its national security agenda, the South China Sea being the vital entry point of its energy sources and raw materials. China with its unilateral Nine Dash Line in SCS, has de facto declared its own Monroe Doctrine for the South China Sea. That the U.S. is doing everything to foil any challenge to its total global military domination and superiority makes the area a flashpoint and threat to Asian peace and security.

*Roland G. Simbulan is Professor 12 in Development Studies and Public Management at the University of the Philippines. He served as Vice Chancellor for Planning and Development and was elected Faculty Regent in the Board of Regents of the U.P. System. A former senior consultant at the Philippine Senate on defense and foreign relations, Simbulan has written eight books on Philippine-U.S. security relations and Philippine foreign policy. One of his books on foreign policy was translated into Japanese and published in Japan in 2012 with the title, Firipin Minshu Vuiesu Beigun Churyu. He is currently the Vice Chairman, Board of Directors of the Center for People Empowerment in Governance (CenPEG).*

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# **Toward Inclusive Economic Development in Asia: Philippine Experience**

George T. Siy  
Integrated Development Studies Institute (IDSI)

IDSI is considering development of the ideas that:

1. Inclusive growth needs to be engineered for sustainability
2. the current environmental and mathematical forces favoring widening gaps in fruits of progress,
3. but there are also great opportunities for inclusiveness.
4. cultural and personal internal changes are necessary to achieve sustainable inclusion,
5. What are decisional forces favoring this and those against,
6. With current examples of all the above,

Discussed by a businessman involved in policymaking, based on ground experience in industry, finance, technology, media and consumer goods.  
( IDSI Inc, Integrated Development Studies Institute, Inc. )

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- Director, IDSI (Integrated Development Studies Institute)
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- President, Condev (Convergence Realty & Devt. Corp)
- Former Director, PCCI
- Director , Phil. Exporters Confederation, Inc.,
- Former Director, Phil. Retirement Inc
- Chairman Emeritus, Anvil Business Club
- Chairman Emeritus, CONGEP (Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines)
- Former President, Wharton-Penn Club of the Philippines (2008)
- Former Director, Security Bank Corporation
- Restaurant chains, technology services
- Wharton MBA Finance 1986
- Ateneo de Manila University B.S. Management Engineering 1981



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**“Japanese Perspectives on Development & Peace in Asia:  
ODA & People’s Responses”**

Masaki "Gus" Yokoyama, Dr.Econ., Faculty of Global & Inter-Cultural Studies, Ferris University, Yokohama, Japan

Abstract

Shinzo Abe became prime minister for the second time, after an interval of a little more than five years, on December 26, 2012. More than three years have passed since then. The coalition government of Abe's "*Jiminto*" (the Liberal Democratic Party) and the "*Komeito*", with the backing of a powerful Nichiren Buddhist group "*Sokagakkai*", has a comfortable majority in both the lower and upper houses. Popularity rates have been considerably higher than during the previous six governments, which changed almost annually, under "*Minshuto*" (the Democratic Party) and *Jiminto*, including the first government under Abe himself.

The Abe administration has been successful this time in staying in power for more than 3 years and also in breaking established political taboos and changing traditional post-war Japanese government policies in many ways. Among these are the policies on ODA and military exports, which have recently been dramatically revised. They are committed to advancing militarization in a new form which is very different from before World War II.

I would like to cover the following three major areas in the policies of the Abe administration in my presentation:

- 1) Japan's ODA (brief history, special characteristics and recent changes)
- 2) The export of military equipment and nuclear technology for economy and power
- 3) The advancement of militarism in the face of Chinese and North Korean threats

There are two limitations: Abe's economic policy and his attempts to dismantle Japan's "peace constitution" are also deeply inter-related and very important, but I will avoid elaborating too much on these aspects, so as not to lose the focus on

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ODA and regional cooperation, including military aspects as mentioned above. I also intend to discuss the issues chiefly as they relate to the regions of Southeast and East Asia.

In conclusion, I would like to analyse what is happening in this decade of the 2010s, especially hegemonic shifts, in the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, I will introduce some of the Japanese people's initiatives to prevent militarization by the Abe administration, and I will also present a perspective of people's efforts beyond national borders in this region, such as the proposal of a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, to create an alternative regional order - of the people, by the people, for the people.

*After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Physics Department of the Faculty of Science at Rikkyo University, including a year as an exchange student at St. Albans School, Washington, DC, Prof. Masaki "Gus" Yokoyama completed Master and Doctor courses in Economics at the Economics Graduate School of Rikkyo University, majoring in World Economics, and was awarded a Doctor of Economics. During his postgraduate studies Dr. Yokoyama was active in the citizens' movement as Coordinator of Jishu-Koza (Open Lecture Forum) at Tokyo University. In 1985, he joined the Department of Sociology at Shikoku Gakuin University as a full-time lecturer (tenured position), and was eventually promoted to Professor of Asian Studies and Environmental Studies. Since 1997, he has been Professor of Peace Studies and Asian Studies in the Faculty of Global and Inter-Cultural Studies at Ferris University.*

*Prof. Yokoyama has served as a member of the governing board of the Peace Studies Association of Japan (PSAJ) from 1989 – present, the Japan Society of International Economics (JSIE) from 2008-2014, and also Peace Depot, a non-profit, independent institution for peace research, education and information from its inception in 1997 to the present.*

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### **“Asian Women’s Role on Development and Peace in the Era of US Rebalance and Rising Major Powers”**

Liza Maza

#### Abstract

Asia is home to some of the most vibrant, diverse and militant grassroots-based women's mass movements in the world today. These movements are engaged at the local, regional and international levels in the struggle to assert, defend and advance women's human rights toward the full realization of substantial equality of women in a world free from all forms of discrimination, violence, exploitation and oppression.

In recent decades, the onslaught of neo-liberal policies has intensified the attacks against the lives and livelihood of Asian women. The problems of unemployment and underemployment, informalization of women's work, migration, landlessness and land grabbing, poverty and hunger, unavailability and lack of access to social services including services for women's health and reproductive needs and home care, religious fundamentalism, prostitution and trafficking, inequality, discrimination and violence against women are realities that poor women at the grassroots live with every day. Women who resist are met with the silencing and repressive apparatus of the state.

The US rebalancing in Asia, the rise of China and the remilitarization of Japan tell of heightened contention among the big powers in order to secure for themselves economic, political and military dominance in Asia and the rest of the world.

These developments shape the landscape on which the women’s movements struggle to advance the cause of development and peace. Through women's organizing, alliance building, networking and solidarity among themselves

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and with other social movements, women are building their experiences, knowledge and capacities to effectively confront and resist neo-liberal globalization, militarism and war and the structures that impede their full development and liberation. It is in these struggles that women develop strategies and approaches like direct action, creative forms of protests, multi-form engagements at the local, regional and international platforms which shape the discourse on what development and peace mean for women. For women, the path towards real development and genuine peace should begin with the recognition, respect and promotion of women's human rights, right to development, right to peace, and right to resist.

*Liza Maza holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Economics from the University of the Philippines, Diliman. She served as a researcher for the Philippines Center for Advanced Studies and the President's Center for Strategic Studies. She was a teacher of economics in school year 1979-1980 and was Director of the Third World Studies and Resource Program in 1980 of St. Scholastica's College. She also acted as Executive Officer of the National Economic Protectionism Association, an organization of nationalist business people.*

*Liza traces her activist roots during her days at the university, where she was an active student leader since 1977. She began championing the rights of women when she joined GABRIELA – the biggest alliance of progressive women in the Philippines – in 1986 at the height of calls to topple down the corrupt government of dictator Ferdinand Marcos and served as its Secretary General for more than ten years. She is now the national alliance's Chairperson since 2009 and has been active in defending the rights of women workers, peasant, indigenous, urban poor and migrant women.*

*From the parliament of the streets, she advanced the Filipino women's fight for economic, political and social rights and freedom in the Philippine House of*



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*Representatives. During her three consecutive terms as representative of Bayan Muna Party-list (12th Congress) and Gabriela Women's Party (13th and 14th Congress), she authored and co-authored a number of significant legislations for women such as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, the Anti-Torture Law and the Magna Carta of Women.*

*Together with other progressive women, Liza set up the Working for Empowerment and Good Governance (WeGovern) Institute in 2010, hoping to advance new politics that empowers the people at the ground, especially marginalized women, and harness their capacities for the genuine development of their communities. She serves as President of WeGovern Institute's Board of Directors.*

*Liza is currently the Co-Chairperson of Makabayang Koalisyon ng Mamamayan (MAKABAYAN Coalition), a political coalition comprised of progressive parties in the Philippines rallying for change. She currently serves as spokesperson of the NOW or Noynoy Out Now Alliance. She is also one of the movers of a broad citizen's movement to unite the Filipino people in defense of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity called P1NAS or "Pilipinong Nagkakaisa para sa Soberanya".*

*Liza is also a prominent figure in the international community for her support and contribution to the struggles and plights of women all over the world. In 2011, she was elected as the Chairperson of the International Women's Alliance (IWA), a global alliance of more than 100 women grassroots organizations. As a peacemaker in 24 May 2015 she was among the 30 prominent women leaders who made a historic crossing of the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea to call for reunification and peace in the Korean Peninsula, Asia, and the rest of the world.*

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**“The Politics of Critical Collaboration  
in Protecting the Human Rights of Migrant Workers”**

Carolyn I. Sobritchea, PhD

Professorial Lecturer, Asian Center, UP Diliman

Abstract

The Philippines is regarded as one of the main providers of overseas contract workers. There are some 10 million Filipinos presently living and working outside the country. Of this number, some 3.8 million are regular or documented workers, while 847,792 are undocumented ones.<sup>1</sup> Around 12 percent of the annual GNP (about US\$ 7 to 8 Billion) comes from the remittances of OFWs although unofficial estimates are as high as 25 percent.<sup>2</sup> In recent years, these remittances have helped keep the Philippine economy afloat and maintain a healthy level of foreign reserves. Despite the significant contributions of overseas Filipino workers to the national and household economies, many have suffered from various forms of labor and personal abuses. Both official and anecdotal reports from government agencies and NGOs attest to the many economic and socio-cultural risks and vulnerabilities of Filipino overseas.

Over the years, various international and regional bodies, in partnership with government agencies and civil society organizations (CSOS) have passed international covenants, developed various approaches and mechanisms, and provided programs and services to protect and promote the human rights of migrant populations. These have helped address various migration-related problems. Nonetheless, there is a need to continuously review such policies and programs in view of current political, economic, and social changes particularly in Asia. The ongoing ASEAN Integration poses new challenges even as it is envisioned to provide new opportunities too for safe population mobility and overseas work.

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*Carolyn I. Sobritchea is a Professorial Lecturer of the UP Asian Center. She served as the Dean of the Asian Center and Director of the UP Center for Women's Studies, University of the Philippines. She has also served as an officer of various non-government organizations that work to protect and promote the human rights of women and children, migrant workers and indigenous peoples. She has participated in various international and Asian regional meetings hosted by international development and human rights bodies to develop as well as review development plans, welfare programs and services as well as policies.*

*Dr. Sobritchea holds an undergraduate and doctoral degree in Anthropology as well as a Master of Arts degree in Asian Studies.*

### **End notes:**

- 1 Commission on Human Rights Philippines and Center for Migrant Advocacy. n.d. *Preparing for the Treat Reporting Process of the Convention on the protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.* Quezon City: CHRP and CMA, page 197,
- 2 ACHIEVE. 2002. *"Labor Migration and HIV/AIDS: Understanding the Intersections."* Quezon City, Philippines, p 4.

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### **“Bangsamoro and Its Security Implications in Southeast Asia”\***

Julkipli Wadi, Professor, Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines;  
Fellow, Center for People Empowerment in Governance

#### Abstract

Consolidating viable security condition in the Philippines remains a serious challenge in the country imposing critical implications in the rest of Southeast Asia. The difficulty is due mainly to government’s inability to effect comprehensive peace policy and strategy in Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. The visioning of a new political entity in the Muslim South known as Bangsamoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) intensifies internal politics amongst Filipino politicians, while widening ethnic, ideological, and religious divides in the Moro community. Instead of evolving more inclusive peace and national development program anchored on deeper historical appreciation of Mindanao conflict, strategic flaws resuscitated the age-old Sabah issue and turned another Moro front into potential enemy with the occurrence of the War in Zamboanga in 2014 – two unfortunate events that could have been avoided had there been a broader and more calibrated use of comprehensive peace and security strategy.

With barely few months left in the term of President Benigno Aquino III, the Muslim South has barely taken respite from internal security tensions in the area amid looming threats from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Finally, as Moro fronts and other radical groups shift their domestic and regional strategies with varying subtleties and trajectories, the Muslim South has become increasingly subjected to penetration from global interests in Southeast Asia, Japan, EU, US, and China.

*Julkipli M. Wadi is a professor in Islamic Thought and History & Socio-political Dynamics of the Muslim World at the Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines, where he also served as Dean. He is co-editor of Philippine External Relations: A Centennial Vista and author of several papers and conferences on political relations and Islamic thought. He is also a Fellow of CenPEG.*

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\*A paper presented during the forum organized by ADePT held at Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman, on 29 January 2016. The author is Professor at the Institute of Islamic Studies, University of the Philippines.