US Congress is in Recess
So Are We!
The Asia Policy Calendar will return on September 4th

However, if you have any questions, we will be in the office pretending to be on vacation. So, do not hesitate to contact us or drop by for tea.

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If you have any comments/suggestions please contact Asia Policy Point (APP) Asia Policy Weekly & Calendar Editor Ms. Mindy L. Kotler (202) 822-6040, access@jiaponline.org.

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About APP
APP is a Washington-based nonprofit, membership research center studying the US policy relationship in science, security, trade, and global issues with Japan and East Asia.

APP was originally established in 1991 as the Japan Information Access Project (JIAP) and changed its name in January 2006 to better reflect its multi-disciplinary approach to understanding a modern, dynamic Asia. APP members are leading scholars, researchers, policy officials, business executives, and journalists working on issues affecting Asia.

**All phone numbers are (202) unless otherwise indicated**

Bolded and Underlined names and institutions are APP members

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2) ASIA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS


8/1 – Japan announces 57 billion yen ODA to Iraq.

8/1 – Agriculture Minister Norihiko Akagi resigns amid political funds scandal.

8/2 – 14th ASEAN Regional Forum takes place in Manila, Philippines.

8/3 – President Bush signs measure including South Korea in the US’s Visa Waiver Program.

8/3 - An official in charge of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned an official of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, lodging a stern representation to Japan for playing the "national anthem of the Republic of China" at Asia men's basketball championship. The Japanese organizing committee and Asian Basketball Federation have extended formal apology to China.

8/4 – Asahi reports that a recently published book of Emperor Hirohito's poetry reveals that he believed that honoring Class-A war criminals at Yasukuni Shrine would change the nature of the shrine as a war memorial and that he was against including convicted war criminals at a Tokyo war shrine because he worried the move would damage relations with the country's Asian neighbors.

8/1-16 - Khaan Quest 2007 military exercises; about 1,000 troops from Mongolia, US, Bangladesh, Tonga, South Korea, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Cambodia review peacekeeping operations such as patrolling, defending convoys and setting up checkpoints; China, Russia, Malaysia and Japan participating as observers

8/4-9 - World Bank President Robert Zoellick visits Cambodia, Vietnam and Japan. 
http://go.worldbank.org/QFAEYBDJ80

8/5-6 - President Bush Welcomes Afghan President Karzai to Camp David.

8/6 - New car sales by model for July (Japan Automobile Dealers Association) http://www.jada.or.jp
Preliminary diffusion indexes of economic indicators for June (Cabinet Office) http://www.esri.cao.go.jp/index.html
Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy meets

8/6 - ASEAN-Japan Centre, Nikkei hold conference in Tokyo on "Future Direction of ASEAN-Japan Economic Relations in Response to Globalization" http://www.asean.or.jp/eng/

8/6 - IAEA team visits to discuss future inspections of Natanz uranium-enrichment facility.

8/6 - US and Iran held a "frank and serious" first meeting of a new committee set up by the arch foes to seek an end Iraq's sectarian violence.

8/6 - 62nd anniversary of Hiroshima's atomic bombing.

8/6-7 - Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation hosts the Pacific Islands Business Forum in Fiji. The event will bring together representatives from corporations and governments from the region to discuss business opportunities. http://forumsec.org/pages.cfm/workshops/inaugural-pacific-islands-business-forum-6th-7th-august-2007.html
8/6-7 – National Security Adviser of India, M.K. Narayanan visits Japan, meets Prime Minister Abe, Foreign Minister Aso, Defense Minister Koike and Chief Cabinet Minister Shiozaki.


8/6-10 – Japan and Australia hold second round of Economic Partnership Agreement talks in Tokyo.

8/7 - Foreign exchange reserves at end of July (BOJ) http://www.boj.or.jp/en/stat/stat_f.htm
Monthly economic report for August (Cabinet Office)
Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy meets
Cabinet Office releases fiscal 2007 white paper on economy, public finances

8/7 - Consumer Installment Credit for June 2007, Federal Reserve Board http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/
Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meets

8/7-8 - Officials from China, North Korea, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the US meet in Panmunjom on the border between North and South Korea. The parties to discuss energy aid to Pyongyang.

8/7 - China: Olympics Crackdown-One Year Left to Fulfill Human Rights Promises, released by Amnesty International USA. http://www.amnesty.org

8/7-10 – Japanese Diet convenes extraordinary session.

8/7-11 - Australian envoy visits Pyongyang for talks with leaders.


8/8 - U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Schieffer and DPJ President Ichiro Ozawa hold their first meeting.

8/8 - Jakarta gubernatorial election.

8/8-9 - World Bank President Robert Zoellick visits Japan.

8/8-17 - Nguyen Tan Dung, Vietnam’s prime minister, visits Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Burma and Brunei. The focus for the talks is expected to be on the economy, trade and investment issues.
8/8-24 - More than 1m cars will be banned from the streets of Beijing for two weeks to test smog control measures before the Olympic Games in 2008.

8/9 - Campaign officially begins in Saitama gubernatorial election
Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy approves FY08 budget request ceilings


8/9 - Unemployment insurance claims for the week, Labor Department, Bureau of Labor Statistics


8/9 - 62nd anniversary of atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

8/10 - Corporate goods price index for July (BOJ)
Revised industrial production index for June (METI)
Preliminary data on corporate bankruptcies for July (Tokyo Shoko Research, Teikoku Databank)
http://www.tsr-net.co.jp/english/
Preliminary report on current survey of commerce for June (METI)
Survey of consumer trends for July (Cabinet Office)
Cabinet approves FY08 budget request ceilings

8/10 - U.S. Export Sales Report, Agriculture Department, Foreign Agricultural Service
http://www.fas.usda.gov/

8/10 – OECD Composite Leading Economic Indicators, http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_201185_2472086_1_1_1_1,00.html

8/10 - Mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq is scheduled to expire. The mission was established in August 2003 under UN resolution 1500 and has been extended each year since. The US and the UK have circulated a draft resolution to United Nations Security Council members proposing a bigger role for the UN in Iraq.

8/12 - Islamist organization Hezb-e Tahrir Indonesia holds "International Caliphate Conference 2007" in Jakarta.


Liberation Day, Koreas

8/19 – Korea’s GNP in-house party primary vote.

8/19-25 – PM Abe visits Indonesia, India and Malaysia. Accompanied by 250 Keidanren representatives.


8/20-31 – US and Korean forces hold joint military exercises

8/27 - Japanese PM Abe plans to reshuffle his cabinet and select new LDP executives.


8/31 - Extraordinary Diet session expected to be convened.


9/2 – 1945. Aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Japan formally surrenders to the Allies, bringing an end to World War II.

9/3 – Chile-Japan Economic partnership agreement with take effect. Chile is the fourth country to have an effectuated EPA with Japan, after Singapore, Mexico and Malaysia.

9/5 - News briefing by OECD’s Chief Economist Jean-Philippe Cotis on the outlook for the main world economies.

9/7-11 - China International Fair for Investment and Trade (CIFIT), sponsored by China’s Ministry of Commerce, with participation of the OECD. Xiamen, China. http://www.chinafair.org.cn/English/index/index.aspx

9/20 - G8 foreign affairs ministers meet, New York.

3) RESEARCH NOTES

In no particular order

Recommended Blog for the Japan politics starved
Observing Japan, http://observingjapan.blogspot.com/

Remarks of Senator Obama: The War We Need to Win. “When I am President, we will wage the war that has to be won, with a comprehensive strategy with five elements: getting out of Iraq and on to the right battlefield in Afghanistan and Pakistan; developing the capabilities and partnerships we need
to take out the terrorists and the world's most deadly weapons; engaging the world to dry up support for terrorism and extremism; restoring our values; and securing a more resilient homeland.”


**South Asia Economic Report – Social Sectors in Transition**, Asian Development Bank (ADB), June 2007, 73 pgs. Entitled “Social Sectors in Transition: Accelerating Inclusive Growth and Human Development,” this second installment of biannual reports makes the following observations and suggestions: South Asia continues on a high growth track; better use of technology, new modes of delivering social services, and policies to ensure “inclusive” economic growth are required if the region is to meet Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, attention to changing disease patterns and an increased proportion toward noncommunicable disease is needed.


**International Comparison Program (ICP) in Asia and the Pacific: Purchasing Power Parity Preliminary Report**, Asian Development Bank (ADB), 7/31/07, 64 pgs. “The PRC and India account for 64 percent of total real gross domestic product (GDP) of the 23 economies participating in the study. However, a completely different picture emerges if the size of these economies is adjusted by population. Rather than dominating the rankings, the PRC and India drop to tenth and eighteenth positions, respectively, out of the 22 economies participating in the full GDP comparison…Similarly, the PRC ranks 15th and India ranks 17th when economies are compared based on ‘actual final consumption of households’ (AFCH), a better measure of economic well-being of the population.”


“5 Myths About the Japan That Just Said No,” Op Ed By [Michael Zielenziger](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/02/AR2007080201753_pf.html), WP, August 5, 2007; Page B03. “The stinging electoral rebuke to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (which lost control of the upper house of the Diet for the first time since the party was founded in 1955) does more than usher in a new era of drift and unpredictability in Japanese politics. Abe's drubbing should also dispel some dangerous misperceptions about today's Japan.”


**Carving Up the East China Sea** by Peter Dutton, Naval War College Review, Spring 2007, Vol. 60, No. 2; pgs 49-72. “So far, China and Japan seem to be talking past each other rather than to each other in their public discourse surrounding their dispute over the East China Sea. However, the stakes are high, given the possibility that supposedly ‘managed’ conflict can always result in unintended war. Substantial economic and political benefits could be derived from a cross-sea détente, but this would require both sides to choose to set aside old grudges and move forward cooperatively rather than competitively.” See: [http://www.nwc.navy.mil/press/review/documents/NWCRSP07.pdf](http://www.nwc.navy.mil/press/review/documents/NWCRSP07.pdf)

**China and United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in Africa** by Lt. Col. Philippe D. Rogers (U.S. Marine Corps), Naval War College Review, Spring 2007, Vol. 60, No. 2; pgs 73-93. “Beijing will continue to view peacekeeping as a valuable security cooperation tool in Africa, and it will take every opportunity to contribute to missions on the continent due to the strategic, operational, and tactical benefit and influence it gains from them. The United States needs to comprehend Beijing’s multifaceted and increasingly significant presence in Africa, take account of its contributions to UN peacekeeping operations, and grasp the positive and negative ramifications of this Chinese engagement.” See: [http://www.nwc.navy.mil/press/review/documents/NWCRSP07.pdf](http://www.nwc.navy.mil/press/review/documents/NWCRSP07.pdf)

**Competitive Conditions for Foreign Direct Investment in India**, U.S. International Trade Commission, Publication 3931, July 2007; 153 pgs. “India is a fast-growing destination for global flows of foreign direct investment (FDI),” with net FDI tripling from $4.7 billion in the 2005-2006 Indian fiscal year to $15.7 billion in 2006-2007. Strong economic growth, low wages, and an educated work force are cited as positive economic incentives for foreign investment, whereas “inadequate
infrastructure, labor shortages in key jobs, and bureaucratic delays in obtaining necessary permits and licenses” are among the negatives. See: http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/332/pub3931.pdf

Comments/Remarks on the Extension of Emergency Measure on Terrorism

Tom Casey, Deputy Spokesman, U.S. Department of State, Daily Press Briefing

John Negroponte, Deputy Secretary of State, Remarks at Press Conference in Tokyo

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4) COMMENTARY: Cat Among the Pigeons

No Justice, No Peace

On July 30th, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted a resolution asking the Government of Japan to formally and unequivocally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for the Imperial Armed Forces’ system of sexual slavery from the 1930s until the end of World War II. The necessity of this resolution illustrates the challenges in the U.S. effort to secure peace in Asia.

What the House saw as an important step toward encouraging historical reconciliation in Asia, the Japanese government believed was an affront to their national honor. The Bush Administration, although fearful the resolution would provoke right-wing anti-Americanism in Japan derailing alliance building, found itself unable to speak out against it. The Abe Administration’s denial of the internationally-accepted comfort women history was simply too embarrassing to a White House intent on promoting the U.S.-Japan Alliance as based on shared values.

Most important, the failure of Japan to provide an adequate apology for a wartime injustice was viewed as a modern problem. The victimization of women during war and the transnational crime of human trafficking are important bipartisan concerns on Capitol Hill. They are the “new” human rights issues. Today’s foreign policy is less about managing confrontation than working at conflict resolution and peace-building. From South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor, the focus of the international community is on ensuring justice and restoration of human dignity. It is about getting history right.

A February 15th hearing at the Asia, Pacific and Global Environment Subcommittee featuring three former Comfort Women—two Korean and one Dutch—provided an all too vivid a picture of what it was like to be a sex slave for Imperial Japan. Their accounts of their rapes echoed ones of those in contemporary Rwanda, Bosnia, and Burma. Their ordeal in Imperial Japan’s state-sponsored system of rape camps resembled the degradations suffered by current victims of global human trafficking. As Virginia Republican Tom Davis observed on the House floor, “to deny this tragedy is to allow it to happen again.”

In addition, the House believes in the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance to help maintain stability in East Asia. With a wary eye on a rising China, a newly nuclear North Korea, and a growing terrorist threat in Southeast Asia, Congressmen on both sides of the aisle look to Japan to assume more regional security responsibilities. Yet, in this fast changing environment, unresolved historic injustices continue to keep Japan distant from other American Asian allies.

The current Japanese government wants a closer U.S.-Japan alliance, a strong Japanese military, and a constitutional change to allow involvement in overseas peacekeeping. Yet, it also holds a host of
retrogressive notions of what it means to be Japanese, not the least being that the Pacific War was one of liberation against white colonialism. The latter, unreconstructed view does not engender trust in Japan by other countries in Asia or advance cooperation.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Lantos of California said, “The true strength of a nation is tested when it is forced to confront the darkest chapters in its history. Will it have the courage to face up to the truth of its past, or will it hide from those truths in the desperate and foolish hope they will fade with time?” The Comfort Women tragedy certainly has not. In Asia, as throughout the world, the history and justice issues need to be resolved before security can be advanced.

Reconciliation and regional peace in Asia are at the heart of the Congressional Comfort Woman resolution. Long overdue apologies and respect for these victims of wartime violence are among the elements needed to achieve this peace. After 60 years of constructive, responsible, and resolutely peaceful membership in the world community, it is unfortunate that Japan must be reminded of the power of justice as a tool for peace.

Mindy L. Kotler, director of Asia Policy Point. This essay first appeared in the August 31, 2007 issue of the JoongAng Ilbo,

5) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Please note that these are all subject to change, cancellation. We do not list closed hearings. Always check each committee or subcommittee for updates: House: http://www.house.gov/; Senate: http://www.senate.gov. For legislation see: Thomas: http://thomas.loc.gov/.

Congress is in recess.

6) DC EVENTS

* Denotes the first time listed on the calendar.

JAPAN

ASIA-PACIFIC

ENERGY


GLOBAL ECONOMY

*HOW CAN THE WTO HELP HARNESS GLOBALIZATION? 10/4-10/5, Geneva, Switzerland. Sponsor: WTO. Speakers: see program schedule,

SECURITY
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SOUTH ASIA
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*PAKISTANI POLITICS AFTER LAL MASJID. 8/9, 10:00-11:00am, Washington, DC. Sponsor: Carnegie. Speaker: Tariq Fatemi, former Pakistani Foreign Service Official. Location: Carnegie, 1779 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Contact: RSVP, Gretchen Smith, 483-7600, gsmith@ceip.org, http://www.carnegieendowment.org/.

TAIWAN
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*TAIWAN'S EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. 8/16, 2:00-3:30 pm, Washington, DC. Sponsor: Wilson. Speaker: Winston Dang, Minister of Environmental Protection Administration, Republic of China. Location: Wilson, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, 5th Floor Conference Room. Contact: RSVP Media Only, 691-4020, asia@wilsoncenter.org; http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=events.event_summary&event_id=269266.

*POLITICS: A VIEW FROM ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT. 8/20, 2:00-3:30 pm, Washington, DC. Sponsor: Atlantic Council. Speakers: Andrew Yang, Secretary General, Center for Advanced Policy Studies, Taipei; Da Wei, Associate Director, American Studies Institute; Alan Romberg, Stimson; David Dean, Director, Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation. Location: Atlantic Council, 1101 15th St., NW, Conference Room, 11th Floor. Contact: RSVP, Patrick deGategno, 778-4958, Fax, 463-7241, pdegategno@acus.org, http://www.acus.org/.

US POLITICS
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7) NON DC EVENTS
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CALIFORNIA
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*EIGHT YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DISCOURSE AND PRACTICE UNDER THE CHEN SHIU-BIAN'S ADMINISTRATION: CREATING A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. 9/6, 4:00-6:00 pm, Berkeley, CA. Sponsor: Center for Chinese Studies, UC Berkeley.
Speaker: Mab Huang, Director, Chang Fo-chuan Center for the Study of Human Rights, Soochow University. Location: 2223 Fulton Street, 6th Floor, IEAS Conference Room, Berkeley, CA 94720. Contact: 643-6321, Fax, 643-7062, ccs@berkeley.edu, http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2007.09.06.html.

*HONG KONG-MAINLAND RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIC REFORM. 9/28, 4:00-6:00 pm, Berkeley, CA. Sponsors: Center for Chinese Studies and Berkeley China Initiative, UC Berkeley. Speaker: Alan Leong, Legislative Councilor, Kowloon East, Hong Kong SAR. Location: 2223 Fulton Street, 6th Floor, IEAS Conference Room, Berkeley, CA 94720. Contact: 643-6321, Fax, 643-7062, ccs@berkeley.edu, http://ieas.berkeley.edu/events/2007.09.28a.html.

NEW YORK
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TOKYO
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8) OTHER CONFERENCE SOURCES
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