

U.S.-China Relations: Affirmative Agenda, a Responsible Course

Outline of remarks by Frank Jannuzi, Hitachi International Affairs Fellow
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Tokyo, May 17, 2007

I. Overview: Despite gains over 35 years in China and for U.S.-China relations, an important relationship under strain:

- Trade deficit
- Human rights
- Expanding influence at expense of U.S. leverage
- Military modernization
- U.S. distracted and weighed down (Iraq, Afghanistan, GWOT)

II. Strategy of integration needed

- Enhanced engagement
- Weaving
- Balancing (hedging?)

III. China's immense difficulties

- Economic disparities (3-1 urban-rural, 10-1 rich province, poor province)
environmental degradation (16 of 20 worst cities for air pollution, 300,000 deaths/year from respiratory illness, etc.)
- Demographic challenges (an aging society)
- Middle class clamoring
- Volatile ethnic and religious minorities,
- Corruption and crisis of legitimacy

Bottom Line

Despite gains, China's leaders face daunting domestic challenges, and therefore require and desire a peaceful and stable international environment – especially good relations with the United States.

IV. Building on common interests

- Defining the “affirmative agenda” and “responsible course”
- Forging habits of cooperation and reducing lingering mutual suspicions
- Getting our own house in order
- Human rights agenda based on institution building, not condemnation

V. The hedging debate: China's uncertain future

- Unilateral steps
- Working with partners