

On Engaging with Asia Saeed Shafqat (Pakistan 1992)

Biography

Dr. Saeed Shafqat is Adjunct Professor, School of International Affairs and Public Policy(SIPA)Columbia University in the city of New York and Professor and Director Centre for Public Policy and Governance, FC University Lahore. He has been Quaid-e-Azam Distinguished Professor at SIPA 2001-05 and also Executive Director, National Institute of Population Studies, Islamabad 2005-2007.

Background

There are growing signs and recognition that 21st century is Asian century (For example the two influential studies by Fareed Zakaria, Kishore Mehboobani). Asia is diverse, complex with dense cultural, religious, historical heritage and uneven levels of social, economic and political development. The 31st Fulbright Alumni Association meeting in Beijing provides a unique and rare opportunity to the global community of Fulbrighters to engage with Asia. This Round table will explore and strategize on engaging with Asia in an innovative way; search for ideas to promote cultural and political tolerance, and conflict reduction among states and societies by learning from Asian experience of tolerance and accommodation.

Discussions Questions

1. Are Asian Values different from the Western values?
2. How can better understanding of values and culture help us in promoting peace and harmony with Asia?
3. Identify if there are similarities and differences among Asian countries? Are there some that appear closer to West?
4. What can learn from the civilizations of Iran, India and China to promote global peace, harmony and cooperation?
5. West is not on decline, Asia is re-awakening and demanding space in global arena and let us ask how Fulbright can continue to provide a forum for intellectual and cultural understanding?