

HKRGC TRS Enhancing Hong Kong's Future as a Leading International Financial Centre

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSES TO THE NEW MODEL OF GREAT POWER RELATIONS AND U.S. REFLECTION ON THE ENGAGEMENT POLICY TOWARDS CHINA

Date

15th March 2016 (Tuesday)

Time

2:30 pm

Venue

Academic Conference Room, 11/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower,
The University of Hong Kong

Co-organizers and supported by:

HKU SRT China Business and Economics, and Contemporary China
HKRGC TRS Enhancing Hong Kong's Future as a Leading International Financial Centre
Master of Arts in China Development Studies, HKU
International Centre for China Development Studies, HKU

ABSTRACT

After President Xi Jinping proposed a new model of big power relations to free China and the US from the so-called "Thucydides trap" of the established power and the emerging power colliding inexorably, the US responses have been evolving and often in contradictory. On the one hand, the Obama administration has responded positively to President Xi's call because it resonates with the long-standing US effort to integrate China into the existing international system. On the other hand, many in the US are reluctant to go along with such lofty rhetoric and prefer to work with China on concrete issues because it may lead to an implicit acceptance of China's conception of core interests. In light of China's increasingly confrontational policy toward the major powers and some of China's neighbors, an increasing number of scholars and policy makers have come to reflect on US policy toward China. American effort to 'integrate' China into the liberal international order has been challenged as a "liberal myth" because a rising China has not only maintained illiberal system but also generated new threats to the U.S. led international system and national interests. As a result, containment argument has gained momentum. But containment is not a viable option for the US, just like dominance cannot be a viable objective of China either. Neither the US nor China can be the single dominant power in the world. China and the US have to work together and maintain a delicate balance of power to prevent their rivalry from boiling over into a new Cold War.

SPEAKER

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