Asia and Asian Americans in the Time of Trump

Monday, January 23, 2017

SCHEDULE:
5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration and Networking Reception
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Panel Discussions

David Huebner (MODERATOR)
U.S. Ambassador (ret.) to New Zealand and Samoa

David Huebner served as Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa for five years in the Obama Administration, receiving numerous awards for his security, public diplomacy, capacity building, and science and technology cooperation work, most recently the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished Public Service medal. Previously, he held other senior positions in the Asia Pacific region, including as chairman and CEO of an international law firm, founding chief representative of a law firm in Shanghai, and special policy assistant to a member of Japan’s Diet. A recognized authority on cross-border dispute resolution and regulatory compliance, the Ambassador has represented governments, corporations, and individuals in arbitration and other proceedings before international institutions and in numerous jurisdictions around the world. He currently serves an independent arbitrator in cross-border and regional commercial and investment disputes. He is a graduate of Princeton University (summa cum laude) and Yale Law School.

Ambassador Venkatesan Ashok
Consul General of India - San Francisco Ambassador

Ashok has held diplomatic assignments in Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Austria and Sri Lanka, among other postings in the Ministry of External Affairs. He was Director of External Relations in the Department of Atomic Energy between 1995 and 1998 and then was appointed as India’s Alternate Governor and Alternate Permanent Representative in the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Ashok was the Division Chief for Central Europe in the Ministry of External Affairs prior to his assignment as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe, between 2008 and 2011. He then served as Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic and took charge as Consul General of India in San Francisco in November 2014. Ashok speaks Chinese, English and several Indian languages. He has authored a book, Dasavatara, apart from several technical articles. Ashok graduated in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi.

David Loewinger
Managing Director, Emerging Markets Group, Trust Company of the West

David Loewinger was the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Senior Coordinator for China Affairs prior to joining Trust Company of the West (TCW) in 2012. While at Treasury, he also served as Minister Counselor for financial affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia. Loewinger was previously an economist for the International Monetary Fund. He started his career in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Senate Banking Committee and the U.S. Commerce Department. He is a sovereign analyst covering the Asian region at TCW, which has approximately $190 billion under management across institutional strategies, separate accounts, mutual funds and private investments. Loewinger earned a Master’s in Public Policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and a BA in Government and Economics from Dartmouth College.

Robert C. O’Brien
Partner, Larson O’Brien LLP

Robert C. O’Brien is a founding partner of Larson O’Brien, where his practice focuses on complex litigation and international arbitration. He was a senior foreign policy advisor to the 2016 presidential campaigns of Gov. Scott Walker and Sen. Ted Cruz, and previously served as a senior advisor to Gov. Mitt Romney in his presidential runs. O’Brien is the author of While America Slept: Restoring American Leadership to a World in Crisis. In 2005, he was
Kantathi Suphamongkhon
Professor and Former Foreign Minister of Thailand

His Excellency Kantathi Suphamongkhon served the 39th Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, from 2005 to 2006. He has also served as Thai Trade Representative (cabinet rank), Advisor to the Prime Minister of Thailand on Foreign Affairs, two-term elected Member of the Thai Parliament, and Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Speaker of the Thai House of Representatives. Before politics, he had a decade-long diplomatic career, including four years as a representative of Thailand to the United Nations. In the private sector, his Excellency was Director of the Post Publishing Public Company, which publishes the Bangkok Post and the Post Today newspapers, and is Chairman of Kanta Enterprise International Company Ltd. He has also been a university professor, including appointments as a Distinguished Visiting Professor UCLA Anderson School of Management, Senior Fellow at UCLA Burke Center for International Relations, Visiting Professor of Law and Diplomacy at UCLA International Institute and the University of California Regents’ Professor at UCLA. He earned his B.A. from UCLA, M.A. from American University and Ph.D. in International Relations from USC.

Deepta Fernandes (MODERATOR)
Journalist and Author

Deepta Fernandes is an accomplished journalist and author of Targeted: National Security and the Business of Immigration. Born in Mumbai, she began her reporting career in Australia and worked in Latin America before moving to New York, where she produced and hosted national programs for Pacifica Radio for a decade. Fernandes was a staff reporter for KPCC in Pasadena from 2012 to 2017. She has also produced for BBC Radio, NPR, PRI and written for the Village Voice, Mother Jones and the Nation, among others. In 2000, she founded a nonprofit organization to foster ethnic and gender diversity in media. People’s Production House has since trained hundreds of reporters of color. She has earned an MA in journalism from Columbia University and in 2012, she was selected as a prestigious Knight Fellow at Stanford University.

Ahilan T. Arulanantham
Director of Advocacy/Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California

Ahilan T. Arulanantham has successfully litigated many cases involving immigrants’ rights, national security, and the intersection between those two areas. He has argued a case before the Supreme Court and testified before Congress. Son of Tamil immigrants who left Sri Lanka to escape discrimination and violence, Arulanantham has remained interested in promoting human rights in Sri Lanka. Prior to the ACLU, he taught Preventive Detention at the University of Chicago Law School and at the University of Irvine School of Law, worked as an Assistant Federal Public Defender in El Paso, Texas, and clerked for the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt on the Ninth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals. Arulanantham has been recognized as one of the top lawyers for immigrant rights. He received the Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award in 2010, the Jack Wasserman Memorial Award for litigation to protect the rights of vulnerable immigrants from the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association in 2014, and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship in 2016.

Stewart Kwoh
Founding President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Stewart Kwoh is a nationally recognized leader and expert in race relations, Asian-American studies, nonprofit organizations and philanthropies, civil rights, and legal services. In 1998, he became the first Asian-American attorney and human rights activist to receive a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. In 1983, Kwoh co-founded Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, the nation’s largest Asian-American legal and civil rights organization. Advancing Justice serves individual clients; engages in policy advocacy, research and analysis; litigates impact lawsuits; and provides social change-based leadership training. It has successfully challenged garment sweatshops, English-only workplace policies, racially discriminatory employment practices and unfair immigration laws as well as advocated for stronger protections for low-wage workers, limited-English-speaking immigrants, and hate crime victims. Under Kwoh’s leadership, Advancing Justice has built bridges between the Asian and African-American, Latino and LGBT communities. Among other civic organizations, Kwoh is a member of the Committee of 100. He earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from UCLA.