



## **United States Embassy Singapore**

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### **INFO-ALERT: OUTREACH PUBLICATION** MARCH / APRIL 2013

**INFO-ALERT** brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the Information Resource Center.

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#### **POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

1. **INSTITUTIONALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

John D. Ciorciari

*Human Rights Quarterly*, August 2012, 31 pages

With the creation of two new human right bodies by ASEAN; an inter-governmental human rights commission and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), John Ciorciari, an assistant professor of Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan, examines why the commissions were created, why they have such limited initial capacity, and some ways they could evolve.

2. **ASIA'S NEW AGE OF INSTABILITY**

Michael Wesley

*National Interest*, November/December 2012, 9 pages

Michael Wesley, a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, discusses the U.S. foreign policy toward Asia from the late 20th century to 2012, with a particular focus on Asia's putative instability.

3. **THE INEQUALITY CHALLENGE**

Uri Dadush and Kemal Derviş

*Current History*, January 2013, 8 pages

How does the inequality trend in the United States compare with other countries? The authors examine the trend of rising inequality and identify steps to meet the challenge.

4. **IS AN "ASEAN COMMUNITY" ACHIEVABLE?**

Ravichandran Moorthy and Guido Benny  
*Asian Survey*, November/December 2012, 24 pages

The authors examine the establishment of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community and obstacles facing regional integration in Southeast Asia. The article discusses how the people in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore view the concept of "community building," and the obstacles this initiative may encounter.

**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE**

5. **OVERLOOKED OPPORTUNITY: TRADABLE BUSINESS SERVICES, DEVELOPING ASIA, AND GROWTH**

Bradford Jensen  
*PIIE Working Paper 12-23*, November 2012, 34 pages

Is developing Asia overlooking an opportunity for increased growth and development through trade in business services? Bradford Jensen, a professor of economics and international business at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, analyzes how the region would benefit from liberalizing services trade as it has benefited from liberalizing goods trade.

6. **ASEAN'S FUTURE AND ASIAN INTEGRATION**

Joshua Kurlantzick  
*Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) Working Paper*, November 2012, 25 pages

Joshua Kurlantzick, CFR Fellow for Southeast Asia, analyzes the major obstacles facing ASEAN today and offers recommendations for both the United States and ASEAN that will enable ASEAN to firmly establish itself as the essential regional organization in Asia.

7. **THE PROBLEM WITH THE PIVOT**

Robert S. Ross  
*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012, 13 pages

Robert Ross, professor of political science at Boston College, analyzes the policy of U.S. President Barack Obama on a "pivot" toward Asia, a shift in strategy aimed at bolstering the United States' defense ties with countries throughout the region, expanding the U.S. naval presence there, and its effectiveness in protecting U.S. interests in the region.

**SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS**

8. **SURGE OF THE CITIES**

Linda Marsa  
*Discover*, October 2012, 2 pages

Linda Marsa looks at the boons and banes of the population shift in impoverished regions from rural areas to cities, which has been going on unabated for decades and has great impact on everything from the economy to the environment to healthcare.

9. **WOE IS TWEE**

Laura Bennett

*The New Republic*, October 25, 2012, 4 pages

Laura Bennett, a staff writer at *The New Republic*, examines the relationship between the millennial generation and the baby boomer generation, focusing on popular culture related to millennial and the poverty and unemployment that many twenty-somethings, including young families, are now facing.

10. **HOW TO ENSURE OUR LIBRARY SYSTEMS ARE HORSE-HIGH, BULL-STRONG, AND PIG-TIGHT**

Janetta Waterhouse

*Computers in Libraries*, October 2012, 5 pages

Janetta Waterhouse, director of Library Information Systems and Technical Services at the University of Illinois, offers tips to libraries on improving their discovery system to meet the needs of all types of users efficiently.

11. **LIBRARIES HARNESS THE POWER OF STREAMING MEDIA**

James Careless

*Searcher*, November 2012, 5 pages

James Careless explores streaming media as a means of transmitting audio and video to viewers across the Internet and its benefits to libraries. He also discusses strategies for libraries in doing streaming content.

12. **NEW PLAYER IN THE COLLEGE-RANKINGS GAME MINES ALUMNI OPINIONS**

Eric Hoover

*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 14, 2012, 3 pages

Eric Hoover, a senior writer at *The Chronicle*, discusses the new *U.S. News & World Report* periodical's college ranking in its survey initiative called the Alumni Factor, the methodology of ranking college and universities based on alumni surveys.

13. **LITERACY 2.0**

Joyce Riha Linik

*Education Digest*, November 2012, 5 pages

Joyce Linik discusses how literacy is changing in the digital age and the growing influence of technology and its use in teaching students. The article focuses on methods for teaching students' literacy skills such as reading and writing and the integration of technology into literacy instruction.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

14. **DEFENDING FREE SPEECH IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Lee C. Bollinger

*Foreign Policy*, December 2012, 2 pages

Lee Bollinger, president of Columbia University, discusses the significance of free-flowing information in a modern global economy and the repercussions of censorship, focusing on how the free expression of diverse opinions can prevent the spread of authoritarianism and can also safeguard the democratic process.

15. **MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY: THE LONG VIEW**

Marc F. Plattner

*Journal of Democracy*, October 2012, 12 pages

Marc Plattner, vice president for Research and Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy, explores the historical relationship between media and democracy, and discusses how the emergence of digital media is transforming the ways in which public opinion in democratic states is formed and is facilitating the creation of a fragmented media environment that may pose a threat to the shared civic arena essential to democracy.

16. **PRISONERS OF CABLE**

Derek Thompson

*The Atlantic*, November 2012, 3 pages

Derek Thompson, a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, discusses the cable television industry and cable television networks, focusing on the ways in which technology companies such as Microsoft and Google may change the cable television industry.

17. **THE VIDEO STREAM RISES**

Richard Oppenheim

*Searcher*, October 2012, 4 pages

With many service delivery providers now expanding their content and channels to include YouTube, Dish Network and Comcast, the author, CPA Oppenheim Group, examines the growth of video streaming technology, the companies leading the change, and what streaming means to the industry and the consumer.

18. **MISTAKEN NATION**

Paul Farhi

*American Journalism Review*, Winter 2012, 6 pages

With the relentless pressure to move quickly in the era of the Twitter-fueled 24/7 news cycle, it's probably not surprising that there are so many high-profile journalism errors. The author discusses mistakes in journalism and reporting errors by journalists including misspellings, misleading or distorted quotes and omission of information.