



**Project Title/Subject:** American Foreign Policy, Economic Security and the People's Republic of China

**Project Type:** Single Country Project

**NPA:** World Learning

**Project Dates:** 11/30/2024- 12/14/2024

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### **Why San Diego:**

The San Diego region is the #1 city in the U.S. for military presence, ranking #21 globally in startup ecosystems and serving as a vital trade hub with Asia, particularly China. Its port is the fourth busiest on the West Coast, facilitating over \$18 billion in annual trade, with a significant portion involving goods imported from and exported to Asia. The local economy thrives in key sectors such as biotechnology, defense, and cleantech, all increasingly connected to Asian markets.

San Diego also hosts over 60,000 active-duty military personnel, reinforcing its strategic military infrastructure and enhancing regional security while strengthening alliances in the Asia-Pacific. Numerous research institutions dedicated to Asia-Pacific studies further enrich the city's understanding of the region's economic and geopolitical dynamics. With ongoing initiatives to promote clean technology and sustainability, San Diego is not only an innovation hub but also a key player in shaping the future of the U.S.-China relations and broader regional security.

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### **Academic Resources**

**University of California San Diego - 21st Century China Center with Director Victor Shih**

<https://china.ucsd.edu/>

The 21st Century China Center at UC San Diego is dedicated to generating and disseminating impactful, evidence-based research on China. Its mission is to enhance U.S.-China relations through scholarly collaboration, policy discussions, and effective communication with policymakers and the public in both countries. As a leading university-based think tank, the center plays a crucial role in producing research that informs policy discussions related to China and U.S.-China relations.

#### **Victor Shih**

Director, 21st Century China Center

Ho Miu Lam Chair in China and Pacific Relations

Professor of Political Science, GPS, UC San Diego

Victor Shih is a distinguished professor of political science at UC San Diego's School of Global Policy and Strategy, where he holds the Ho Miu Lam Chair in China and Pacific Relations. He is a leading expert on China's fiscal and financial policies, as well as elite political dynamics. Shih was the first to identify the risks of significant local government debt in China and is the author of two critically acclaimed books from Cambridge University Press: *Factions and Finance in China: Elite Conflict and Inflation* and *Coalitions of the Weak: Elite Politics in China from Mao's Stratagem to the Rise of Xi*. He also serves as the editor of *Economic Shocks and Authoritarian Stability: Duration, Institutions and Financial Conditions*, published by the University of Michigan Press.

An active member of the China Data Lab, Shih is developing a comprehensive database on the biographical information and activities of Chinese elites. Previously, he was a principal at The Carlyle Group's global market strategy group and is currently the PI or co-PI on several research initiatives funded by notable foundations such as the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Henry Luce Foundation. His ongoing research includes a project at the 21st Century China Center focused on the political economy of digital currency in China and the Asia Pacific region.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how the UCSD 21st Century China Center is shaping policies that impact the U.S.-China relations. Engage in a conversation with Director Victor Shih about the center's research on China's financial policies, ongoing policy developments, and the broader context of U.S.-China relations.*

**University of California San Diego - Institute on Global Conflict & Cooperation with**

**Director Tai Ming Cheung**

<https://ucigcc.org/about/>

The IGCC is a collaborative network of researchers from the University of California and the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, dedicated to leveraging research to foster a more peaceful and prosperous world. Located within the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego, the institute is led by Tai Ming Cheung, who serves as its director and is a professor specializing in international relations and national security, particularly concerning China and its security and technology policies. His research areas include China's ambition to become a leading global power in science and technology, as well as the interplay between geo-economics, innovation, and national security. Cheung has extensive experience analyzing Chinese and East Asian defense and national security issues. The upcoming meeting will explore various perspectives, including a European viewpoint, further enriching the dialogue fostered by the IGCC's mission.

**Tai Ming Cheung**

Director, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego

Tai Ming Cheung is the director of the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) and a professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at UC San Diego. He specializes in international relations and national security, focusing on China's security and technology policies. His research explores China's ambitions to become a leading global power in science and technology, as well as the intricate connections between geo-economics, innovation, and national security. With extensive experience analyzing Chinese and East Asian defense and national security affairs, Cheung has a particular interest in defense economics, industrial development, and technological advancements.

He is the author of *Innovate to Dominate: The Rise of the Chinese Techno-Security State* (Cornell University Press, 2022), and has contributed as co-editor to *The Gathering Pacific Storm: Emerging U.S.-China Strategic Competition in Defense Technological and Industrial Development* (Cambria Press, 2018). Cheung also edited *Forging China's Military Might: A New Framework for Assessing Innovation* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014) and authored *Fortifying China: The Struggle to Build a Modern Defense Economy* (Cornell University Press, 2009).

Before joining UC San Diego, he spent over a decade in Hong Kong, China, and Japan, covering political, economic, and strategic developments in Greater China and East Asia as a journalist for the *Far Eastern Economic Review* and as a political and business risk consultant for firms including PricewaterhouseCoopers. Cheung holds a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College, London.

*Meeting Focus: Join us to delve into the work of the IGCC, focusing specifically on the Indo-Pacific region, the rise of China, and the implications for international security. Explore how the institute's research informs policy discussions and strategies in these critical areas.*

## **University of California San Diego - Center for Taiwan Studies**

<https://taiwan.ucsd.edu/>

The Center for Taiwan Studies is dedicated to centralizing and enhancing existing Taiwan-related initiatives across campus. Its goals include expanding the center's activities, promoting Taiwanese culture, and strengthening relationships with the Taiwanese-American and Asian-American communities. The center's programs aim to raise awareness of critical social issues affecting Taiwan, such as coral reef protection, climate change, and green energy, while highlighting the contributions of Taiwanese Americans to society. Additionally, the center will further develop the Taiwanese American Who's Who project, initially funded by the Taiwanese American History Foundation. The overarching mission is to foster institutional collaboration, encourage more students to study in Taiwan, and promote research partnerships with Taiwan.

*Meeting Focus: Join us to discover how the UCSD Center for Taiwan Studies is integrating Taiwan affairs and addressing key social issues through engagement with the Taiwanese-American community. Learn about strategies being developed to tackle these challenges and gain insights into the relationship between the Taiwanese-American community and Taiwan.*

### **San Diego Economy and China**

#### **Port of San Diego**

<https://www.portofsandiego.org/>

Established in 1962 by an act of the California State Legislature, the San Diego Unified Port District operates as a self-supporting public-benefit corporation. The Port of San Diego is recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics as one of America's top 30 container ship ports, handling nearly 3 million metric tons of cargo annually through its Tenth Avenue and National City Marine Terminals.

*Meeting Focus: Join us for a comprehensive overview of the Port of San Diego, emphasizing trade, security measures, and maritime operations, particularly in relation to Asia and China. The visit will include a tour of the port's main terminals, showcasing the dynamics of exports and imports, the utilization of a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ), and the port's critical role in the international trade landscape.*

### **San Diego World Trade Center**

<https://www.sandiegobusiness.org/wtcsd/>

World Trade Center San Diego (WTCSD) serves as the export-focused small business development center for the San Diego and Imperial Valley region. As an economic development corporation, it promotes growth by cultivating a pipeline of export-ready firms, maximizing

foreign direct investment (FDI) opportunities, and enhancing San Diego's connectivity to key markets. WTCSD works directly with companies—free of charge—to assist them in expanding internationally and growing within the San Diego area. Collaborating with allies and partners, WTCSD aims to achieve common goals, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. This commitment is exemplified by its seventh international trade mission to Singapore, an innovative binational region and a premier gateway to Asia.

*Meeting Focus: Explore the role of the United States in international trade by utilizing SBDCs as launchpads for many businesses across San Diego to be successful in the international space.*

### **Asian Business Association San Diego**

<https://www.abasd.org/>

The Asian Business Association San Diego (ABASD) is dedicated to promoting the growth and success of Asian American businesses in the region. As a vibrant network of entrepreneurs, ABASD provides valuable resources, advocacy, and support to enhance the economic vitality of its members. By offering workshops, networking events, and mentorship opportunities, ABASD empowers businesses to thrive in a competitive marketplace. The organization actively collaborates with local and regional partners to foster economic development and create opportunities for Asian American entrepreneurs. ABASD also plays a crucial role in connecting members with key resources and initiatives that support their growth and integration into the broader business community.

*Meeting Focus: Examine the critical role of Asian Americans in driving business innovation and economic growth, while exploring opportunities for collaboration with businesses back home in Asia. This discussion will highlight how ABASD facilitates connections that empower Asian American entrepreneurs to engage with their counterparts in Asia, fostering cross-border partnerships and expanding market access.*

### **German American Chamber of Commerce California**

<https://www.gaccca.com/>

The German American Chamber of Commerce California (GACC California) has been a vital resource for over eighteen years, facilitating business relations between the United States and Germany. Serving as the primary contact for German nationals and foreign companies looking to advance economically in the U.S., GACC California's mission is to act as a bridge for German-American economic relations. The Chamber offers a wealth of experience, specialized

services, and a range of events designed to help businesses connect and develop new markets. Through its commitment to fostering networking among members, U.S. partners, and institutions, GACC California promotes cross-cultural and educational exchanges between the U.S. and Germany through various dynamic programs.

*Meeting Focus: Explore the impact of German-American business collaborations and the importance of cultural exchange in enhancing economic ties. This discussion will highlight strategies for networking and developing partnerships that leverage the strengths of both markets, facilitating successful business ventures across the Atlantic.*

### **Maritime Defense**

#### **US Naval Base Coronado**

<https://cnrsw.cnic.navy.mil/Installations/NAVBASE-Coronado/>

The Naval Base Coronado (NBC), known as the "Navy's West Coast Quarterdeck in America's Finest City" is dedicated to providing exceptional base operating support programs and services that enhance the operational readiness of both ashore and afloat commands. Enjoy a tour of the U.S.S. Canberra while discussing how NBC is the U.S. Navy's largest base on the West Coast and the principal homeport of the Pacific Fleet. Naval units based here have played a major role in the Global War on Terrorism and the Navy's efforts to relieve suffering and build partnerships through disaster relief and humanitarian outreach deployments.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how the Pacific Fleet is maintaining security and operational readiness in the region. We will also explore the Navy's relationships with Asia and China, along with its broader defense strategies and foreign policy initiatives. This meeting promises to provide a comprehensive understanding of NBC's unique operational capabilities and its contributions to global security.*

**(This resource necessitates coordination through a gatekeeper, DOS, to arrange this meeting.)**

### **Biotechnology**

#### **CleanTech San Diego**

[www.cleantechsandiego.org](http://www.cleantechsandiego.org)

CleanTech San Diego is a member organization that aims to stimulate innovation and advance the adoption of clean technologies and sustainable industry practices to augment the cleantech incubation cluster in San Diego. They accomplish this through a series of programs including education and outreach, policy advocacy and leadership opportunities. Their membership spans

business and financial leaders, academic and research institutions, and government and non-profit organizations.

*Meeting Focus: Learn how CleanTech San Diego is fostering a platform to accelerate clean technology innovation and how energy entrepreneurs are leveraging digital technologies in this field. Engage in discussions about the impact of digital solutions on the advancement and implementation of sustainable technologies within the relation of advancement for the U.S.-China relations.*

### **The Maritime Alliance BlueTech**

#### [TMA BlueTech](#)

The Maritime Alliance (TMA) BlueTech is a leading non-profit industry association dedicated to advancing the maritime technology sector in San Diego. As a cluster organizer, TMA focuses on promoting innovation and economic development within the Blue Economy. Their mission is to foster BlueTech and support sustainable, science-based practices in ocean and water industries through education, policy advocacy, and technological resources.

Matt Classen, the Executive Director, brings a wealth of international experience to TMA. He co-produced an award-winning documentary filmed in both the U.S. and Myanmar and serves on the boards of two nonprofit organizations. A dual citizen of the U.S. and Germany, Matt is fluent in four languages.

*Meeting Focus: Explore how The Maritime Alliance addresses environmental challenges and advances climate resilience in ocean and water industries.*

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\*Home Hospitality can be offered for the group\*

### **San Diego Zoo**

[San Diego Zoo | Home page](#)

Price: \$68-\$79 for one Adult Ticket

The 100-acre (40-hectare) Zoo is home to over 3,700 rare and endangered animals representing more than 650 species and subspecies, and a prominent botanical collection with more than 700,000 exotic plants. It is located just north of downtown San Diego in Balboa Park.

### **Harbor Cruise**

[Flagship Cruises & Events | San Diego, California \(flagshipsd.com\)](#)

Price: Starting at \$24.75 for one Adult Ticket for one-hour tour

Their deluxe tour covers it all: Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, as well as the Coronado Bridge, and much more.

### **Balboa Park**

[www.balboapark.org](#)

Home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo, Balboa Park has an ever-changing calendar of museum exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this must-see San Diego attraction.

### **Coronado**

Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches by The Travel Channel, Coronado's beaches glisten year round due to the mineral Mica in the sand, while gentle waves caress the shoreline. From the shores of Silver Strand State Beach to the tip of the Coronado Municipal Beach, you'll find plenty of wide open sand, gentle waves and gorgeous views.

### **SeaWorld San Diego**

[SeaWorld San Diego Theme Park - Aquarium, Zoo & Theme Park in California](#)

Price: Starting at \$71.99 for one single day Adult Ticket

Come celebrate the wonders of the sea at SeaWorld San Diego. Experience the Shamu show, One Ocean, and thrilling rides like Journey To Atlantis, Shipwreck Rapids and Wild Arctic. Feed and touch dolphins and get up-close to beluga whales, polar bears, sharks and penguins. Enjoy fascinating aquariums and exotic birds from around the world. Then dive into the world of sea turtles at the all-new Turtle Reef attraction.