

Research Stage of Scenarios Project Completed

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Jason Hunter, Nautilus Institute program officer, completed a two-month, seven country, field research project examining emerging trends and perspectives in post-crisis Asia. During the trip, Jason interviewed over 150 key government, business, NGO, and academic leaders in China, Korea, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The research trip is the first stage in the multi-year Asia-Pacific Scenarios Project.

Specifically, the research mission sought to: 1) interview potential participants in the project; 2) map-out, on a country-by-country basis, the critical drivers and uncertainties leaders are grappling with in "re-constructing" post-crisis Asia; 3) gain a better understanding of how key decisionmakers in the region think about the future.

The project, funded by the <u>Ford Foundation</u> and <u>Rockefeller Brothers Fund</u>, will convene a series of roundtable workshops of "up-and-coming" members of government, civil society, and business in the Asia-Pacific to develop ten-year scenarios about political and economic development trajectories in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

At the heart of the project is the urgent need-and unique opportunity-the economic crisis has created for analysts and policymakers in Asia to re-conceptualize the "big picture" and to reformulate strategies and develop a new sense of direction for the next decade. The Project will focus especially on mapping possible, probable and preferable futures in relation to ecological sustainability and social equity. The first workshop will take place in Southeast Asia in November of 1999.

A paper examining "developing trends in post-crisis Asia" (based on this field work) will be distributed in the coming weeks. Please contact Jason Hunter < jhunter@nautilus.org > for more information.

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