

**“BUILDING A BETTER ASIA:  
FUTURE LEADERS’ DIALOGUE”**

*2007-08 Theme*

**“BUILDING THE COMMON GOOD IN ASIA”**

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This has four key elements: shared prosperity, common security, ecological balance, and human security.

The first element is shared prosperity. Economic growth is critical to Asia’s security and well-being. But it must be shared. The region must ensure that no country and sub-region is left behind, or turns out to be a loser in globalization. The benefits of growth must be distributed evenly, both within and between nations. The task of eliminating poverty and deprivation in all parts of Asia should be urgent.

The second is common security. This means reducing inter-state and regional conflicts through confidence-building measures, crisis-management, peacekeeping and peace-building mechanisms. A regional capacity for peacekeeping and peace building and humanitarian operations must be developed with the consent and active participation of all the countries.

The third element is ecological balance. Environment is truly the common heritage of mankind and the region. Environmental stress respects no national boundaries. Asia faces severe challenges to its environment. Rapid economic growth and rising energy consumption in Asia’s major economic players such as China and India could lead to competition for scarce resources and is a key factor in climate change. Large-scale deforestation in Indonesia and the haze resulting from forest fires are a threat to the entire region.

The fourth element is human security. Unlike state or national security, human security focuses on the safety and dignity of the individual. Human security includes freedom from fear as well as freedom from want. Ensuring human security requires protecting human rights through national and international action. Promotion of democracy also helps to improve conditions that affect human security. Ensuring human security requires reducing military competition, preventing a regional arms race, and devoting more resources to education and health.