

Comment by Michael C H Jones

It is interesting to compare the BRICS in the G20 with the Trans Pacific Partnership countries in APEC, in terms of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs supported Global Cities Index (GCI) for the years 2012, 2010 and 2008.

<http://www.atkearney.com/images/global/articles/FG-2012-Global-Cities-Index-and-Emerging-Cities-Outlook-1.png>

The five BRICS countries of China, Russia, India, Brazil and South Africa comprise 5 of the 19 country members of the G20, the 20th is the EU. This is a powerful economic voting bloc if it stands together regularly. The US has its own bloc but this is European based - Germany, Britain, France and Italy - and not overly economically "flash" in recent years. The EU is in transition to say the least. Hence in the reorientation of USA global strategic policy towards the Pacific, countries such as Japan, South Korea, Canada, Mexico and Australia become of higher importance.

One of many perspectives is Great City economics.

In the Pacific China has four cities - Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, and the Hong Kong SAR. The USA has two - Los Angeles and San Francisco. Singapore one - itself. Australia two - Sydney and Melbourne. Malaysia one - Kuala Lumpur. Vietnam one - Ho Chi Minh City. Japan would bring an extra two cities but not the Canadian or Mexican Pacific coast.

In the Indian Ocean only India with two cities has a genuine maritime presence with arguably Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, and significantly a rising Perth (not in the list) in Australia this century.

BRICS in G20

China - Beijing 14,15,12; Shanghai 21,21,20; Guangzhou 60,57,52; Shenzhen 65,62,54; Chongqing 66,65,59

(of course there is Hong Kong 5,5,5; and Taipei 40,39,34)

Russia - Moscow 19, 25, 19

India - Mumbai - 45, 46, 49; New Delhi - 48, 45, 41; Bangalore - 58, 58, 58; Kolkata - 64, 63, 60

Brazil - Sao Paulo - 33, 35, 31; Rio de Janeiro - 53, 49, 47

South Africa - Johannesburg 50, 52, 52

The next G20 Summit is in a few days on 18-19th June 2012 in Los Cabos, Mexico

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_G-20_Mexico_summit

2) Trans-Pacific Partnership in APEC

United States - New York - 1, 1, 1; Los Angeles - 6, 7, 6; Chicago - 7, 6, 8; Washington, D.C. - 10, 13, 11; Boston - 15, 19, 29

San Francisco - 17, 12, 15; Miami - 36, 34, 32; Houston - 38, 38, NA; Atlanta - 39, 40, 37

Singapore - 11,8,7

Australia - Sydney 12, 9, 16; Melbourne 32, NA, NA

Malaysia - Kuala Lumpur 49,48, 40

Vietnam - Ho Chi Minh City 61,61,55

New Zealand, Brunei, Chile and Peru.

My understanding is that presently Japan, Canada and Mexico but not South Korea have made applications to join.

In September 2012 the host for the APEC meeting will be Russian President Putin in Vladivostok.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/APEC_Russia_2012

In my view the key to the ultimate success of either or both the BRICS and the TPP is Indonesian membership. Indonesia is currently a member of the G20 and APEC and also has a reach across both the Pacific and Indian Oceans, but with 7000 islands the nation has internal strategic challenges. As I have argued elsewhere Indonesia in ASEAN is ultimately of more consequence for Australia than China. Jakarta currently ranks 54, 53, 48 behind Bangkok - 43, 36, 22 and Manila - 51, 51, 46 in the Pacific and just ahead of Nairobi Kenya at 56, 56, NA in the Indian Ocean.

The unrelenting politics of international trade, investment, financial flows and jobs/corporate-labour interface, with their Property Relations implications, continues in the context of both strategic-military dialogues and Human Rights debates at the margins of Global Economic Relations forums.