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# I. The New Economy

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NYU TANDON SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING HOSTS

## ‘The New Silk Road: A Global Engineering Renaissance’

by Jason Ross

Brooklyn, April 7—It is imperative that a major shift in U.S. policy be effected, towards economic development centered around implementing improved technologies of infrastructure and manufacturing, and away from British-directed regime change wars and geopolitics. An event held today at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, cosponsored by the Schiller Institute, provided a significant boost towards making that policy shift. The five-hour conference brought together over 70 engineers and engineering students, businessmen, bankers, and political layers.

The presentations ran the gamut of major infrastructure and development programs worldwide.

The New Silk Road/One Belt, One Road program of China.

The LaRouche approach to understanding the economic value of infrastructure.

The Kra Canal and the Bering Strait crossing;

The long-term sustainability of cross-national infrastructure;

The infrastructure needs of Africa and those of the Americas, such as:

Closing the Darien Gap,  
Building the Nicaragua Canal,  
Addressing the trillions of dollars of infrastructure deficit in the United States.

The quality of discussion reflected the qualified audience, with questions and discussion on the topics of specific engineering aspects, financing needs,

geopolitics and the other reasons more projects are *not* underway, on the security needs for development corridors, and on the political dimensions of getting Trump on-board, and how to ensure that all parties to international projects are able to reap their proper benefits.

The coffee break and post-conference period were abuzz with intense engagement and interest in learning more and on finding other avenues of cooperation and discussion. The major Schiller Institute conference on April 13-April 14 is the perfect follow-up for all participants, and it is hoped that that conference will strike a major blow towards economic cooperation and development, here in the nation’s intellectual capital, New York.

The program for the event follows, and video of the presentations and discussion sessions will be posted on the Schiller Institute’s *New Paradigm for Mankind* site in short order.



courtesy of Jason Ross

Howard Chang, at the podium during ‘The New Silk Road: A Global Engineering Renaissance’ conference. Hal Cooper is seated on the left, and Jason Ross is seated on the right.

## Program

- 12:30 **Greetings and welcome**  
Tom Wismuller, former president, NYU Alumni Association
- 12:40 **The Silk Roads, Old and New: Great Infrastructure for the Future**  
Howard Chang, PhD, PE, Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University
- 1:15 **The Economic Value of Infrastructure**  
Jason Ross, Schiller Institute, co-author, *The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge*
- 1:45 **Changing the World with the Kra Canal**  
Pakdee Tanapura, International Director of the International Executive Committee for the Study of the Kra Canal Project
- 2:00 Discussion, audience Q&A
- 2:30 *Coffee break/networking*: Light refreshments courtesy of the NYU Alumni Association

## Speakers

**Howard Chang**, PhD, PE, Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at San Diego State University. Dr. Chang has provided professional consulting since 1967, has performed extensive research in the area of water resources engineering, has published over 100 refereed papers in journals and conference proceedings, and is the author of several computer models for channel design and river hydraulics as well as the book *Fluvial Processes in River Engineering*, published by John Wiley & Sons.

**Hal Cooper**, PhD, PE, Chairman, Freight Transport Advisory Board, Seattle, Washington. Dr. Cooper is a specialist in railroad transportation, with an emphasis on coal transport and intermodal freight. His work on commuter light rail, freight rail, and high-speed rail has included energy requirement analyses for electrified rail. The author of over 150 articles, Dr. Cooper has spoken internationally on proposals for rail across the American continents, including a rail connection across the Bering Strait.

**Albert Pozotrigio**, PE, Executive Vice President and Director of Construction Management at M&J Engineering. Mr. Pozotrigio is a highly respected chief construction manager who has served on some of the largest NYSDOT projects in New York City, totalling over \$650 million, including the Alexander Hamilton Bridge Rehabilitation Project, the reconstruction of FDR Drive, and work on Route 9A. He is the immediate past president of the ASCE Metropolitan Section, and a member of the advisory committee for New York City Technical College.

**Jason Ross**, Schiller Institute, editor-in-chief of

- 3:00 **Greetings from the Civil Engineering Department**
- 3:05 **Infrastructure Needs of the Americas**  
Albert Pozotrigio, PE, Executive Vice President and Director of Construction Management at M&J Engineering
- 3:35 **Sustainability Needs of the New Silk Road Infrastructure**  
Richard Trifan, Vice President, The Eurasia Center
- 4:00 **Connecting the Bering Strait: Joining the Americas to the Belt and Road Initiative**  
Hal Cooper, PhD, PE, Chairman, Seattle Freight Transport Advisory Board
- 4:30 Roundtable discussion and Q&A  
Audience dialogue, discussion of career opportunities
- 5:20 Concluding remarks and announcements/future events

21st Century Science & Technology. Mr. Ross's work focuses on the intersection between science, infrastructure, and economics, studying the non-scalar and non-local economic value of scientific discovery and infrastructure platforms. He is a co-author of the in-depth report [The New Silk Road Becomes the World Land-Bridge](#) and an activist engaged in orienting U.S. economic policy towards long-term investments in science and infrastructure.

**Pakdee Tanapura**, International Director and Acting Spokesman of the Board of Directors of the International Executive Committee for the Study of the Kra Canal Project in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr. Tanapura has been working on the Kra Canal project across Thailand for over 30 years, organizing conferences that included such participants as the Thai Minister of Transport and Communications, the Global Infrastructure Fund of Japan, advisors to the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia, and American scientists and engineers.

**Richard Trifan**, V.P. of Government Relations & Trade at The Eurasia Center, and Enterprise Asset Management Business Lead for the New York MTA. Certified in PMP, Prince2 and ITIL to lead global transformation initiatives, specifically where complex assets require sustainability for a lifespan of more than 50 years. Mr. Trifan is a frequent international speaker on the subject of the New Silk Road, and holds memberships with CLM (Council of Logistics Management), APICS (American Production and Inventory Control Society), and the Institute of Asset Management (IAM), and is a Greenbelt in the Six Sigma and 5S disciplines.