

Final Report: Explorative Research Stay at Peking University

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“Implementing the Agenda 2030 and Climate Policies in China and Germany”

16.10-25.10.2017 (period of stay in Beijing, including extension)

The purpose of this explorative research visit to Peking University, College of Environmental Science and Engineering, was to discuss the proposed workshop on “Implementing the Agenda 2030 and climate policies in China and Germany”. The workshop proposal was submitted to the Centre for International Cooperation (CIC), FU Berlin, together with Prof. Sabrina Habich-Sobiegalla, Institute of China Studies, FUB. The proposal has been accepted and funding for seven flights for FUB researchers in March 2018 will be made available by CIC.

The proposal connects well to sustainability research at FU Berlin that is chiefly promoted in the context of the University Alliance for Sustainability as well as research and teaching interests of the involved departments and senior researchers at FU Berlin (OSI and the Institute of China Studies) and Peking University (College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, School of Government, School of International Affairs, School of Marxism).

The CIC proposal cuts across different disciplinary perspectives, themes and topics related to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and climate policies in China and Germany.

**Topics of the Workshop:**

- the policy and regulatory framework of SDG/climate policy planning, covering the nexus between Agenda 2030/Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Policies (Paris Agreements, UNFCC COP meetings, national targets and action plans in China and Germany)
- the process of SDG/climate policy implementation, with focus on governance mechanisms and stakeholder participation
- the effects of SDG/climate policy implementation at sub-national level (case studies on specific sectors and issues)

Ass. Prof. Dai Hancheng, CESE, PD (adj. Prof.) Dr. Berthold Kuhn and Jun. Prof. Sabrina Habich will be in charge of coordinating the workshop.

The topic is of interest to both Universities: FU Berlin and Peking University because China as well as Germany have made significant contributions to the process of advancing the 2030 Agenda on the seventeen SDGs and the Paris agreement on climate change, and have pioneered innovative environmental and climate mitigation policies. Both countries are among the largest investors in renewable energies. With the election of Donald Trump as President of the USA in November 2016, the promotion of the sustainable development agenda faces new challenges. China has already taken

several opportunities to reaffirm its continued support for global agreements on sustainable development and climate change in the context of the 13 Five Year Plan and the 19 Party Congress (October 2017). Following general elections in Germany end of September 2017, the coalition talks involving the two Conservative Parties (CDU/CSU), The Liberals (FDP) and the Green Party (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) put emphasis on climate protection.

Following the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, targets and indicators have been set to further define and monitor these 17 universal goals. From a legal perspective, the sustainable development goals represent soft international norms. However, they still offer a powerful reference framework for national and local policy-makers as well as international and development cooperation. Some of the SDGs correspond well with climate policy frameworks, in particular goal number 13 focused on “Climate Action”.

The 23rd Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC will be presided over by the Government of Fiji with support by Germany and takes place in Bonn in November 2017.

Research on Implementing the Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and Climate Policies in China (and Germany) provides excellent opportunities for transdisciplinary and international research and cooperation.

Researchers of FUB expressed a keen interest in learning and discussing about SDG and climate policy making and implementation in China. Researchers at PKU are interested to discuss current Chinese policies and implementation strategies in comparative perspective, relating to challenges and good practices in Germany.

**The key challenge is to feed in good expertise and mobilise senior participation of Environmental Policy Research Centre of FUB and/or German cooperation experts as PKU has a strong interest in discussing climate policies in Germany, too.**

**Participants:**

It was agreed that CESE would coordinate the workshop and invite researchers from other schools at PKU. I talked to the following researchers at PKU about the CIC workshop and interest for participation was expressed by all of them and efforts will be made to attend.

**College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering: Prof. Ms. Zhang Shiqiu, Prof. Mr. Mei Fengqiao, Prof. Mr. Dai Hancheng**

School of International Affairs: **Prof. Zhang Haibin, Prof. Wang Bing Bing, Prof. Shaohua Lei**

School of Marxism: **Prof. Huan Qingzhi**

Other researchers of the School of Government, including Dean Prof. Yu Keping (during his stay at FUB on Oct. 9 and Prof. Xue Ling (during his stay at FUB in August 2017; in the USA during my research visit) were contacted before this explorative research stay at FUB and communication was continued during my explorative research stay by phone/ wechat. Their commitment to the strategic partnership and the interest in the CIC workshop and the UAS 2018 Spring Conference (April 9-13, 2018) was renewed.

Experts of German international cooperation who are working in the field of sustainable development and climate policies, including Mr. Hagen Ettner, Mr. Sebastian Ibold, Mr. Peter Sailer, Mr. Sebastian Pauss, could be met during the research stay.

Meetings with Think Tanks/NGOs, including Ms. Bai Yunwen from Greenovation Hub and China Youth Climate Action Network (CYCAN) were also arranged. Ms. Bai Yunwen, (Greenovation Hib), Ms. Ge Yiming (CYCAN) expressed their interest in the topic of the workshop.

Professor Huang Haoming, former Chief Executive Officer of China Association for NGO Cooperation and now Professor at the China GobaI Philanthropy Institute, was also informed about the workshop and would consider to attend.

**Date and Venue:**

The contents, programme, date and time of the workshop were discussed with Prof. Zhang Shiqiu, Prof. Mei Fengqiao and Prof. Dai Hancheng on October 19, at the College of Environmental Science and Engineering.

It was agreed that College of Environmental Science and Engineering would decide on the meeting place, the exact date and time. CESE would also invite PKU researchers and other experts.

March 17-18, a weekend, was earmarked as the most suitable date for PKU and FUB researchers.

The meeting could be attended by around 20 participants, including 8-9 participants from Peking University (CESE, SOG, SIA, SOM), 7 participants from Freie Universität Berlin (OSI, Environmental Policy Research Centre, Institute of China Studies) plus participants from NDRC, Chinese think tanks, German international cooperation and Think Tanks/NGOs. It was agreed that FUB suggests a few names (see annex) and PKU would decide on the invitations.

Involvement of junior researchers /Ph.D. students would be highly welcomed. Ms. Beate Rogler, representative of FUB in Beijing, supports this idea.

Ms. Beate Rogler, FUB representative in Beijing, suggested that a small Ph.D. workshop could be organised in the context of the CIC workshop if PKU was interested in such an event. The CIC proposal includes flight tickets for three junior researchers.

We agreed that Ph.D. students at PKU and FUB will also be contacted in view of proposed workshop in March 2018 and UAS spring campus in April 2018. Li Qing who is researching on carbon emission trading and Dongping Wang researching on low carbon communities could be among the junior researchers.

We agreed that it would still be too early to identifying a suitable Journal that could be approached for a Special Issue on the workshop topics, Potential Journals are Climate Policy, Journal of Cleaner Production or Journal of Sustainable Development (open access). Presentation or papers could also be published in the context of UAS working paper series.

It is envisaged that findings of the workshop will be presented, discussed and further elaborated in the context of the UAS Spring Campus conference at FUB from April 9-13, 2018. It would be much appreciated if PKU could send a delegation with researchers from different schools and research backgrounds.

**Proposed List of Researchers and Experts for PKU-FUB Workshop on  
“Implementing the Agenda 2030 and climate policies in China and Germany”  
March, 17/18, 2018 in Beijing**

<b>Researchers at PKU with relevant research profiles for PKU-FUB workshop, March 17-18, 2018</b>			
<b>College of Environmental Science and Engineering (CESE)</b>			
<b>Prof. Ms. Zhang Shiqiu</b>	CESE	Environmental economics, climate & clean air action  Valuation of pollution related health risks in China  Urban residential water demand	<a href="mailto:zhangshq@pku.edu.cn">zhangshq@pku.edu.cn</a>
<b>Prof. Mr. Mei Fengqiao</b>	CESE	Environmental Management  Legal and regulatory environment of climate and environmental policy in China	<a href="mailto:meifq@pku.edu.cn">meifq@pku.edu.cn</a>
<b>Prof. Mr. Dai Hancheng</b>	CESE	China’s renewable energy policies  China’s climate policy & SDG implementation  Economic impact from 2.5 pollution-related health effects in China	<a href="mailto:Dai.Hancheng@pku.edu.cn">Dai.Hancheng@pku.edu.cn</a>
<b>Prof. Ms. Xu Jianhua</b>	CESE	Environmental Management  Public participation in environmental impact assessment	<a href="mailto:Jianhua.Xu@pku.edu.cn">Jianhua.Xu@pku.edu.cn</a>

<b>School of Government</b>			
<b>Dean Prof. Mr. Yu Keping</b>	SOG	Policy reform in China	<a href="mailto:yukp@pku.edu.cn">yukp@pku.edu.cn</a>
	SOG	demoncracy	
<b>Prof. Mr. Xue Ling</b>	SOG	Regional integrated planning and management in the context of sustainable development	<a href="mailto:paulsnow@pku.edu.cn">paulsnow@pku.edu.cn</a>
		Impact of emission trading at company level	
		Urban managemen in the context of climate policies	
		Campus management	
<b>Prof. Zhang Jian</b>	SOG	Comparative Politics	<a href="mailto:jz2015@pku.edu.cn">Jz2015@pku.edu.cn</a>
<b>School of International Affairs (SIA)</b>			
<b>Prof. Zhang Haibin</b>	SIA	Global governance and China's environmental and climate policies	<a href="mailto:zhanghb@pku.edu.cn">zhanghb@pku.edu.cn</a>
<b>Prof. Wang Bing Bing</b>	SIA	International organisations and NGOs in governance of global sustainable development	<a href="mailto:bbwang2017@163.com">bbwang2017@163.com</a>
<b>Prof. Shaohua Lei</b>	SIA	Comparative Studies on Chinese and Foreign Political System,  Electromobility in China	
<b>School of Marxism</b>			
<b>Prof. Huan Qingshi</b>	School of Marxism	Ecological marxism, ecological civilisation	<a href="mailto:qzhuan@pku.edu.cn">qzhuan@pku.edu.cn</a>

<b>Experts on Climate Change working for the Chinese Government</b>			
<b>Prof. Jiang Kejun</b>	NDRC Energy Research Institute	Energy System Analysis Carbon Emission Trading	<a href="mailto:kjiang@eri.org.cn">kjiang@eri.org.cn</a> <a href="mailto:kjiang2015@163.com">kjiang2015@163.com</a>
<b>Dr. Chai Qimin</b>	National Centre for Climate Change	International Cooperation	<a href="mailto:chaiqm@outlook.com">chaiqm@outlook.com</a> 13581680098
<b>Dr. Tian Chengchuan</b>	National Development and Reform Commission.	Division of Strategic Research and Planning, Department of Climate Change,	<a href="mailto:chengchuan_tian@hks.harvard.edu">chengchuan_tian@hks.harvard.edu</a>

<b>Experts on German-Chinese cooperation on SDGs and climate policies</b>			
<b>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</b>			
<b>Ms. Ursula Becker</b>	GIZ, Beijing Office	Sino-German Environmental Partnership	<a href="mailto:Ursula.Becker@giz.de">Ursula.Becker@giz.de</a>
<b>Mr. Hagen Ettner</b>	Sino-German Centre for Sustainable Development Ministry of Trade & GIZ, Beijing Office	Government-private sector- NGO partnerships for sustainable development & climate protection, China-German cooperation in third countries (Africa)	<a href="mailto:Hagen.Ettner@giz.de">Hagen.Ettner@giz.de</a>

<b>Mr. Sebastian Ibold</b>	GIZ, Beijing Office	Sustainable Transport	<a href="mailto:Sebastian.Ibold@giz.de">Sebastian.Ibold@giz.de</a>
<b>Mr. Peter Sailer</b>	GIZ, Beijing Office	Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership	<a href="mailto:Peter.Sailer@giz.de">Peter.Sailer@giz.de</a>
<b>Dr. Cinderella von Dungern</b>	GIZ, Beijing Office	Emerging Market Sustainability Dialogue	<a href="mailto:Cinderella.vondungern@giz.de">Cinderella.vondungern@giz.de</a>
<b>Think Tanks &amp; Nonprofit Organisations in Beijing</b>			
<b>Ms. Bai Yunwen</b>	Greenovation Hub <a href="http://www.ghub.org/cfc">www.ghub.org/cfc</a>	climate resilient future, climate and environmental policies, ecological footprint	<a href="mailto:yunwen@ghib.org">yunwen@ghib.org</a>
<b>Ms. Zheng Xiaowen</b> <b>Ms. Ge Yiming</b>	China Youth Climate Action Network	climate policies	<a href="mailto:zhengxiaowen@cycan.org.cn">zhengxiaowen@cycan.org.cn</a> <a href="mailto:geyiming@cycan.org.cn">geyiming@cycan.org.cn</a>
<b>Ms. Tao Qiran</b>	China Association for NGO Cooperation	Environmental and climate policies. NGO capacity building	<a href="mailto:taoqiran@cango.org">taoqiran@cango.org</a>
<b>Mr. Ma Jun, Director</b> <b>Ms. Wang Jingjing (Deputy Director)</b>	Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs	Environmental advocacy, pollution control App: Blue Map	<a href="mailto:majun@ipe.org.cn">majun@ipe.org.cn</a> <a href="mailto:jingjing.wang@ipe.org.cn">jingjing.wang@ipe.org.cn</a>
<b>Mr. Huang Haoming</b>	China Global Philanthropy Institute	International Cooperation for Climate Protection  NGOs effective engagement in climate policies.	<a href="mailto:huanghaoming@cgpi.org.cn">huanghaoming@cgpi.org.cn</a>

		NGO capacity building in China	
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### Feedback on specific UAS questions

- How did you benefit from the stay at the partner university? What were the main results of your research stay? Who were your primary contact persons?

Progress has been achieved in preparing the joint workshop with Peking University on Implementing the Agenda 2030 and Climate Policies in China and Germany, supported by FUB Centre for International Cooperation. Main contact person was Prof. Dai Hancheng, College of Environmental Science and Engineering (CESE), Peking University. In addition, I greatly benefited from talks about political development in China, access to information on green development and exposure to Chinese media reporting, in particular in the context of the 19 Party Congress that took place during my stay.

- What aspects of your research stay did you find most challenging or interesting?

Dialogue with different schools at Peking University; learning about different theories and conceptual approaches related to sustainable development, climate policies and ecological civilisation in China.

- What activities have you been involved in while at the partner university and how have these aided your understanding of your research topic/sustainability?

Individual talks and group meetings with academics with different disciplinary backgrounds as well as practitioners. I got a good idea about the debates, research activities and ongoing projects related to green development and the Agenda 2030/SDGs in China.

- How did you interact with the university/staff/students/sustainability initiatives?

Individual meetings and group meetings, wechat.

- How did your understanding of sustainability/sustainable development develop during the research stay?

The research stay shaped my understanding of the need of more “high context research”, including an understanding of market forces and the role of civil society/NGO stakeholders. Political scientists in Germany often miss out on many context factors when analysing China’s progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and green development related issues. The focus on party political discourses, government policies and foreign and security policy issues tends to overshadow the research agenda resulting in a lack of recognition of collaborative governance mechanism for sustainable development in China and, in sum, too little attention paid to innovative policy instruments, e.g. Public Interest Litigations under the new Environmental Law (1. January 2015).

- How has the research stay influenced your future goals?

This research stay sharpened my understanding on the importance to continue with “high context research” and to pay adequate attention to institutions and stakeholders.

- In case of Senior Research Stays – Which cooperation projects have been identified? Please include a schedule for each measure if applicable



Progress has been achieved in preparing the joint workshop with Peking University on Implementing the Agenda 2030 and Climate Policies in China and Germany, supported by FUB Centre for International Cooperation (CIC). Please see the information above on the workshop scheduled for the weekend 17/18 March, 2019 at PKU.