



**Explorative Research Visit  
Thematic framework of “Science and Sustainable Development”**

**Research Theme: “Sino-German Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Context of Global Governance”**

**Peking University, School of International Studies  
Sept. 22 to Sept. 27, 2018**

The purpose of this explorative research visit was to deepen cooperation with the School of International Studies of Peking University – mainly Prof. Zhang Haibin and post-doctoral researcher Dr. Bin Bin Wang – and to explore opportunities for further cooperation in research, teaching and joint organisation of workshops, possibly in the context of the FU Berlin annual Spring Campus Conference in the first week of April 2019.

The School of International Studies of PKU is involved in the foundation of a new Institute on International Organisations and International Development at Peking University. The School has a keen interest in extending its work on issues of governance for sustainable development in the global context, with a focus on multi-stakeholder contributions.

The meeting with Prof. Zhang Haibin confirmed his keen interest in cooperating with Freie Universität Berlin in the field of climate policies and sustainable development. Prof. Zhang Haibin is involved in the new Climate Security Initiative at the level of the United Nations.

In July 2018, the UN Security Council convened a session to discuss the nexus between climate change and global conflicts and to deepen understanding of climate-related security risks. The session marked the Council’s first debate on climate change and security in seven years. Germany’s bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council won overwhelming support earlier this year and Germany is keen on promoting the climate security agenda during its two year tenure in the United Nations Security Council.

Dr. Bin Bin Wang just published her book “From Zero to Hero. China’s Transition on Climate Change Communication and Governance” (Social Science Academic Press, China, 2018). She also contributed with expert analysis to my recent publication on *China’s Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals. An Analysis of Push and Pull Factors and Implementation Challenges* that I published in a leading political science peer review journal in China. *Chinese Political Science Review*, 07/2018, <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41111-018-0108-0>

She is about to assume a new position at Tsinghua University where she will be the programme director of the newly founded Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development. The Institute will soon start to organising a lecture series in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, China and leading think tanks in the United States and Europe.

My talk with Dr. Bin Bin Wang also touched upon the *Climate Action World Summit* in San Francisco held in September 2018. Dr. Bin Bin Wang attended the summit. Many German non-governmental organisations attended the summit, too. The summit demonstrated growing commitment of sub-national actors in advancing climate protection. We agreed that we would share our forthcoming research and conference agendas and further explore opportunities for continued cooperation in research and teaching.

Further meetings at Peking Universities were held with Prof. Lian Jian Ru and Prof. Shaohua Lei of School of International Studies and Prof. Zhang Shiqiu and Prof. Dai Hancheng of College for Environmental Science and Engineering. These meetings were meant to foster good relationships with professors at Peking Universities who are considered well-wishers and active partners of PKU-FUB cooperation. The March 2018 conference supported by the College for Environmental Science and Engineering and the Center of International Cooperation of FU Berlin went very well and motivated scholars of different schools to engage or deepen research cooperation with Germany and FU Berlin researchers.

Further meetings were held with GIZ experts in Beijing, including Dr. Christian Stärz, Dr. Christopf Nedopil and Dr. Marco Haase. Talks centred about smart air pollution monitoring, China's ambitions for global leadership in environmental and climate policies, and more specifically on GIZ's work with the the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (*CCICED*). The Council was founded in 1992 as a high-level international advisory body. Former FUB professor Miranda Schreurs used to be part of the international advisory group. GIZ is currently focusing its work with CCICED on the forthcoming Biological Diversity summit, in close cooperation with WWF and Bund für Naturschutz. The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in China in the last quarter in 2020. The hosting of the biodiversity summit is considered to be an important commitment of China with regard to its growing engagement in global environmental policies. It was agreed to continue exchange of ideas and cooperation with GIZ in the context of further activities planned with Peking University and other Universities in China and Germany, in particular in the context of possible German Chinese research projects and conferences.

I also visited Prof. Wang Ming of Tsinghua University, School of Public Policy and Management, Institute for Philanthropy who will attend a conference on contributions of nonprofits to beautiful life and sustainable development at FU Berlin, Department of China Studies, in December 2018 and Alicia Wu of the China Global Philanthropic Institute (CGPI). CGPI has ongoing cooperation with many Chinese nonprofits and with German researchers and intends to act as a secretariat in China for forthcoming Climate Action Summit conferences.