

International Workshop “Opportunities and Challenges in China’s Economic Transition”



The Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya, together with the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, with the cooperation of Antai College of Economics & Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University successfully organized an international workshop on “Opportunities and Challenges under China's Economic Transition” on 31 March, 2017, at the Institute of China Studies, IPS Building, University of Malaya. The workshop was organized to look into the issues of economic reforms, finance, state-owned enterprises, and urbanization in contemporary China.

The workshop consisted of two panels. The theme of the first panel was “China’s Enterprises under the Economic New Normal”, with four speakers. They were Chen Xian, Professor at Antai College of Economics & Management (Topic: The Hope of

the Chinese Economy is from Mass Entrepreneurship and Innovation); Huang Shaoqing, Associate professor at Antai College of Economics & Management (Topic: The Recognition and Cause of China’s Zombie Enterprises); Li Ran, Research Fellow at the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya (Topic: The Dilemma and Opportunities of China’s State Enterprises under the Economic New Normal); Zhang Miao, Research Fellow at Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya (Topic: Institutional Change and State-owned Enterprises in China’s Urban Housing Market).



Professor Chen Xian, Executive Dean of the Antai College of Economics & Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University,

Professor Chen Xian discussed the successful economic reforms in the late 1970s. The late 1970s reform was a model of “from-bottom-to-top” economic reform, in which grassroots practices of household responsibility system was elevated to a national policy. Professor Chen argued that in order for the current economic transition to be sustainable, more “from-bottom-to-top” initiatives, such as the initiative of “mass entrepreneurship and innovation,” which is being strongly promoted by the Chinese government under the economic transition package, must be supported. “Mass entrepreneurship and innovation” will bring sustainability for China’s long-term economic growth.



Discussion during Panel 1. From left, Dr Zhang Miao, Dr Li Ran, Prof. Huang Shaoqing, Prof. Chen Xian and Dr Ngeow Chow Bing (Chair).

International Conference “Opportunities and Challenges in China’s Economic Transition”

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Prof. Huang Shaoqing

Professor Huang Shaoqing presented a paper that analyses the high proportion of zombie enterprises existing in China’s economy. This phenomenon is closely linked to China’s institutional setting: one of the institutional factors was government subsidy to maintain these zombie enterprises. Another was the high cost of bankruptcy, which made loss-making enterprises difficult to exit the market. He suggested that the phenomenon of zombie enterprises must be seriously dealt with through market mechanism and legislation, which would contribute to healthy economic transformation.

Dr. Li Ran stressed the importance of state-owned enterprises in China’s economy. She explained that after nearly 40 years of reform, the Chinese state strengthened its control of certain state-owned enterprises, and also made those enterprises bigger and stronger. State-owned enterprises are part of the tools of governance and invisible hands for the government, so they inevitably bear responsibility for national economic regulation. State-owned enterprises have been an important tool for solving the problem of economic slow down, and they will play a vital role in the future development of China’s economy.

In Dr. Zhang Miao’s presentation, she pointed out that state-owned enterprises played an important role in China’s urban housing transition, which transformed from state-controlled distribution to market-oriented distribution. The state-enterprise reform in the 1980s had given state enterprises autonomy and modern enterprise management norms which promoted the transformation of their roles in this transition process. Nevertheless, they still play the role of social welfare provider by offering affordable housing to low-income residents in cities and towns. This entitled to a large extent ensured a balance between private and public interests in the real estate market.

The second panel was titled “The New Forms and New Engine of the Economic Restructuring”. There were three speakers under this panel: Pan Liying, Professor at Antai College of Economics & Management (Topic: The RMB Exchange Rate Movements and Institutional Change); Yap Teck Lee, Independent Economist and Investment Analyst (Topic: Internet Finance and Block Chain: Based on the Analysis of China Perspective); Lu Ming, Distinguished Professor at the School of Economics, Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Topic: Urbanization led by Megacities).

Professor Pan Liying pointed out that the objective of the Renminbi internationalization was that along the Belt and Road Area, the Renminbi could become the currency for settlement and payment. This stretch of participating countries would no longer be affected by the US dollar’s volatility. She said that the



Prof. Pan Liying

Renminbi could be used effectively in the region having Chinese economic presence and Chinese investments. However, Renminbi would not replace US dollar and could only complement the US dollar. This was because China is a populous country and the future aging problem was very serious, thus China could not take on too many international responsibility.



Dr Yap Teck Lee

Dr. Yap Teck Lee suggested that the Internet financial industry development in China and block chain technology would change the trading process and record keeping between China and the international financial market. This will greatly reduce transaction costs and improve the efficiency of financial transactions. Block chain technology is considered to have broad development potential in many areas, including digital currency, cross-border payment and settlement, paper trading, securities issuance and trading, property rights transactions, customer credit investigations, money laundering and so on. But at the same time, block chain technology has two disadvantages, namely “decentralization” and “trust issues,” which could also post systemic risks in the future.

In his presentation Professor Lu Ming argued that there is still room for Chinese mega-cities to grow. While Prof. Lu recognizes that congestion and pollution problems are serious and could become even more serious if Chinese cities grow even larger, he argued that such problems can be dealt with by proper use of technology and management. The core issue of China’s urbanization was that the development of large cities was limited, especially the discrimination of low-skill labour in the household registration system. ◆



Professor Lu Ming



Section of audience during the workshop.

Joint ICS-UKM-IDFR Public Lecture “Assessing China’s Future”



Lecture given by Professor David Shambaugh

On 21 April, 2017, the Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya together with the East Asia International Relations (EAIR) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR), organized a public lecture by Professor David Shambaugh, entitled “Assessing China’s Future.” An internationally acclaimed authority and author on contemporary China, David Shambaugh is Professor of Political Science & International Affairs and the Director of the China Policy Program at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. Presently on sabbatical leave, he is in Singapore assuming the position of Distinguished Visiting Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the Nanyang Technological University. In the public lecture, Prof. Shambaugh argued that despite being a rising world power, China faces a variety of challenges related to its economical growth model, domestic political governance, and international relations. Depending on the

choices made and path to be taken by China’s leadership—particularly at the 19th Chinese Communist Party Congress scheduled for the autumn 2017—China’s alternative development pathways will become clearer. Drawing on findings from his latest best-seller *China’s Future* (2016), Prof. Shambaugh suggested that China’s socio-economic challenges are complex but not insurmountable. He then proceeded to provide two scenarios of China’s future. China, Prof. Shambaugh argued, could choose the path of qualitative socio-economic and political reform to escape from the Middle Income Trap. Failing that, China would fall into economic stagnation, giving rise to social problems and political decline, and this will be manifested in increased frictions in many areas of bilateral relations. ♦



The number of participants was overwhelming in the public lecture.

ICS Seminar “Xiamen University Malaysia under the Perspective of Belt and Road Initiative of China ”



Deputy Director of ICS, Dr Ngeow presenting a token of appreciation to Dr. Wang Weisong.

Dr. Wang Weisong of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics and Visiting Research Associate at the Institute of China studies (September 2016 to March 2017) is a renowned scholar on corporate management and he has been involved in a research project that deals with the internationalization of China’s higher education. In this talk, Dr. Wang first reviewed the development and reform of Chinese higher education since the opening up of China in late 1970s. China is now hosting a number of

foreign universities but until Xiamen University began operations in Malaysia in 2016, none of the Chinese universities has ever set up a foreign branch campus. Suzhou University once had an operation in Laos but it was far from successful and could not be really considered the first case of Chinese university “going out,” although the experience of Suzhou University in Laos offered a lot of meaningful lessons. In this sense, Xiamen University in Malaysia is really the first case. In the talk, Dr. Wang discussed the rationale, process, student recruitment, personnel policies, financing, course programs, and the implications for China’s Belt and Road Initiative of Xiamen University in Malaysia. It was argued that the university could provide the necessary human capital in the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative . ♦



Xiamen University Malaysia

China's "Belt and Road" Initiative: How could Malaysia be benefited?

Zhang Ruiqian & Zhang Miao



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China's Belt and Road Initiative (hereafter as BRI) is gaining wider recognition and media coverage in public opinion across Malaysia. As one of the hottest destinations for foreign investment, Malaysia has attracted massive Chinese capital in recent years even in the midst of global economic turbulence and domestic political uncertainties. It was reported that the world's second largest economy has invested US\$25.4 billion by 2015 in various sectors in Malaysia, such as real estate, metal fabrication and so on. Net capital inflows from China to Malaysia has increased significantly from US\$56 million in 2005 to US\$616 million in 2013, recording an average annual growth rate of 34% over the period (China Global Investment Tracker, 2015).

However, the massive capital inflow from China in such a short period has created much public debate. While it is believed that China's investment has played an important role in reviving local economy, it is also widely argued that China is asserting undue influence over the region through the ever-growing investment. This concern is echoed by the country's opposition parties, accusing the Prime Minister Najib Razak of selling Malaysia's sovereignty and compromising its territorial claims in the South China Sea. Meanwhile, there are also others who take the more positive view of the Chinese capital inflow as a ground-breaking feat that would boost the nation's flagging economy. Regardless of these conflicting viewpoints, given China's large presence in Malaysia (especially in infrastructure and construction sectors), questions remain as to how and to what extent Malaysian stakeholders could benefit from these huge national projects, with an estimated worth of USD1.4 trillion.

With connectivity is the keyword of BRI, developing inter-connected infrastructures forms a central part of China's Belt and Road initiatives. Given the fact that the projected investment is expected to reach USD1.4 trillion, this will certainly push Malaysia to further upgrade its infrastructures, including ports and railways. Though the current priority is arguably associated with China's needs to dispense its excess capacity in the construction industry, there is no question these infrastructure-related programs are essential for any sustainable economic development.

It has been argued theoretically that 1 unit of infrastructure investment could generate 3.05 units of production expansion from other industries (Andrei, 2016). The multiplier effect BRI generated will surely create jobs, increase productivity and enhance national competitiveness, placing Malaysia on the right track towards achieving its TN50 vision. Specifically, Malaysia needs to seize this opportunity by acquiring financial support from newly launched multilateral institutions such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

and the Silk Road Fund which are both oriented to fund mega-scale infrastructure projects such as railways, roads and pipelines.

Though there is a steep rise in Chinese investment across the globe, most of these investment are in fact underwritten by Chinese state-owned banks, thus significantly improving these infrastructure projects' risk-return profile. Many of the China's State-Owned-Enterprises (SOE) are arguably 'too big to fail', as the Chinese government provide them with substantial backing even in unsound and unfavorable cases. In extreme circumstances, China's state-owned policy insurer will most likely step up to cover certain projects from the fallout of political or social incidents or natural disasters. While banks are concerned to minimize the risk of becoming entangled with projects in China where commercial logic is subordinate to political considerations, collaboration with China's SOE has the advantage of helping local business stakeholders to reduce their risks.

Furthermore, Malaysian stakeholders may gain market access through partnership with their Chinese clients. It is noteworthy that the majority of Chinese players reaping fruits from BRI funding so far have been China's mega-sized SOEs. The goodwill and trust established through one or two successful partnerships with the Chinese big boys could help their Malaysian counterparts to gain an edge in China's domestic as well as overseas market. For example, a SOE's subsidiary whose main business is in Malaysia could recommend its Malaysian suppliers to other subsidiaries in other regional markets such as Indonesia and the Philippines. By so doing, Malaysian engineering, procurement and construction companies are able to tap the overseas markets, or re-enter China's domestic market by leveraging these business relationships.

In addition to job creation, foreign investment also enhances local productivity and competitiveness through technology transfer and management experience sharing. Truly, the technological capability and managerial skills in

The multiplier effect BRI generated will surely create jobs, increase productivity and enhance national competitiveness, placing Malaysia on the right track towards achieving its TN50 vision .





certain Chinese industries (e.g. High-speed railway, telecommunication service, Internet-based industry and construction industry) have proven to be world class and these can be learnt and utilized by Malaysian companies to enhance their competitiveness. China's investments in Malaysia will not only improve logistic networks and infrastructures, but also create high-value industries and high skill jobs, developments that will help the country to realize its national goal of becoming a high-income country by 2020.

Last but not the least, there will be long-term macro positive impacts for international firms by shortening lead time and reducing transportation costs especially when full connectivity is finally realized. Improved linkage via railways and the maritime road is expected to reduce the transit time between Malaysia and China. This would serve as an alternative and more efficient route for moving goods and commodities, as compared to the traditional sea transportation via Singapore. This will also benefit Malaysian businessmen who export raw materials to China, as well as international companies seeking to penetrate large consumer markets on the mainland.

The infrastructure industry is the sector that would the most likely benefit from China's BRI initiative. After more than 20 years of building roads, railways and airports, China is now a world-class infrastructure builder. Infrastructure, which plays a pilot role in BRI's development, requires investment and project contracting, and it will definitely drive demand for the relevant services. On this account, Malaysia should find many new opportunities in financing, project risk management, real estate services, engineering and several other related industries. With an extensive industry value chain, any mega project in Malaysia would require a well-developed supply-buyer relationships, where local stakeholders have a role to play. In terms of industrial co-operation, the twin industrial parks (Kuantan Industrial Part in Malaysia and Qinzhou Industrial Part in China) will create a clustering effect, especially for advanced manufacturing industry

players to compete, collaborate and upgrade. The demand for logistics network, supply chain management, consumer products and services may also see an increase in development. Other service sectors, such as financing, legal services, would likewise stand to benefit. As such, professionals in diverse areas like design, quality control, high-tech electronics and arbitration should also assess the opportunities offer by BRI. ◆

Malaysian stakeholders may gain market access through partnership with their Chinese clients.

This article is the personal opinion of the writers.

Mismatched Expectation between China and South Korea: Strategic Dilemma over THAAD and Its Implications for Regional Stability

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China-Republic of Korea (hereafter ROK or South Korea) bilateral relations improved tremendously under the Park Geun-Hye administration. With increased trade volume, China has become South Korea's largest trading partner, replacing the United States, and the robust economic ties had led to tremendous improvement in political and social ties, marked by Park's attendance of China's military parade in 2015 (despite objections from the United States), widespread acceptance of Korean culture in China, and the ROK's successful persuasion to China to hand over captured North Korean defectors to the South Korean government. Hence, many pundits are caught off-guard with the frictions caused by the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) deployment.

Since the United States' expression of the intention to deploy THAAD in South Korea, China had been consistently objecting the strategic move, seeing the deployment as fundamentally undermining China's national security. The Park administration was cautious in agreeing to the deployment to avoid offending China, which has become perhaps South Korea's most important economic partners since early 2000s. On 8 July 2016, the United States and ROK governments formally announced that the THAAD system would be deployed in South Korea. China attempted to persuade the ROK government to reconsider but to no avail. In February 2017, the ROK government made the decision to deploy THAAD, citing the increased threats and hostile actions by North Korea, including a series of missile and nuclear tests, as the main rationale. China's retaliation was swift, coming from political, economic, and strategic fronts: cyberattacks sourced from China towards South Korean governmental website and also Lotte Conglomerate's (which is the owner of the land where THAAD system is deployed) website increased, Chinese citizens' movements to boycott South Korean products (without official governmental backing but perhaps with tacit approval), China's refusal to support a UN Security Council resolution on North Korean missile launch, and consistent protests by government officials.

China sees THAAD as essentially nothing to do with threats from North Korea but rather part of the plan of the United States to militarily undermine China's security, and South Korea has failed to take into China's security considerations. Chinese defense planners in particular fear THAAD's ring of X-band radars, which could potentially make China's nuclear deterrent less reliable by allowing additional warning time and better detection capabilities for the United States, tilting the strategic balance of power in Washington's favor. In nuclear deterrence, the underlying foundation of strategic stability is for both sides to have the ability to

retaliate after being struck by a nuclear attack (known as second strike capability), therefore deterring any side from taking any action that will be costly to both sides—a concept also known as Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD). In the eyes of the Chinese defense planners, THAAD undermines China's second strike capability—Chinese leaders have to consider the possibility that their small nuclear deterrent might not survive a conflict with the United States if THAAD is deployed, and hence rendering China to the mercy of the nuclear threat of the United States.

Repeated assertions from the United States and South Korea that the deployment is solely aiming at North Korean missile threat and not China however have failed to convince China. (Russia also expressed similar concerns and have supported China's stand in this regard, although Russia has not taken drastic actions against ROK.) There is a widespread belief, especially within the circles of defense planners and strategic thinkers, that the United States is and will continue to be the principal adversary containing China's rise. Chinese leaders have proposed to the United States to form a "New Type of Great Power Relations," which aims to manage mutual differences and focus on creating win-win cooperation and relationship. However, the rejection of the proposal by the Obama administration, and the administration's famous (or infamous, in the Chinese eyes) "Pivot to Asia-Pacific" strategy, are widely seen by the Chinese as signs that the United States fundamentally still sees China as a threat and is deploying means to contain China's rise. China's recent troubles with all its maritime neighbors, including over South China Sea and East China Sea, are seen by Chinese nationalists and most strategic analysts as ultimately attributable to the nefarious influences of the United States. In this context, South Korea's decision to deploy THAAD is also seen as part of the grand strategic scheme of the United States to contain China.

On the other hand, South Korea's decision is also seen as a "betrayal." China has expected that the robust bilateral economic ties, and the much-improved political, social and even strategic ties under both Xi Jinping government and Park administration should have guaranteed the outcome of non-deployment. China has also expected that South Korea should understand China's own security concerns, and accept China's argument that THAAD is not a system that will resolve nuclear threat from North Korea but instead is aimed at China's nuclear deterrence. By accepting THAAD deployment, South Korea is seen as capitulating to the pressure of the United States, and is clearly moving away from Beijing and toward an acceptance of the United States and Japanese efforts in containing and encircling China.

Finally, China's overtly exaggerated reactions towards South Korea should be attributed to its

Since the United States' expression of the intention to deploy THAAD in South Korea, China had been consistently objecting the strategic move, seeing the deployment as fundamentally undermining China's national security.

deeper anxiety and strategic insecurity. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in July 2016 that THAAD is not a technical but a strategic issue. Historically, the Korean Peninsula has always been perceived as a critical “fence” to safeguard China’s territorial security, as proven by its role in Sino-Japanese wars and during the World War II. Hence, a strengthened United States-Japan-South Korea military and defense cooperation would be a major strategic setback for China. China’s failed attempt in wooing South Korea away from the orbit of the United States with its flourishing economic exchanges may have led to China to react disproportionately in anger. Chinese officials have also expressed their distrust of the United States (despite promises and goodwill), fearing that one day a regional missile defense network from Japan, South Korea, and to Taiwan may be directed at China. Hence, China sees a more insidious motive behind the United States’ push to deploy THAAD: containment of China with a regional missile defense network and increased US-Japan-ROK security cooperation.

The economic repercussions towards South Korea cast China as a resentful great power and harm its image as a benign responsible big power. Jia Qingguo, a renowned professor of International Relations at Peking University, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), expressed his regret over China’s economic retaliation towards South Korea as an immature move and has done more harm than good. This opinion is very rare among the sea of condemnation among the PRC governmental bodies, the Party, academia, media, and commentators.

For South Korea, the whole THAAD episode has been a difficult dilemma to deal with: between economic dependency on China and its own security rights. There is also a growing apprehension of China’s actions. In the eyes of many South Koreans, it was China’s supportive and enabling policy toward North Korea that has brought South Korea closer to deploying THAAD, as ROK’s decision to go ahead with the deployment came on the heels of North Korean missile tests. In addition, South Korea also views



Anti-South Korean Poster in China, picture taken by Alex Dukalskis

the economic retaliation interfering in ROK’s own strategic concerns, and a challenge to the United States South Korea alliance and the operation of United States Force Korea (USKF), which is vital for ROK’s strategic survival. There is also another reason why Park government gave a go-ahead to THAAD deployment despite strong objections from China. For years South Korea’s missile defense technology development had been underdeveloped (partly due to the constraints imposed by the United States). In this sense, THAAD deployment fits nicely to what South Korea needs at the moment.

Nevertheless, there is also a strong domestic opposition to THAAD deployment, especially among the

leftist-progressive parties, politicians and academics. They view the THAAD system not as a defensive measure for their country, but as a liability for further provocations. The residents of Seongju county, which is the site where THAAD would be deployed, have also protested the THAAD deployment, due to fears of the radiation emitted by its radar component. But so far, all these efforts may have only slowed down, but have not really reversed the decision to deploy THAAD. For the South Korean military and security circle, THAAD is essential for its national survival, and ROK-United States military alliance remains the foundation of national security, and this will not easily change.

This episode over THAAD clearly demonstrates that good economic relations cannot replace strategic calculations when national security is at stake. To China, THAAD is a national security threat. To South Korea, THAAD is a national security protection, hence the great mismatched expectations between both sides. Despite strong economic ties between China and South Korea, South Korea will not easily sever its ties with the United States just because of its robust partnership with China; and China will not easily abandon North Korea just because of its strong economic ties with South Korea.

This article is the personal opinion of the writer.

The economic repercussions towards South Korea cast China as a resentful great power and harm its image as a benign responsible big power.

Visits of ICS and PPMC Delegation

Visit to Malacca Gateway and Impression Malacca



Visit of delegation to Impression Malacca office.

With the help of Dato' Abdul Majid Khan, President of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association (Persatuan Persahabatan Malaysia-China, PPMC) and also an ICS Adjunct Professor, ICS organized a delegation including ICS academics and also academics from UKM to visit Malacca Gateway, one of the places receiving major Chinese investment at the moment. KAJ Development, the local developer and major stakeholder of the Malacca Gateway project, received and briefed PPMC-ICS delegation about the investment. In addition, PPMC-ICS delegation also visited Impression Malacca, a major cultural project with extensive China's participation as well. ◆



Token presented to Dato' Majid Khan by Malacca Impression official.



Impression Malacca miniature model



Malacca Gateway

Visit to Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park and Kuantan Port



Delegation's visit to Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park.

On 13 April 2017, an ICS-PPMC delegation visited Malaysia-China Kuantan Industrial Park (MCKIP) and Kuantan Port. Officials from the MCKIP, Kuantan Port, Alliance Steel (the major investor in MCKIP), and East Coast Economic Corridor (ECER) briefed the delegation about the current progress and status of the project, the expansion of Kuantan Port, the role of Chinese investors, and the challenges and opportunities of MCKIP. Later the delegation also visited the Pahang branch of the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce to understand the challenges posed by China investors to local small and medium businesses. ◆



Officials from the MCKIP were briefing the delegation.

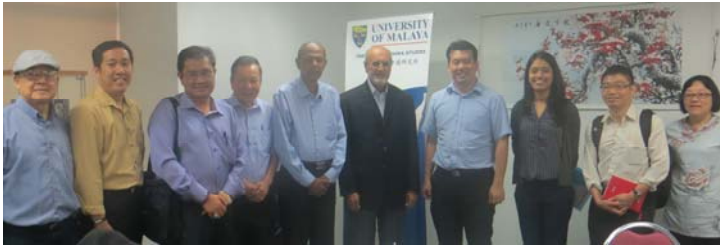
Visit to IJM Office in Kuala Lumpur



Officials from the IJM office briefing the delegation.

A delegation of Malaysia-China Friendship Association (Persatuan Persahabatan Malaysia-China, PPMC) and Institute of China Studies members visited the branch office of IJM in Kuala Lumpur on 3 April 2017. IJM has partnered with China to develop the Kuantan Port. IJM officials received and briefed members of PPMC-ICS delegation about Chinese investment in Kuantan. ◆

ICS Roundtable with Datuk Dennis Ignatius

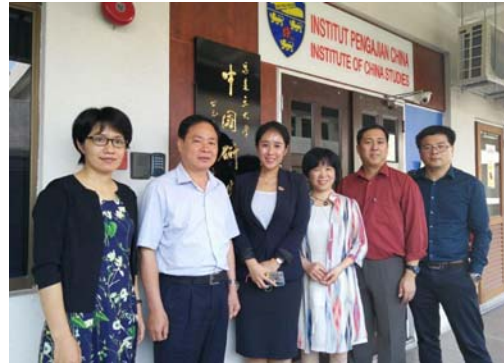


Datuk Dennis Ignatius with member of ICS and participants.

On 18 January 2017, ICS staff had a closed-door roundtable with Datuk Dennis Ignatius, a career diplomat, who spent 36 years in the Malaysian Foreign Service, including assignments in London, Beijing and Washington, D.C. and ambassadorships to Chile, Argentina and Canada (High Commissioner). At the foreign ministry, he was Principal Assistant Secretary for China and served twice as Undersecretary for American Affairs. Datuk Ignatius currently writes extensively as a guest columnist and political commentator on Southeast Asian affairs, democracy, human rights and religious extremism. In particular, recently he has commented extensively on Malaysia's China policy under the Najib government and China's investment in Malaysia. ♦

Visit by

Guangxi Academy of Social Science, China



Delegation of Guangxi Academy of Social Science, China with member of ICS.

ICS received a delegation from Guangxi Academy of Social Science (GASS) on 17 April 2017. The delegation was led by Prof. Li Hairong, the Director of GASS, and joined by Dr. Cao Yujuan, Dr. Chen Hongsheng and Dr. Xie Guihai from the same institution. The delegation was tasked to do a pilot study on the establishment of China-ASEAN ICT Harbour and Malaysia's implementation of Multimedia Super Corridor scheme. The participants also discussed various matters with regard to China's Belt and Road Initiative and China's investment in Southeast Asia in general, and Malaysia in particular. ♦

STAFF ACTIVITIES



Professor Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken

- Prof. Danny organised and chaired the SEASREP Hybrid Communities in Southeast Asia Workshop, Manila on 9-10 March 2017.
- Prof. Danny was invited to present a paper on "Business as Usual? Coping with Budget Cuts for Malaysian Universities in a Competitive Higher Education Environment", at the Higher Education Planning in Asia (HEPA) Forum 2017, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo on 21-22 March 2017.
- Prof. Danny was invited to present with Dr. Zhang Miao a paper on "The Rise of China's Economy and Its Impact on Ethnic Chinese Business Community in Malaysia: the Case of Chery Automobile", Chinese Capitalism Workshop, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, organized by Chiang Mai University on 24-26 March 2017.
- Prof. Danny led part of the University of Malaya delegation at the Asian Universities Alliance Summit, Tsinghua University, Beijing on 27-29 April 2017.
- Prof. Danny was invited to present a paper on "The Early Transformation of the Hakka Christians under the Basel Church in Sabah: a study of marriage certificates, 1920-1930" at the Center for Overseas Chinese and Chinese, Peking University, Beijing on 30 April 2017.



Dr Ngeow Chow Bing

- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing made a presentation on US-China Relations at a Seminar on "President Trump First 100 Days," organized by Malaysian Association of American Studies and the Department of Strategic and International Studies at University of Malaya, on 22 April 2017.
- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing presented a paper at the International Conference on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Political, Social, and Economic Perspectives," organized by Area Study Centre for Far East and Southeast Asia, University of Sindh-Jamshoro, in Jamshoro, Pakistan, from 18 to 20 April 2017.
- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing made a presentation at a Workshop on "One Belt One Road Initiative: Opportunities for Engineers", organized by the Institution of Engineers Malaysia, in Petaling Jaya, on 29 March 2017.
- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing participated in a Southeast Asia and South Asia delegation visiting Beijing, Guangxi, and Guangdong, from 28 February to 13 March 2017. The delegation was invited by Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD).



Dr Fan Pik Shy

- Dr Fan carried out research field work in Lunas, Kedah from 9-12 March 2017. This is for the UMRG project “ Hakka in Malaysia and Southeast Asia: The Challenge of Sustaining Dialect Identity”.
- Dr Fan carried out research field work in Lunas, Kedah and Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang from 2-6 April 2017. This is for the UMRG project “ Hakka in Malaysia and Southeast Asia: The Challenge of Sustaining Dialect Identity”.



Dr Ling Tek Soon

- Dr Ling carried out research field work in Singapore on 12 February 2017 for the project “Southeast Asia Minnan Temple and Trading Network: Comparison of Minnan Ethnicity between Vietnam and the Straits of Malacca”, organized by the Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan.
- Dr Ling was invited to speak on “Changes of the Function of Malaysia Chinese Township Association” in a seminar on “Chinese Civilization and East Asia”, organized by the Selangor KimMooi Association, Klang; Chamber of Chong Hwa Culture, Taiwan; Institute of Chinese Studies, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kampar; Malaysia Chinese Research Centre, University of Malaya; Department of East Asia Studies, National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan on 18 February 2017.
- Dr Ling was invited to present a paper on “Kajian Pandangan Parti-Parti Politik Malaysia Sebelum Perjalinan Hubungan Rasmi Malaysia-China” in an international conference: “Relations of China and Its Neighboring Countries during the Cold War: New Sources and New Perspective”, organized by the East China Normal University, China on 11-14 March 2017.
- Dr Ling was invited as a panel commentor in a forum on “The Belt and Road Initiative and Southeast Asia”, organized by the Global Chinese Arts and Culture Society; Hong Kong Society of Asia & Pacific 21; Institute of Eastern Studies, Peking University, in Penang, Malaysia on 24-26 March 2017.



Dr Peter Chang Thiam Chai

- Dr. Chang was invited to be a panelist on the BBC World News “Talking Business” Programme, recorded in Singapore on 13 February 2017.
- Dr Chang attended a roundtable discussion on "Malaysia's Strategic Outlook" for Malaysia-United States Ties Visit Programme at ISIS Malaysia, 13 April 2017.
- Dr Chang attended a roundtable on US-China Relations at Wisma Putra, Putrajaya, 20 April 2017.
- Dr Chang was invited to be a moderator for Professor David Shambaugh’s talk "Assessing China's Future" at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) , Kuala Lumpur, 21 April 2017.
- Dr Chang attended Dr Lee Jones’s talk "The Rise of China, Southeast Asia, and State Transformation" at the East Asia and International Relations (EAIR) Forum, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia on 26 April 2017.



Dr Zhang Miao

- Dr Zhang Miao was invited to present a paper on “One Belt and One Road Initiative: Opportunities for Engineers”, organised by The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia, Petaling Jaya on 29 March 2017.
- Dr Zhang Miao was Invited to present a paper on "China's Economic Transformation: the Opportunities and Challenges", organised by the Shanghai Jiaotong University, University of Malaya and Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur on 31st March 2017.
- Dr Zhang Miao was invited to be a moderator at "Youth Forum on Malaysia Economic Transformation & One Belt One Road", organised by GBBM and GRADUAN, Bangi on 16 April 2017.
- Dr Zhang Miao was invited to present a paper on "Belt and Road Conference: Achieving Economic Prosperity Through Gigantic Interconnectivity", organised by the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce, Kuala Lumpur on 20 April 2017.



Dr He Yanqing

- Dr He Yanqing was invited to present a paper in a conference on “Relations of China and Its Neighbouring Countries During the Cold War: New Sources and New Perspective”, organized by the Research Institute on the Asian Neighborhood, East China Normal University, China on 11-14 March 2017.



International Journal of China Studies

Vol.8 No.1 April 2017

The new issue of the International Journal of China Studies (Volume 8, Number 1) was published in April 2017. The issue features 4 research articles, 1 research note and 1 book review. Among the feature articles are:

- **Niall Duggan, The People's Republic of China and European Union Security Cooperation in Africa: Sino-EU Security Cooperation in Mali and the Gulf of Aden**
- **Peter T.C. Chang, China's Secular Ruler's Pragmatic Re-appropriation of Traditional Chinese Sacred Resources: A Critical Assessment**
- **Huang Haitao, The Role of Trust in China-ASEAN Relations – Towards a Multi-level Trust Building for China and ASEAN**
- **Yih-chyi Chuang and Eric Yan, Behind the Invisible Wall: What Determine Wage Differentials between Urban and Migrant Workers in China**

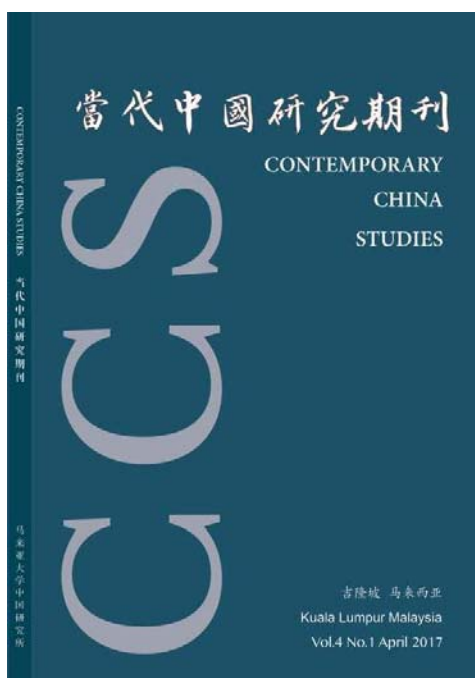
CONTEMPORARY CHINA STUDIES

当代中国研究期刊

Vol.4 No.1 April 2017

The new issue of the Contemporary China Studies (Volume 4, Number 1) was published in April 2017. The issue features 5 research articles. Among the feature articles are:

- 中国大陆文革史研究的当前学术气象与未来展望 / 王海光
Analysis of The Current Academic Phenomenon and Prospects of Research on the History of the Cultural Revolution / WANG Haiguang
- 声情入句与语言变异——以两岸语料库为本 / 陈菘霖
Analysis of the Symbolism of Sound and the Evolution of Language: Drawing on Cross-strait, China - Taiwan language Repository / CHEN Sunglin
- 韩国语言文化推广事业对中国的启示 / 高陆洋
The Promotion of Korean Language and Culture and the Emergence of China / GAO Luyang
- 中国新媒体意见领袖话语传播研究前景 / 王宇波, 谭昭
The Research Prospect of Discourse Diffusion of Chinese New Media Opinion Leaders / Wang Yu Bo, Tan Zhao
- 生态文明与哈尼族竜林文化刍议 / 赵德文
A Discussion On Ecology Civilization And The Hani Ethnic "Long Lin" Culture / Zhao Deyun



FORTHCOMING

The Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Annual China Lecture Series 2017
“The Great Powers in Southeast Asia and the Fall and Rise of China”

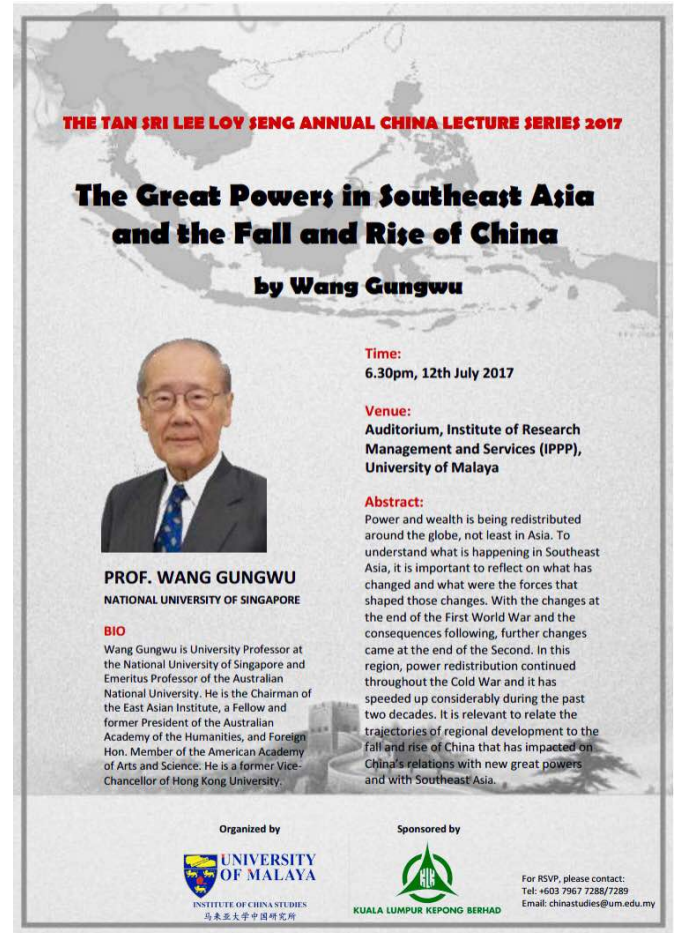
The story of our times is China's reemergence as a world power. This is having far reaching impact upon our region and beyond. Please join us for this important lecture where Professor Wang Gungwu will advance one perspective of this epoch making phenomenon through the prism of the complex relationship between the Greater Powers in Southeast Asia and the fall and rise of China. Prof. Wang will explore how these intricate ties have had and continue to have consequences upon our regional and global geopolitical order.

Date: 12 July 2017
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Venue: Auditorium, Institute of Research Management and Service (IPPP), University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur.

Free admission with RSVP.

Tel: +603 7967 7288/7289

Email: chinastudies@um.edu.my



THE TAN SRI LEE LOY SENG ANNUAL CHINA LECTURE SERIES 2017

The Great Powers in Southeast Asia and the Fall and Rise of China
by Wang Gungwu

Time:
6.30pm, 12th July 2017

Venue:
Auditorium, Institute of Research Management and Services (IPPP), University of Malaya

Abstract:
Power and wealth is being redistributed around the globe, not least in Asia. To understand what is happening in Southeast Asia, it is important to reflect on what has changed and what were the forces that shaped those changes. With the changes at the end of the First World War and the consequences following, further changes came at the end of the Second. In this region, power redistribution continued throughout the Cold War and it has speeded up considerably during the past two decades. It is relevant to relate the trajectories of regional development to the fall and rise of China that has impacted on China's relations with new great powers and with Southeast Asia.

PROF. WANG GUNGWU
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

BIO
Wang Gungwu is University Professor at the National University of Singapore and Emeritus Professor of the Australian National University. He is the Chairman of the East Asian Institute, a Fellow and former President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and Foreign Hon. Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science. He is a former Vice-Chancellor of Hong Kong University.

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