

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



The lecture presented by Professor Wang Gungwu.

Kepong Berhad and members of its Board of Directors and Management, Professor Awang Bulgiba Awg Mahmud, Acting Vice Chancellor of University of Malaya and members of Senior Management. A total of 630 guests attended the lecture, which is the largest gathering at an ICS event thus far.

In this public lecture, Professor Wang analyzed the trends of global redistribution of power and wealth historically and currently round the globe, not least in Asia. Professor Wang began by reviewing the terms “Great Powers” and “Empires.” Noticing that the term “Great Power” is a relatively modern concept, Professor Wang dwelled upon past “Great Powers” –referring to the various sorts of Empire, from the Roman, Feudal, to the Commercial and National Empires in the modern era. The commercial empire was part of the first wave of globalization, which was essentially maritime globalization. They were empires built on connections of port-cities worldwide. With the Peace of Westphalia in Europe, the nation-state, and later, national empires (including France, the United States, Britain and Netherland), based on nation-states, have emerged as the predominant powers in the world, and these were the origins of “Great Powers.” International law, which originated in the 17th century, had by 19th century become the basic rules and regulations for the interactions of these European-based nation-states and Great Powers.

In the late 19th century, the national empires began to compete to gain as much territory around the globe, including Southeast Asia, as possible. Modern imperialism began to form. Most Asian countries fell under imperialism but Japan was the first country to model itself after the

On 12 July 2017, the Institute of China Studies (ICS), with the kind sponsorship and support of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad (KLK), organized the Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Annual China Lecture Series 2017, which was delivered by Professor Wang Gungwu of the National University of Singapore. The title of his lecture was “The Great Powers of Southeast Asia and the Fall and Rise of China.”

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

The lecture was graced by the Chancellor of University of Malaya, His Royal Highness, Sultan Nazrin Muizzudin Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah Al-Maghfur-Lah, the Sultan of Perak Darul-Ridzuan. The lecture was also attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Professor Dr Zakri Abdul Hamid and members of the University of Malaya Board of Directors, Dato’ Lee Hau Hian, Director of Kuala Lumpur



Tuanku Canselor of University of Malaya, DYMM Sultan Nazrin Shah with Professor Wang Gungwu and the invited guests.

Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng Annual China Lecture Series 2017

.....Continue from page 1



From left: Dato' Lee Hau Hian of Kuala Lumpur Kepong Berhad, representative of sponsor for the public lecture, Prof. Danny Wong, Tan Sri Ong Ka Ting, and Prof. Wang Gungwu



Tan Sri Dato' Seri Siti Norma Yaakob, Pro-Cancellor, University of Malaya and Mrs. Wang Gungwu



From left: Prof. Wang , Tan Sri Professor Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid and Prof Awang Bulgiba, Acting Vice-Chancellor of UM



DYMM Sultan Nazrin Shah and the invited guests during the lecture



The number of participants was overwhelming in the public lecture

European nation-state and responded well to the challenges, including building its naval power, army, and the capitalist economic system. Japan was also the first Asian country to understand how to use the international legal system to benefit itself and undermine the Sino-centric tributary system.

China, under the then ruling Manchu Dynasty (Qing), failed to under the implications of modern international law and responded poorly. Many territories and countries under its old tributary system began to become independent from Chinese rule. Manchu rule itself was also seen by many (its subjects and neighbors) as illegitimate and foreign, and China

was one of the nation-states under a Manchu empire. The Manchu officials and rulers also failed to understand the new challenges coming from the sea. Unable to recognize this new order that emphasizes the maritime power, China began the fall as a dominant power in Asia.

Although the Republican revolution succeeded in bringing down the Qing, it failed to turn China into a modern nation-state, with numerous warlords and revolutionaries fighting over each other. At the same time Japan was expanding its influence and control in Asia as the new national empire. China was at its weakest point before and during the Second World War. The rise of China, Professor Wang opined, would have to begin with the unification and unity of China again, which was achieved with the establishment of the People's Republic of China under Mao Zedong in 1949. With China unified, Deng Xiaoping since late 1970s opened up China and formulated and implemented policies that would integrate China's coastal economy with the global capitalist system, significantly transforming China and led to the great emergence of China as a Great Power, at least economically. However, although China has embraced the maritime culture, it is still in the process of overcoming two great obstacles: the building of a powerful navy to protect its maritime interests, and the learning and use of the international legal system.

Professor Wang also predicted that Southeast Asia will become more central and strategic in the future, as the economic importance of the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean rises, and certainly Southeast Asia is becoming increasingly more important to China . ♦

ICS Forum “China 2017: Review and Prospect”



Presenters of ICS Forum with Prof Danny Wong

ICS organized its annual “Review and Prospect” Forum on 12 June. In this Forum, Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing and Dr. He Yanqing (both from ICS) reviewed China’s political developments in 2016-2017 respectively. Dr. Ngeow pointed out the trend of consolidation of power by Xi Jinping and the reforms undertaken in both the party and military sectors of the structure. With the very important 19th Party Congress coming up in late 2017, Dr. Ngeow also provided analysis as to how might the Party Congress turn out. Dr. He Yanqing discussed the developments of several new party rules in 2016 that defined the Xi Jinping’s approach to governing the party, which has been much stricter compared to his predecessors.

Dr. Roy Antony Rogers from the Strategic and International Studies Department of UM and Dr. Ling Tek Soon (from ICS) reviewed China’s foreign relations in 2016-2017, with Dr. Rogers paying particular attention to the Belt and Road Initiative while Dr. Ling discussing developments in Malaysia-China relations. Dr. Zhang Miao and Dr. Li Ran (both from ICS) reviewed China’s economic performance. Dr.

Zhang said that China in the past few years has been seeing a rebalanced growth model which is increasingly driven by consumer spending than merely investment and exports. She also commented that the burgeoning middle class of China, the free-spending young generation and the advancement of e-commerce will continue to be the main driving forces for a growing purchasing power and consumption complexity in the next few years. Dr. Li reviewed China’s foreign economic relations in 2016 and predicted for 2017. In line with the world economic trend, China’s trade with other countries remained stable, but it would achieve fast growth in this year. The most remarkable part was China’s Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI), it had a rapid increase last year, but this year would see a stabilized gesture

Finally, Dr. Fan Pik Shy and Dr. Peter Chang (both from ICS) reviewed social developments in China in 2016-2017. Dr. Fan discussed especially the higher education sector and how China’s government was trying to improve the quality and standard of Chinese universities. Dr. Chang noted the rising religiosity in China among all major religions, and pondered about the implications of such phenomenon. A total of 80 participants joined the forum. ♦



The number of participants was overwhelming in the forum

ICS Seminar “Survival and Development: Studies in the Problem of New Emigrants from Coastal Areas of Fuzhou, 1971-2016”



Prof. Danny Wong, the Director of ICS presenting a token of appreciation to Dr. Wang Fubing

Dr. Wang Fubing, a historian at the School of Southeast Asian Studies of Xiamen University, presented a seminar where he discussed the migrant-sending areas

in Fuzhou, within the province of Fujian. Dr. Wang was a Visiting Scholar at ICS (June 2016-May 2017). According to Dr. Wang, After China began the reform and opening up era in the late 1970s, the number of new emigrants from coastal areas of Fuzhou (Mawei, Changle, Fuqing, Lianjiang) has been grown rapidly, which is the largest group among the Chinese new emigrants. It is estimated that there are at least between 750 000 and 800 000 new emigrants from the coastal areas of Fuzhou. Most of these Fuzhou-originated new emigrants settle down in the United States, Japan, Europe and even South America, and take part in industry and business. The structure of their ages is mainly concentrated in 16 to 45 years old, and they are mostly male emigrants. The educational levels of these migrants are at the middle school level, elementary school or even illiterate level. Most of them were farmers or unemployed youth before migration. Dr. Wang suggested that while they have already migrated, they remain important for the current and future economic and social development of Fujian. The development of modernization and urbanization in Fujian requires huge new emigrants and other Chinese overseas resources. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Ling Tek Soon, the senior lecturer in ICS.. ♦

Building World-Class Universities and World-Class Disciplines: Chinese Government's Efforts to Reform and Boost the Higher Education System

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As the Chinese economy rises, the education system in China has also expanded tremendously, whether it is in the areas of pre-school education, primary and secondary education, or higher education. In terms of both scale and number, China perhaps today can be considered a major country in higher education. China's higher education has evolved and changed much from the early days of following the Soviet model to now adjusting to the market economy. Most of the universities in China however are still public universities; private universities still play a very minor role in China, and henceforth the discussion here will be limited to the public sector only.

On 7 April 2016, the Ministry of Education released the first-ever Report on the Quality of China's Higher Education. According to the report, as of 2015, China has a total of 2852 higher education institutions (from comprehensive universities to vocational institutions). As of May 2015, there were 208 undergraduate-only institutions outside of provincial capitals and major cities, which was about 51.6 percent of all newly built undergraduate-only institutions in recent years. Compared to 1998, China now has 591 undergraduate-only institutions, about one tenth of them are concentrated in Beijing, and more than half of them are concentrated in 20 major cities. Smaller cities in general have no higher education institutions. As of today, the number of Chinese higher education institutions is about 11 percent of the world. China has the second largest number in the world, after the United States.

In terms of student population, by 2015 the number of university students in China was 36.47 million. If we look back in history, when the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, the number of university students was only 117,000, and when China began the reform and opening up period, the number was 867, 000. It was a growth of more than 310 times since then. From 2010 to 2015, the number of students increased by 5.42 million.

In terms of postgraduate students, in 1982, China only had about 10,000 postgraduate students. By 2006, the number increased to more than 300,000. In 2015, the number of postgraduate students was close to 2 million.

The rapid rise of Chinese higher education sector was to a large extent the result of government policies. The Chinese government implemented two major policies in the 1990s, called Project 211 and Project 985. There are other initiatives, such as the "Developmental Plans of Middle- to Long-term Educational Reform and Development 2010-2020)." These efforts contributed greatly to the development of the quality of Chinese higher education. The outcomes of these initiatives and policies can be summarized as follow:

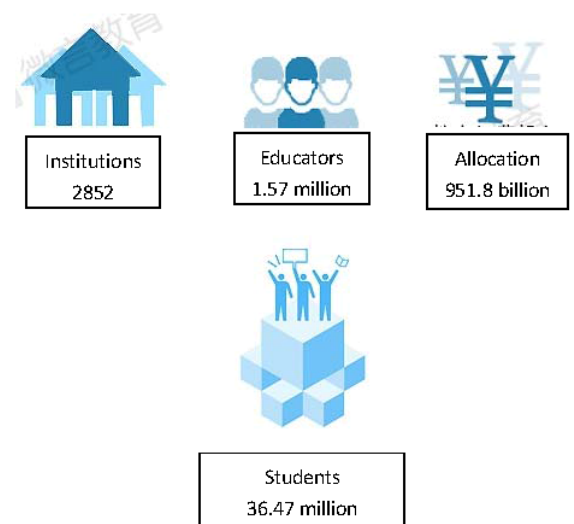
1. The overall level or quality of higher education has gone beyond the world's average;
2. The increase in the abilities to innovate, and the attainment of numerous scientific achievements;
3. Major platforms for scientific innovation had been established; more than 50 percent of the national-level laboratories was built in universities under Project 985;
4. The successful grooming of a large number of world-class scholars;
5. More and more universities have been ranked the top 500 in the world.

Despite these achievements, the higher education development in China was also facing some serious problems. These major problems included unequal distribution of resources, overlapping use of resources, lack of competitiveness, and the lack of opportunities for the graduates of universities outside of Project 211 and Project 985. For example, from 2009 to 2013, the Chinese government awarded a total of research grant of 264.7 billion (Chinese Yuan) to the universities, and more than 70 percent of the grant money went to universities affiliated with Project 211 and Project 985, while the large remaining universities could only share the remaining fund, which was hugely unequal, and unfair as well.

The Chinese government has realized these problems and has taken efforts to change. In November 2015, the State Council released the "Plan for Building World-Class Universities and Academic Disciplines". With this new plan, Project 211 and Project 985 may have ceased to be effective. The new initiative called for China to accelerate in building a group of world-class universities and world-class disciplines, while

As of today, the number of Chinese higher education institutions is about 11 percent of the world. China has the second largest number in the world, after the United States

2015 China Higher Education





Source: Courtesy of Xinhuanet

under the guidance of the idea of serving the people and socio-economic development. The plan aims to build world-class universities and world-class disciplines by emphasizing on both competitiveness and comprehensiveness, striving to achieve certain balance in pushing for the advance of major universities while not neglecting the others.

Under the plan, China is to produce a number of universities and disciplines that can be considered world-class and at the forefront by 2020. By 2030, more universities and disciplines will advance to such status, and by 2050s, China will become a major country in the higher education sector. The plan allows for more flexibility in the sense that some smaller universities can concentrate on specializing certain disciplines (rather than trying to improve on every discipline, which would take up a large amount of resources), and the distribution of resources will be more equal. The plan also laid out five basic “construction” missions of the development of Chinese higher education: the construction of a first-class faculty, the grooming of innovative talent, the upgrading of the quality of scientific research, the preservation and cultivation of the fine culture traditions of China, and the translation of research finding into practical outputs. In addition, there are also the five “reform” missions: improving party’s supervision and leadership of higher education, improving the internal governmental structure of universities, targeted breakthrough selected key areas, developing social participation mechanism, and promoting international cooperation. It can be seen here that other than academic achievements, the plan also calls for the higher education to be socially relevant, so that universities will not just blindly pursue more publications of papers and neglect their commitments and duties to the nation and society.

However, it is still far from certain that the plan will succeed in correcting some of the mistakes in the past developments of Chinese higher education. Although it

aims to have a more equal distribution of resources among universities, the practical effect of it may still be the continuous dominance and garnering of most resources by certain universities, as the plan also targets the advancement of a number of Chinese universities into the world-class status. The quantitative increases in the higher education institutions and students are not always matched by qualitative improvements. The funding system is still too much government-directed and –controlled. More problematically, the continued heavy involvement of the government and the party will post serious questions. It is unlikely that the government will always understand the demands and requirements of academic research, teaching, and the development of higher education. ◆

In November 2015, the State Council released the “Plan for Building World-Class Universities and Academic Disciplines”.

This article is the personal opinion of the writer.

Rise of Chinese Religiosity in the Twenty-First Century

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Among the lot, the indigenous "Chinese Religion" is the fastest growing and within this group, the mainly philosophical, pseudo-religious Confucianism received the strongest state endorsement. Beijing is increasingly returning to Confucian ideals such as "harmonious co-existence" (和谐共处) and "benevolent governance" (仁慈治理) to inspire and to formulate the country's domestic and foreign policy.

During the 20th century, as with much of the Sinic world, the ancient Chinese philosophical and religious traditions on the mainland were subjected to traumatic upheavals. This convulsion culminated in the 1960s Cultural Revolution whence temples and monasteries, churches and mosques, were either shut down or turned into public facilities such as schools and libraries, factories and warehouses. Five decades on, China is moving past these dark episodes with clearer horizons lying ahead. That said, challenges remain not least because the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)-People's Republic of China (PRC), an avowed atheistic secular party-state, continues to retain residue prejudices against perceived "superstitious" tendencies innate to traditional religiosity and trepidations over the dreaded risk of "divinely" inspired social instability.

According to Pew Research Centre, as of 2010, China has close to 300 million believers in folk religions, 250 million Buddhists, 68 million Christians, 24 million Muslims, and others. 700 million of the population continue to profess "non-affiliation" to any organized religion. Now even as minority, due to China's size, the Chinese faithfuls in fact constitute a significant percentage of world religious population. This is especially true with Buddhism (244 million) and Christianity (68 million), which elevates the PRC as one of the countries with the most Buddhist and Christian citizens.

The State and Religion

Enshrined in the PRC constitution is the affirmation, in principle, of individual rights to the freedom of religious belief (or disbelief). In practice, this provision is a function of reconciling the tension between the order and liberty. On the one hand the state accords private freedom without undermining public good. On the other hand the state needs to sustain collective stability without undue infringement of personal rights. Before 1978, China's record on this balancing act erred excessively on the side of state exacted order, at great expense to citizenry liberty. As alluded to, post-1978, critical rebalancing was made to again protect the people's freedom, including on matters pertaining to religious belief. Still, a tentativeness mark these recalibrations as Beijing continues to cast a watchful eye, for potential instability, arising from this fast expanding constituents.

And the government agency tasked with this responsibility is the State

Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA) (国家宗教事务局). A State Council department, it is charged with overseeing the operations of China's five officially sanctioned religious organizations: the Buddhist Association of China, Chinese Taoist Association, Islamic Association of China, Three-Self Patriotic Movement, and the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.

SARA exercises control over religious appointments, the selection of clergy, and the interpretation of religious doctrine. Other duties include conducting research on religious affairs nationwide and abroad, drafting and supervising religious regulations and rules, and ensuring the right of religious freedom and normal religious activities of the Chinese citizens. SARA also works to ensure that the registered religious organizations support and carry out the policy priorities of the state as well as the communist party of China.

Broadly, there are two dimensions to the party-state's concerns with its religious constituents. At base it pertains to the question of authority, with the sacred order challenging the scope of the secular state jurisdiction. These range from objections to perceived government undue interference in private religious affairs, to open uprising demanding greater autonomy. Faced with these potentially destabilizing confrontations, President Xi Jinping's response is to reassert the party's authority with the recurring refrain that religious order "must adhere to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, and support the socialist system and socialism with Chinese characteristics."

Chinese Religions

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Revival of Confucianism starts at the youngest level

governance” (仁慈治理) to inspire and to formulate the country’s domestic and foreign policy. And in the recent decades, commemorations of Confucius birthday at Qifu (in Shandong Province) have turned into a grand national affair, graced by the top echelons of the Chinese leadership.

The actual numbers of Daoists, the other native Chinese tradition, is difficult to estimate because it is often mixed up with Chinese folk religion. Like Confucianism, most Chinese people have been influenced in one way or another by the Daoist precepts and teachings. And like the former, the latter is making a comeback, albeit with a lower profile and lesser direct state sponsorship.

Chinese who claim to be adherents of Buddhism stand at approximately 250 million, making Chinese Buddhism a truly indigenized imported religion, one of the largest faiths on the mainland. Of equal importance is that this lifts China into the ranks of the most Buddhist country, in terms of population count, in the world. As with the aforementioned Confucian and Daoist traditions, ancient Buddhist temples are being restored and even more new ones are being built, to meet the masses’ growing need for places for worships. These developments will also have profound impact, with inevitably stronger Chinese imprints, upon the ongoing transformation of global Buddhism .

Christianity

The number of Christians (Protestants, Catholics, and a much smaller number of Orthodox) is also rapidly developing in China, and in fact its growth rate is projected to surpass the membership of the Chinese Communist Party. The consequences of this general turnaround and Christianity upswing will reverberate beyond the mainland. It could convert China into a country with one of the highest Christian population, like its Buddhist counterpart.

Despite these developments, churches in China continue to suffer from the stigma of being an “alien” creed. And even after near to a century of incommunicado with the outside world, Christianity remains disengaged with the broader Chinese religiosity, unlike Buddhism. The reasons are manifold. One main factor is Christianity’s espousal of an exclusive form of theology that prohibits syncretic interaction with other belief systems. This is a common trait of the monotheistic “religions of the book,” including Islam, that explicitly renounce the practice of religious syncretism. The persistent “alien” imputation inevitably lends to stress and strains. The tenuous relationship between Beijing and the Vatican is a case in point.

Islam

The number of Muslims in China however is not as impressive as the Buddhists and Christians. To a large extent, Islam in China remains an ethnic based religion centered around the Hui, Uyghur, and other central Asian

minorities group. It currently lacks crossover appeal, among the Han majority especially. Muslim’s growth therefore is chiefly steered by higher birth rate rather than faith conversion which is the prime mover of the expansion of other religious traditions such as Christianity.

That said, by most account, the Hui has achieved high assimilation with the mainstream Han culture, while retaining their Islamic faith. The Chinese language, for instance, is this minority group lingua franc today. The Uyghur on the other hand continues to face integration issues. A problem stems in part from the larger Xinjiang separatist struggle for greater autonomy and to preserve the Uyghur’s ethno-religious identity and way of life

To recap, religion in China today has come a long way since the tragic episode of the Cultural Revolution. Decades of reform and opening up helped herald in an era of stability, providing the social political foundation upon from which religiosities across the spectrum are notching impressive growth, though at varying rates. And the once disparaged philosophical and religious traditions are again leaving their marks on the Chinese world. At the masses level, these ancient resources are providing certainty and rectitude to a society disorientated by radical changes of rapid modernization. At the state level, Beijing is reaffirming the role of religion in nation building (i.e., restoring social and moral fabric) as well as international diplomacy (i.e., facilitating and enhancing inter-civilizational engagements and relations). Challenges continue to beset Chinese religiosities, to be sure, as the state seeks to reconcile the perennial tension between order and freedom. Even so, the general outlook is one of anticipation, of more progress over regress in 2017, and the years to come. ◆

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Muslims worship in China

This article is the personal opinion of the writer.

**ICS Seminar
“Approaches to Transformation and Upgrading
of Manufacturing Industry under the
Background of Intelligent Manufacturing –
Taking Jinjiang as an Example”**



Prof. Danny Wong, the Director of ICS presenting a token of appreciation to Dr. Zhong Mingchang

On 16 May 2017, Dr. Zhong Mingchang, an economist at Liming Vocational University, and Visiting Scholar at the Institute of China Studies (July 2016-June 2017) presented his research on the manufacturing industry of Jinjiang, a county-level city under the administration of Quanzhou municipality. Dr. Zhong discussed the global trend of technological and industrial revolution since the global economic crisis, with many countries pouring resources into industrial revolution 4.0, including intelligent manufacturing. Jinjiang is one of the most well-developed county-level cities in China, mainly supported by its renowned manufacturing industry. This industry has experienced several phases, from the early focus on quality and branding to capital and innovation, and it is now transitioning toward greater modernization, “intelligentization” and higher-end manufacturing. In this seminar, Dr. Zhong also reported on the current situation, and the advantages and weaknesses, of Jiajiang’s manufacturing industry, the main policies by the government for upgrading to intelligent manufacturing, the results so far, and their implications. The seminar was chaired by Dr. Ling Tek Soon, the senior lecturer in

**Joint ICS-EAIR Seminar: “China’s South
China Sea Policy after the Arbitration Ruling”**



Together with the East Asian International Relations (EAIR) Forum of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), ICS co-organized a seminar on 18 May 2017 by Dr. Zhang Feng, a Fellow in the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University’s Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, whose research focuses are Chinese foreign policy, Asia-

Pacific security, and international relations theory. In the talk, Dr. Zhang explored China’s response to the Philippines versus China arbitration ruling of July 2016. The sweeping nature of the ruling had a very paradoxical effect on Chinese policy. Although it has led to the hardening of China’s claims, it has also raised a new readiness among Chinese policymakers to renew negotiations, now focused on a code of conduct for the South China Sea. In this lecture, Dr. Zhang Feng also examined China’s internal debates about the South China Sea. Three major camps – the pragmatists, hardliners, and moderates – are now dominating these debates. According to Dr. Zhang, the future of Chinese policy will depend on the intellectual and policy competition among the three camps inside China. ♦



**A Conversation with John Brandon on US,
China, and Malaysia**

On Monday, 22 May 2017, John Brandon, the Senior Director of the Asia Foundation’s International Relations Programs in Washington DC, visited the Institute of China Studies for a conversation on the recent developments in US and China relationship and its impact on Malaysia. Indeed, with a new occupant in the White House, there are concerns about the US level of commitment towards Asia. Will the Trump administration beat a retreat towards an isolationists stance, as some are predicting. Or will America stay engaged but chiefly as an adversarial countercheck against the rise of China. Mr. Brandon offered some insightful perspectives on these current issues. The meeting ended with a discussion on how the unfolding changes would affect Malaysia relationship with these two superpowers. ♦



Dr. Peter Chang was chairing the conversion with John Brandon

Book Donation by Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO)

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Malaysia made a donation of books to the Institute of China Studies in a book donation ceremony held on 9 August 2017. TECO was represented by TECO Representative and Head of Mission Mr. James Chang Chi-ping, who presented the donation. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation) of the University of Malaya Professor Dr. Noorsaadah Abdul Rahman, received the donation on behalf of UM and ICS. The donation amounted to about RM5,000, which will be used to purchase academic books published in Taiwan; the books are to be housed in the resource center of ICS. Professor Danny Wong, the Director of ICS, thanked the support given by TECO, and wishes that such support will be long-term in nature. Head of the Cultural Division of TECO Madame Chow Pei-chi, Deputy Director of ICS Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing, and other researchers and staff of ICS also attended the event. ◆



TECO Representative and Head of Mission Mr. James Chang Chi-ping presenting the book donation to Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), University of Malaya, Professor Dr. Noorsaadah Abd. Rahman

ICS Seminar

“Shifting Paradigms of Chinese Diaspora Studies and Changing Identities of Transnational Chinese Communities: A Historical Perspective”



Prof. Wu Xiaoran

Professor Wu Xiaoran, Visiting Professor at ICS from July to August 2017, gave a talk on the shifting paradigms of Chinese Diaspora Studies on 8 August 2017. Professor Wu is Peking University's Professor of Humanity (2016-18) and Professor of History and concurrently Director of the Center for the Study of Chinese Overseas at Peking

University. In the seminar, Professor Wu focuses on the theoretical aspect of the studies of the transnational Chinese communities. According to Professor Wu, the long-term making of modern China has involved the various processes of producing and (un)packing China as a Semi-colonial and Semi-feudal China, Residual China, Cultural China, and Global China. In line with those processes, Chinese overseas communities have been variably categorized as Overseas Orphans without an Empire, Overseas Chinese, Chinese Overseas, Ethnic Chinese, and Chinese diaspora, as well as them having different interpretations and embodiments of the notion of Chinese-ness. Professor Wu argued that all these conceptions are one-sided and politically driven under changing circumstances, and thus intellectually problematic. Moreover, the unifying and diversifying forces over the policy of one-China and one-flag have either been in contestation or co-existence, and both have contributed significantly to the shaping of various paradigms on Chinese diaspora scholarship. The talk was chaired by Professor Danny Wong and was attended by 80 guests. ◆

ICS Seminar

“Trade, planting technology and the cold war in the Far East: the natural rubber issues in Southeast Asia in 1950s”



Prof. Yao Yu

On 25 August 2017, Prof Yao Yu presented a talk at ICS highlighting the relatively understudied role of trade in rubber played during the cold war in the Far East. He explained how the People's Republic of China, with the assistance of the Chinese diaspora in Malaya, helped the Russians gain access to this strategic wartime material, which has been placed on the Western countries trade embargo list.

Prof Yao's study shows that the history of the Far East were not merely due to the interactions or even hot wars between the major powers, but certain regional economic dynamics which had not been taken into account in the past, the rubber trade between China and Southeast Asia is one such example. The presentation ended with a lively interaction between Prof Yao and seminar attendees. ◆



Visit by Delegation of British High Commission Kuala Lumpur

On 17 July 2017, a delegation from the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, including Frances Wood (Head of Economic Unit, Foreign and Commonwealth Office London), Jonathan Turner (Southeast Asia Regional Director Economic and Trade Policy, British High Commission Singapore), and Elena Almedia (Economic Advisor, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur) visited ICS and had a discussion with ICS' staff about Malaysia-China economic and trade relations. ♦



Delegation of British Commission in Kuala Lumpur with member of ICS.

University of Malaya's Visit to China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC)

Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing and Dr. Zhang Miao were part of the University of Malaya delegation to visit the headquarters of China Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) in Kuala Lumpur on 20 July 2017. The UM delegation was invited by CREC to explore opportunities for collaboration. Dr. Ngeow made a presentation on behalf of the UM delegation. ♦



A team from University of Malaya visited CREC in Kuala Lumpur.

STAFF ACTIVITIES



Professor Dr Danny Wong Tze Ken

- Professor Danny Wong represented the Vice Chancellor to attend the APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities) Annual Presidents' Meeting, hosted by the University of New South Wales, Sydney, 25-27 June 2017.
- Professor Danny Wong Chaired a Roundtable on Emerging and Continuing Trends in Southeast Asian Studies at the 10th International Convention of Asian Studies (ICAS), at Chiang Mai, 20-23 July 2017.
- Professor Danny Wong presented a paper on the Hakka Museum of Jakarta at the 4th International Conference on Chinese Indonesian Studies organized by Universitas Indonesia, 22-24 August 2017.



Dr Ngeow Chow Bing

- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing presented a paper at the International Seminar on "ASEAN 50: A New Chapter for ASEAN-China Relations," organized by the ASEAN Study Center, University of Indonesia, at JW Marriot, Jakarta, Indonesia, 13-14 July 2017.
- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing was invited to give a lecture on China's Defense Policy to Malaysian Armed Forces Defense College, Kuala Lumpur, 15 August 2017.
- Dr. Ngeow Chow Bing participated in a Southeast Asia and South Asia delegation visiting Beijing and Guangzhou, from 20 August to 28 August 2017. The delegation was invited by China Institute of International Studies (CIIS).



Dr Ling Tek Soon

- Dr. Ling presented a paper on “Challenges in Malaysia-China Relations, 2016-2017” in the ICS Forum on “China 2017: Review and Prospect”, organized by Institute of China Studies on 15 June 2017.
- Dr. Ling presented a paper entitled “Maritime Silk Road in Malaysia: Review and Prospect” in the international conference: “Maritime Silk Road’s Connectivity”, organized by Dalian Maritime University, in Dalian International Finance Conference Center, Dalian, China on 17-18 July 2017.



Dr Peter Chang Thiam Chai

- Dr. Peter Chang hosted a roundtable conversation with John Brandon on "US policy towards Asia, its impact on China and Malaysia" at ICS Seminar Room on 22 May 2017.
- Dr. Peter Chang attended and presented a Malaysia report at the NACT Working Group Meeting Promoting People-to-People Exchange between ASEAN and China, at the East Asia Institute, National University of Singapore on 9 June 2017.
- Dr Peter Chang presented a report on the "Progress and Regress of Religiosity in China" in the ICS Forum on “China 2017: Review and Prospect”, organized by Institute of China Studies on 15 June 2017.
- Dr. Peter Chang published an online article entitled "An Ageing China and the Euthanasia Dilemma" published by the China Policy Institute, University of Nottingham on 3 August 2017.



Dr Zhang Miao

- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “China-ASEAN Economic Integration: an Investment Perspective” in the Shanghai Forum 2017 “Asia and the World: New Impetus, New Structure and New Order” at Fudan University, 27-29 May 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “The Challenges and Opportunities of China's Investment in Malaysia” in the Workshop on "The Challenges and Opportunities of China's Investment in Malaysia", organized by The Kuala Lumpur And Selangor Chinese Assembly Hall (KLSCAH) on 31 May 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “Expanding the Malaysian Market: Opportunities in China s Belt and Road Initiative” in the Malaysia 2018 Budget Consultation “Negaraku: Shaping the Future”, organized by Ministry of Finance on 15 June 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “China's Macroeconomic Development 2016-2017: Riding the Wave of Consumption-led Growth” in ICS Forum “China 2017: Review and Prospect, organized by Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya on 15 June 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “China-ASEAN Economic Integration: an Investment Perspective” in the conference on “China s Rising Influence that Will Change the Face of Mainland ASEAN”, organized by ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University on 27 June 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “Are Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Southeast Asia Pursuing the Objectives of Greening Environment?” in the International Conference on “Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Development: Challenges and Choices for Southeast Asia”, organized by Faculty of Economics and Administration, University of Malaya on 4-5 July 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on “China's Belt & Road Initiative and ASEAN's Centrality” in “China's Belt and Road Initiative in ASEAN: Economic Opportunities and ASEAN Centrality”, organized by CIMB ASEAN Research Institute on 19 July 2017.
- Dr. Zhang Miao presented a paper on 'Belt & Road Initiative - How Malaysia Stands to Benefit' in IJM Senior Management Forum at Holiday Villa, Subang Jaya on 3 August 2017.



Dr Li Ran

- Dr Li presented a paper on “China's Foreign Economic Relations, 2016-2017” in in ICS Forum “China 2017: Review and Prospect, organized by Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya on 15 June 2017.



Dr He Yanqing

- Dr He presented a paper on “Developments in the Chinese Communist Party, 2016-2017” in in ICS Forum “China 2017: Review and Prospect, organized by Institute of China Studies, University of Malaya on 15 June 2017.
- Dr He presented, presented a paper on “Internationalization And Chinese Economic Transition” at Inner Mongolia University Forum , Hohhot, China on 11 August 2017.

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Special Issue
**Great Fall or New Normal: China's Economic
Restructuring and its Impact on Southeast Asia**
Guest Editors: Zhang Miao and Li Ran

Introduction: Southeast Asia and China's Growth Deceleration <i>Zhang Miao, Li Ran and Cheong Kee Cheok</i>	125
The Logic of Long-term Growth of China: From New Normal to Supply-side Reform <i>Li Ling and Quan Heng</i>	139
The Changing Pattern of China's Trade and Implications for Southeast Asia <i>Sarah Y. Tong and Tuan Yuen Kong</i>	161
The Impact of China's Economic Restructuring on Southeast Asia: An Investment Perspective <i>Zhang Miao and Li Ran</i>	183
China's Growth Deceleration – A New Normal for Malaysia too? <i>Cheong Kee Cheok and Wang Qianyi</i>	199
The Impact of China's New Normal on the Philippine Economy <i>Joseph Anthony Lim</i>	221
The Impact of Chinese FDI on Economy and Poverty of Lao PDR <i>Phonghat Kyophilavong, Xiong Bin, Bouanert Vanhala, Piya Wonggit, Alay Phomvisay and Phanpakit Orphanhdala</i>	259
Book Review Michael Useem, Harbir Singh, Neng Liang and Peter Cappelli, <i>Fortune Makers: The Leaders Creating China's Great Global Companies</i> Reviewed by Zhang Chen	279

The new issue of the International Journal of China Studies (Volume 8, Number 2) was published in August 2017. The issue features 7 research articles and 1 book review. Among the feature articles are:

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- **Sarah Y. Tong and Tuan Yuen Kong, The Changing Pattern of China's Trade and Implications for Southeast Asia**
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- **Cheong Kee Cheok and Wang Qianyi, A New Normal for Malaysian Too?**
- **Joseph Anthony Lim, The Impact of China's New Normal on the Philippine Economy**



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