CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
LJUBLJANA
卢布尔雅那孔子学院

China-CEE cross-cultural dialogue, education & business – special panel & round table discussion

Monday, October 7 2013 from 10am to 12am
(Faculty of Economics Ljubljana, FELU Senate room)

** Sponsored by the Europe and China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) **

1. KERRY BROWN: (round table moderator)

China and the EU: Partner for growth in the next decade

The EU and china are the world's largest trading partners and constitute over a third of global GDP. They have had diplomatic relations since 1975, and a strategic partnership since 2002. They have 56 strategic sectoral dialogues in economic, political and cultural areas, and an annual high level summit. As china plans to double its GDP in the coming decade, and achieve what premier Li Keqiang has called 'fast, sustainable growth', in which sectors and areas are the EU and china most likely to work best? How can the EU get better access to China's domestic market where so much global growth is expected in the next decade? How can the EU achieve more Chinese investment, and what challenges and opportunities does that create? Where are the key technological cooperation opportunities, and in what way can the EU become a stronger provider of services to a China that is due to see accelerating urbanization, rising consumption, and a stronger financial services sector?'

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Short bio

Kerry Brown is Executive Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, and Professor of Chinese Politics. He was previously Head of the Asia Programme at Chatham House. He leads the Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN) funded by the European Union (www.euecran.eu). Educated at Cambridge, London and Leeds Universities, he worked in Japan and the Inner Mongolian region of China, before joining the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London. He worked in the China Section and then served as First Secretary, Beijing, from 2000 to 2003, and Head of the Indonesia East Timor Section at the FCO from 2003 to 2005. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, at SOAS, and a Senior Fellow of the China Policy Institute at Nottingham University and of the LSE Ideas Centre, as well as being an affiliated scholar with the Mongolia and Inner Asian Studies Unit at Cambridge University.

2. SYLVIA HUI:

Development and challenges in China's Pearl River Delta region

For decades, southern China's Pearl River Delta region has been the country's leading export driver and one of the world's foremost manufacturing hubs. Under China's 12th Five Year Plan and other national directives, the region is the midst of rapid transformation to boost its competitiveness. Low-wage industries are to give way to finance and services, and the state has pumped huge amounts of investment into the region's infrastructure to tighten the integration between Guangdong Province and the semi-autonomous Hong Kong and Macao.

As a so-called 'megalopis' emerges and the region's economies become increasingly interdependent, what are the social and economic implications? To what extent can the reform policies and experimental free trade zones in the region lead to broader changes in the nation? What are the challenges and limits to the policies?

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Short bio
Sylvia Hui is a journalist and an independent China researcher from Hong Kong. She has published papers on topics including on Hong Kong's constitutional reform and the cohesiveness of the BRICS countries for Chatham House and The Europe China Research and Advice Network (ECRAN). She spent 4 years reporting on Hong Kong and Macau news before moving to London, where she now works as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press. Sylvia has a Masters degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and a first class honours BA in English from Oxford University. She speaks native Cantonese and is fluent in Mandarin.

3. MING HUA LI:

Heterogeneity of Chinese State Owned Enterprises and their FDI Strategies: An Institutional Change Perspective

To meet the demands of a globally competitive economy, China is increasingly promoting the international expansion of its state-owned enterprises (SOEs). At the same time, successive waves of institutional reforms have spawned widespread domestic corporate transformation, substantively reshaping fundamental mechanisms in which such SOEs are governed and organized. The creative destruction and redevelopment of institutional systems unfolding through economic decentralization, industrial restructuring, privatization and market liberalization has unleashed sweeping changes on SOEs. This presentation will examine how these institutional reforms are reconfiguring the organizational characteristics and resources of Chinese SOEs and transforming them into distinctively different types of SOEs. I explore how as national systems of economic coordination in emerging economies transition from highly centralized approaches to more liberal and mixed market arrangements, the recasting of the relationship between different government ministries as well as local and central governments reconfigures their roles, which in turn creates substantively different developmental pathways for their affiliated SOEs. Such differences are manifested through the renegotiation of firm boundaries, role realignment, and rechanneling of resources for SOEs which ultimately redefines their strategic orientation and dynamic capabilities. I elaborate on how these differences may be reflected in Chinese SOEs' overseas expansion strategies and the options they seek to obtain host country legitimacy for conducting FDI. A number of implications for important stakeholders including home and host country governments, and competitor firms will be highlighted with examples from multiple countries around the world. The main contribution lies in identifying macro patterns of institutional change as sources of micro level heterogeneity among SOEs and highlighting the implications of such diversity for their outward FDI strategies.

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Short bio

Ming Hua Li is a PhD fellow in international business strategy at Copenhagen Business School. Her research investigates the effects of different institutional change processes on the dynamic capabilities and overseas venturing strategies of emerging market state owned multinationals. How do emerging economy governments recalibrate national systems of economic coordination to address the challenges of global economic integration and what are the consequences of such reforms on their affiliated firms' organizational characteristics and FDI patterns? Focusing on the empirical context of China, Ming Hua has performed research to identify multiple drivers of reform which catalyze greater institutional diversity among its state owned enterprises and examined how such diversity shapes their developmental pathways for internationalization. Her research into the micro-foundations of organizational change in state owned firms is advanced through collaborations with leading researchers at Peking University and Australian National University. With a Masters in Public Policy degree from Harvard University, Ming Hua brings a reservoir of practical expertise and industry knowledge grounded in her corporate legal experience at Coudert Brothers LLP where she helped to restructure Chinese state owned enterprises and advised foreign multinationals to navigate China's complex evolving regulatory landscape.