THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  

Centre Annual Report

Name of Centre / Institute: International Centre for China Development Studies  
Period (July 1st to June 30th): July 1st 2012 to June 30th 2013

I. Mission

The International Centre for China Development Studies (ICCDS) was established in June 2002. It was jointly set up by two renowned institutions; HKU and the Chinese Academy of Science. The Center aims to promote international collaborative research and training on the broad issues of China’s rapid development in the current era of globalization with the following mission:

1. to function as an international multi-disciplinary collaborative research platform for academic research, training and consultancy on China development and globalization issues;
2. to undertake high-impact and quality collaborative research and consultant work for international development organizations, governments, and Multi-National Corporations;
3. to organize high-profile international conferences, networking, information clearing and training programs among the participating institutions, particularly in conjunction with the MA in China Development Studies Program at HKU;
4. to explore external funding sources in support of research programmes in the Faculty; and to serve as a junction of the Faculty and outside organizations.

II. Strategy (and its alignments with the Faculty strategy and Centre mission)

The Faculty identified China studies as one of three strategic priority areas for research, teaching and learning, and knowledge exchange in the medium to long term for matching up the Faculty endeavor to promote innovative, socially relevant, high-impact teaching and research within and across social science disciplines. The Centre aligns with the Faculty strategy to function as an international multidisciplinary collaborative research platform for information exchange across Hong Kong, China and the world, and for high-level academic research and policymaking, training and consultancy on China development and globalization issues. The Centre’s research achievements will reach out and influence from the academic realm to embrace Government and the political sector in important policies. Currently, a strong network under the RGC Theme-based Research
Scheme (TRS) project has been built and active collaborative research work has been undertaken with Oxford University, City University of New York, and other HK and Mainland universities. The Centre, as a founding and leading role in the research network, fully utilizes the network to facilitate high-caliber academic exchanges and knowledge transfer activities for overseas and the mainland’s scholars, and outstanding practitioners in the local community including on, but not limited to, China and global finance and overall development issues. We are confident that the Centre would emerge as a global major and influential research institute in China development and globalization issues.

III. Director’s Reflection  (1/2 page)

a. Performance in the last academic year

In the past academic year, the Centre had achieved substantial success and met my targets and missions set in terms of many high quality research outputs affiliated with the Centre published in first-tier academic journals, the Centre’s members were invited to attend various high profile academic exchange, conference and research activities, and succeeded in winning strategic important research grant award. As the Director of the Centre, I am pleased to report that I am appointed as Deputy Convenor by the University Research Committee (URC) for HKU Strategic Research Areas and Themes China Business and Economics (housed in the Faculty of Business and Economics, with total funding of HK$3 million including faculty matching fund). The Centre will be incorporated into the research networks funded by the SRT to undertake more cross-disciplinary and multi-faceted academic exchanges and knowledge transfer activities. In addition to strategic research funding awarded, research outputs affiliated with the Centre has been published in many well-recognized international journals on the subjects of Financial Centres Development, Geography of Finance, and climate change, such as the Journal of Contemporary China, Geoforum, Climate Research, Climate Change, and the like. All these research outputs are considered to have potential impact to the long-term development of Hong Kong, China and the globe. Over the past year, I was representing the Centre regularly to be invited by government ministries, including Ministry of Sports of Brazilian Government, PRC central and municipal governments and HKSAR, as a consultant, adviser and a keynote speaker at top national and international projects, forums and conferences, such as at International Workshop “The BRICS and Sports Mega-Events” organized by BRICS Policy Center, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Seminar on the Development of Greater Guanghai Bay, organized by the Jiangmen Municipal Government, in Jiangmen. Some of the speeches and works have been widely publicized in public media (see below outputs listed). In particular, the Centre and the Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Exchange Promotion Association
(HK-SHYEPA), endeavoring to lay out a framework for the successful implementation of cooperation between the two have reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on funding, scholarship and opportunities for academic research, training, exchange, and internship placement. The HK-SHYEPA donated HKD$50,000 to ICCDS as the first-half installment for setting up a student prize for the Master of Arts in China Development Studies (MACHDS) program from academic year 2013-14 to the outstanding students recommended by the program and ICCDS, over a period of ten academic years. All told, all the activities have promoted the University's reputation, and revealed the Centre’s good effort and dedication to knowledge transfer and exchange activities.

b. Way forward

The Centre is now working full steam ahead on these two major research endeavors, namely RGC TRS project and HKU SRT, in conjunction with local and overseas co-PIs, Co-I's, and collaborators through the multi-disciplinary and cross-universities research network established under these projects. For the up-coming HKU SRT project, the Centre will establish together with other frontier research institutes a joint research program with Peking University, Fudan University, and HKU; namely the HKU-PKU-FudanU Joint Research Program on China's New Urbanization Studies. All these research endeavors signify notable advances in terms of high-quality and high-impact research. We expect that the findings will achieve world-class excellence in IFC studies and China’s new urbanization studies.

IV. Output (at least one author must indicate Centre affiliation in paper and only those research outputs affiliated with the Centre/Programme could be listed, must not repeat publications listed in earlier reports)

a. Journals

**Director, Dr. Simon Zhao**


**Professional Journals**
Director, Dr. Simon Zhao


Associate Director, Prof. George Lin


Associate Director, Prof. David Zhang


Affiliated researcher


b. Books published or contracted
c. Book chapters

Director, Dr. Simon Zhao


d. Conference papers

Director, Dr. Simon Zhao

1. Dr. Simon Zhao (2013) “Global off-shore centres and impacts to Asian service centre development: A Comparative Study of Hong Kong’s Offshore Banking and Re-Exportation Industries”, invited paper presentation, International Workshop on creating and capturing value in the next wave of globalization: experiences in (offshore) services production from India, East Asia and Southeast Asia, in Bangkok, Thailand.

e. Public or consultancy reports

Director, Dr. Simon Zhao


f. Other intellectual property (including software, training materials, etc.)

Public Media

V. Activities (must be active during the year, each project should highlight links to Centre strategy)

a. Consultancies

Dr. Simon Zhao, Director of ICCDS, was invited by Jiangmen Municipal Government to provide keynote presentation on “New opportunities for second-time industrial upgrading and transfer in Pearl River Delta” at Seminar on the Development of Greater Guanghai Bay, jointly organized by the Jiangmen Municipal Government and Guangdong Urban & Rural Planning And Design Institute, in Jiangmen, China.

Dr. Simon Zhao, Director of ICCDS, was invited to deliver a consultation talk on Strategic Development Planning for Zhuhai – Hengqin: Financial Industry and Financial Sub-centre Development, project hosted and funded by Hengqin New Zone Management Committee. This talk was attended by the Mayor of Zhuhai municipal government and Party Chief of Hengqin New Zone.

Dr. Simon Zhao, Director of ICCDS, was invited by Ministry of Sports of Brazilian Government to present a talk on "Beijing Olympics – Impact on Economic and Urban Development" at the International Workshop "The BRICS and Sports Mega-Events" organized by BRICS Policy Center, in 7th-9th Dec 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
b. Training

c. Research projects

i) List of all research projects

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<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Name of Project Holder</th>
<th>Project Start Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Development and Planning of Financial</td>
<td>Dr. Simon Zhao, Co-Principal</td>
<td>10/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry in Hengqin</td>
<td>Investigator.</td>
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ii) List of all collaborative projects

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<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Name of Project Holder</th>
<th>Name of Collaborator</th>
<th>Project Start Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enhancing Hong Kong’s Future as a Leading</td>
<td>Dr. Simon Zhao, Co-Principal</td>
<td>Dr. Dariusz Wojcik,</td>
<td>1 Sept, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Financial Centre – IFC</td>
<td>Investigator &amp;</td>
<td>Co-Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitiveness Theme</td>
<td>number of Co-Investigators</td>
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iii) List of all pro-bono projects

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<th>Period</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Nature (i.e. research or consultancy)</th>
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d. Conferences organized

Invited Oxford scholar, Dr. Dariusz Wójcik, co-author with Prof. Gordon L. Clark, “The Geography of Finance”, to provide public lecture on “Capitalist Tools in Socialist Hands? China Mobile in the Global Financial Network”, 15/Mar/2013. The public lecture was jointly organized by HKU ICCDS, Centre for China Financial Research and Asian Institute of International Financial Law, at the University of Hong Kong, and funded by Theme-based Research Scheme Project on Enhancing Hong Kong’s Future as a Leading International Financial Centre.

e. Relationships formed with organizations

The Centre shares the same mission with The Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Exchange Promotion Association (HK-SHYEPA) on youth leadership development, hoping to equip our young people so that they could contribute to
the community in the future. The Centre and the HK-SHYEPA, laid out a framework for the successful implementation of cooperation between the two parties and have reached a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on funding, scholarship and opportunities for academic research, training, exchange, and internship placement.

VI. Teaching (excluding that credited to departments)
   a. Undergraduate courses
   b. Taught Masters courses

   GEOG7116 China Field Trip
   (Credited to the Department of Geography, but actual operated by the Centre. The industrial visit request letters with the Centre's letterhead are commonly used.)

c. Research students (including list of current students and completed )

1. John Daniel, M.Phil, 2013-ongoing, HKU.
2. Guo shu, M.Phil, 2013-ongoing, HKU.
3. Chan Gabriel, PhD, 2010-ongoing, HKU.
5. Lao Qionghua, M.Phil, 2009–2012, “Financial Centre Competition and Cooperation in China: A Comparative Study of Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen HKU", The University of Hong Kong

VII. Collaborations
   a. University level (within HKU)

   The Director of the Centre, Dr. Simon Zhao, cooperated with Director of the Centre for China Financial Research, Prof. Frank Song, to undertake a strategic study of development for financial service industry in Hengqin for Financial Affairs Bureau of Administrative Committee of Hengqin New Area, Zhuhai. This strategic study aims to investigate the major functions, roles, current state, capacity and formation mechanism of these financial sub-centres and financial
clusters nearby the international financial centers and summarize the development history and trajectory of these sub-centers and financial clusters. Besides, The Centre begun to undertake the research activities and tasks listed in the TRS project proposal in conjunction with Centre for China Financial Research, Asian Institute of International Financial Law of the University, and local and overseas co-PIs, Co-I, and collaborators named in the research proposal through the multi-disciplinary and cross-universities research collaboration network. A public lectured jointly organized by the 3 aforementioned research institutes at HKU through the established platform under the TRS project.

b. Community level

According to the MOU signed between the Centre and the Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Exchange Promotion Association (HK-SHYEPA):

(1) The Centre will recommend members and postgraduate students in the related field to provide academic and research support for the members of Shanghai CPPCC or NPC in public affairs regarding the developments of Hong Kong and Mainland China;

(2) The HK-SHYEPA will make a total donation of HKD$100,000 to ICCDS for a student prize for the Master of Arts in China Development Studies (MACHDS) program from academic year 2013-14 to the outstanding students recommended by the program and ICCDS, over a period of ten academic years. The student prize has been successfully setup and approved by the University, namely Van Shung Chong Prize in China Development Studies;

(3) The HK-SHYEPA will support to liaise and arrange company visits and CEO sharing for the MACHDS program’s field trip to Shanghai and assist in inviting prominent guest speakers in Hong Kong to speak for the program’s elite seminar series at HKU;

(4) The HK-SHYEPA will recommend 1-2 MACHDS graduates in every academic year to participating companies of “Hong Kong-Shanghai Future Leaders Internship Program” for them to consider as new recruits if the recommended students performed well in the internship.

c. Regional level

Under the HKU SRT project framework, the Centre will establish a joint research program together with other two frontier research institutes at the Mainland’s Peking University, and Fudan University; namely the HKU-PKU-FudanU Joint Research Program on China’s New Urbanization Studies. Two related to the program’s conference had been organized on November and September in 2013 respectively: “China Regional Economic & Growing Enterprises Forum”, organized by School of Economics, Peking
University, Beijing, and “Symposium on Regional Population and Development in China”, organized by Fudan University, and Shanghai Population Association, Shanghai. The Centre has cooperated and played important roles in these two high-level research conferences, either inviting guests to attend the conferences or deploying affiliated member of the Centre to provide presentation at the conferences.

d. International level

As the establishment of the international collaborative research network for the RGC TRS project, the Centre has the luxury to cooperate with high-caliber academic talents in the world to form a high quality international consortium for a large-scale and multi-disciplinary and dimension collaborative research project on enhancing Hong Kong’s future as a leading International Financial Centre. Currently, an international collaborative research work has been undertaking with famous scholars from Oxford University, City University of New York, and other HK and Mainland universities, on a spatial study of the International Financial Centres in the world. The findings will be incorporated into the major deliverables under the TRS project and will be submitted to the Financial Service Development Council for the members to consider the suggestions about financial development for Hong Kong. The Centre and all affiliated member will continue to promote international and national collaborations in academic and applied research with their respective specialties for new academic year.

July 29, 2011
Amended on October 4, 2013