

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Centre Annual Report

**Name of Centre / Institute:** International Centre for China Development Studies  
**Period (July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>):** July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

**I. Mission**

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

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 for networking and information clearing, and training programs among the participating institutions, particularly in conjunction with the MA program in China Development Studies at HKU; and
4. to explore external funding sources in support of research programmes in the Faculty; and to serve as an interface between 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 the three strategic priority areas for research, teaching, 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 Center 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 Center's research achievements will reach out and influence the academic realm to support Government and the political sector in important policies

making. 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 Center, which serves 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 mainland's scholars, and outstanding practitioners in the local community with expertise 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 on China development and globalization issues.

### **III. Director's Reflection (1/2 page)**

#### **a. Performance in the last academic year**

(The Associate Director, Dr. Simon Zhao, provided this part of the report as the current Director, Prof. George Lin, did not assume the office until September 2015)

During the first year of my term as Associate Director of the Centre, I am confident to report that the Centre still had achieved substantial success and met the targets and missions set in terms of many high quality research outputs affiliated with the Centre published in first-tier academic journals, and the Centre's members were invited to attend various high profile academic exchange, conference and research activities, and cooperated with the public sector. The Centre was incorporated into the research networks established by the Theme-based Research Scheme (TRS) project "*Enhancing Hong Kong's Future as a Leading International Financial Centre*" (housed in the Faculty of Law, with total funding of HK\$15 million) through my connection and position as the project's Deputy Project Coordinator to cooperate with Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) of Hong Kong for a study of the financial human capital development in Hong Kong. The written report of the FSDC's survey published on January of 2015. The Centre also cooperated with the Faculty under the HKU Strategy Research Theme (SRT) – Contemporary China, and China Business and Economics, to jointly organize a Contemporary China Studies Public Lecture at HKU given by Director of Peking University-Lincoln Institute Center for Urban Development and Land Policy, Dr. Liu Zhi, on October 2014. The Centre also coordinated Switzerland-Hong Kong Joint Workshop and Public Forum on Economic Geography and Urban Development, at HKU on March 2015, jointly sponsored and supported by the HKU SRT, TRS Project and University of Neuchâtel Group of Research in Territorial Economy. Under the TRS project, I was invited to be a member of advisory board for the organizing Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography 2015, held at University of Oxford, on August 2015, and invited to jointly found a "Global

Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo)” and I agreed on behalf of the Centre, to deploy resources to undertake research duties which support the development of the FinGeo network.

In addition to research projects cooperation, research outputs affiliated with the Centre has been published in many well-recognized academic platforms on the subjects of Financial Centres Development, Geography of Finance. In addition to publish excellent research outputs in economic geography, the range of research outputs affiliated with the Centre also reached to the subjects of climate change, and the like, that were contributed by the Centre’s members. Besides, I was, as in previous years, to be invited by government ministries and universities, as a consultant, adviser and a keynote speaker at top national and international projects, forums and conferences, such as the 1st Guangxi-Hong Kong Cooperation Forum and 11th China-ASEAN Expo, organized by Guangxi Autonomous Region Government, in Nanning, on September 2014, and Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao International Financial Forum 2014, organized by Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings, in Shenzhen, on December 2014. All the presentations have made profound impressions to all the attended scholars and public participants.

b. Way forward

(This part was drafted by Associate Director, Dr. Simon Zhao)

Before I stepped down as Director, I worked very hard for building up governance structure and implementing succession plan of the Centre. The Centre now has a sound mechanism and system to handle any personnel changes in the Centre. The Director post, to be vacated by Prof. David Wong after his departure from HKU, the Executive Committee of the Centre confirmed to select Prof. George Lin to serve as the Acting Director for the remainder of the term of the preceding Director. A new Strategy and Development Plan for the Centre drafted by the succeeded Director will be submitted to the Board of the Faculty for consideration. I hope to see continued growth of the Centre’s brand name as well as HKU’s reputations

**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

Refereed Journals

**Former Director, Prof. David Wong**

Liao, B. and Wong, D. W. (2015) "Changing urban residential patterns of Chinese migrants: A case of Shanghai from 2000 to 2010", *Urban Geography*, 36(1), 109-126.

**Associate Director, Dr. Simon Zhao**

Zhao, X.B. and Ching, L. (forthcoming) "Playing Games and Concepts: Beijing Olympics and China Urban Development Model", under review for *Journal of Contemporary China*.

**Affiliated researcher**

**Pei, Q., Zhang, D.D. and Lee, H.F.** (2015) "Evaluating the effectiveness of agricultural adaptation to climate change in preindustrial society", *Asian Geographer*, DOI:10.1080/10225706.2015.1034735.

**Lee, H.F., Pei, Q. Zhang, D.D., and Choi, K.P.K.** (2015) "Quantifying the intra-regional precipitation variability in northwestern China over the past 1,400 years", *PLoS ONE*, 10(7), e0131693.

**Lee, H.F., Zhang, D.D. and Pei, Q.** (2015) "Reconstruction of the geographic extent of drought anomalies in northwestern China over the last 539 years and its teleconnection with the Pacific Ocean", *The Holocene*, 25(8), 1271-1284.

**Pei, Q., Zhang, D.D., Li, G. and Lee, H.F.** (2015) "Climate change and the macroeconomic structure in pre-industrial Europe: New evidence from wavelet analysis", *PLoS ONE*, 10(6), e0126480.

**Pei, Q., Zhang, D.D., Li, G., Winterhalder, B. and Lee, H.F.** (2015) "Epidemics in Ming and Qing China: Impacts of changes in climate and economic well-being", *Social Science & Medicine*, 136-137, 73-80.

**Lee, H.F., Zhang, D.D., Brecke, P. and Pei, Q.** (2015) "Regional geographic factors mediate the climate-war relationship in Europe", *British Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 2(1), 1-28.

Professional Journals

**Associate Director, Dr. Simon Zhao**

Michael, B., Zhao, X.B. and Wojcik, D. (2014) "Op-ed: China's solar energy can thrive - with the right financing", *China Economic Review*, 2014:10 (available at <http://www.chinaeconomicreview.com/solar-securitization>).

Chan, Y.M. and Zhao, X. B. (2014) "Development of the small economies in the proximity of big country and the implications to Hong Kong's competitiveness (比鄰大國小型經濟體發展與香港競爭力)" in Chinese, *Bauhinia Tribune* (紫荊論壇), 22, 4-11.

Chan, Y.M. and Zhao, X. B. (2014) "The patterns of the global commodities trade and implications to the prospects of Hong Kong's manufacturing industry (全球商品貿易格局及對香港製造業前景的啟示)" in Chinese, *Bauhinia Tribune* (紫荊論壇), 18, 75-84.

- b. Books published or contracted
- c. Book chapters

#### **Affiliated researcher**

Lee, H.F. and Zhang, D.D. (2015) Quantitative analysis of climate change and human crises in history. In: M. Kwan, D. Richardson, D. Wang and C. Zhou (eds.) *Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience: Research Frontiers in the US and China*. Dordrecht: Springer. pp. 235-267.

- d. Conference papers
- e. Public or consultancy reports

#### **Associate Director, Dr. Simon Zhao**

Financial Services Development Council, Hong Kong. (2015) "Developing Hong Kong's Human Capital in Financial Services". (Dr. Zhao chaired ICCDS's research team to support to the FSDC's consultation sessions and undertake questionnaire surveys with financial industry organizations).

[http://www.fsd.org.hk/en/events/past/media\\_briefing\\_on\\_developing\\_hong\\_kong\\_human\\_capital\\_in\\_financial\\_services](http://www.fsd.org.hk/en/events/past/media_briefing_on_developing_hong_kong_human_capital_in_financial_services)

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

#### **Public Media**

Knowledge Exchange-related and affiliated with the Centre's news or interviews (in Chinese) collected from the Wisers platform

1. Zhao, X.B. (2015) "香江落子前海橫琴南沙", *New Express Daily*, B14, 買樓王, 9/1/2015.
2. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "香江金融中心國際展示廳啓幕將成前海率先交付項目", *Southern Metropolis Daily* (Shenzhen), AIII08, 新聞, 26/12/2014.
3. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "前海金融地標創新資本模式", *Shenzhen Special Zone*

Daily, D08, 超級樓市, 26/12/2014.

4. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "香江金融發佈亞太金融生態圈戰略", Daily Sunshine, A24, 晶財經, 26/12/2014.
5. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "粵港澳金融論壇在前海舉行", China Economic Times, 07, 區域經濟, 26/12/2014.
6. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "粵自貿區拱衛香港金融中心", Hong Kong Commercial Daily, A18, 中國經濟, 25/12/2014.
7. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "粵港澳金融論壇在前海舉行", Shenzhen Economic Daily, A06, 文產, 25/12/2014.
8. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "桂港澳粵攜手東盟 探索加工貿易廣西模式", Hong Kong Commercial Daily, A03, 專題新聞, 19/9/2014.
9. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "首屆桂港合作論壇在邕舉辦 把脈桂港合作決勝江海戰略", Hong Kong Commercial Daily, A01, 香江評論, 頭條, 19/9/2014.
10. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "江海新戰略桂港新機遇 首屆桂港合作論壇 18日南寧開講", Hong Kong Commercial Daily, A12, 專題新聞, 16/9/2014.
11. Zhao, X.B. (2014) "桂港合作論壇開啟智慧盛宴", Hong Kong Commercial Daily, A08, 專題新聞, 特稿, 10/9/2014.

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

- a. Consultancies
- b. Training
- c. Research projects

i) List of all research projects

Project Title	Name of Project Holder	Project Start Date	Amount	Funding Source
Strategic Development and Planning of Financial Industry in Hengqin	Dr. Simon Zhao, Co-Principal Investigator.	10/2012		Zhuhai-Hengqin Municipal Government

ii) List of all collaborative projects

Project Title	Name of Project Holder	Name of Collaborator	Project Start Date
Enhancing Hong Kong's Future as a Leading International Financial Centre – IFC Competitiveness	Dr. Simon Zhao, Co-Principal Investigator (Project Coordinator: Prof. Douglas Arner)	Dr. Dariusz Wojcik, Co-Principal Investigator & number of Co-Investigators	1 Sept, 2012

Theme			

iii) List of all pro-bono projects

Period	Project Title	Nature (i.e. research or consultancy)
-	-	-

d. Conferences organized

The third TRS project conference, “Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography 2015 - Mapping Economies in Transformation”, was held in Oxford University, 19-23 August 2015. This conference jointly organized by the existing interdisciplinary research team from HKU, CUHK and Oxford University (through the network established by the TRS project). Dr. Zhao was invited to jointly found a “Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo)” and to be panelist for the launching ceremony of the FinGeo network at the Oxford Conference.

The Centre jointly organized a contemporary China public lecture and elite seminar series given by International famous scholar in urban land development, Dr. Liu Zhi on “Cities, Land and Housing in China: Genesis of Problems and Prospect for Reform”, with the Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and the SRT research projects, at the HKU, on October of 2014. The Centre also jointly organized a public lecture given by Professor Dariusz Wójcik, Professor of Economic Geography, University of Oxford, on “Financial Centres under Pressure: Geography of Finance in the Post-2008 Era”, at HKU on October 2014.

The Switzerland-Hong Kong Joint Workshop and Public Forum on Economic Geography and Urban Development, was held at HKU on March 2015, jointly sponsored and supported by the HKU SRT, TRS Project and University of Neuchâtel Group of Research in Territorial Economy.

e. Relationships formed with organizations

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on funding, scholarship and opportunities for academic research, training, exchange, and internship placement reached between the Centre and the Hong Kong-Shanghai Youth Exchange Promotion Association (HK-SHYEPA), the Centre will recommend one to two outstanding postgraduate students with academic merit annually from the MA China program to receive the VSC scholarship sponsored by the HK-SHYEPA from academic year 2014-15.

## **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. Letters requesting industrial visits used the Centre's letterhead all the time.)

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

## **VII. Collaborations**

- a. University level (within HKU)

The Centre is fully engaged in the research networks established and funded by the University's Strategic Research Theme (SRT) and RGC-funded TRS projects to undertake more cross-disciplinary academic exchanges and knowledge transfer activities. For the past academic year, the Centre cooperated with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of Geography, Centre for China Financial Research (housed in Faculty of Business and Economics), Asian Institute of International Financial Law (housed in Faculty of Law) through the established platform for the TRS project to jointly organize one workshop, and two public lectures at the HKU. The Centre, as in previous years, will be active in organizing events, which were relevant to important policy discussions in Hong Kong relating to its future as an international financial centre, and regarding significant issues in China development.

- b. Community level

The Centre is aimed precisely to turn the fruit of scientific research into commercial services or knowledge for the community. The Centre cooperated with Financial Services Development Council (FSDC) of Hong Kong to conduct a study of the financial human capital development in Hong Kong over the past two years, which facilitated high-caliber academic exchanges among the participants on the consultation sessions. The written report of the FSDC's survey published on January of 2015. The interviewed financial industry organizations from questionnaire surveys of the study also agreed to help with further in-depth discussion about the challenges of the financial industry in Hong Kong, and to provide job placement opportunities for our students to have wider exposures in Hong Kong's financial spectrum.

- c. Regional level

A delegation, including students and teachers, from HKU MA China Program,

and Director of the Centre, Prof. David Wong, visit Henan province during 8-15 March 2015, gaining a better understanding of the latest developments in Henan. During this visit to Henan, an agreement was signed to enhance co-operation in the area of research, academic exchanges and trainings, and scientific research team building and disciplinary development between the Centre and Collaborative Innovation Center of Three-aspect Coordination of Central-China Economic Region, Henan University of Economics and Law. Besides, under the HKU SRT project framework, the Centre joined with other two frontier research institutes at the Mainland's Peking University, and Fudan University; to establish a joint research program, namely the HKU-PKU-FudanU Joint Research Program on China's New Urbanization Studies. Representing of the Centre, Dr. Simon Zhao, was awarded Lincoln Institute China Program International Fellowship 2014-2015, for study on "Land/Real Estate Development and Financial Crisis: A Comparative Study between China and World Major Experiences 1980-2013" with an award of US\$31,000. The funding partially supports the Centre to conduct research undertaken by experienced researcher seconded from the Mainland's university. The research outputs done by the researcher seconded from the Mainland will be affiliated with the Centre.

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. Academic exchange activities and events relating to international finance centres between HKU and Oxford university will be regularized as the establishment of the international collaborative research network for the RGC TRS project, one joint seminar and public lecture given by Prof. Dariusz Wójcik (Oxford's Co-Principal Investigator of the TRS project) was held at HKU on October 2014, and Dr. Simon Zhao was invited to be a member of advisory board for the Fourth Global Conference on Economic Geography 2015, held at University of Oxford, on August 2015 and invited to jointly found a "Global Network on Financial Geography (FinGeo)" and to be panelist for the launching ceremony of the FinGeo network at the Oxford Conference. The Centre will provide resources to undertake research duties which support the development of the FinGeo network. The Centre is working closely together with international collaborators of the TRS project in the planning and organizing of all the events and activities for new academic year.