



TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

NEW ZEALAND CONTEMPORARY
CHINA RESEARCH CENTRE

Annual Report 2015

About the Centre

The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre is a national centre to promote knowledge and understanding of contemporary China through support for research including collaborative research, lectures, seminars, conferences, visitor exchanges and information sharing. It provides a forum for research on contemporary China and facilitates a network of China specialists and academics. The Centre strengthens ties between scholars and researchers in leading institutions in New Zealand and China.

The China Centre is based at Victoria University of Wellington. In addition to Victoria University of Wellington it has seven University Members. These are: the University of Auckland, Auckland University of Technology, the University of Canterbury, the University of Otago, the University of Waikato, Lincoln University and Massey University.

2015 is the seventh year of the China Research Centre. Professor Bo Zhiyue was appointed as Director of the Centre from January 2015 following the Acting Directorship of Peter Harris and the tenure of the Centre's Founding Director, Professor Xiaoming Huang.

2015 in Review

The China Centre promotes research and knowledge sharing on China through annual conferences, publications, public lectures, seminars and roundtables. It hosts visiting fellows and researchers as well as visiting delegations.

1. New Zealand International Conference on Contemporary China

China-US Relations in Global Perspective

8-9 October 2015, Wellington.

This conference explored the relationship between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America, the most important bilateral relationship in today's world. The Conference was launched in conjunction with the Centre for Strategic Studies in a "Dialogue on China-US Relations" on 25 July 2015, opened by Professor Grant Guilford, Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington and included opening remarks by Chinese Ambassador Wang Lutong and United States Ambassador Mark Gilbert. Professor Wang Gungwu, a renowned historian and board chairman of the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, gave a keynote address. There were 19 presentations including three keynote speeches. The conference concluded in the afternoon of 9 October 2015 with a roundtable.

2. Other Conferences

China and the Pacific: The View from Oceania

25-27 February 2015, Apia, Samoa

In collaboration with the National University of Samoa and Sun Yat-sen University of China, the Centre organized an international conference on "China and the Pacific: the View from Oceania" on 25-27 February 2015 in Apia, Samoa. Michael Powles, former New Zealand Ambassador to China, Indonesia, and the United Nations as well as former high commissioner to Fiji, was recruited to organise the conference.

Held in a beautiful Fale Samoa on Le Papaigalagala Campus of the National University of Samoa in Apia, Samoa, the conference began with 'Ava Ceremony. Chaired by Professor Asofou So'o, vice-chancellor of the National University of Samoa, Hon Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, delivered an opening address, followed by a welcome remark by H. E. Madame Li Yanduan, Chinese Ambassador to Samoa. Tony Browne, chairman of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, gave the keynote address.

Five panels discussed various issues: "*Changing Geopolitics: China and the Pacific*"; "*Regional Security*"; "*Chinese in the Pacific*"; "*Development Cooperation*"; and "*Trade and Investment*".

3. Publications

- i. *New Zealand's China Policy: Building a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership* (Sydney: Australia-China Relations Institute, 2015) available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre/publications/china-papers/ACRI-NZCCRC-New-Zealands-China-Policy-Building-a-comprehensive-strategic-partnership-July-2015.pdf>.
- ii. Helena Quinn. *'Trading with a Giant: Implications for New Zealand's Free Trade Agreement with China'* China Papers 1 (2015) available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre/publications/china-papers/2015-1-NZ-China-FTA-Working-Paper-Helena-Quinn.pdf>.

4. Public Lectures

- i. Bo Zhiyue. *"Who is Xi Jinping"* 10 June 2015.
- ii. Madame Fu Ying, Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), People's Republic of China, *"China's Development and Its Implications"* jointly organized with the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, 22 September 2015.

5. Roundtables

China's Economic Challenges and Reform Strategies (8 December 2015). Led by Professor LIU Shijin and a CPC Goodwill Delegation.

6. Fellowships and Visitors

There were no fellows or visiting scholars at the Centre in 2015.

7. Seminar Series

- i. Professor Wei Shen, Lancaster University, *"Immigrant and Urban China"* 19 February 2015.
- ii. Floor Keuleers, University of Leuven, *"A Contest for the Hearts and Minds? Chinese Public Diplomacy meets African Public Opinion"* 23 April 2015.
- iii. Professor Zhao Zuping, China Institute of Industrial Relations, *"Contemporary Industrial Relations of China"* 4 June 2015.

8. Other Projects

The Centre was commissioned by Australia-China Relations Institute (ACRI) at University of Technology Sydney and Professor Hon Bob Carr to write a policy brief on NZ's China policy. This report was launched at the China in the World Centre at ANU and is available both in published form and on the Centre's website.

9. Visiting Delegations

- i. China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong (CELAP) 22 October 2015
- ii. Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament (CPAPD) 5 May 2015
- iii. China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) 28 April 2015

NEW ZEALAND CONTEMPORARY CHINA RESEARCH CENTRE

Victoria University of Wellington

18 Kelburn Parade

PO Box 600

Wellington 6140

NEW ZEALAND

+64-4-463 9549

chinacentre@vuw.ac.nz

www.victoria.ac.nz/chinaresearchcentre