

Annual Report 2016

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, 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.

2016 is the eighth year for the China Research Centre. The Centre hosted a number of annual events and introduced Masterclass and Knowledge Transfer events for Public Sector employees in partnership with the China Capable Public Sector Project led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Professor Bo Zhiyue ended his tenure as Director of the Centre.

2017 is an important year for the Centre with plans to host conferences on US-China relations under President Trump and [*subject of annual conference to be confirmed*]. The Centre will continue to work with MFAT in the delivery of masterclasses and speeches as part of the China Capable Public Sector Project. The Centre looks forward to resuming the practice of having Visiting Fellows resident at the Centre and seeks to reintroduce the Global China seminar series as well as strengthening relations with public sector stakeholders, university partners, the private sector and academics as a new management model is introduced.

2016 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

The Rise of Chinese Agriculture

Co-organised with the Faculty of Agribusiness and Commerce, Lincoln University, 27-28 October 2016, Wellington.

The Rise of Chinese Agriculture brought together a group of international and local academics and policymakers to analyse how Chinese agriculture is evolving and what this means for countries and companies that partner with China. The Conference began with introductory remarks from ZHAO Weining, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of China, followed by two keynote speeches from HUANG Jikun, Professor of the School of Advanced Agricultural Sciences and Director of the China Center for Agricultural Policy, Peking University and Carl PRAY, Professor II in the Department of Agricultural Food and Resource Economics, Rutgers University, the United States.

The conference had five panels on: The Big Picture: Commercialization and Agricultural Policy; Dairy, Beef, Sheep and Horticulture; Food Safety Policy and Consumption: Understanding the Chinese Market; Investment; China and Global Agri-markets. The conference ended with concluding remarks from Keith WOODFORD, Honorary Professor of Agri-Food Systems, Lincoln University and Tony BROWNE, Executive Chair, New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre.

2. Publications

- i. Michael Powles (ed.) *China and the Pacific: The View from Oceania*, Wellington: Victoria University Press (2016). Details available here: <http://vup.victoria.ac.nz/china-in-the-pacific-the-view-from-oceania/>
- ii. BO Zhiyue (ed.) *China-US Relations in Global Perspective*, Wellington: Victoria University Press (2016). Details available here: <http://vup.victoria.ac.nz/china-us-relations-in-a-global-perspective/>

3. Public Lectures

- i. Qi Xuchun, Vice Chairman of The Twelfth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), '*Enhancing Exchanges And Cooperation Towards A Brighter Future For China-New Zealand Relations*', 7 September 2016.

- ii. Liu Hong, Chair of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Director of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration at Nanyang Technological University, '*China's "One Belt One Road" Initiative and Asian Community Building: Toward a New Regional Governance Framework?*', 10 November 2016.

4. Roundtables

- i. "*China's View on the South China Sea*" led by Mr Ouyang Yujing, Director-General, Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 26 February 2016.
- ii. "*China's Development and China-New Zealand Relations*" with Vice-Minister, Mr Guo Yezhou, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee of the People's Republic of China, 15 March 2016.
- iii. "*China's One Belt, One Road' Strategy and New Zealand*" led by Mr. He Chuantian, President, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, 22 July 2016.
- iv. "*China's 'Belt and Road Initiative' and China-New Zealand Relations*" led by Mr Cai Wu, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), 16 November 2016.

5. Fellowships and Visitors

There were no fellows or visiting scholars at the Centre in 2016.

6. Seminar Series

"The Future of China: Status Quo, Reform or Chaos?", Roger Garside, former British diplomat, 7 March 2016.

7. Other Projects

The Centre developed and delivered two Masterclasses on contemporary China for Public Sector employees as part of the China Capable Public Sector Project led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The highly interactive, five-day Masterclass immersed participants into the unique and complex dimensions of New Zealand's relationship with China. It was based on problem-based scenarios and real case studies. Participants worked with a selection of China experts to develop cross-sector solutions and identify political, economic, security and cultural insights into New Zealand's relationship with China.

The Centre led a series of Knowledge Transfer Events in partnership with the China Capable Public Sector group. These included:

- Carl Worker, Ambassador to China (2009-2015), chargé d'affaires, NZ Embassy, Washington (2015-2016) and is currently MFAT's Principal Business Adviser and the New Zealand Ambassador for Counter-terrorism, "*China's importance for New Zealand*", 29 June 2016.

- Peter Harris, Senior Fellow of the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre and former founding Executive Director of the Asia New Zealand Foundation, "*50 Years of China in a global context*", 23 August 2016.
- Jade Grey, Co-founder of Gungho! Pizza and Pyro Pizza chains and a former member of the New Zealand Government's China Beachheads Board, "*Navigating the complexity of business in China*", 22 September 2016.
- David Kelly, Director of Research at China Policy Beijing and visiting professor at Beijing University, "*Can China understand us?*", 31 October 2016.
- Geremie Barmé, Founding Director, Australian Centre on China in the World; Emeritus Professor, The Australian National University, "*On the frontiers of friendship*", 24 November 2016.
- Gavin Crombie, Author and Current Member of the NZTE Beachheads Advisory Board Long-term resident of China (23 years); Founder of IDF Global & Digital Frontier, high-end visualization companies working in Virtual Reality and CGI, "*Go West, Young Man*", 13 December 2016.

Future Direction of the China Research Centre

2017 is an important year for the China Centre with a number of activities already well into the planning stages, ongoing projects with the China Capable Public Sector, the reintroduction of visiting fellows and researchers and a shift to a new management structure at a time when knowledge and capability with China is crucial for New Zealand.

1. Conferences

Two conferences are currently planned for 2017.

The first will take place in late March/early April in conjunction with the Centre for Strategic Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. It will explore US-China relations under President Trump.

The New Zealand International Conference on Contemporary China is planned for October. ***[Details of the theme of the Conference will be entered here once a decision is taken on the subject for the event.]***

2. Publications

The Centre plans to publish an edited volume of the papers presented in the 2016 Conference on the Rise of Chinese Agriculture. Dr Jason Young, one of the conference organisers, has been asked to lead the publication process with Victoria University Press.

3. Fellowships and Visitors

The Centre has arranged to co-host Professor Huang Junjie of the School of Public Affairs at Xiamen University with the School of Government at Victoria University of Wellington to conduct research on fiscal decentralization and inclusive growth based on a comparison of China and New Zealand.

We are currently in discussions with other researchers from China.

4. Seminar Series

As well as continuing the Knowledge Transfer Events with the China Capable Public Centre team, the China Centre seeks to organise a series of lectures on contemporary Chinese political, economic, security and cultural topics titled Global China.

5. Other Projects

The Centre will continue in 2017 to work with MFAT to deliver elements of the China Capable Public Sector Programme.

The Centre will host a number of roundtables, public lectures and visiting delegations throughout 2017.

Concluding Remarks

2016 was a successful but challenging year for the Centre. The Centre is now in a position to resume meetings of its Advisory Board, refine the management structure and focus on the core activities of research, engagement and knowledge transfer. As illustrated by the establishment of the China Capable Public Sector team and the TEC CAPE project, the need for research and knowledge dissemination on contemporary China has never been more pressing. The New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre will continue to play an important role promoting knowledge and understanding of contemporary China through support for research, lectures, seminars, conferences, visitor exchanges and information sharing.

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