

Annual Report 2011

November 2011

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2011 was marked by a growing interest in China among New Zealanders and sectors of NZ society; greater availability of China scholarship and knowledge in New Zealand; development of research projects on more specific China related issues of scholarly and policy significance; and more substantive public policy engagement on China related issues. The Centre's work has made an important contribution to each of these areas.

This year the Centre has continued to work on the challenge of advancing China studies at NZ universities, streamlining the management and operational structure of the Centre, and shaping its role in the nation's interests and activities on China. These will be areas for further work in 2012.

1. Research Projects

Scholarly research programmes and activities have continued to be led by research on China's modern economic and social development and are organized through international research collaborations, major international conferences (usually the Wellington conference of the year), and publications by international publishers.

A. Projects that started last year

- *China and India: The End of Development Models?* Project jointly sponsored with University of Canterbury. A book out of the project is to be published in December, 2011.
- *China's Ascent: New Superpower or New Global System.* Project jointly sponsored with Otago University, finished book manuscript out of the project is under publisher's review.

B. Projects that started this year

- *Growing Pains and Growth Paths: China and Japan in Modern Economic Growth.* Project jointly sponsored with Auckland University's Asia Institute, with 14 participants from China, Japan, the United States and New Zealand. Major research components are set, international conference for work presentations to be held in December. Publishers including Palgrave have expressed interest in publishing the conference papers.

Under the Centre's current resources and capacity, this type of research project is most effective. It serves the multiple purposes of the Centre: bringing international scholarship on China to New Zealand, promoting scholarly interests and capacity on China research at New Zealand universities, providing substance for working with NZ member universities through joint sponsorship and organization of research projects, building up the profile and reputation of the Centre through its programme of the Wellington Conference on Contemporary China, involving international participants and generating publications by international publishers.

There are areas for further work: to broaden the subject areas of research - in law, society, culture, etc.; to develop high quality research projects initiated by the China Centre; to fully develop the China Seminars and China papers programmes; and to closely engage with China scholars at NZ member universities.

2. Public Policy Projects

Public policy research and dialogue on China is a key component of the Centre's programmes and projects. This year, we have organized projects and events on a number of substantive issues of significance to New Zealand.

International Symposium: New Zealand, Australia, and the Rise of China. 7 April 2011. The Centre co-hosted this with the Lowy Institute, VUW's Centre for Strategic Studies, and ANU's Australian Centre for China in the World. The symposium brought academics, policy analysts and opinion makers from both Australia and New Zealand to examine the economic, political, strategic and security dimensions of Australia and New Zealand relations with China. The Lowy Institute is happy to have a reciprocal one in Sydney next year. There is an internal report produced. The Lowy Institute is taking a lead to produce a formal report on the symposium.

Public Symposium: China's Emerging Role in the South Pacific. 3 August, 2011. The Centre organized this symposium with the gathering of leading national scholars on the issue, including Ann-Marie Brady of Canterbury, Dr Steven Ratuva and Dr Jian Yang of Auckland University, and Dr Marc Lanteigne of the China Centre. The symposium examines growing Chinese interests and activities in the South Pacific and how they affect New Zealand and Australian relations with the region. Papers from the symposium are to be published in a special issue of *Political Science*.

Research Project: Trade and Investment between China and New Zealand. Research collaboration with CICIR, CCIEE, CUPL and UIBE in China and NZTE, NZIER, VUW Faculty of Commerce. Early stage of work on changing patterns and dynamics of New Zealand business in China and China's investment in New Zealand. This is an issue of the evolving economic, political and legal environment under the fluid world economic system for foreign trade and investment, and their impact on domestic interests and institutions. There are three streams of this research: trade, export and FTA; investment and integration with the local economy; and effects of politics and policy, institutions and culture on foreign investment. We plan to have one or two symposia next year on FTAs and the political economy of international investment in China and New Zealand.

Public Lecture Series. We have started to organize public lectures on China by prominent China scholars, mostly invited from overseas. For example:

- Public Lecture, Professor Cui Lirui, President of CICAR. Professor Cui's lecture delivered a public lecture to a large Wellington audience in August on China-US relations in the contemporary Asia-Pacific. Professor Cui was this year's Prime Minister's Fellow of the New Zealand Government.

- Public Lecture, Professor Quansheng Zhao, of the American University, delivered public lectures in June at Victoria University, Auckland University and Otago University on China and the Asia-Pacific.

Public Policy Engagement Activities. The Centre has actively participated in programmes and activities organized by government, and by policy research institutions. These include the Asia NZ Foundation, NZIIA, NZIER, and MFAT. We have participated in track II dialogues, roundtable discussions, and public symposium.

The Centre has established itself in its unique role in the capital's public policy community. We run programmes and activities on current public policy issues ourselves but also become a recognized layer in the public policy space. Future work in this area includes producing publications of the projects and activities we organized or in which we participated, and developing new technology based platforms such as a blog, or Facebook page, for participation in public policy debates. This requires the support of more staff and other resources. Given the current resources level, we have not been able, for example, to produce reports ourselves on the symposia and public lectures we organised.

3. China Studies in New Zealand

This year, the Centre has made significant efforts in promoting China studies in New Zealand, particularly at Victoria University. The Centre has become a focal point for supporting research, teaching and studies at Victoria University.

- a. The Centre has played an important role in establishing/appointment of senior China scholars in social sciences disciplines at Victoria University and have established (and will continue to develop) good partnership with these senior China scholars and engage them with the projects and activities we organize. Victoria has appointed a Chair Professor of Chinese, a Professor in Asia Business, established a Professorial position in Chinese law, plus the three academics at different levels in political science and international relations, and a professor in psychology. These senior China scholars will provide significant leadership in research on China and form a critical mass on China research, study and teaching. The Centre has also engaged scholars in the School of Government, the Law Faculty, the Commerce Faculty, the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies, School of Maori studies to promote interests and research collaboration on China.
- b. The Centre has finished the first stage of its NOSAIC project that builds an online searchable database of all scholarly publications in New Zealand on China. We have been waiting for IT support to launch it on the Centre's website. Further work on

this will have a business database on research, archive, and data on New Zealand-China economic relations, possibly in collaboration with Auckland University's Asia Institute with their New Zealand Asia Information Service.

- c. The Centre has established its visiting fellow programme for China scholars on half-year or one-year research fellowships at the Centre. Currently, we have a large number of applicants from Chinese universities with their own funding. We hope to have senior scholars from other countries. When conditions are right, we hope to offer postdoctoral fellowships to attract fellows of high quality and impact.
- d. The Centre has been part of the university's great efforts to promote postgraduate studies on China and postgraduate students from China. Many NZ universities have a PhD scholarship agreement with the China Scholarship Council. The Centre is also associated with establishing MA scholarships to Chinese universities, a double master degree with Peking University, and the James Bertram Scholarship for the double degree programme. Victoria is running a very successful field study programme in Beijing with the China University of Political Science and Law, which serves as a good pathway for students to do postgraduate study on China.
- e. The Centre has been instrumental in setting up partner research centres at Chinese universities. We have formally established the Research Centre for New Zealand Political Science and Law at China University of Political Science and Law, and the Center for New Zealand Studies at Xiamen University. These partner centres serve as an important platform for our international research cooperation in China and for New Zealand studies in China.

Future work in this area looks to incorporate and promote efforts and arrangements for China Studies at the Centre's partner universities in New Zealand. There are significant programmes and activities in research and teaching on China at all New Zealand universities. There should be a way to fully use these resources and opportunities.

4. Building the Centre

The Centre has been in operation for almost three years now. While it has been working effectively given its current resource level and organizational structure, the Center is still evolving to be able to meet the challenge of running programmes and projects that have emerged in the past three years as our key areas of activities.

a. The Centre's Mission

The impact of the Centre is evident in the public policy sector, the tertiary education sector as well as the international community of China studies and universities in China.. Scholarly and policy activities on China are expanding. Government's proposal to establish a national China Council reflects this. Given the anticipated role of the China Council, we might need to consider whether the China Centre can or should continue its "two-legged walking" with efforts in both public policy and academic research, or it shall take academic research on China, international scholarship on China to New Zealand, and China studies in New Zealand as its primary purposes.

b. Funding and People

The Centre is largely funded by Victoria University so far. It operates programmes and projects often with co-funding from the NZ member universities, government agencies, business communities and Chinese partner universities. The Center has a part time director, a full time administrator, 6 unfunded associated directors from the NZ member universities, 4 visiting international fellows, and an unfunded research director. There are areas of work that are unable to be sufficiently supported under this structure. One area, for example, is the content management and publication, managing and publishing the Centre's programmes, projects and activities in written form - on our website, as China papers, and in other forms. Another area is the coordination of programmes and activities at NZ member universities.

With the significance of the Centre's programmes, projects and activities for NZ universities and the high and continually growing interest of the public and private sectors and the wider NZ society in the Centre's programmes, projects and activities, the Centre needs to raise significant outside funding if it is going to be able to sustain and expand its activities.

c. New Zealand University Members

NZ university members are an important part of the Centre's institutional framework. The Centre's work in the past 3 years would not have been possible without their active participation and contributions. So far such participation and contributions have been largely in the form of joint sponsorship, hosting and organization of projects, events and programmes. Future efforts are needed to incorporate activities and programmes in China research, study and teaching at the member universities with the Centre.

More specifically, the role of associate directors can be clarified. In their current role, associate directors take mainly the role of representing their university at the advisory board. Their role of coordinating China studies at their universities could be strengthened by a new academic committee at the Centre with leading China scholars from the member

universities as senior fellows on the committee, responsible for the Centre's research programmes, projects and activities across the NZ member universities.

5. Plan for 2012

2012 will be a major year for the Centre. We plan to advance work in the following areas: to have high-quality international conferences on China issues; to develop high quality research projects by the Centre, to have a series of public policy symposia on NZ-China relations; to streamline the Centre's operational and organizational structure; to fully develop projects on China Papers, databases, surveys, public lectures, research seminars, and visiting fellowships.

A. International Conferences

- *Public Services in China and New Zealand*, jointly sponsored with China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), starting of the project in early 2012, an international conference planned for May 2012 in China, publication in 2013.
- *The Chinese Model of Economic Development*, jointly sponsored with Peking University, starting of the project in August 2012, a high-level international conference (a Wellington Conference on Contemporary China), planned for August 2012, publication in 2013.
- *What's next? - China and the World* (in the context of world's financial economic crisis), in association with Canterbury University. Canterbury to host the conference, with the Centre's financial and administrative support.

B. China Symposia

- *Fudan-New Zealand Roundtable*, 28 February, 2011, Wellington; the Centre is to host the annual Track II dialogue on NZ-China relations and broad Asia-Pacific issues. The Chinese counterpart is Fudan University's Institute of International Studies.
- *National Business Symposium 2012, Successful Branding and Channel Management in China*, co-sponsored with NZTE, 1 March, 2011, in Auckland and Canterbury.
- *Public Symposium: Changing Environment for International Business in China*: 15 April, 2012, Wellington; reporting of the Centre's research project on trade and investment between New Zealand and China; with speakers from research

institutions, government agencies, universities and the business sector in both China and New Zealand.

- *Public Symposium: Free Trade Agreements: China, Taiwan, New Zealand and the Emerging Regional Trade Frameworks.* 25 June, 2012, Wellington; with speakers from China, Taiwan and New Zealand; the symposium looks at the impact of NZ-China FTA, the prospects of NZ-Taiwan Economic Cooperation Agreement (ECA), and the three's relations with TPP.
- *Public Symposium: The 40 Years of NZ-China Relations,* 20 September, 2012, Wellington; possibly to co-host with CICIR; with speakers organized by CICIR from China and by the China Centre from New Zealand.