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**Measuring quality and effectiveness of development cooperation programs on capacity development: states, firms, and civil societies**

Freie Universität Berlin, July 7, 2017

The workshop on “Measuring quality and effectiveness of development cooperation programs on capacity development: states, firms, and civil societies” was held at Free University of Berlin. The workshop was organized by Kei Namba (Graduate School of East Asian Studies, Free University of Berlin) and Marco Zappa (The Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University Berlin/ Ca’Foscari University of Venice, Italy).

Much has been debated on “the quality” or “effectiveness” of foreign aid and development programs by international donors including the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Over the last two decades, new forms of state and private sector engagement have been utilized as an effective tool in development cooperation. In order to tackle global challenges such as poverty reduction or climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is an increasing need for multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, firms, and civil societies. However, “effectiveness” and “legitimacy” are difficult to assess and have not necessarily increased “the quality” or enhancement of living standards for local communities in recipient countries.

Both China and Japan have in recent years promoted cooperation projects aiming at the institutional and economic development of the Asia-Pacific region and Africa. While on the one hand, initiatives in infrastructural development still occupy a major part in the overall effort by these donors, on the other, endeavors in promoting capacity development for the empowerment of local communities have multiplied. The aim of the workshop was to provide insights from both scholars and practitioners — promoting an occasion for discussion on the role of “quality” in the rhetoric of development cooperation.

The workshop consisted of a keynote lecture, three presentations and a roundtable discussion. After the welcome address by Prof. Verena Blechinger-Talcott (Free University of Berlin) followed by the introduction by the organizers, the keynote lecture was given by Professor Kanji Tanimoto (Waseda University, Japan) under the title “Sustainable development and multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSI)”. Professor Tanimoto explained the significance and the conditions of successful MSIs, namely legitimacy (output/input) of the initiatives to gain trust and market mechanism for evaluation. Drawing on theoretical debates, MSIs are expected to fill this governance gap and various stakeholders voluntarily co-create and commit a platform to set norms globally and locally.

Building on the conceptual basis on sustainable development and multi-stakeholder partnerships, Dr. Anne Ellersiek (Stiftung Wissenschaft Politik) presented her research project at SFB 700 entitled “Aid effectiveness and accountability: the view of new donors on partnerships and models of development cooperation.” During her presentation, Dr. Ellersiek presented donors’ perspectives on MSIs and their experiences based on interviews.

Professor Marie Söderberg (European Institute of Japanese Studies, Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden) presented her field research on Japan’s human resources management programs Kaizen in Ethiopia. Professor Söderberg showed how Japanese management philosophy Kaizen has been translated and adopted to the specific local contexts by drawing on examples of both public and private institutions, including her main finding that whether Kaizen fits in the Ethiopian context showed mixed results and Kaizen alone cannot solve Ethiopian industrialization problems.

The last presentation was given by Filiberto C. Sebegondi (Head of Development Cooperation Coordination Division, European External Action Services) on "EU's approach to measuring quality and effectiveness of aid". Sebegondi presented examples of how EU member states contribute to improve ownerships and alignment and promote effectiveness through transnational joint aid programming in countries like Cambodia and Lao PDR.

In the roundtable discussion, there was a strong emphasis on sharing best practices between donors and the recipient countries, while enhancing inclusiveness and transparency. Another important point related to aid effectiveness and MSIs was the role of civil societies in order to enhance the legitimacy of donor programs and the market mechanism of third party evaluation of donors. Although the need for humanitarian aid such as refugee crisis will continue to grow, there was a discussion on whether foreign aid is really necessary in the post-development era.

Kei Namba

## **5. Duisburg-Frankfurt-Workshop „Institutionen in der Entwicklung Ostasiens“**

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, 8. März 2017

Am 08.03.2017 fand an der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt zum fünften Mal der Duisburg-Frankfurt-Workshop „Institutionen in der Entwicklung Ostasiens“ statt. Der Workshop wurde organisiert von den drei Lehrstühlen Institutionen- und Innovationsökonomik, insb. Japan/Ostasien (Prof. Dr. C. Storz, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), Ostasienwirtschaft/Japan und Korea (Prof. Dr. W. Pascha, Universität Duisburg-Essen) und Ostasienwirtschaft/China (Prof. Dr. M. Taube, Universität Duisburg-Essen), die seit vielen Jahren kongruente Forschungsansätze verfolgen.

Die Vortragenden referierten über aktuelle Forschungsprojekte. Jedem Vortrag schloss sich eine interessante und aufschlussreiche Diskussion an. Im ersten Teil des Workshops referierten Jun.-Prof. Dr. Shuanping Dai (Universität Duisburg-Essen) zu „Recent cases of institutional innovation in China“, Mohamed Mansour (Universität Duisburg-Essen) zu „Monetary Integration through Currency Competition: the Parallel Currency Approach for East Asia“ und Prof. Dr. Cornelia Storz (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) über „The Conditions for Successful Entry in New Digital Industries: The Role of Generic Complementary Assets in the Online Games Industry“. Im zweiten Teil der Veranstaltung präsentierte Dr. Markus Heckel (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) einen Beitrag zu „Uncertainty over Labor Contract Duration: Evidence from Japanese and Spanish Micro Data“ und Na Zou (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) stellte Ihre Arbeit zu „Strategic thinking, networking and mirco-entrepreneurs' success“ vor.

Der Workshop findet seit 2013 alternierend an den beteiligten Lehrstühlen in Frankfurt und Duisburg statt. Auch in diesem Jahr wurde besonderer Wert auf Methodenvielfalt gelegt, um die Probleme und Entwicklungen in der Region Ostasien zu erfassen und zu erklären.

Werner Pascha, Cornelia Storz und Markus Taube

## Changing conceptions and practices of law and politics in Xi Jinping's China

Freie Universität Berlin (FUB), May 23, 2017

Seven international experts from the fields of legal-political studies (including legal and political philosophy), Chinese studies, history and political science came together at the Freie Universität Berlin to explore and discuss the extent and significance of recent developments in the legal and political field in China. In view of the increasing emergence of civil society groups at a time when new regulations pose more and more limitations and a tightening political control is likely to have implications far beyond these groups, the fundamental question of this conference was: Where is Chinese society under Xi Jinping heading?

In the first paper of the first panel, "Change and continuity in surveillance and repressions", Perry Keller (King's College, London) showed how new technological devices of surveillance in cities can be used as instruments of control and repression. In the current "post-internet era" where everybody is "always on and always connected", anonymity does not exist anymore. This is a global development, but in raising the issue in the Chinese context, Keller pointed to a particularly aggressive use of data and data profiling there, in combination with legal and political circumstances under which the privacy of the people is not protected. According to the next speaker, Corinna-Barbara Francis (King's College, London), the *danwei* (work units) is another instrument of repression, although one might have thought that this organizational unit was a phenomenon of the past. Instead, Francis described the crucial role and effectiveness of the *danwei* in applying "soft suppression" in cases of human rights violations in today's China.

The second panel, "Changing principles of governance", started with a presentation entitled "'Authoritarian legality', rule by law and rule by fear in China", by Eva Pils (King's College, London). She took the way the party state dealt with the legal cases related to the crackdown on lawyers in 2010, the so-called "709 incident", as evidence of the state's increasing confidence. For Pils, the changing conceptions of law and politics reflect the anti-liberal ideas of Carl Schmitt. The basic principles of this re-conception imply a friend-enemy distinction, zones of exception from ordinary legality and fear as the source of political order. In this context, Pils argued that "authoritarian legality" can collapse into rule by fear and that what we see in China now is a Schmittian fear-based rule subverting the rule-of-law reform and the defense of human rights. Sebastian Veg (School for Advanced Studies in Social Science, Paris) also explored the influence of Carl Schmitt's conceptions in China in his paper "From the New Left to Statism". Carl Schmitt's "statist" ideas place the need for unity before the rule of law and raise the state above everything else while seeking to "repoliticize" it. Veg argued that even though the influence of these intellectual ideas on policy is hard to document, there is evidence that Xi Jinping rejects the rule of law in favor of this "new concept of governance". Concerning the concept of rule of law, Katja Levy (Freie Universität Berlin) argued that "legalist government" would be a more appropriate translation for the Chinese term *fazhi*, which is usually translated as "rule of law". In her "Critical analysis of the recent discourse on the Rule of Law in the PR China", Levy tried to answer the question of "what is meant by 'Rule of Law'?". She concluded that in China the party is still above the law and that legal certainty is no central feature of the Chinese legal system. Therefore, the actual content of the Chinese word *fazhi* does not imply what western legal theories imply when referring to the rule of law and that the Chinese term should be understood from a different perspective.

Genia Kostka (Freie Universität Berlin) opened the third panel on "Politics and political activism" with her presentation about China's environmental target system. She presented her

research about how the authoritarian state uses command and control instruments as environmental enforcement mechanisms and concluded that the Chinese target system is helpful in the early phase of policy implementation, but also brings its own problems and should therefore instead be understood as a system of “command without control”. Zhu Yi (Graduate School of East Asian Studies [GEAS] at the FUB) presented her paper on the role of societal actors bringing about legal reforms in China. Using the case of the abolishment of re-education through labor (*laojiao*), she showed the importance of the internet for a development like this. Nowadays the internet is the most important information source for the topics in the public discussion, even more powerful than the state media. Thus, people that are influential on the internet have the ability to exert pressure and even generate political changes.

Overall, it was concluded that the technological developments that on the one hand provide information for users and on the other hand can be used as powerful surveillance instruments, along with the intensification of political control, reflect a situation that goes beyond China. The interdisciplinary approach and a broad perspective are crucial for the understanding of these current developments in the legal and political field. Especially topics like big data, the strengthened authoritarianism and the implications of these developments are timely and highly relevant and lay the foundation for analyzing the changes in Chinese society; therefore, the conference provided much inspiration for further research and cooperation.

Anja Ketels

### **International Workshop: Challenges and Chances for Sustainable Water Management in China**

Confucius Institute at Freie Universität Berlin, June 9, 2017

The international workshop hosted by the Confucius Institute and the Institute of Sinology at the Freie Universität Berlin brought together scholars from China, Japan, South Korea, the Netherlands, and Germany for an interdisciplinary exchange on issues related to sustainable water management in China.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Brigitta Schütt, vice president of the FU Berlin, stressed the importance to integrate traditional knowledge into modern concepts of sustainability.

In her introduction, Eva Sternfeld (Berlin), coordinator of the workshop, outlined China’s water risks such as extreme water scarcity and increasing competition between urban and rural water users in many parts of the country, water pollution, danger of flooding as impact of climate change.

Miriam Seeger (State Library Berlin) looked at the historical and cultural connotations of river control and dam building. In her presentation “Productive Landscapes”, she showed that the social and political concept of *shui li* 水利, making use of water in order to transform landscapes to productive ones, can be traced back to ancient water conservation projects and have been re-introduced and re-strengthened during the Republican time in early 20th century when the first plans for the Three Gorges Dam were developed.

Jia Shaofeng (Vice Director of Center for Water Resources Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences) identified in his presentation “An Assessment of Sustainability of Water Use in China” water use quantity, water quality, water utilization and ecosystem impacts as the four relevant aspects to be addressed when assessing sustainability in water management. China’s water problems such as run-off decrease of rivers and groundwater depletion in North China

and deteriorating water quality in many regions are serious. But there are also signs of improvement: Recent data suggest that the peak for water use might have been reached. Jia takes it as a Kuznets curve of water use: Along with economic growth and rising per capita GDP water use intensive industries and agriculture are transforming to a more resource efficient mode of production.

Recently, there have been ambitious efforts to install a functioning governance system for sustainable water management. The “Document No. 1” from 2011, issued by the State Council, calls for accelerated reforms in water governance and sets “Three Red Lines” for water consumption, water use efficiency and water quality. A whole tool kit of instruments has been introduced, ranging from improving information flow, political cooperation, and marketization to conventional top-down approaches. Taking the case of the seriously polluted Lake Erhai in Yunnan as an example, Sabrina Habich-Sobiegalla (FU Berlin, Institute of Sinology) showed how under the “Crisis Mode in China’s Water Politics” this complex tool set is given up in favour of a campaign-style authoritarian environmental governance approach.

James Nickum (Tokyo, International Water Resources Association) shared his thoughts on “Water Economies of China’s Global Cities”. Throughout the world, mega-cities with open economies and complex international networks have become the important drivers of global development and national economies. Global cities are important as hubs for information exchange, business activities, innovation, and political engagement while at the same time they are extremely vulnerable to economic crisis and impacts of climate change. Based on the experience of global cities, including the Chinese ones, Nickum identified three sustainability dilemmas which he explained for the cases of Beijing, Shanghai, and Hongkong: 1. resource stability versus financial stability, 2. financial sustainability versus political sustainability, and 3. greater self-reliance versus cooperation with source areas, often upstream from the global city.

In her presentation “China’s agricultural water management in transition. Smart technology-smart governance”, Bettina Bluemling (University of Utrecht) showed how in China increasingly smart-technology is used to adapt to climate change and water risks. In recent years huge investments have been made in the research of related technologies. Artificial weather modification, such as cloud seeding to induce rainfall or prevent hail, is nowadays a quite common institutionalised practice under control of the weather modification office of the China Meteorological Administration.

In his presentation, Yang Yonghui (Center for Agricultural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences) took the water management strategies for the Haihe River (the river basin where the new capital region Jing-Jin-Ji is located) as an example to illustrate the challenges for the farmland-food-water nexus based river basin management. He showed that China’s recent increases in food production were mainly reached through increases in North China. This was achieved at the cost of overuse of surface and groundwater resources. Although in recent years long distance water transfer projects brought some relief, still especially the North China Plain suffers from severe ground water depletion and decline of surface water run-off. The recent Hai River Renaturation Plan includes the recovery of six tributary waters and wetlands in the Hai River basin with an additional annual injection of 5 billion m<sup>3</sup>. Yang mentioned the challenges of implementing such an ambitious program without impacts on the agricultural productivity and recent efforts to reduce agriculture water demand by adjusting crop patterns by offering ecological compensation to farmers.

In the final presentation, Seungho Lee (Korea University, Seoul) discussed his findings on possible shared benefits in the collaboration of China and other Mekong River countries in the

field of hydropower development. Lee showed that there are a number potential fields where collaboration could bring a benefit sharing such as improving water quality and biodiversity, improving water management for hydropower and agriculture uses, flood and drought management, and beyond water the integration regional markets for all parties involved. The Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Mechanism, an initiative between China and ASEAN that was agreed on in 2014, is clearly focussing on issues such as interconnectivity, cross border cooperation, and cooperation on water resources management, poverty alleviation, agriculture, and public health. Critics argue that this initiative is China's brainchild and is dominated by Chinese interests. However, as Lee argued, on the long run neighbouring countries may share the aspired benefits.

Eva Sternfeld

### **EJARN Conference “Monetary Policy in Japan and Europe”**

Goethe University Frankfurt, June 9–10, 2017

The annual conference of the European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN) took place at the Goethe University Frankfurt, this year focusing on “Monetary Policy in Japan and Europe”. The conference was co-organized by Professor Dr. Cornelia Storz and Dr. Markus Heckel in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Center for East Asian Studies (IZO).

The first day of the conference focused on keynotes related to monetary policy (Session 1: Monetary Policy), while the second day offered a broader scope of topics (Session 2: Politics, Security, and Political Economy in the EU and Japan). The conference attracted more than 60 speakers, scholars and invited participants ranging from policymakers, representatives from the business sector (e.g. the Hôjinkai [Association of Japanese enterprises in Frankfurt]), and students. Professor Marie Söderberg (Stockholm School of Economics and EJARN director), Yoshitaka Tsunoda (Deputy Consul General, Japan), and Professor Cornelia Storz (Goethe University) welcomed the participants with an opening address.

The first day was dedicated to bringing together monetary policy experts, central bank officials and scholars. The first panel, chaired by Per Nymand-Andersen (European Central Bank), gave an overview of recent monetary policy and changes thereof in Japan and Europe. It was kicked off by a panel consisting of (former) central bank officials Professor Kiyohiko Nishimura (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies; Chair of the Statistics Commission of Japan; Former Deputy Governor, Bank of Japan), Dr. Katrin Assenmacher (European Central Bank, Head of Monetary Policy Strategy Division), and Dr. Daniel Kienzler (Deutsche Bundesbank, Monetary Policy and Analysis Division). Professor Nishimura talked about the changes and challenges of the Bank of Japan in the post-crisis-era; Dr. Assenmacher gave an overview about the ECB's monetary policy in the past three years; and Dr. Kienzler discussed issues regarding monetary policy and financial stability.

The next panel continued with the discussion on monetary policy with a focus on potential future policies chaired by Dr. Markus Heckel. Speakers were Professor Franz Waldenberger (German Institute for Japanese Studies), Associate Professor Gene Park (Loyola Marymount University), and Sebastian Breuer (German Council of Economic Experts, Deputy Secretary General). Professor Waldenberger suggested fully reserve backed money as a potential solution to Japan's monetary and fiscal challenges; Professor Park discussed how economic ideas and monetary policy making are linked; and Mr. Breuer gave an overview of the challenges of the Euro area. The last panel of the first session, chaired by Professor Marie Söderberg, dealt with the economy and business. The panel was opened by Associate Professor

Patrik Ström (University of Gothenburg) who traced on Chinese firms and foreign acquisitions. Professor Cornelia Storz proceeded with a presentation of conditions for successful entries in new digital industries. In the final presentation of the day, Dr. Markus Heckel presented micro data from Japan and Spain about employees who are confronted with uncertainty over their labor contract duration.

The second day of the conference featured discussions about the general topic of politics, security, and political economy in the EU and Japan. The first panel was on Japanese Defence and Strategic Issues, chaired by Dr. Maaïke Okano-Heijmans (Clingendael Institute). Paul O'Shea, PhD (Lund University) opened the panel with a contribution on "Risk Communication and Safe Food in Post-Fukushima Japan", followed by Professor Pekka Korhonen (Jyväskylä University), who laid out the Japanese defence issues arising from North Korea's ever advancing nuclear missile program. The panel was concluded by Associate Professor Guibourg Delamotte's (French Institute of Oriental Studies) presentation on the development of Japan's power concerning Prime Minister Abe's reforms. After a short coffee break the session was continued with issues on development, cooperation and business strategies chaired by Professor Cornelia Storz. Professor Marie Söderberg started with a contribution on the Philippines as a case study of Japanese development cooperation policy. Lastly, Dr. Maaïke Okano-Heijmans talked about "European and Japanese Responses to the EU-Asia Connectivity Drive: How to Stay Competitive in a New Era of Chinese State-Sponsored Capitalism".

The EJARN conference was concluded with a roundtable on EU-Japan relations moderated by Axel Berkofsky (University of Pavia). The roundtable brought together policymakers from the EU and Japan (Maki Kobayashi from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Heike Schneider from the European External Action Service), representatives from business and business associations (Takayasu Fukui from the Japan External Trade Organization and Jutaro Kaneko from the Japan Center for International Finance), and scholars (Professor Franz Waldenberger, Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies). Professor Waldenberger started the roundtable by summarizing the recent developments of foreign companies in Japan, which was complemented by a contribution from Mr. Fukui about the situation of Japanese companies in Europe. Regarding recent developments in EU-Japan relations, in particular the future scope and quality of EU-Japan relations after the adoption of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA), the impact of Brexit on Japanese banking and investment in Europe, and Japanese trade and investment policies towards Europe and elsewhere have been discussed intensively. As regards the above-mentioned EU-Japan agreements, the Japanese representative from Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the representative from the EU's External Action Service both agreed that the adoption of the agreements will further institutionalise already ongoing EU-Japan cooperation in international trade and politics. As regards the impact of Brexit on Japanese banking in and trading with Europe, Japanese contributors to the roundtable warned that Brexit indeed has the potential to hamper and decrease Japanese banking and finance operations in Europe.

Markus Heckel