

**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> 2009 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**I. Mission**

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

- to function as a global multidisciplinary platform and influential institution for academic research, training and consultancy on China development and globalization issues;
- to undertake high-impact and quality collaborative research and consultant work for international development organizations, governments, and Multi-National Corporations;
- to organize high-profile international conferences, networking, information clearing and training programs among the participating institutions, particularly in conjunction with the MA in China Development Studies Program at HKU;
- to explore external funding sources in support of research programmes in the Faculty; and to serve as a junction of the Faculty and outside organizations.

**II. Strategy (with links to the Faculty strategy and Centre mission)**

One of the core strategies of the Faculty is to establish tripartite research collaboration focused on policy and management challenges in Hong Kong, London and New York with a view to extending the frontiers of academic research and enabling policy learning to take place across the three cities. It will reach out from the academic realm to embrace policymakers and thereby build a platform for information exchange across three world cities, and for high-level academic research and evidence-based policymaking. The establishment of the collaborative research network with local and mainland scholars and the international research task force with UK scholars is not only to function as a multi-disciplinary and international institution and network for academic research, training and consultancy, the centre also serves as a platform to facilitate high-caliber academic exchanges between overseas and mainland scholars on China development and

globalization issues. We are confident that the Center would emerge as a major global player and influential niche for China development and globalization issues.

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

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

Over the past academic year, the Director, Dr. Simon Zhao, actively participated in many high profile exchange activities, private and public consultative meetings, conferences with Hong Kong and the Mainland government officials, academic and business leaders for Hong Kong financial centre development and cooperation with Shenzhen and the rest of the PRD, thereby raising the profile of the centre.

The director was one of the coordinators and a key member of a group scholar nominated by RGC from all Hong Kong universities to present and defend the Theme Topic "Hong Kong's Future as an International Financial Center," under Theme 3: Enhancing Hong Kong's strategic position as a regional and international business centre over this summer. This exercise is a part of RGC's new effort to introduce a strategic funding mechanism, under the name "Theme-based Research Scheme", for promoting substantial research on "grand and challenging" topics that are huge in terms of funding support and scale - hundreds of million dollars, involving multi-disciplinary and inter-universities collaboration.

The Centre achieved a satisfactory financial position from 2009 to 2010 with \$150,000 research funds injected by the Director's individual research grants and \$150,000 donated from the public. In addition to research activities, the Centre continues to make a significant contribution to training the next generation of researchers in China development studies at HKU. It presently has two Ph.D and two M.Phil candidates that were recruited as research fellows and associates in the centre. For past year, the Centre has cooperated with the Master of Arts in China Development Studies (MACDS) program to organize fieldtrips to the Shanghai-Yangtze River Delta, Beijing-Tianjin Bohai Economic Rim. These field trips were very successful, full of knowledge, most memorable, joyful and life-time experiences for the students. The outcomes were excellent and highly regarded by all who participated. The fieldtrip, together with the Contemporary China Seminar Series have become one of the most successful elements and attractive selling points of the MACDS Program.

#### **b. Way forward**

The Centre will continue to function as a multi-disciplinary and international institution and network for academic and applied research, training and consultancy, and facilitate high-caliber academic exchanges between overseas and Mainland scholars on China development and globalization issues. Over the next year, the

Centre will build on the platform of its strengths and past achievements to construct three pillars for the Centre's Development: enhancing international and multi-disciplinary research collaboration, raising our global and local presence and visibility, serving the community and partnering with society.

The first is to enhance exchange activities in our established international research task force with Oxford University (Dr. D. Wojcik and Prof. G. Clark) and the University of Nottingham (Prof. J. Beverstock) for global financial center studies in regards to the post-global financial crisis. The task force members agreed to hold gathering activities, including forums and seminars at either participating university each year to exchange ongoing research and the latest research achievements.

The second theme is to promote the Centre's presence and visibility both locally and globally. A key priority in the upcoming year will be to ensure that wherever possible, publications created, research activities and international conferences organized by the Centre or with Centre assistance will be visible on the Centre website, to enhance recognition and knowledge transfer.

The third and final theme involves knowledge exchange with communities in Hong Kong and the region. The Director of the Centre is newly appointed as a member of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Panel under the Hong Kong Government's Central Policy Unit (CPU). This membership is one important channel to contribute the advancement of society and nurture the development of government leaders. The Centre will present a serial of policy recommendations to the panel for introducing and promoting the potential contributions and benefits of the Centre's research achievements to the society.

**IV. Output (at least one author must include Centre affiliation in paper and only those research outputs affiliated with the Centre/Programme should be listed, must not repeat publications referenced in earlier reports)**

a. Journals

**Dr. Simon X. B. Zhao, Director**

1. Wang, D. Zhang, L. Zhang Z. and **Zhao, X.B.** (forthcoming) "Urban infrastructure financing in reform-era China", accepted by *Urban Studies* (ISI Citation 5-year Impact Factor 1.82, ranked 6/32 in Urban Studies).
2. Ramón-Berjano, C.B., **Zhao, X.B.** and Chan, Y.M. (2010) "Regional Development within the One Country Two Systems: Hong Kong's Transformation into a Service Hub", accepted by *Asian Survey* (Sage: London), (50%, ISI Citation 5-year Impact Factor 0.44. ranked 24/39 Area Studies)
3. 趙曉斌 (**Zhao X.B.**) (2010) 全球金融中心百年競爭的決定成敗因素, 《中國社會科學(內部文稿)》, 21:3, 52-58, (China's No.1 journal in social sciences)

and its Internal Edition is specially designated for the frontier of “Big Theories” (重大理論) and for the reading of high level officials and scholars and as internal reference for top policy-making).

4. 趙曉斌 (Zhao X.B.) (2010) 全球金融中心的百年競爭及中國金融中心的崛起, 《世界地理研究》, 19:2, 1-11. (China Top journal in Geography).

**Prof. George C. S. Lin, Associate Director**

1. **Lin, George C.S.** (2010) “Understanding land development problems in globalizing China.” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 51:1, 80-103. Columbia, USA: Bellwether (CIF: 1.48; No. 1 journal in Area Studies by CIF in 2009).
2. Wang, C.C., **Lin, G.C.S.**, and Li, G. (2010) “Industrial clustering and technological innovation in China: New evidence from the ICT industry in Shenzhen.” *Environment and Planning A*, 42:9, 1897-2010. London: Pion.
3. Wei, Y.D., Zhou, Y., Sun, Y., and **Lin, G.C.S.** (2010) “Production and R&D networks of foreign ventures in China: Implications for technological dynamism and regional development.” *Applied Geography*. London: Elsevier (Page-proofs corrected).
4. **Lin, George C.S.** and Wang, Cassandra C. (2009) “Technological Innovation in China’s High-Tech Sector: Insights from a 2008 Survey of the Integrated Circuit Design Industry in Shanghai.” *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 50:4, 404-424. Columbia, USA: Bellwether (CIF: 1.48; No. 1 journal in Area Studies by CIF in 2009).
5. **Lin, George C.S.** (2009) “Decentering geography in a globalizing world.” *World Regional Studies*, 18:4, 1-16. Shanghai: Science Press (in Chinese).

**Prof. David D. Zhang, Associate Director**

1. **Zhang, D.D.** and Lee, H.F. (forthcoming) “Climate change, food shortage and war: A quantitative case study in China during 1500 – 1800.” *Cartina*. Egypt: The Egyptian Society for Environmental Sciences.
2. Lee, H.F., Fok, L., and **Zhang, D.D.** (forthcoming) Time lag in the climate-war relationship. *Asian Geographer*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Geographical Association.
3. **Zhang, D.D.**, Lee, H.F., Wang, C., Li, B., Zhang, J., Pei Q. and Chen, J. (forthcoming) “Climate change and large scale human population collapses in the pre-industrial era.” *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. Oxford: Blackwell Science.
4. Lee, H.F. and **Zhang D.D.** (2010) “What drove the secular population cycles in historical agrarian China?” *Climate Research*, 42, 235-246. Amelinghausen: Inter-Research.

5. Lee, H.F. and **Zhang, D.D.** (2010) “Natural disasters in northwestern China, AD1270 – 1949” *Climate Research*, 41:3, 245-257. Amelinghausen: Inter-Research.
  6. 杜恕環; 李保生; **David D.Zhang**; 牛東風; 溫小浩; 陳德牛; 歐先交; 楊藝; 司月君; 趙欣楠 (2009) “薩拉烏蘇河流域 MGS5 層段 CaCO<sub>3</sub> 記錄的末次間冰期東亞季風與沙漠環境演化.” *Advances in Natural Sciences*, 19:11, 1187-1193.
  7. Lee, H.F., **Zhang, D.D.**, and Fok, L. (2009) “Temperature, aridity thresholds, and population growth dynamics in China over the last millennium.” *Climate Research*, 39:2, 131-147. Amelinghausen: Inter-Research.
  8. Wen X. Li B. Zheng Y, **Zhang, D.D.** et al (2009) “Climate variability in the Salawusu River valley of the Ordos Plateau (Inner Mongolia, China) during Marine Isotope Stage 3.” *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 2491, 61-74.
- b. Book contracts and published
  - c. Book chapters

**Prof. George C. S. Lin, Associate Director**

1. Lin, George C.S. (2010) “The Pearl River Delta.” In C.Y. Jim (Ed.) *New Geography of Hong Kong*, 161-193. Hong Kong: Cosmos Books.
  2. Lin, George C.S. (2009) “China’s ongoing urban transformation: Managing the state-society relation.” In YUAN Zhi-Gang (Ed.) *Shanghai Forum 2008 Highlight*, 136-175. Shanghai: Shanghai People’s Press.
  3. Lin, George C.S. (2009) “A quiet revolution? The growth of the tertiary economic sector and urban transformation in globalizing Guangzhou metropolis.” In Yuan Ren, Chen Xiangming, and Dieter Lapple (Eds.) *The Era of Global City-Regions*, 136-163. Shanghai: Fudan University Press.
  4. Lin, George C.S. (2009) “Playing with words or playing with numbers? The arts and science of research in contemporary economic geography.” In LIU Weidong et al. (Eds.) *Geographical Review*, 55-60. Beijing: Commercial Press (in Chinese).
- d. Conference papers
    1. Zhao X.B. (2010) “The Centennial Competition of Global Financial Centers and the Rise of China’s Financial Centers”, Conference paper proceedings, *Regional Studies Association Annual International Conference 2010*  
<https://www.regional-studies-assoc.ac.uk/events/2010/may-pecs/papers/Zhao.pdf>
    2. Zhao, X.B. (2009) “Global Competition of Financial Centres and the Rise of Chinese Financial centres”, proceedings of Chinese Academy of Sciences International Conference of Urban Geography in Beijing, China.

3. Zhao, X.B. (2009) “Global Financial Centers Growth and Competition and Reference to Shanghai”, proceedings of Shanghai International Finance Forum, China.

e. Public reports

1. Zhao X. B. (2010) “全球金融中心百年競爭未停 金融中心無法欽定” *Hong Kong Commercial Daily* (香港商報), 10/5/2010.
2. Zhao X. B. (2010) “人仔國際化前 港滬金融難並論”, *Hong Kong Commercial Daily* (香港商報), 30/4/2010.
3. Zhao X.B. (2009) “粵港八條協議衝刺國家戰略 前海試水新特區力挺東方之珠”, *Nanfang Dushi Daily* (南方都市報), 20/8/2009.

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

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

a. Consultancies

**Dr. Simon X. B. Zhao, Director**

17/08/10 Coordinated a group of scholars from HKU, CUHK, HKUST, HKPolyU, and HKLU to present and defend the Grand Challenge Topic “Hong Kong’s Future as an International Financial Center,” under Theme 3: Enhancing Hong Kong's strategic position as a regional and international business centre, in the Theme-based Research Scheme 1-day Workshop, organized by the Research Grants Committee, in Hong Kong.

24/05/10 Keynote presentation on “The rise of Chinese Financial Centres: Competition and Cooperation among Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen and Hong Kong” in the section of “Financial Centres - Rising the ‘Eastern Stars’”, Regional Studies Association Annual International Conference 2010, in Pécs, Hungary.

12/05/10 Invited presentation on “Competitions of Financial Centers: Global Experience and the rise of financial centers in China” in the University Lecture Series at the Oxford University.

18/04/10 Chaired and organized session “China’s National Strategic Planning and Urban-regional Sustainable Development in the 12th Five-year Plan and Beyond” and presented a paper on “Competitions of Global Financial Centres: New York, London, and Hong Kong” in Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting in Washington, USA.

17/10/09 Invited key presentation on “Global Financial Centers Competition and its impact on the formation of Mega-city Regions in China” in the section of Globalization and China’s economic internationalization, Centennial

Celebration of the Geographical Society of China, organized by the Geographical Society of China, in Beijing.

25/09/09 Invited keynote speech on “Global Financial Centers Growth and Competition and Reference to Shanghai” at opening ceremony and key presentation on “Developing Shanghai into a International Financial Centre and its impact on Yangzi River Delta” in a panel section, Shanghai International Finance Forum, organized by Shanghai Municipal Government, in which Vice-Chairpersons of CPPCC, Vice Mayor of Shanghai, Deputy Governor of the PBC, District Governor of Pudong New Area are also among many distinguished guests.

08/09/09 Invited keynote speech “Global Competition of Financial Centres and the Rise of Chinese Financial centres”, Chinese Academy of Sciences International Workshop of Urban Geography, Beijing.

06/08/09 Meeting with Generali Director: Requested by Generali, we hold private meeting for “Hong Kong’s relationship with China and the development of the region and in particular the development of Guangdong” with Mr. Lorenzo SAVORELLI, Director and Head of Research and Development, Generali Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A (European one of the largest insurance company)

03/08/09 CPU Meeting: Invited keynote Speech for “Shanghai Financial Cooperation with Hong Kong” in a closed meeting with Shanghai’s Financial Officials and Experts, organized by the Central Policy Unit of Hong Kong Government.

b. Training

c. Research projects

i) List of all contract research projects

Project Title	Name of Project Holder	Project Start Date

ii) List of all collaborative projects

Project Title	Name of Project Holder	Name of Collaborator	Project Start Date
<i>Formation and Spatial Structure of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Mega-city Region – A Perspective of Cooperation in Advanced Producer Services Sector</i>	Simon X.B. Zhao	To be confirm	01/08/2010
Comparative Study of Regulatory Regimes and Financial Centers among Anglo-American,	Simon X.B. Zhao	Dr. Dariusz Wojcik; Prof. Frank Song; Prof. Michael	01/10/2010

Continental European, and Japanese Systems and Reference to Hong Kong and China		Grote	
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iii) List of all pro-bono projects

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

- d. Conferences organized
- e. Formal relationships with organizations

**VI. Teaching (excluding that credited to departments)**

- a. Undergraduate courses
- b. Taught Masters courses

GEOG7102 Geography of Foreign Investment and Trade in China

GEOG7116 China Field Trip

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

Chan Gabriel, PhD, 2010-ongoing, HKU.

Lao Qionghua, M.Phil, 2009 –ongoing, HKU.

Lenzer James, PhD, 2007-ongoing, “Financial Innovation, Information Technology and Geographical Responsibility: Lessons from the US Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis”, HKU.

Lee Ka Shing, M.Phil, 2008-ongoing, “Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Development: World-class metropolis”, HKU

Wang H.J., M.Phil, 2007-2009, “Financial Market Integration, Capital Follow, and Cooperation between HK and Shanghai and Shengzhen Financial Markets”, HKU.

**VII. Collaborations**

- a. Local

The Centre established a collaborative research network with the Strategic Design Lab of Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Prof. Tak Chi LEE) aimed at studying the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Joint Development Mega-City Region:



Innovation Park, Strategic Location and Cross-border Development, bidding for a Public Policy Research Scheme, Innovation and Technology Fund and the latest Theme-based Research Scheme. The timely arrival of Prof. Lee of HK Poly U, a renowned specialist in innovation park design and establishment, will contribute indispensable design, contents and action plans for the research.

- b. Regional
- c. International

With the platform of the centre, we have the luxury to gather high-caliber academic talents to form a high quality international consortium for a large-scale and multi-dimension collaborative research project, namely, International Collaborative Research for Studies on Developing Global Financial Centres Network and Managing World Cities. We have teamed up renowned scholars from world class institutions such as the University of Oxford, New York University and Peking University among others. Particularly, Dr. Dariusz Wojcik of Oxford University, who is the foremost scholar of Geography of Finance and created the Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI) for the City of London Corporation, which arguably is the most significant semi-annual study regarding financial centres. Also Prof. Neil Brenner of New York University is a world famous theorist on global-local state and urban governance and metropolitan studies. It is one of the Centre's activities to follow the Faculty's major international endeavor with the King's College London, New York University.

July 21, 2010 re-amended  
July 30, 2009 amended  
August 20, 2008