

## CIDRN News



### CIDRN holds its annual conference in Beijing

China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) Annual Meeting 2013-14 was successfully held in Beijing on **25 September 2014**. Members of the CIDRN shared knowledge on current hot issues of international development. CIDRN research grantees reported on their research proposals and received comments and suggestions from International Advisory Committee (IAC) members. Progress of the CIDRN during 2013-2014 was reviewed by the Management Group. From **22 to 24 September 2014**, organized by the Research Centre for International Development (RCID) based at the China Agricultural University, the IAC team visited Yiwu, a city in Zhejiang Province, as a case study of accelerated inclusive growth.

#### Summary of IAC Visit to Yiwu at:

<http://rcid.cau.edu.cn/attach/0/2014.12%20IAC%20Zhejiang%20Visit%20Summary-final.pdf>

## Public Event Series

On **25 September 2014**, following the CIDRN Annual Meeting, the 13<sup>th</sup> CIDRN Public Event and the launch of the IDS Bulletin Special Issue on China and International Development were held. The Public Event, on the theme **What and how China can contribute to international development**, was moderated by Prof. **Li Xiaoyun**, Chair of the CIDRN. Five panelists contributed (**Hu Angang**, Professor and Director, Institute for Contemporary China Studies, Tsinghua University; **Stephan Klingebiel**, Head of Department "Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation", German Development Institute; **Kevin May**, Programme Manager of Oxfam HK; **Hannah Ryder**, Deputy Country Director of UNDP China and **Richard Carey**, Chair of International Advisory Committee of CIDRN).



The 14<sup>th</sup> Public Event was held on **23 October 2014**. Dr. Gerd Müller, the German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) delivered a lecture on **China and Germany as Partners for Sustainable Development Worldwide**. The event was supported by GIZ and moderated by Prof. **Li Xiaoyun**, Chair of the CIDRN.



At the 15<sup>th</sup> Public Event, on **27 November 2014**, sponsored by the EU-China Environmental Governance Programme, Mr. **Neven Mimica**, European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development gave a speech on **European Union and China – International Development Cooperation in a Changing World**. The event was moderated by Dr. **Zhou Hong**, co-chair of the CIDRN with Prof. **Li Xiaoyun**, Chair of the CIDRN, as commentator.



## Activities of CIDRN Members

From **29 September to 1 October 2014**, hosted by the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), the **Review Meeting of the “Rising Powers in African Agriculture: Are China and Brazil bringing new paradigms to agricultural development cooperation?” Research Project** was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Researchers from China Agricultural University (Li Xiaoyun, Qi Gubo, Xu Xiuli, Tang Lixia, Lu Jixia and Zhang Chuanhong) attended the meeting, participating in the discussions on research reports from all collaborating countries, the UK, China, Brazil, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mozambique.



From **13 to 14 October 2014**, hosted by Center for African Studies, the Peking University and Oxfam, the workshop on **New Age Agricultural International Cooperation in Africa: Opportunities & Challenges for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development** was held at Peking University. Li Xiaoyun and Li Anshan talked about Africa's Rise and Agricultural Development. Liu Haifang and Zhang Haisen joined the discussions on agricultural development cooperation and FDI in agriculture respectively. Xu Weizhong and Tang Xiaoyang shared their views in the session on the challenges and opportunities for stakeholders in aid projects, trade and investment. Wang Xiaolin and Mao Xiaojing presented their views on how to measure impacts from perspectives of inclusive growth and sustainable development. Xu Xiuli and Zhang Chuanhong shared case studies from Tanzania and Mozambique respectively.



On **29 October 2014**, CIDRN hosted with UNDP China, a Stakeholder's Meeting for the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NEST) in Beijing.

From **31 October to 1 November 2014**, hosted by Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) and organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), a **North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum** was held in Seoul, South Korea. CIDRN members (Li Xiaoyun, Zhang Chun, Wang Yihuan, Wu Jin, Huang Meibo, Li Linyi and Yao Shuai) attended the event and made presentation/comments in the thematic sessions.



On **14 November 2014**, the China-DAC Study Group, with its Secretariat at the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), held a symposium in Beijing on **Promoting Ethical Business and Public-Private Partnership for Development**. Participants discussed and shared experiences on forming strategic alliances between development agencies and the private sector to promote sustainable development in developing countries and on encouraging firms operating abroad to embrace ethical business practices.





On **19-20 November 2014**, Prof. **Huang Meibo** was invited by the JICA Institute to attend a follow-up workshop and an open symposium on **Japan and the Developing World: Sixty Years of Japan's Foreign Aid and the Post 2015 Agenda** in Tokyo, Japan. On **22 November**, Huang as a representative of the CIDRN, also presented at the 25 Anniversary of JISAD (Japan Society for International Development) and at an international workshop discussing potential cooperation in development education and research among Japan, South Korea and China.

On **26 November 2014**, Naohiro Kitano, Deputy Director of JICA Research Institute gave a presentation on **Estimating China's foreign aid 2001-2013** at JICA/ CAITEC Seminar held in the Beijing Guangming Hotel.



On **28 December 2014**, **Workshop for Emerging Economics and Development Partnership for the Post-2015 Era**, co-organized by the Center for International Development Cooperation, Kyung Hee University and China Institute for International Development, Xiamen University was held in Xiamen. A dozen of Korean, Chinese and UN scholars discussed how emerging economies could contribute to international development in the era of post-2015. The workshop was attended by CIDRN colleagues (**Huang Meibo, Wang Yihuan, Tang Lixia and Zhang Chuanhong**). It is hoped that more Korean and Chinese universities will join such discussions.

## Research Papers and Reports

Whose Knowledge? The challenges for North-South development co-operation



By Xiaoyun Li, Chair of the China International Development Research Network

The varying degrees of participation in the *Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation's* High-level Forum in Mexico demonstrated how wider stakeholders' co-operation has ever been. More than 1,500 participants from more than 130 countries with different agendas and expectations took part in the conference in Mexico on 15-16 April, 2014. Northern partners offered their willingness to work with all parties to tackle global challenges under common goals with differentiated responsibilities. However, the legitimacy of the forum has been debated. The decline in the participation of China and India, as well as apparent disagreement from Brazil, despite its attendance, raised questions over how this new partnership can be further developed. It would be very difficult to imagine the future of the partnership without participation of these three countries.

As soon as I arrived in Mexico, I was immediately asked at the hotel reception: "Why didn't China come? Will China still come?" These questions reminded me of the situation at the *Buenos Aires Summit on Aid Effectiveness in 2011*. China did take part in that event, but in a relatively lower profile group. It is natural to ask why China, India and others have been reluctant to participate in this ever-open forum. Wouldn't these countries like to share their responsibilities for international development? With South-South Co-operation given high recognition at the Global Partnership's High-Level Forum, why were these countries still unhappy? Are they really so difficult to "manage"?

To respond to those questions, one should briefly review how this new partnership was developed, and, importantly, note the huge knowledge gap that existed at that time, affecting real and equal communication.

Development assistance after the Second World War was provided mainly by the United States until the 1960s. The US called for the establishment of the "Development Assistance Group" in 1960 with 11 allies. This was the first expansion of a Western-oriented international development agenda. The group was then further institutionalized into the *Development Assistance Committee (DAC)* within the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1961. This Western-dominated international development agenda continued until the new century, alongside other forms of international aid provided by other players like the former Soviet Union and Arab countries. The flows from different stakeholders, particularly from recipient countries. From a Chinese perspective, the subsequent formation of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and the Buenos Aires Summit signalled further expansion of the Western-dominated international development discourse. The West has been using a similar approach through its controlled institutional structure and well-elaborated framework to secure the "legitimacy" of others in order to sustain its basic agenda. China and, I believe, others have been very cautious not to be "bought in".

Prof. Li Xiaoyun's blog article entitled *Whose Knowledge? The challenges for North-South development co-operation* was released at

<http://devcooperation.org/2014/10/03/whose-knowledge-the-challenges-for-north-south-development-co-operation/>



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