From July 24-27, Asia Research Centre and Copenhagen Business School once again welcomed a delegation of Chinese business leaders to CBS. This happened in connection with the Danish part of the annual China Executive Leadership Programme (CELP), which aims to provide the participants with an understanding of the Nordic welfare and business model.

The delegation consisted of high-ranking business leaders from some of the largest companies in China – the so-called ‘national champions’ – and since the establishment of the programme about 200 business leaders have participated. Many of the previous years’ participants have now been appointed governors or ministers, so this year’s participants were also from the future political elite in China. The programme was approved by President Hu Jintao and every year it is evaluated by the standing committee of the Politburo.

In Copenhagen, the delegation visited CBS where Professor Ove Kaj Pedersen, Professor Ari Kokko and Professor Niels Mygind, all from CBS, gave lectures about the Danish welfare model and Nordic cooperate governance. The delegation also participated in a round table discussion with business leaders from five of the largest Danish companies. The topic for the discussion was ‘business leadership in large enterprises in a globalized world’ and gave the participants an insight into Danish companies’ approach to management, values and how to run a company in a globalized world.

Besides the above, the delegation visited the headquarters of A.P. Moller – Maersk, had an audience with His Royal Highness Prince Joachim and visited Ballerup Municipality to learn more about Danish welfare.

Japanese events at Asia Research Centre

On September 26, Motoko Christensen, University of New South Wales, Australia, gave a lecture and held a workshop on the topic ‘Facing up to Facebook: Expanding language learning beyond the classroom’. Motoko Christensen talked about how there is a growing interest in Social Network Sites (SNS) usage - not only from an organizational point of view but also from an educational perspective - and highlighted some factors that affect interactions in SNS’s provision of scaffoldings amongst Japanese language learners and native speakers. After the lecture, the participants discussed the implications of introducing SNS usage into face-to-face modes of delivering language curricula.

On October 11, Asia Research Centre and Asian Studies Programme showed the feature film 「希望の国」 (Land of Hope) at Falconer Bio. Present at the event was Mr. Kinji Shinoda from the Japanese Embassy who welcomed the students and said a few words about the repercussions of the earthquake and the tsunami in Japan in 2011.
Research workshop in August

From August 30-31, Michael Jakobsen hosted a research workshop titled ‘Exploring Key External Factors Affecting State Performance in Contemporary Southeast Asia’. The workshop was part of an on-going research project jointly carried out by Penang Institute, Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Malaysia, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore, and Asia Research Centre, CBS. The overall aim of the research project is to identify those external conditionalities that impact on state performance thereby initiating changing state-society relations and their embeddedness in specific political, economic and cultural contexts in Southeast Asia. During the workshop at ARC, the partners presented pertinent preliminary research within one or more of the fields that this research project touches upon. Furthermore, the next level of the project was designed at the workshop thus guiding the post-workshop research that is to constitute the foundation for an international conference on the core theme of this project, ‘Exploring Key External Factors Affecting State Performance in Contemporary Southeast Asia’, in either Penang or Singapore in late May or early June 2014.

Guest lectures on China

On September 11, Professor Jane Golley, Australian National University, visited CBS, where she gave the presentation ‘China’s Rise: A ‘socialist’ economy in a capitalist world’. The presentation focused on China’s official perception of ‘Socialism with Chinese characteristics’, how it differs markedly from alternative views regarding the nature of its emerging capitalist system and what implications this gap in perceptions has in a globalised world.

Dr. Donald Emmerson, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University, visited CBS on October 8, where he gave the lecture ‘China-ASEAN-USA: Cooperation or Competition?’. Dr. Emmerson talked about how the diplomatic interactions between China, ASEAN, and USA are becoming more frequent, more complex, and more consequential. Some of the questions raised in his lecture included ‘How peaceful will China’s rise turn out to be?’, ‘Will China and the US collide?’, ‘Is China destined to become East Asia’s hegemon?’, and ‘As the Middle East heats up, will Obama reverse his “pivot” toward Asia?’

Recent publications

Quarterly Economic Brief No 3 (2013) has been published. It is titled ‘Macroeconomic Analysis of Q2: The Slowdown Makes Space for Future Growth’ and is written by Zhang Shuguang, Unirule Institute of Economics, and Zhang Chi, Business School of China University of Political Science and Law. Find this brief and past briefs online.

A new paper in Asia Research Centre’s working paper series Copenhagen Discussion Papers has been published. It is entitled ‘Efficiency of Public Educational Expenditure in China’ and is written by Zhiqian YU, PhD Student, School of Economics, Jinan University, Ning ZHU, PhD Student, School of Economics, Jinan University, and Yuan ZHENG, PhD Student, Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen. Find the paper online.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard has written the article ‘State-Owned National Champions Dominate China’s Nomenklatura Capitalism’ in EAI Background Brief, No. 857, 10 October.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard has written the article ‘State-Owned Enterprises and Elite Circulation In China’ in EAI Background Brief, No. 857, 10 October.

Peter Ping Li has written the article ‘In Search of Relevant and Rigorous Measures for Trust Research: A Yin-Yang Approach to Institutionalizing Trust Research’ which has been published in Journal of Trust Research 3 (2): 71-75.

Peter Ping Li has written the article ‘The Indigenous Research on Chinese Management Rooted in the Chinese Philosophy of Wisdom’ (in Chinese: 中国本土管理研究与中国传统哲学) which has been published in the Chinese Journal of Management (管理学报) 10(9): 1249-1261.


Xin Li’s paper ‘Chinese Traditional Philosophy and Indigenous Management Research: Discussion and Reflection’ (in

Yangfeng Cao has written the following articles:


‘Haier: How to implement the invert organization?’, published in Business Review no 7:106-117


Fang Wang has written the article ‘"Countermeasures and Suggestions for the Administrative System Reform in Binhai New Area’ (in Chinese: 滨海新区管理体制的对策建议) in Port Economy (港口经济: lead-authored) no. 6: 5-10.

Staff news

On September 1, ARC welcomed PhD Fellow Zhang Zheng from Renmin University of China, Beijing. Zhang Zheng will be at ARC for a year and co-operate with Peter Ping Li.

ARC also welcomed Associate Professor Yang Jiang from Nankai University, Tianjin, China. During her one-year stay, she will engage in joint research work and the exchange of ideas within the field of ‘Asian Economic Research’.

Associate Professor Yang Jiang has taken a one year leave from Asia Research Centre for a position as Senior Fellow at the Danish Institute for International Studies.

PhD Fellow Mathew Abraham handed in his dissertation ‘New Coop erativism: A study of emerging producer organisations in India’ in August. He will defend it in November.

Hadis Khonsary-Atighi started her maternity leave in early October. She will be back in April 2014.

From May to September, Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard was an invited Visiting Research Professor at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard has been appointed member of the International Advisory Board at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. The appointment is for a three year period.

He has also been appointed member of the International Academic Committee and Visiting Professor at the Institute of Public Policy, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard will furthermore serve on the Board of the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) during 2014.

Conferences, workshops and seminars

On July 17, Peter Ping Li gave the presentation ‘The Salient Implications of “Wu” for Global Brand Management’ at the Global Brand Management Summit in Shenzhen, China.

Peter Ping Li invited Ruimin Zhang, the Chairman and CEO of Haier Group, China, to deliver a key-note speech at the 73rd Conference of the Academy of Management (AOM) in Orlando, Florida, on August 13. Peter translated the speech simultaneously, and the speech was covered by the China Central Television (CCTV) in the prime time evening news. The speech was chaired by James Walsh (Dean of AOM Fellows), and commented by Andrew Van de Ven (Editor-in-Chief of Academy of Management Discovery).

In addition, Peter Ping Li organized a meeting between Ruimin Zhang and James March, Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, on August 14.

Yangfeng Cao and Peter Ping Li wrote an article based on this meeting, ‘Haier is the Chinese “Don Quixote” : Dialogue of Zhang Ruimin and James March,’ which was recently

Together with Peter Ping Li, Yangfeng Cao presented the paper ‘The salience of Metaphor to Open-Minded Exploration for Creative Insight’ at the 73rd Conference of the Academy of Management in Orlando, Florida, in August.

Xin Li presented his paper ‘An aspirational community theory of the firm’ at the 2013 Academy of Management (AOM) Meeting that took place from 9-13 August in Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida.

Michael Jakobsen participated in the 8th EAN (East Asian Network) research workshop in Lyon from 17-19 October. The topic for the research workshop was: ‘Future Cities and Space Reconfiguration in East Asia: Practices and Representations, Risk and Opportunities.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard also participated in the 8th EAN research workshop in Lyon. Here he chaired the session on ‘Urban Policies, Environmental and Risk Issues’.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard gave the presentation ‘SOE Reform, Vested Interests, and Party-Business Relations in China’ at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore on August 2.

On October 1, he gave a guest lecture titled ‘The Politics of SOE Reform, and Vested Interests in China – A Study of Chinese Global Giants’ at the School of Economics, Management and Asian Studies, University of Venezia Ca’ Foscari.

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard chaired a seminar with a delegation from the Central Party School headed by Vice President Li Shulei on October 7.

In the media

Kjeld Erik Brodsgaard was interviewed on the following topics during the past months:


‘Penge og magt i Kina’. P1 Morgen, 23 July.

‘Kina opgiver etbarnspolitikken’. P1 Morgen, 7 August.

‘Kinas regering statuerer et eksempel og rydder farlig rival af vejen’. Politiken, 22 September.

Up-coming events

♦ 14 November: Research workshop with scholars from Denmark, Singapore, Italy and USA: ‘Fragmented Authoritarianism in China’ *By invitation only*

♦ 15 November: Guest lecture with Associate Professor Andrew Mertha, Director of the China and Asia-Pacific Program (CAPS), Cornell University: ‘How to Navigate the Bureaucracy in China’

Asia Business Forum

*Please note that all Asia Business Forum seminars are by invitation.*

♦ November 22: Seminar with Professor Ari Kokko, CBS: ‘Chinese investment in East and Southeast Asia: What’s in it for Danish companies?’