Chinese Tsinghua University and Peking University rank 1st and 2nd respectively among the top-rated universities of the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), according to a survey held by the Interfax international information group in cooperation with the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rating firm.

This new ranking has been developed by QS in collaboration with Russian news agency Interfax, and is based on a methodology developed in consultation with a range of key stakeholders and higher education experts across the BRICS countries. Its main aims are twofold: to highlight the strengths and achievements of higher education systems in these five major emerging economies, and to facilitate direct comparison of universities in these nations.

The top 10 universities are:

1. Tsinghua University (China)
2. Peking University (China)
3. Moscow’s Lomonosov State University (Russia)
4. Fudan University (China)
5. Nanjing University (China)
6. Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China)
7. University of Science and Technology of China
8. Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP) (Brazil)
9. Zhejiang University (China)
10. Universidade Estadual de Campinas - Unicamp (Brazil)
The major project of CIDE (Center for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance of Tsinghua University), Tracing China’s CO₂ Emissions in Global Supply Chains, officially launched during the meeting from Dec. 17th to 19th at IDE-JETRO (Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization) in Chiba, Japan. This international cooperative project will be co-chaired by Dr. MENG Bo from IDE-JETRO, Prof. XUE Jinjun from Nagoya University, Dr. WANG Zhi from USITC (United States International Trade Commission) and Dr. GAO Yuning from Tsinghua University. More than ten scholars from China, Japan, United States and Norway attended this launch meeting and devoted an intensive discussion on the research topic.

Dr. CHEN Ling, the vice-director of CIDE, made a speech on the opening ceremony. Serving as a center of excellence for policy research on industrial development, environmental governance, and institutional transition since its inception, CIDE has given much attention and expectation to the project. Currently China is undergoing the worsening environmental issues in development, such as climate change and air pollution. In the circumstances of globalization, elements of a country, such as market, environment and technology, are closely connected; therefore, only in the cooperative framework of global governance can the problems be solved. The major project “Tracing China’s CO₂ Emissions in Global Supply Chains” aims to understand and measure the CO₂ emission of different countries and different industries in the globalized production network, so as to provide a reliable objective basis for further developed international governance mechanism and to give policy advises to development and environmental governance for different industries, which shows its great academic and practical value.

CIDE also devoted to the cooperation and communication between scholars and policymakers from China and Japan. During this visitation to Japan, Dr. CHEN Ling also made a special meeting with Mr. HIROTSUKA Daisuke, the executive director of IDE, and Mr. INOMATA Satoshi, the chief economist of IDE, to discuss the further cooperation plan between IDE and CIDE.

Mr. Glen Peters, the Senior Research Fellow from CICERO (the Center for International Climate and Environmental Research) of University of Oslo in Norway and several scholars from Wuhan University and Hubei University of Economics in China also participated in this meeting.
On December 31st, MID alumni, Frances Pontemayor, Richard Ghiasy and Stephan Mothe published their third collaborative article in the Diplomat. The article, titled “Making the Chinese Dream Come True”. One of the authors Richard Ghiasy, also published an article Central Asian Fortune in Chinese Hands?” in the website on December 9th.


Following MDP secretariat’s initiative, MID Program nominates two students and one alumnus as Tsinghua University’s representatives for Student & Alumni Advisory Council (SAAC)’s East Asia Chapter, which was suggested by a number of MDP faculty and students to offer guidance and support for students’ activities of this global network. The three representatives are:

Jason Leung Kwan Wong, MID 2013 Class, Canada
Tyler Cameron Shelden, MID 2012 Class, USA
Elizabeth Hoi Yung Fung, MID 2010 Class (alumna), Hong Kong, China

All of these three will work together voluntarily in the next 8 months to submit their ideas on how SAAC should be organized compiling all of the ideas from MID students and alumni in the region. Professor LIU Zhilin, MDP Executive Director, and the Academic Steering Committee representative of MDP, will be the faculty member at Tsinghua University that facilitates the process for the region.
On November 8th the MID classes of 2012 and 2013 traveled to visit Shanghai. The trip was organized by MID Program Office, and led by MDP Executive Director, Associate Professor LIU Zhilin. The group of SPPM students and faculty met with Huangpu government officials, visited urban renewal sites and met with international development firms to better understand Shanghai’s urban success.

**Signing Ceremony**

During the signing ceremony with government officials from the Huangpu District, the most central of Shanghai’s 18 districts, the Dean of SPPM Xue Lan explained the importance of this collaboration, describing Tsinghua University as a leading University in China. Despite the spatial distance between the two cities, this will not preclude the realization of a close partnership today and in the future. Moreover, SPPM as a globally acting institution that offers two master programs for students of all backgrounds and nationalities and such creating a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment can contribute innovation and ideas to that partnership from an additional perspective. The agreements signed by SPPM and the Huangpu government also aim to create a potential internship opportunity for SPPM students to get direct insight in local government projects.

**Sinan Mansions and Xintiandi**

The afternoon after the signing ceremony, the MID students continued their trip to visit the Sinan Mansions, where many of the elites of China used to reside; Zhou Enlai, the former Premier of the PRC and Sun Yet-sen, the founder and leader of the China revolution were among the few elite figures mentioned. The originally urban site was redeveloped according to Shanghai’s urban planning to preserve the historical aspect of the houses and the original area. It is now a mixed site comprising hotels, rental resident houses, and service outlets.

The second site that was visited, Xintiandi, almost shares the development of Sinan Mansions where Shanghai government entered in a market based compensation scheme with local residents to claim back the land to undertake comprehensive reconstruction in order to preserve the historical value of the place.

Both cases allowed MID students to understand how China, or at least the Shanghai government has approached the massive urbanization and the redevelopment of historical areas. The students also enjoyed a coffee break after the visit at Xintiandi.

**Gensler and AECOM**

Targeting to understand how Shanghai’s urban development is shaped today and in the future, the MID students visited two architectural corporations being directly involved in Shanghai’s urban planning. The first visit was made to Gensler, a global corporation for architectural and design services with products ranging from in-house design to the architectural planning of the Shanghai Tower, Shanghai’s landmark project and the second largest building in the world. After a detailed tour through the office and information about local city development projects, the MID students made use of the possibility to get first-hand information from professionals by asking questions about the problems and opportunities for China’s further urbanization.

The second visit at the next day was made to AECOM, an internationally acting provider of professional technical and management support services for various fields such as water management and transportation. After an introductory presentation about several city development projects from Professor SHEN Jie from Fudan University, the students learned about the constituents of the company, in particular how environmental sustainability can practically be integrated in urban development.

**Conclusion**

The Field trip to Shanghai with its focus to establish a permanent partnership with the Huangpu Government and the numerous site visits to see the urban development of the city was a large gain for the MID students and a step towards a deeper understanding of the roles of governing and corporate entities within this development process.

Contributed by Andre, David, Fred and Hoang
On December 5, the MID-IMPA office held the last Happy Hour of 2013 in the Student Lounge, the 2nd floor, SPPM. On this celebration party, the birthday stars that were born in December, January and February had a good time together and an alumnus of MID program, Mr. Gonzalo Matamala O., commercial attaché from Chile Embassy to China was invited to meet the current students and share his experience in China after the graduation.

Almost 50 international students attended the party. They along with the office staff first celebrated the birthday of those born in December, January and February. In the Happy Birthday chorus, all the birthday stars came to the birthday cakes, made their wishes and blew the candles. When everyone was enjoying the delicious cake and fruit, the office introduced Mr. Gonzalo Matamala O to all the participants. He exchanged greetings with them and then invited all to tasting the Chile wine, which he brought specially for this Happy Hour. Surrounded by the mellow smell of wine, the students and Gonzalo communicated on many aspects. All the participants cherished this opportunity very much and left the party happily.

One student said that she really enjoyed the Happy Hour. As all the courses entered the final stage and the winter thesis defense is approaching, this activity relaxed them a little bit and made them better back to studying to have a good end of this semester, even this year.

“I was so surprised to meet our Dean at such a relaxed atmosphere”, said Judith, Class 2013 IMPA student, on a Christmas Party held on the 26th December 2013. “His presence makes this lovely and joyful party even more unforgettable. To be honest, I have never imagined my first Christmas party outside my home country to be so nice.”

The party came to a great success, at Red House Pizza. The main participants were IMPA 2013 students, along with several MID students, Chinese students and school faculties. The School Dean, Prof. XUE Lan and Associate Dean, Prof. PENG Zongchao also attended it. The party started at around 17:30p.m after a short greeting from Prof. MENG Bo, Associate Dean of SPPM.

Afterwards, a variety of salads and pizzas started and continued to serve our stomachs. During our feast, we shared our jokes, and stories from the past year, and wished each other a happy new year in the toasts. Laughter and joyfulness filled this cozy room.
More laughter filled the room when we played the game "telephone". We passed down a Chinese idiom and then a tongue twister which came out to pronounce with accents of different countries. We were also happy to learn that 2014 is the year of horse of Chinese zodiac in China. Ronaldo, the IMPA 2013 student was given a doll of horse by the Foreign Affairs Office because he was born in the year of horse.

Christmas outside home country is not easy, but this year, with this wonderful party held by SPPM, we no longer feel alone. Wish all a happy new year!

Contributed by Peishan Chen
Judith from Uganda, Karen from Antigua and Barbuda, Keera from Jamaica and Antara from India performed their traditional dances respectively. Their fantastic show, which presented diversified cultures, aroused warm applause from the audience. By the end of the performance, other IMPA students stepped onto the stage to express their best wishes in Chinese. As 2014 is the year of horse in China, students also acted as the messengers of gifts, sending tolls of horse to the whole audience.

To most IMPA students, it is their first time to celebrate the New Year in China, and they expressed that this unique experience would be a good memory.

Debate Society Hosted Chris Chalmers, Head of the UK Department for International Development

Debate Society hosted Chris Chalmers, head of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), on the Thursday afternoon of December 12. As the second roundtable of the semester, students from SPPM, as well as the International Relations Department, were delighted to join Mr. Chalmers in gaining a glimpse into the future of international aid after the UN Millennium Development Goals come to a close in 2015. Mr. Chalmers explained that official development aid (ODA) is in fact only a small portion of the financial aid assistance that flows from country to country and that other capital, such as personal remittances, are often overlooked and therefore, often underestimated as posing a problem to aid packages directed towards emerging economies. While conclusions regarding international aid after 2015 are incubating in their formative stages, DFID remains committed to working closely with the Chinese government on providing assistance to developing countries and will continue to do so hopefully under even closer diplomatic relations between the two countries.

By Alice Xia, SPPM
My Story After I Graduated from MID

After graduation from MID, I returned to South Korea and began my career at Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI) as a research associate. KEEI has devoted itself on conducting researches to support all policy works on energy and natural resources, collecting data and information to develop the energy policy, and providing consulting services to Korean government as a national research council. In particular, I am a part of International Energy Cooperation Research Division in KEEI. In KEEI, my main duties are to assist research projects, particularly focusing on analyzing political and economic risks to implement overseas energy development projects, organize international energy conferences with consultative groups consisted of inter-governmental panels and international organizations including International Energy Agency (IEA), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), World Bank, and Asian Development Bank, as well as support the energy consultative body among Northeast Asian states.

My study experience at Tsinghua for 2 years provided me a cornerstone to deeply understand a policy framework of China. As a research associate, I have many opportunities to work with Chinese public officials from National Energy Administration, businessmen from Chinese National energy companies, and researchers and professors from Chinese universities to analyze energy issues in China. When I discuss with them, I always remind what I learned from MID and what I observed and experienced during my life in China.

In China, I attempted to broaden my perspective to understand policy issues in China through lectures provided by SPPM professors, internship works in Chinese company, travels with Chinese friends, and discussions on pertinent social issues with classmates and these efforts are presently an invaluable asset to my work.

I sometimes recall my memory at Tsinghua. I appreciate for SPPM professors, MID staffs, and my classmates to provide a great opportunity to learn from each other.

By Youngsun Choi, MID 2011 alumnus