



清華大學
公共管理學院
School of Public Policy & Management
Tsinghua University

NEWSLETTER

Edited by the Development Office, School of Public Policy and Management

2013. 04



Field Trip to Shun Yi District



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SPPM Hosted Homecoming Seminar on Anniversary Day



On April 28th, SPPM hosted a homecoming seminar in the school lobby, with the theme as “Reform of Government Institutions and the Transition into Performance-Based Government”. There were over 60 alumni from government departments, enterprises, and NGOs who participated in the event and enjoyed this academic feast. Professor Lan Xue, Yu An, Yang Yansui and Wang Ming gave separate speeches to the alumni, and talked about issues that students are concerned

about. Associate Dean, Professor Wu Yongping chaired the seminar.

Professor Yu An pointed out the significance of a performance-based transformation and proposed a new design for the structure of government. According to this functional design, it may be a new starting point. Professor Wang Ming considered that this type of transformation can be summarized in one phrase: “small government, big society”, which emphasizes three aspects: market decentralization, social decentralization, and decentralization of the local government. He believes that social reform will be a breakthrough in China's future reforms.

Professor Yang Yansui indicated that China needs to move to strengthen top-level design capabilities of the system. At the same time, each region has to establish information systems, which should have the ability to execute the implementation system from central to local governments. Professor Xue Lan believes that the public policy process in China has undergone tremendous changes. China's public policy today is a very complex system, and now, the most urgent need in China is to reform the public governance system.



Dean Xue Lan Had A Happy Reunion with Our Visiting Ph.D. Students in Boston Area

On EDT 5th April, eight SPPM visiting Ph.D. candidates in Boston area had a very happy reunion with Dean XUE Lan. This was during Dean Xue's short visit to HKS for the Advisory Committee Meeting.

Dean Xue asked about their study and research progress during their visiting in the United States, and the students then shared their achievement and experiences. He discussed the potential challenges and difficulties in academic research that they might encounter and encouraged the students to cherish this opportunity, and to strive to make substantive progress

in their research.

Our school has always focused on joint training with overseas universities and internationalization of graduate programs. In order to broaden students' international horizons and get exposure to the academic frontier, we actively select Ph.D. students to exchange with world-class institutions over the past few years. Currently, there are 8 Ph.D. students from SPPM visiting Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tuft University and other institutions in Boston area.



SPPM Alumni Association was Established in Guangdong

On April 20th, “SPPM Tsinghua University Guangdong Alumni Association & Tsinghua University Guangzhou Alumni Public Management Professional Committee” was set up in Guangzhou. Former vice chairman of the CPPCC Guangdong Province and Chairman of Tsinghua Guangzhou Alumni Association Shi Anhai; Party Secretary of SPPM Tsinghua University Meng Qingguo; Director of Institute of Government Management and Innovation and Director of Academic Committee Yu An; , Deputy Secretary of Tsinghua University Alumni Association He Zhen; Director of SPPM Alumni Office Lan Yuxin; Deputy Director of International Cooperation & Exchange Office Yu Yanfang attended the inaugural ceremony. There were more than 70 alumni gathered in Guangzhou, celebrating the establishment of the Guangdong Alumni Association.

Dean of Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley Visited SPPM



On the morning of April 25th, Prof. Henry E. Brady, Dean of Goldman School of Public Policy, and Prof. Jeffrey L. Edleson, Dean of the School of Social Welfare, at the University of California, Berkeley, visited the School of Public Policy and Management. Prof. Peng Zongchao, Associate Dean, Prof. Meng Bo, Assistant Dean for International Cooperation, Prof. Yang Yongheng, Assistant Dean for Research, Prof. Wang Feng, Director of Brookings-Tsinghua Center, and Professor Qi Ye, Director of Climate Policy Research Center welcomed and met with the visitors. The two schools have maintained healthy academic exchanges and cooperation. In 2010, the "Berkeley-Tsinghua Week" seminar was successfully held in Berkeley, California.

In the afternoon, Dean Henry E. Brady gave an opening lecture on "Political Polarization: ObamaCare". Approximately 40 Chinese and foreign students attended the lecture and engaged in a lively discussion with Dean

Brady.

In the beginning, Dean Brady introduced the status quo of political polarization in the United States. He mainly used the economy and society at large as examples of the factors that are calculated the most into modern American politics. Brady further analyzed the tendency of the rise of political polarization in the United States through the case of the ObamaCare reform. Brady summarized two characteristics of ObamaCare: first, the purpose is to reduce the cost of insurance by implementing obligatory universal insurance; second, to increase health insurance coverage for low-income earning groups. Henry E. Brady pointed out that in the early 1970s; the political concerns of most people were concentrated on the national economy, such as with income. Now, 40 years later, people are beginning to pay more attention to social factors, such as morality, culture, and participation in policy-making.



The Minister Counselor of the Vietnam Embassy in China Participated in Tsinghua Debate Society's 8th Roundtable



On Monday, April 22nd, Mr. Nguyen Minh Vu, the Minister Counselor of the Vietnam Embassy in China had visited SPPM to give a short lecture on Vietnam's economic restructuring and the lessons which the country can learn from its giant neighbor China. The topic picked the interest of all the audience as it covers a broad range of domains from international relations to development, economics to politics and public administration. Participants learned of the general growth momentum of Vietnam and how Vietnam has in the past couple decades achieved one of the highest GDP growth rate in the region and also met most of the MDGs before schedule. Through intense rounds of Q&A, cooperation with China in the economic and political realms was greatly emphasized by the Minister for the next stage of development of Vietnam. This includes the increase and balancing in bilateral trade; restructure domestic economy with China's experiences, and the peaceful settlement of territorial dispute.

The Roundtable attracted students from SPPM and the IR department, as well as a number of Vietnamese students of Tsinghua and Beijing University. The 8th Roundtable signifies an incessant growth of the student-run Tsinghua Debate Society, facilitated with the support from SPPM staff and collaboration with the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center.





Field Trip to Shun Yi District



On April 19th, 2013, a group of MID and IMPA students went on a field trip and visited Shun Yi District, one of the fourteen districts of Beijing. The destination was a village called Bei Lang Zhong Cun, with population of a little over than 500,000.

On the first stop, the group headed to the Zhao Quan Ying Town's Development Exhibition Center where it saw the development plans of the fast industrializing locality. This was followed by a visit to a greenhouse garden for flower breeding. The final leg of the tour saw the group in the car factory of Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Co. Lt which according to the tour guide, took RMB 6 billion to construct. (Article From SPPM.BEAT)

Volunteer Work at Peekabook House



On the afternoon of April 28th, students from the volunteer group of Graduate Union at SPPM paid a visit to Peekabook House, an English picture-book library for children in Wanliu Community, Haidian District to do volunteer work. Students from IMPA and MID program also participated in this event.

The students first attended a group talk organized by the library staff and got a clear understanding of the mission, the development background and the operating mode of Peekabook House. It is the first and remains the only nonprofit, nongovernmental children's library in China, and is run by Stanford University graduates. Students expressed keen interests in this library and put forward many questions during the

conversation. They also proposed suggestions on how to promote its influence and to obtain social support.

Later, the students visited rooms with shelves of books and helped rearrange the returned ones. They thought highly of the multi-functional facilities, the warm interior decorations and various English-Chinese bilingual books, which created a reading space that was very suitable for children.

In the process of shelving the books, SPPM students had a good conversation with the children and the parents there to better understand the reading experience. At the same time, they also advised some children in reading English books, which left valuable memories.

Students expressed that the voluntary work at Peekabook House was very meaningful and that they learned a lot from this experience. The Graduate Union will also be committed to promote the sustainable development of voluntary work of SPPM.





From April 11 to April 25 the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) organized a seminar on MDG and Sustainable Poverty Reduction for Developing Countries. The event was attended by seventeen representatives from Sudan, Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Yemen, Zanzibar, Sri Lanka, and Malawi as well as four international students,

two of them from Tsinghua University - MID 2011 (Joao Trevisan and Rocio Garcia).

The seminar included ten sessions and a case study field trip to Jiangxi Province. During the sessions the participants got in touch with topics related to the general situation of China's economic and social development, namely, policy and practice of rural and urban poverty alleviation; progress, policy and the experience of China in achieving the MDGs; participation of foreign aids in poverty reduction in the country; social security in rural China; China's rural health policy and practice; policy and practice of environmental protection in rural China; China's employment system and policy on rural China; and rural women's development in China.

In the field trip the participants could observe the latest achievements of Jiangxi Province in rural poverty alleviation and development. Located in the southeast part of China, Jiangxi Province shares borders with Anhui, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong,

MID Students Joined IPRCC Sponsored Field Trip

—Contributed by Rocio Garcia and
Joao Trevisan, MID 2011 Class

Hunan and Hubei. Although located in a relatively rich area of the country, Jiangxi is among China's least developed provinces and the challenges faced by the local government are enormous. Some of these challenges, such as low quality public services and rural poverty, were recurrent during field visits.

The field trip included visits to nine different villages, towns and counties in the Jiangxi Province. In each one of these localities, a local official was responsible for introducing the specificities of the local community and providing further explanations if necessary. The list below presents the sites visited by the two students during their stay in Jiangxi:

- Ecological Fishing Village in Sheshan, Feishuxia and Chengangshan Villages, Poyang County
- Vocational Technical School and Vocational and Technical Education Center of Poyang County
- People's Hospital in Poyang County
- Rural Middle School and Rural Health Center, Poyang

county

- Jingdezhen Ancient Kiln and Folk-Custom Expo Area
- Tea Oil Camellia Production Cooperative in Dalian Village, Wuyuan county
- Relocation Project, Huangling village, Wuyuan county
- Social Security Projects in Qinghua village, Wuyuan county
- Ecological Environmental Protection Projects in Fuchun village, Wuyuan county

The seminar and the field experience allowed the participants to gain an in-depth understanding of rural development, poverty reduction and the progress of the country towards the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, thanks to the very diverse background of the delegation, these seven days in Jiangxi provided the two MID students with the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with people that are working with poverty alleviation and development on a daily basis.

