Just as flower buds have opened, the RCCPB has also had a productive Spring. In March we hosted the Conference on China and Global Governance on the Bloomington campus of Indiana University. Participants presented the findings from research conducted over the past year on a wide range of topics. We have issued almost all of their efforts through our working paper series. We are now preparing an edited volume that will be published through Routledge early in 2013. In September we will present the results of our project to the international diplomatic community at a conference in Geneva.

The center’s roundtable series between Chinese industry leaders and the American embassy in Beijing has also blossomed. Since 2010, the meetings have addressed innovation, economic rebalancing, the 12th 5-Year Plan, state-owned enterprises, and outward investment. These meetings have been quite successful, and we hope to expand our focus and format in the coming years.

The progress of these past few months must be tempered by very heavy losses, the recent passing of Indiana University professors Elinor and Vincent Ostrom. Lin and Vincent set the gold standard for excellence in research, which was recognized by the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences to Lin in 2009. A highly attended and moving memorial service held in her honor at Renmin University demonstrates that she and Vincent built a tremendous global community that will continue to carry out research on the global commons and other critical issues. They will be deeply missed.

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On March 23-24, the RCCPB held the Conference on China and Global Governance in Bloomington, Indiana, co-hosting it with the Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis. The conference is part of the center’s three-year Initiative on China and Global Governance. Over 30 scholars and experts from Europe, China and North America discussed working papers on various aspects of Chinese participation and effectiveness in global economic governance.

Nineteen individuals who are part of RCCPB’s initiative presented working papers they had produced as part of the project. The papers were split into a series of panels by topic, with presenters and commentators who discussed issues related to international monetary policy, foreign investment, intellectual property rights, global public health, climate change, foreign aid and labor issues. Around fifty scholars, students, business people and other community members also attended the conference. Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to receive the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, delivered the keynote address.

Conference participants, discussants and attendees offered frank and constructive criticism of the working papers in an environment of scholarly collaboration. This collaborative spirit helped advance one of the goals of the conference, facilitating revision of these papers for inclusion in an edited book volume and submission for a special issue of a scholarly journal. The working papers may be downloaded in PDF format from the RCCPB’s website. The initiative and conference were generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, Indiana University, and Cornerstone Information Systems.

To view highlights from the conference, please go to the website http://www.indiana.edu/~rccpb/globalgovernance/conference/highlights.html.
Dickson on Changes to China’s Development Model

On April 13, 2012, Bruce Dickson, a member of the RCCPB advisory board and Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University, gave a talk at Indiana University on recent changes to the Chinese economic model.

Dickson, whose recently wrote Allies of the State, discussed the attempts of China’s government to shift the country away from reliance on cheap labor and exports to a more sophisticated, innovative economy that featured Chinese national champions with global brand names and a high capacity for autonomous technological innovation.

Dickson also highlighted a number of challenges China and its leaders face, including the need to respond to foreign protectionism, reassure global consumers of the safety of Chinese products, and respond to the rising expectations of the emerging Chinese middle class.

Dickson answered questions from the audience of around thirty students, faculty and community members on a wide range of topics, including the challenge of defining the middle class in a country such as China, the recent controversies surrounding former Chongqing party secretary Bo Xilai, and the impact of foreign pressure on the domestic reform process.

Interview with Wang Yong

Peking University Center for International Political Economy director Wang Yong is an RCCPB board member and participant in the center’s Initiative on China and Global Governance. He has published dozens of papers and book chapters in Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean and Spanish, on the topics of Chinese political economy, foreign policy, China-US relations, regional cooperation, international political economy and World Trade Organization. This June, Wang Yong took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions about his research for the RCCPB.

Q: What is your working paper about?
A: My working paper is about the learning process in terms of public policy since China’s WTO accession in 2001. It is aimed at examining the changes and adjustment of the relations between state/government, firms and society. The major findings include that the WTO accession has helped the market-oriented reforms, and the government has to some extent restructured its function from direct manager of the economy to the one as provider of service to enterprises; since the global financial crisis in 2008, the market-oriented process seems to be losing momentum with rising skepticism of the relative benefit and cost from the closer relations with the global economy. Even though this development, the paper give cautious optimistic prospects about the market-oriented reform.

Q: What are your views on the Initiative on China and Global Governance?
A: It is a very important initiative in continued on page 5

The RCCPB is Hiring in Beijing!

The Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business at Indiana University is recruiting a full-time Office Manager to provide administrative leadership for the center’s Beijing office located on the campus of the University of International Business & Economics.

Duties include management of:
1) Events, such as conferences and lectures;
2) The center’s office space, supplies, and junior administrative staff;
3) The center’s China financial accounts; and
4) Visiting scholar’s administrative needs.

The ideal candidate will have significant experience in office management, be highly organized, have a goal-oriented work ethic, be proficient in English and Chinese, be familiar with university administrative procedures, and have a strong interest in contemporary Chinese politics and economics. This is a full-time position. Salary will be commensurate with experience.

Interested applicants should apply by sending an email to RCCPB Director Scott Kennedy at kennedys@indiana.edu, with the following attachments: 1) A letter explaining their interest in the position; 2) A resume; and 3) A short writing sample.
Blum Speaks on Chinese Higher Education

On February 23, the RCCPB hosted a talk on Indiana University Bloomington campus by the University of Notre Dame's Susan Blum on her ongoing research into the expansion of mass higher education in China. Blum, who is Chair of Notre Dame's Anthropology department, traced the development of China's system of education from imperial times through the present.

Especially since the 1990’s, the Chinese system of higher education has grown dramatically and the country now boasts the world's largest tertiary system of higher education in terms of total number of students and number of institutions of higher learning. Blum discussed changes to the system of education, including the proliferation of private and specialized training institutions, as well as changes in the financing of higher education. Blum emphasized that while a world-class education is now available for many affluent Chinese, especially in the developed coastal provinces, inequality in access remains a pressing concern, as it is in much of the rest of the world.

Blum answered numerous questions from the audience, including questions on popular media portrayals of Chinese youth and college life, access to higher education for minority groups, and experimental changes in school curriculum. 

Tim Oakes Discusses Tourism and Religion in China

On April 20, the RCCPB hosted a talk by University of Colorado geographer and China specialist Tim Oakes. Oakes spoke to a group of 30 students, faculty and community members at IU Bloomington, about his most recent co-edited volume, Faiths on Display: Religion, Tourism, and the Chinese State, and his field research in ancient tuopu villages in the southwestern province of Guizhou.

Oakes focused his remarks on the practice of dixi, a ritual performance that is an important element in the local tourism industry. Oakes analyzed the ethnic, political and commercial dimensions of dixi performances, and suggested that although contemporary practices differ in important respects from earlier, historical forms, the practices of dixi performance today should not be viewed as inauthentic.

Oakes answered a range of questions from audience members, including a question on the impact of market forces in shaping cultural practices, and the involvement of the government in regulating dixi performance, and whether Miao minority groups in Guizhou also practiced dixi.

Oakes noted that historically, dixi was identified with the Han descendants of Ming dynasty soldiers sent to the Guizhou area in the 1300’s to defeat the remnants of the Mongolian Yuan dynasty. But in recent years, some Miao villages had begun performing dixi in the hopes of reviving the vitality and economic fortunes of their relatively disadvantaged communities.

Interview With Ren Xiao

The RCCPB caught up with Professor Ren Xiao recently to discuss his participation in the Initiative on China & Global Governance. Ren Xiao is the Assistant Dean & Professor of International Relations at the Institute for International Studies at Fudan University. His research and teaching concentrate on international relations of the Asia-Pacific, Northeast Asian security, and U.S. Asia policy.

Q: What is your working paper topic?
A: The topic of my paper is “China, the G20, and reform of the international monetary system.” The reason was the G20 had moved onto the center stage of world economics and politics, and hence an increasingly important part of global governance. That fit into the project theme well.

Q: What are your views on the Initiative on China and Global Governance?
A: The initiative is important and timely. It has greatly helped promote the profile of RCCPB in studies in both Chinese affairs and global governance. The March conference in Bloomington was the first and the only RCCPB conference I attended so far. It was very well organized and very successful. I want to congratulate Director Scott Kennedy and the center staff for the brilliant job they have done.

About the RCCPB

The IU Research Center for Chinese Politics and Business (RCCPB) was founded in February 2007. Together with our partners and affiliated faculty, we seek to understand how China’s regulatory environment and political system shape the behavior of and chances for success of Chinese and foreign businesses; how economic conditions and corporate behavior shape Chinese regulatory framework and political institutions; and how China’s international economic engagement affects China itself, her trading partners, and international institutions like the WTO. The Center breaks down traditional boundaries by bringing together scholars from multiple disciplines and by building bridges between universities, stakeholders, and policymakers in the United States, China, and elsewhere.

Keep in Touch with the RCCPB

The RCCPB regularly holds colloquiums on Indiana University’s Bloomington campus and group meetings attended by guest scholars and the center’s senior associates. We also provide training programs such as media workshops. We are planning conferences to be held in the next three years. We publish conference papers and our senior associates’ manuscripts through the working paper series. To keep informed about center events and publications, send us an email: rccpb@indiana.edu.

Support the RCCPB

We invite tax-deductible contributions in support of the center’s vision and programs. We accept personal and corporate donations, individual or matching, for the center in general and for each of the center’s three research initiatives: China and Global Governance, US-China Business Cooperation, and Economic Regulation and Lawmaking in China. You can donate online by simply clicking one of the links below or mail a check to the RCCPB’s offices. For more information on how to tailor support to fit your interests and the center’s needs, please contact center director Scott Kennedy at kennedys@indiana.edu.

Recent Publications by RCCPB Senior Associates


Q: What do you think about the previous conferences held by RCCPB?
A: I am happy I attended two workshops by RCCPB, one was a launch workshop and another about celebrating China’s WTO membership for ten years. Generally speaking, they were well designed and organized. The participants were very important experts on different topics, and discussions were rich. They provided a good chance for experts from different fields to know each other and learn from each other. It is also true to Chinese experts.


Wang Yong interview, Cont’d from page 3

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