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**Workshop:
Inter-regional Responses to Connectivity
and Humanitarian Challenges**

**September 15th 2021
Wuhan University
Zoom Meeting**

**Panel 1 September 15th 2021, h.15:00
EU & Asia-Pacific Partnership: Connectivity**

Associate professor Ceren Ergenç

Xian Jiaotong-Liverpool University

China's Green Investment in the BRI Countries

China is engaged in the use, production, and export of green technologies. As a part of this policy, China is extending its commitment to green technologies to its Belt and Road (BRI) partners. This speech looks at China's role in Turkey's green transformation. In response to the criticism raised against increased carbon emissions of the BRI projects and in order to find new financial markets, China turned towards producing and selling environment-friendly technologies. China, at this stage, being one of the foremost promoters of the Paris Agreement, shows indications that it will impose a reduction of carbon emissions on the countries to which it promised investments through the Belt and Road Project. Turkey had declared its intentions to take an active part in the BRI projects early on by being a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which administers the funds of the Belt and Road Project under the strong influence of China. Turkey is dependent on foreign investment credits for large-scale investments in the field of energy. As Europe shifts from technologies of high carbon emissions to environment-friendly technologies, Turkey's investments are on the brink of becoming "dead investments." Turkey has approached China for its unconditional approach in its investments. However, Turkey is among the Belt and Road countries that China wants to decarbonize in accordance with its newly-forming policy.

Dr. Yang Wenxiong

Researcher at Center for Economic Diplomacy

The connectivity of BRI and global governance

Competitive regionalization driven by sustainable development needs is a concentrated expression of current globalization, global value chain restructuring, global justice, and national strategic choices. The challenges that need to be solved in the the BRI are, to a large extent, the problems that global governance needs to face. Global economic governance covers countries, international organizations, multinational enterprises and social groups. The policy communication, facility connectivity, smooth trade, financial integration and people to people connectivity advocated by the the BRI also need the cooperation and participation of governments, enterprises, individuals and social organizations. Many developing countries not only have relatively backward levels of material production, social organization, and market development, but also have backward planning, which puts them at a disadvantage in the international economic system led by developed countries. China bears the responsibility of safeguarding the interests of developing countries, proposing the concept of "development finance", using development methods to promote market construction, credit construction, and institutional construction, serving to enhance the internal driving force of economic development in developing countries, providing strong support for the high-quality development of the financial industry and the real economy, and making unremitting efforts for the economic and social development of Asia. However, China is in the primary stage of global governance discourse, and the lack of cooperation with international organizations reduces the way for the world to correctly understand China's philosophy and wisdom, thereby failing to accurately position China's international role and interests.

Dr. Frank Tsai

Founder of China Crossroads

Critical thoughts about the history of Europe, China and USA

Chinese are fond of saying that they have 5,000 years of history, which makes their country "old." To their minds, European countries are also "old," since most of them have at least 1,000 years of history. The comparison is also made in terms of "civilizations." Western civilization is thought to be comparable to Chinese civilization in age, and even European civilization has at least 1,500 years of history since the fall of Rome. When China and Europe emphasise their long history, this can easily elide into talk of an emerging multi-polar global system, held up by each of these ancient civilizations, like legs of a table, implicitly casting the US.-led system as abhorrent and unnatural. Such talk would involve a great deal less self-deception, however, and arrive at a much less sentimental and more clear-eyed understanding of any country's qualifications for leadership. The Chinese would find that much of the "furniture" of their minds has changed beyond recognition in the last 100 years, their very script and language having experienced radical change, to say nothing of the ideological and anti-imperialistic "tables" and "chairs" that make up their worldviews. The Europeans would find that their societies have also changed beyond recognition

during this time, the simplest gauge of which may be that the religion of “Western Christendom,” i.e. that which once defined European civilization, has vanishingly few adherents today.

Panel 2 September 15th 2021, h.16:00

EU & Asia-Pacific Partnership: Joint Efforts to Promote the Reformation on the Global Governance and Building A Community with Shared Future for the Humankind

Professor Tony McGrew

Shanghai University

The Reform of Global Governance : EU-Asia Collaboration

The world today is confronted by myriad threats and challenges, whose solution urgently requires improved global governance and closer coordination and cooperation. Meanwhile, given the collective rise of developing countries, the global governance system needs to reflect this reality of international politics and the process of multi-polarization. We need to follow the trend of the times, strengthen top-level design and improve the global governance system through reform. Today’s world is facing problems like legitimacy deficit, Gridlock, Fragmentation, Overload, coherence gap and etc, so global governance is facing reform or transformation. In this case, the EU-Asia Cooperation should take political initiative to follow up on ‘Our Global Neighbourhood’ and establish a new commission on global governance and subsequently a global conference on the reconstruction of global governance for the 21st century. In conclusion, the institutional reforms which are seen to favor general qualities of good governance, and not narrow demands for state voice, are likely to be rewarded with greater legitimacy.

Associate professor Liu Tianyang

Researcher at Wuhan University Center for Economic Diplomacy

Chinese para-diplomacy’s role in Global governance

This speech firstly gave a review of the theoretical and empirical studies of para-diplomacy produced to date, focusing on the literature on sub-national diplomacy in China, specifically. It argues that the analytical frameworks of previous para-diplomacy studies lead their focus to be restricted to a very limited aspect of the phenomenon only. Moreover, previous studies focusing on the engagement of Chinese provinces in global governance mainly relied on the central-provincial frameworks and susceptible to a geographic bias. This article contributes to the existing literature in two ways: first, by improving the existing framework to better reflect the most essential dimensions of the international actorness of sub-national actors and second, by expanding the geographical scope of the study of para-diplomacy to include more non-Western, centralized political system. It presents one of the first academic attempts to systematically review the existing literature regarding para-diplomatic theory and the para-diplomatic activities in China.

Professor Zhang Xiaotong

Institute of Belt and Road Initiative & Global Governance, Fudan University

From a long-term and strategic perspective, the historical clue of the community may be a prelude to the development of human history to the era of the community, and it is a precious historical embryo. In the future, many existing nation-states may all move towards the stage of community in the face of the general trend of historical development. Human beings will find that in the face of powerful external forces, only by building a community can human beings ensure survival, reproduction and well-being. If Europe can move towards an open and inclusive community in the future, it will be a progress in human history, and it is consistent with the direction of "building a community with a shared future for mankind" proposed by China. In this sense, China and the EU need to always maintain the progressive nature of history, stand on the right side of history, set a progressive agenda, and lead the development of the times. But in the short-to-medium term, as the EU moves towards a "fortress" and "empire", the EU's fortressism and aggressiveness will both increase. Geographically, the EU and NATO are likely to further expand eastward, forming a "transatlantic fortress", which will increase the possibility of war in Eurasia. Therefore, China may actively work with the EU to maintain the spirit of freedom and openness, and promote the construction of the four major partnerships between China and Europe and a community with a shared future for mankind.

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