

geführt werden können und zukünftige Wachstumsgewinne städtischer Bevölkerung aus Land-Stadt-Migration in Projekten aufgefangen werden können, die lebenswerten Wohn- und Arbeitsraum vorausschauend bereitstellen können.

Nach Ende des Workshops wurde das wichtige Thema der südasiatischen Stadtentwicklung in Form einer Podiumsdiskussion im Rahmen des 10. Südasiatages mit diplomatischen Vertretern – der indischen Botschafterin Sujatha Singh und dem Botschafter Bangladeschs Mosud Mannan sowie dem stellvertretenden Botschafter Pakistans Mazhar Javed und dem afghanischen Gesandten Botschaftsrat Abed Nadjib – sowie den Wissenschaftlern Ingrid Breckner, Stadtsoziologin an der HafenCity-Universität Hamburg, Syed Qalb-i-Abid, Punjab-Universität Lahore, und Hermann Kreutzmann, Centre for Development Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, unter der Moderation von Botschafter a.D. Hans-Georg Wieck fortgeführt.

Hermann Kreutzmann

## **Renewable Energy Cooperation and Grid Integration in Northeast Asia**

Ulan-Bator, 12.–13. November 2012

Energy security has been a problem for the countries of Northeast Asia, which have few domestic sources of energy and a large share of fossil fuels in their energy mix. Therefore, in recent times renewable energy became more of a focus, as a way of combating climate change and, in terms of nation-branding, a way to create a green image through the use of clean energy. The possibility to diversify the energy mix by large-scale renewable energy (photovoltaics, solar-thermal, wind) power stations in desert areas became of interest, in particular after the Fukushima incident (“Gobitec concept”). However, this needs a strong cooperation framework, including a closer technical cooperation through grid integration and a framework guaranteeing long-term stable energy consumption contracts to amortize initial investment. By this, renewable energy and energy grid integration (the “Asian super-grid”) can trigger closer energy and, ultimately, economic and political integration in Northeast Asia. The international conference on “Renewable Energy Cooperation and Grid Integration” in Ulan-Bator, Mongolia, brought all Northeast Asian states, including DPRK (North Korea) together to discuss such a vision. The conference was organized by the Mongolian Energy Development Association and the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea and was opened by the President of Mongolia, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj. Also the Minister of Energy, M. Sonompil, as well as the Minister of Environment and Green Development, S. Oyun, gave speeches. Christian Hegemer, Director of the Institute for International Cooperation of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation, in his welcoming remarks focused on the work of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation for the environment, in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, and finally the potential role of energy cooperation for increasing economic and political integration and peaceful cooperation in the region. For the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea, co-founder of the Gobitec Research Network, this was the largest event until today as part of the efforts to promote renewable energy cooperation and, in particular, the use of renewable energy generated in the Northeast Asian desert regions, the “Gobitec project” since 2009.

President Elbegdorj in his opening speech confirmed that the focus of the government shifted towards renewable energy, as one of the high priorities of the new policies. He recalled the successful efforts to provide Mongolian nomadic herders with sources of renewable energy, and he stressed that the challenge to decrease coal in the energy mix and increase renewable energy was urgent, but also more difficult. For the mid- to long-term future he endorsed the

Gobitec project and vowed to actively promote this project. M. Sonompil, Minister of Energy, and the Minister of Environment, S. Oyun, confirmed the policy priority of the new government for renewable energies and called for the “greening” of Mongolia’s “brown” industry.

In five sessions on two days leading specialists discussed the renewable energy strategy and cooperation between Northeast Asian countries. They largely agreed that technologically and commercially projects on renewable energy in Northeast Asia and particularly the Gobi desert area of Northeast Asia are already feasible. Still missing is the political coordination and cooperation to make them come true. However, efforts to achieve the political framework for renewable energy cooperation are under way. Mika Ohbayashi, Director at the Japan Renewable Energy Foundation, outlined the challenges of the creation of a new renewable energy paradigm in Japan after the Fukushima incident, in particular the concept of the so-called “Asia Supergrid,” the interconnection of Northeast Asia by High Voltage Direct Current networks allowing export and import of energy. Teruhisa Oi of the Asian Development Bank outlined, based on the experience of ADB on grid integration in the Mekong Delta, steps for regional cooperation: starting a non-governmental platform for cooperation, drafting a blueprint for grid integration and renewable energy use, starting with pilot plants, which can convince states to work on a larger basis, and finally full-scale introduction of the concept. ADB also offered to participate in discussing these projects.

Dr. Bernhard Seliger, representative of Hanns-Seidel-Foundation in Korea, recalled that the Gobitec-concept for large-scale renewable energy projects in desert areas of Northeast Asia has only some years ago been seen as fantastic and a long-term vision, but now had become almost reality. He called upon all stakeholders to cooperate for a joint feasibility study including the technical, commercial and political aspects of the concept and encouraged the states participating in the conference to carry out a more active dialogue. In particular, the extension of current trilateral cooperation between China, Japan and South Korea to more comprehensive Northeast Asian cooperation, including Mongolia, and potentially Russia and DPRK (North Korea), would be necessary to realize the potential of energy cooperation. Then, the Asian supergrid and Gobitec could fulfill multiple tasks: tackle climate change in the Northeast Asian region, diversify energy sources and thereby increase energy security, lead to more comprehensive regional integration and finally even help to overcome division on the Korean Peninsula.

Extensive coverage of the conference, including all the papers, can be found at: [www.meda.mn/en/rena2012](http://www.meda.mn/en/rena2012)

Photos can be seen at: [www.facebook.com/HannsSeidelFoundationKorea](http://www.facebook.com/HannsSeidelFoundationKorea)

Bernhard Seliger

## **Gemeinsame Jahrestagung des Arbeitskreises Sozialwissenschaftliche Chinaforschung (ASC) in der DGA und des BMBF-Kompetenznetzes „Regieren in China“**

Universität Tübingen, 23.–24. November 2012

Wie bereits in den zwei vorangehenden Jahren tagte der ASC auch in diesem Jahr zusammen mit dem BMBF-geförderten Kompetenznetz „Regieren in China“. Die Tagung fand wieder großen Anklang – über 40 Mitglieder des nun fast 70 sozialwissenschaftlich arbeitende ChinaforscherInnen umfassenden ASC kamen nach Tübingen – und die Kooperation erlaubte auch wieder die Einladung renommierter ForscherInnen aus dem Ausland.