

wäre die Lage der ca. 200 Millionen WanderarbeiterInnen deutlich weniger prekär. Die Lohnkosten würden sich aber um 30 % erhöhen, würden Arbeitgeber wie vorgesehen in die Sozialversicherungen einzahlen. Die Probleme der Gewerkschaften hier und dort könnten auch nicht konträrer sein. Während die deutschen und österreichischen GewerkschaftsverteterInnen über schwindenden Mitgliederstand und sinkenden Einfluss klagen, steigert die parteinahe All China Federal Trade Union (ACFTU) ihren Einfluss durch die Inkorporation von quasi autonomen Gewerkschafts-Selbsthilfebewegungen. Besonders das in Hongkong ansässige Labor Action Center China gab einen umfassenden Überblick über die Entwicklung der Sozialsysteme und die gegenwärtigen sozialen Brennpunkte.

In den drei Workshops zu Workers Rights, Migration und Gender wurde soziale Sicherheit vergleichend in den jeweiligen Themenbereichen diskutiert. Außerdem stellten sich einzelne Initiativen vor und es wurden Möglichkeiten der Kooperation diskutiert. In einem offenen Plenum wurden schließlich zwei Beispiele für Kooperationsprojekte vorgestellt: das Arbeitswelten-Projekt und die Clean Cloth Campaign. In einem Schlussplenum schließlich diskutierte man über Follow-up Aktivitäten, die Rolle der Medien und verschiedene Formen der Advocacy Arbeit.

Alle Konferenzbeiträge können heruntergeladen werden unter:

[http://www.eu-china.net/web/cms/front\\_content.php?idcat=6&idart=1138](http://www.eu-china.net/web/cms/front_content.php?idcat=6&idart=1138)

Nora Sausmikat

## **Bilateral Workshop on Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies in German and Chinese Infrastructure Projects**

Free University Berlin, 3.-5.5.2010

Safeguard policies for infrastructure projects are an important aspect of China's economy since infrastructure projects serve to underpin the national economy and have gained importance as export commodities for China. Sino-German relations are also involved in so far as both countries cooperate on many infrastructure projects, nowadays mainly within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). In addition, the financial institutions of both countries have signed international agreements on safeguard policies, for example, the 'Equator Principles,' which have set standards for the definition, assessment and treatment of social and environmental risks in project financing.

This German-Chinese conference was hosted by Bettina Gransow (FU Berlin, currently, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou) and WANG Can (Tsinghua University) with partners and co-organizers from the TU Berlin (Eva Sternfeld) and Hohai University, Nanjing (SHI Guoqing) and the bilateral kickoff workshop, related to the "German-Chinese Year of Science and Education 2009/2010", was supported by funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, with additional financial assistance from the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation. The aim of this work-

shop was to call attention to social and environmental safeguard standards with special regard to Sino-German relations. The participants were specialists drawn from a wide range of fields: Chinese environmental studies, third sector research, Chinese experts on social safeguards and official representatives, specialists from German finance and credit insurance institutions, practitioners from implementation organizations, such as the German Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), researchers from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the German Development Institute (DIE), experts from several universities (Tsinghua University, People's University, Beijing University and Hohai University Nanjing) as well as international NGOs, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Chinese NGOs, such as Green Watershed (Kunming) and the Center for Women's Law Studies and Legal Services in Beijing.

Bettina Gransow and Andreas Oberheitmann (Tsinghua University, Beijing) opened the conference by underlining the growing importance of social and environmental safeguard policies against the background of China's unbridled economic growth with all its social and environmental consequences. Gransow reported on the case of the Xiaoxi Hydroelectric Dam, the first project to become known to a wider public, where an environmentally favorable German-Chinese CDM-project caused unintended social 'collateral damage' in the form of the involuntary displacement of more than 7000 inhabitants to make way for the realization of the dam project.

The meeting started with two key note speeches, the first being given by Helmut Anheier (Hertie School of Governance, Berlin) who, focusing on the concept of social investment, pointed to a paradigm shift which has taken place within the third sector as a result of new forms of civil action being introduced to complement the state where public finance is no longer sufficient. The second keynote speech was given by CHANG Miao (Tsinghua University), who provided an introduction to the Chinese system of environmental and social safeguards in the PR China.

The conference featured four panels: 'Social and environmental standards of German, Chinese and international institutions', 'social risks and social assessments in infrastructure projects', 'environmental risks and environmental impact assessments (EIAs) in infrastructure projects', and finally 'safeguard policies in Clean Development Mechanism projects'.

The first panel focused on the policies and perspectives of ministries and financial institutions in China and Germany. LI Kaimeng (China International Engineering Consulting Company CIECC, Beijing/ Stanford University, Palo Alto, USA) addressed China's alternative energy development strategy after Copenhagen. LIN Yan (Ministry of Housing and Construction, Beijing, together with SHI Guoqing) presented suggestions for new social assessment regulations in the urban sector. Precisely these projects need to undergo social assessment, because they involve the state acquisition of land, the demolition of buildings and the resettlement of urban populations which can often lead to social unrest. Waste disposal and water pollution

were also mentioned by WANG Shiwen (Center for Environment and Development Research, CASS Beijing) as common problems with the potential to ignite protests in Chinese cities in his contribution on environmental infrastructure development in China and social/environmental safeguard policies. During the second part of this panel, Michael Goetze (KfW, Frankfurt) discussed the environmental and social assessment of infrastructure projects from the perspective of a bank, and Ingo Junker (Hermes Federal Export Guarantees, Berlin) introduced the topic of environmental and social standards for officially supported German exports. Three different contributions expanded on the policy perspective with a focus on hydropower projects: Kirsten Nyman (GTZ Eschborn) on policy advice for suitable hydropower, MENG Jianhua (WWF, Frankfurt) on the international hydropower protocol and WWF work with Chinese and international financial institutions, and Oliver Hensengerth (DIE Bonn) with a new study (prepared with Waltina Scheumann) carried out from a comparative perspective on sustainable dam development between global norms and domestic practices. Hydropower projects have attracted worldwide attention and international cooperation, for example, the World Commission on Dams, and projects such as the Dam and Development Project have led to internationally-agreed guidelines which are still waiting to be implemented worldwide. Water dam construction projects were viewed from various perspectives as important examples of large infrastructure projects requiring careful consideration in the context of the potential environmental and social impacts. Projects such as these present themselves as particularly appropriate for study because they show how the best intentions in terms of climate goals can result in negative side effects for the environment as well as for the people concerned. The panelists agreed that, as is the case in other policy areas, China's legal system with regard to environmental assessment is already fairly sound, but that the policies are poorly implemented. One of the greatest problems is the question of participation.

The social assessment of infrastructure projects was addressed by the second panel. Gransow suggested giving social assessment a theoretical/political science framework by applying the notion of 'governmental technologies' in the sense of the Foucault-school. The assessment of environmental as well as social impacts is to be seen as a form of risk management and can be carried out by using similar instruments and methods. As Chen Shaojun (Hohai University Nanjing) explained, in his contribution on experiences with social assessment in Asian Development Bank and World Bank loan infrastructure projects, this is also why financial institutions see environmental and social assessment as important steps in the evaluation of their project financing in the context of helping to highlight the potential risks, and therefore, costs, of projects. WANG Sanguì (People's University, Beijing) gave a critical assessment of the (meager) benefits of infrastructure projects for the poor; YU Xiaogang (Green Watershed, Kunming) highlighted the specific role of NGOs in advocating the interests of local peoples in the social assessment of large dam projects, and LIN Lixia (Beijing Zhongze Women Legal Consultant & Service Center,

former Center for Women's Law Studies and Legal Services at Beijing University) focused on the role of gender analysis in the infrastructure projects carried out by international financial institutions in China. All the panelists agreed that although social assessment has not yet been subject to the same level of attention as environmental assessment, it is of equal importance. Appreciation was expressed for the opportunity offered by the workshop for experts on environmental and economic issues to meet and exchange ideas on the two forms of assessment with experts trained in sociology and anthropology. During the conference, international as well as Chinese NGOs put forward their views on safeguard standards and explained their specific roles in the assessment process.

The third panel started with a broader reflection on the challenges posed to China's forestry and ecological projects by climate warming (LIU Hongyan, Beijing University). This was followed by a case study on participatory basin environment management by YANG Xiaoliu (Sun Yat-sen University Guangzhou). Here, again, the question of participation was taken up. While Chinese and German experts agreed on the benefits of involving the stakeholders at all stages of an infrastructure project – from planning through implementation to running the building or other infrastructure – China still prefers 'top down' mechanisms, even in environmental and social assessment processes, so that important information flows between the state and citizens are omitted.

The conference concluded with a discussion on CDM projects. CDM projects also often find themselves facing the previously mentioned dilemma: in their pursuit of environmentally favorable goals, they are frequently confronted with social side effects. Since CDM projects are intended to help developed countries to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions where it is most cost-effective, Germany and China use this mechanism for many cooperation projects. Andreas Oberheitmann focused on the building sector in his presentation of environmental impact assessment in CDM-projects, and Malin Ahlberg (The Federal Environment Agency, Emissions Trading Authority, Berlin) gave a detailed explanation of the role and procedures of environmental and social standards in CDM projects. One of the common problems with CDM projects is that CDM rules stipulate 'supplementarity/additionality' for each project to ensure that carbon dioxide emissions are really reduced and not increased in total. Unfortunately, in many cases, it is hard to distinguish between 'business as usual' projects and supplementary ones; most hydropower projects would not come into being if they were not facilitated by the CDM. To solve initial problems with the CDM, international NGOs have developed the 'Gold Standard': this is awarded to projects within the CDM which apply particularly strict rules for environmental protection and social safeguards.

All in all, this conference proved to be an invaluable opportunity to bring together experts and stakeholders on issues concerning environmental and social impact assessment and to highlight the fact that these two assessment areas need to be seen

as the two sides of one coin. With this conference, the initial step has been taken towards forming a broad network and undertaking more research on the subject of environmental and social safeguard standards. In this context, several subjects present themselves for future consideration: China's export of infrastructure to the countries in the south, the export economy, the transport sector, and urban development, to mention only a few.

Katja Levy, Hans-Christian Schnack

## **7. Kongress "Labour & Sustainable Development"**

Internationales Netzwerk 'Regional & Local Development of Work & Labour' (RLDWL), Peking, 10.-13.6.2010

Vom 10. bis 13. Juni 2010 wurde der 7. Kongress zum Thema "Labour & Sustainable Development" des Internationalen Netzwerks 'Regional & Local Development of Work & Labour' an der School of Labour & Human Resources der Renmin Universität, Peking, China durchgeführt. Der Kongress wurde von der Hans Böckler-Stiftung unterstützt und war Teil eines Kongressclusters von vier parallel laufenden Veranstaltungen. Die weiteren drei Veranstaltungen waren:

Das Global Dean's forum in labour science 'Development of labour science in the era of globalization: Current situations, problems and prospects' am 12. und 13. Juni 2010, bei dem es 17 Vorträge der Dekane der internationalen Partnerhochschulen der School of Labour & Human Resources der Renmin Universität gab.

Die Konferenz 'Employment, Livelihood and Sustainable Development', ebenfalls am 12. und 13. Juni 2010, bei der in Parallelveranstaltungen über dreißig Vorträge mit Experten aus fünfzehn Länder gehalten wurden.

Das 'China's Social Sciences and Humanities Forum 2010' am 12. Juni 2010, bei dem der Ökonomie-Nobelpreisträger James L. Heckman sowie Peter Henricke, vormaliger Präsident des Wuppertal-Instituts, die Festredner waren.

Das Thema war gewählt worden, da sich mit der rasanten Wirtschaftsentwicklung Chinas seit den Reformen 1978 sowohl die Arbeitskonflikte als auch die Umweltprobleme massiv verschärft haben. In beiderlei Hinsicht entscheidet sich die Zukunft der Menschheit in China. Der 7. RLDWL-Kongress beinhaltete neben den Plenarsitzungen zur Eröffnung sowie zum Abschluss acht parallel arbeitende Workshops:

- Labour and Sustainable Development in China
- Labour, Sustainable Development and Innovation
- Labour, Sustainable Development and Trade Unions
- Labour, Sustainable Development and Migration
- Labour, Sustainable Development, Informal Employment and Social Security