ACSEP Philanthropy Speaker Series: Trends and Development of Philanthropy in China and Asia

Abstract:
The Philanthropy Sector in People’s Republic of China (PRC) has traditionally been dominated by government-backed foundations or government-organized NGOs (GONGOs). After the Regulations for Foundation Management was put in place in 2004, the philanthropy sector saw a rapid growth of private foundations. These began to rival their government counterpart in both numbers and visibility.

The seminar traces the evolution of the China philanthropy sector in the past few years. Discussion will include the fundraising controversies related to the 2008 Sichuan and 2010 Yushu earthquakes and the government and civil responses which strengthen the philanthropy sector.

The seminar will also discuss volunteerism, the future trends for the China philanthropy sector, as well as the opportunities and the challenges for the different stakeholders involved, including the Ministry of Civil Affairs, academia, NGOs, public and private foundations. The panel will evaluate the China experience against those of other Asian countries.

Keynote Speaker

Wang Zhenyao
Dean, China Philanthropy Research Institute, Beijing Normal University

Prof Wang Zhenyao came to the Beijing Normal University China Philanthropy Research Institute after over 20 years of experience working at the Ministry of Civil Affairs (MOCA), most recently as the Director General of the Department of Social Welfare and Promotion of Charities. He previously served as Director General of MOCA’s Department of Disaster Relief.

Prof Wang’s other notable accomplishments include developing the national minimum assistance benefits system and launching rural political elections, from which he has published several works, including The Historic Logic of Moving Towards Elections Guided by Laws and The Theory and Practice of Villagers’ Autonomous Management. Prof Wang is also a professor and doctoral advisor at Beijing Normal University, and he holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard and a doctorate from Peking University.
Panel Speakers

Caroline Brassard
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore
Dr Caroline Brassard worked as an economist for the Government of Ontario in Canada, and then undertook research and consultancy. She then went on to undertake a PhD in Economics at the University of London, prior to joining the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Dr Brassard continues to consult with various international organizations and she teaches on aid governance, research methods, economic development policy, poverty alleviation strategies and empirical analysis for public policy. Her current research focuses on aid governance in Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Vietnam, comparing policies to alleviate poverty and reduce inequalities, and the development policy lessons from the Post-Tsunami reconstruction in Aceh, Indonesia.

Joonmo Son
Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore
Dr Joonmo Son worked as a reporter for seven years in Korea. He then went on to undertake a PhD in Sociology at Duke University prior to joining the Department of Sociology at the National University of Singapore.

Dr Son's teaching areas are in Social Capital, Health and Social Behavior, Medical Sociology, Quantitative Data Analysis, Sociology of Work. His research interests include Social Capital, Volunteering, Health, Economic Sociology and Stratification. He has recently authored a book “Social Capital and Institutional Constraints: A Comparative Analysis of China, Taiwan and the US” where he uses new empirical data to test how the effect of social capital on status attainment varies by political-economic and cultural institutions among the three societies.

Zhao Litao
East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore
Dr Zhao Litao is Senior Research Fellow at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore. He obtained his PhD degree in sociology from Stanford University.

Dr Zhao research interests include social stratification and mobility, sociology of education, organizational analysis, and China's social policy. His research has appeared in China Quarterly, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, International Journal of Educational Development, Social Sciences in China, Built Environment, China: An International Journal, East Asian Policy and Frontiers of Education in China. He has authored, co-authored and co-edited four books. He is editing a volume titled China's Social Policy and Development, to be published by Routledge.

Moderator

Lam Swee Sum
National University of Singapore Business School
Prof Lam Swee Sum is an associate professor of finance at the NUS Business School and Director of the Asia Centre for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy (ACSEP). She graduated with a PhD degree in finance from the University of Washington, Seattle. Prof Lam has had diverse work experience in corporate banking, corporate finance and real estate. Besides, she holds professional qualifications as a certified public accountant (CPA), a fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore as well as a chartered financial analyst (CFA).

Since Prof Lam assumed directorship of ACSEP in July 2011, ACSEP has become a capacity building and knowledge hub for practitioners, academics, corporates, NGOs and foundations.