

PHBS Hosts The 2016 China Conference of the Chinese Economist Society



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scholars all over the world to study China's transition in the hope that their research will provide some interesting perspectives to evaluate China's impact on the world.

PHBS recently played host to The 2016 China Conference of the Chinese Economist Society, which was organized to discuss the topic of "Sustainable Development in China and the World: Understanding the Economics of the New Normal". Spanning across an entire weekend, the conference saw twelve keynote speeches, fifty paper presentation sessions, and seven round-table forums. More than 300 economists and policy makers from a host of countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and China converged to have discussions on Chinese economic issues and frontiers of economic theories and research. Collaborated by an organization that has always strived to promote market-based reforms and open-door policy, encourage academic exchanges, and develop modern economic education in China, the Chinese Economists Society (CES) has played an important role in bringing about fundamental changes in China's economic system by influencing economic policy making in the country.

The conference was inaugurated by Hai Wen, Dean of Peking

University HSBC School and Wing Thye Woo, President of the Chinese Economists Society and featured world-renowned scholars and academics who shared their insights with students and external participants alike. Some of the most eminent personalities in the field of development studies, economics, political sciences and environmental studies such as Mr. David Lipton, the first managing director of the IMF, Dwight Perkins, emeritus of Harvard University, Alan Auerbach, director of the Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance at the University of California, Berkeley, Macro Prudent Policy Expert from the University of Tokyo, Kiyohiko Nishimura and representatives from many such esteemed institutes presented their research. They went on to share their experiences and chair discussions on a wide array of topics from demographic structure's influence on policy making to the duties of central banks. The presenters addressed the most prominent issues that China is currently facing: huge corporate debt, aging population, and problematic monetary policies, etc.

The conference also saw many influential policy makers and Chinese scholars participating in the round table-discussions to exchange their views with their international counterparts. Cai Fang, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Fang Gang,

Director of the National Economic Research Institute and professor at Peking University HSBC School; Lu Ming, Director of Center for China Development Studies at the Department of Economics and professor of Shanghai Jiaotong University; and Yuan Zhigang, professor of the School of Economics, Fudan University presented plenary reports. However the highlight of the event was the paper discussions from young and emerging scholars. About 200 original and unpublished papers were selected for publication and discussions over the two days. The papers explored both traditional topics in economics and also delved into some fascinating areas such as computational economics, spatial-political economics, and the "sharing economy."

The conference concluded with a visit to Huawei, China's leading telecommunications organization. This provided a wonderful opportunity for the participants to study how the company functions as the only Fortune 500 Company that has not been publicly listed yet. With this conference, Peking University HSBC Business School once again established its commitment to academic research crossing the frontiers of economics, finance and management.

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan

China's economy is at a tipping point with the "new normal" and its aggressive reforms policies have had both the domestic and global economies confront a series of growth and development related issues. It throws up certain complex questions that need to be answered in order to understand how economic theories better reflect economic trends and what role China plays to drive supply-side reforms. However, these same facets of development have also raised concerns about how growth is achieved.

The lack of harmony among the three fundamental dimensions of development – social, economic & environmental – and its consequences are not only being felt by China but also by every other economy with which it interacts. These very issues have provided a continuous impetus to



China Cultural Heritage Day Celebration at the Shenzhen Museum

In this fast paced life, it's hard to stay connected with one's roots and traditions. That's the reason why most of us do not know our traditional crafts and art that represents any community or nation's artistic side. So when one of my friend recommended me to visit the Shenzhen Museum to witness the China Cultural Heritage Day celebration, I didn't even think twice and went ahead to watch the amazing traditional Chinese opera performances and live handicraft demonstration that were set to be presented over there.

During every year since 2006, China's Cultural Heritage day is celebrated on the second Saturday of June with much aplomb. The reason behind observing this day is to create awareness among people about Chinese culture and also the importance of protecting heritage. This year, the cultural heritage day was celebrated on the 11th of June and in Shenzhen, with the Shenzhen Museum serving as the perfect host to the event.

My main motive to attend the event was to actually experience some crucial art forms that are the soul of Chinese culture. The day started with a free evaluation lecture on the various Chinese cultural treasures on display at the museum followed by performances by various Chinese opera groups performing the traditional Chinese opera such as Kunqu, Beijing, Huangmei, Shaoxing, Cantonese, Yu and Qinqiang. The opera performances represented different cultural side of the various provinces of China.

Apart from the opera performances, there were artists from different regions of China who demonstrated their unique craft to the visitors such as rope knitting, paper cutting and silhouette paper cutting.

In addition to Chinese cultural performances, the museum also held a special glass exhibition that featured intricate and beautiful glass pieces from the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague. The glass show was meant to educate the masses about the history of glass making in Europe from the 4th century B.C to the present day. The exhibition featured 200 precious glass wares which originated from different countries in Europe.

Other than the special performances and glass ware exhibition the museum in general serves as the custodian of the history of Shenzhen and also has a dedicated exhibition hall that depicts the daily lives of Hakka people from the early days of the reforms till date.

On this cultural heritage day, I was able to not just familiarize myself with Chinese culture but also got a chance to understand more about Shenzhen's history and how the city has evolved from a small Hakka village to the Silicon Valley of China.

Reported by Fayeza Yahya

Professor Zhang Gu Talks Chinese Civil Law at STL

On June 14, Zhang Gu, the famous Chinese civil law professor, came to STL and gave a talk on how to explain the condition when the right of property disappears. Shaowei Mao, the STL Chinese civil law professor, hosted the lecture. Professors Yunsong Ge, Weifei Sun, Hui Huang and Zining Jin attended the speech and gave provided some commentary.

Gu Zhang is a famous professor in the Guanghua Law School at Zhejiang University. He specializes in civil law and has a body of famous works on the subject. The main issue in this lecture was the case of *Chen v. Wang*. Chen and Wang were in previously in a relationship, and they purchased a house under both of their names though only Wang paid for it. Later on, they broke up and reached an agreement that Chen would give up all the rights of the house property and assist Zhang to deal with the transformation of the house property. However, Zhang died before the transformation. Now, Zhang's successors required Chen to give up the house but were rejected. They went to the court to sue Chen to return the house as per their agreement's obligations. Chen argued that agreement was just a revocable gifted contract to which she no longer had any obligation.

The main issue is whether the agreement is a gift contract that can be revoked, or just abandonable action that cannot be revoked if the property is first possessed by others. Professor Zhang developed a detailed discussion on this issue and gave some comments to the court's opinion. The trial court thought it was a unilateral abandonable action, not a gift contract, so the house belongs to the successors. The appellant court affirmed this decision.

The whole lecture divided the analysis into three segments.

First, who was the owner of the house when Zhang and Chen bought it? Does the fact that only Zhang paid for the house matter? If they co-own the house, are they joint tenants or co-owners by shares? Since Zhang and Chen bought the house in the name of the couple, they commonly owned the house. The ownership depends on the name. The fact that only Zhang paid has no relationship with the ownership, but Chen owns Zhang half price of the house to pay back. And so because they are not married and not a legal couple, they cannot share joint tenancy under Chinese law.

Second, is the agreement a bilateral or unilateral legal action? A contract is always a bilateral legal action, because it needs the exchange of minds, the offer and acceptance. But, abandon is usually the unilateral legal action, which only needs one mind. However, Professor Zhang explained that sometimes abandon can be considered bilateral action because we need to respect the other person's mind, for example in a debt relief condition.

Third, if Chen abandoned her co-ownership with the house property, who would be the owner of the half ownership? Before the agreement, Zhang and Chen co-owned the house. If we consider that Chen abandoned her share, her half ownership of the house became a waif. Would the country achieve the ownership or the other owners, like Zhang? Professor Zhang developed a detailed discussion in this point and discussed the different regulations between China and Germany.

After Professor's Zhang's speech, the other professors gave some comments and analysis to the same issue. Some students reflected that this kind of speech is really helpful, informative and enjoyable. Hopefully our school can hold more activities like this in

the future.

Reported by Jiayue Zhang

PUBLIC LECTURE

南燕民法论坛·名家系列一

民法解释学如何展开？——从一则案例说开去

主讲人：张 谷 浙江大学光华法学院教授
 评议人：葛云松 北京大学法学院教授
 孙维飞 华东政法大学副教授
 黄 卉 北京航空航天大学法学院教授
 主持人：茅少伟 北京大学国际法学院助理教授

日期：2016年6月14日（星期二）
 时间：晚7:00-9:00
 地点：北大深研院C栋303教室

主讲人简介

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张教授先后取得华东政法学院法学学士（1990）、法学硕士（1993）、中国人民大学法学博士（2000）。曾在国际统一私法协会、德国柏林洪堡大学访问研究。曾任教于中国人民大学法学院、北京大学法学院。他的研究方向主要包括民法总则、合同法、公司法、商法总论等。

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PKUSZ Hosts Ukrainian Charity Event at International Conference Center

As the world witnesses an increasing amount of violence and bloodshed, it has become unsafe for our future generations, and more and more children are dying or being orphaned by war. It's our collective responsibility to help those in need in every manner possible.

The recent tensions between Russia and Ukraine left thousands of people homeless and this adversely affected the children in the region. For this reason the Ukrainian consulate in collaboration with accomplished Ukrainian and Chinese artists held a charity event, which was supported by the PKU Shenzhen Graduate School. The event was held on June 18th at the International Conference Center of Beida and was attended by many PKU students and outsiders.

In the beginning of the event a special bazaar was set-up where different local Ukrainian specialties were offered for sale. The bazaar was followed by special captivating performances by Chinese and Ukrainian Artists. The show started with an opera performance by Ukrainian Opera singer Marina Novak who is a trained Opera singer and apart from Ukrainian also performs opera in Russian and Italian languages. After Marina's performance, John, a Chinese student from the Guangdong Teacher's College of Foreign Language and Arts performed a piano recital. He played the organ with great skill and enthralled the audience. Afterward, Ukrainian dancers gave a stunning show followed by a special duet opera with live music. What made this performance even more special was that two Chinese students from the Guangdong Teacher's College of Foreign Language and Arts performed the piece's music on the piano.

The event not just a charity event but also introduced Ukrainian culture to the local Chinese and foreign audiences. All the proceeds from the event will be spent on Ukrainian children affected by war or various adversities.

Reported by Fayeza Yahya



A Brief Introduction to the Dragon Boat Festival

The Dragon-Boat Festival, which is called *Duanwu* Festival, was on May 5th of this year's lunar calendar. It originates from China and is also celebrated in Korea, Vietnam and other countries now. As one of the most important traditional festivals in China, the Dragon Boat Festival can be dated back to around 2,300 years ago and forms different kinds of celebration activities around the nation.

There are debates and different versions about the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival, but the most universal one is to memorialize Quyan, a famous poet in the Chunqiu Age. Quyan was also a famous politician in Chu Country, and he advocated the Emperor to appoint people on their merit, not on their family background. He suggested the Chu to cooperate with Qi to fight against the Qin County that later became the famous Qin dynasty. King Huai of Chu, the Emperor at that time, ignored these suggestions. And because of these suggestions, the nobility and elites pushed out Quyan. At last, the emperor exiled Quyan into the Xiang River. Later on, Qin, the most powerful country, invaded Chu and almost conquered Chu. Quyan was unwilling to look at his country be destroyed, so he drowned himself in the Miluo River after finishing his famous poem, *Huaisha*.

The local people heard Quyan drowning in the Miluo River, so they tried desperately to save him. They paddled out into the river with boats to try to find his corpse but still found nothing. They did not find Quyan in the end, but they decided to gather to paddle boats on that day in his memory. This custom developed into the dragon boat competition later, which is the main activity in the Dragon Boat Festival. Being afraid that fish would eat Quyan's corpus, the local people threw the rice rolls into the river to attract the fish and so they would not destroy Quyan's corpse. These rice rolls later developed into *zongzi*.

There are also some other stories about the festival, but the tale in memory of Quyan is the most popular one in China. Different places have different stories about the origin of the festival and different customs to celebrate it. The most popular custom that is widely celebrated in the whole nation is the dragon boat competition and eating *zongzi*.

The dragon boat is type of boat that due to its namesake looks like dragon in appearance. Usually the head of the boat is the dragon's head. Dragons represent the Emperor in Chinese traditional culture. In the ancient times, the Emperor would watch the boat competition around the lake every year during the Dragon Boat Festival. Aside from the boats for competition, there are also many other decorated boats for viewing and admiring. Before the boat competition, there is also a sacrificial ceremony to mark the beginning of the festival. The ceremony is also serves to pray for a good harvest and pleasant weather for the crops. This tradition of dragon boat competition still remains until today and is widely celebrated in the south of China.

Zongzi is the traditional food to celebrate the festival. Usually, it is cone-shape, but sometimes also strip-type, like a dragon-boat. The main ingredient is polished glutinous rice, and other ingredients depends on the place. In the north of China,

people traditionally eat sweet flavored *zongzi*, which can contain sweetened bean paste, jujube, or just rice. While in the south of China, people usually eat *zongzi* that contain meat, salty egg yolks, or even sometimes seafood in Guangdong province. Southern people and northern people always have a "quarrel" with which kind of *zongzi* is more tasty. Such discussions of salty versus sweet happen every year.

Apart from the dragon boat competition and *zongzi*, there are also some other traditional customs, like wearing colorful decorations, eating salty eggs, etc. And in some place, people will draw the Chinese character for "king" on a child's head to prevent illness. These are all very interesting and ancient customs.

Nowadays, even though the traditional culture is fading away, people still celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival through eating *zongzi* and watching the boating competition. The Chinese government listed the Dragon Boat Festival as a national holiday since 2008, so more and more Chinese can have the chance to gather with family to celebrate the festival.

Reported by Jiayue Zhang



PHBS to Inaugurate the English Skills Center

The English Skills Center (ESC) was recently established at PHBS with a motive to provide comprehensive English communication training to its students. The brainchild of Ms. Priscilla Young, Associate Lecturer at PHBS, the ESC aims to promote critical thinking amongst students whose first language is not English by means of varied activities, both individual and group. All the tutors at the ESC are PHBS students who excel in English Writing and Public Speaking and have undergone extensive training to don the hat of a mentor!

Even if students do not expect to work in a setting where English is not the working language, with the ever expanding global marketplace it becomes essential for everyone to master strong communication skills. For the same reason, in addition to providing training on English Academic writing, the center will also offer additional assistance to those who seek to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. Since, in most Asian countries, schools do not typically incorporate communication and speaking skills into their curriculum, students often fail to develop the confidence to speak effectively and efficiently. Says Ms. Young, "A lot of students need help in this area as they do not study communication and public speaking in schools like we do in the West. Coursework here often requires them to give presentations and it may become intimidating for non-native speakers to give good presentations in the language that they do not think in."

Often, high scores in standardized tests belie students' abilities to grasp ideas in English or their proficiency in speaking well. So the center wishes to offer training to students to equip them with the ability to read, understand and analyse in English so as to be able to speak fluently. Ms. Young continues, "We will also help students with reading comprehensions so that they can better understand academic literature. Many students here do not understand a lot of what they hear in the lectures or read in their assignments. Particularly, complex research articles written by scholars are quite often difficult for native English speakers themselves to understand and it becomes even more challenging for non-native speakers to comprehend these."

With the summer holidays just around the corner, the ESC will have a grand opening and an official inauguration when the school reopens for the Fall Semester in September. A lot of exciting events are on the anvil to promote the center including a contest to design a logo and posters for the center. Individual teaching sessions start right after the next term commences. Ms. Young aptly comments, "At our center, we aim to be a comprehensive center for everything having to do with student learning and English language. We do hope students will take advantage of our services". All teaching services are free of cost and available to students enrolled in all the schools of Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. Prior appointments are required and can be made on the ESC webpage which can be accessed from the PHBS English Website.

The English Skills Center is located on the 7th floor of the PHBS Building at room 718. For more details, contact Ms. Priscilla Young, ESC Director at pyoung@phbs.pku.edu.cn

Reported by Gayathri Jagannathan

