



中國城市與區域研究中心  
Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies

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香港浸會大學  
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



社會科學院  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Research Centre Report**  
**1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013**

**Prepared by**  
**The Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies**  
**Hong Kong Baptist University**  
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## **1. Introduction to CURS**

The Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS or the Centre), currently housed at the Department of Geography of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU or the University), was established on 1 July 2001. CURS was founded with a major donation from Heung To Educational Fund secured by Professor C F Ng, former President and Vice Chancellor of the University.

CURS aims at conducting high quality research and cultivating academic exchange on China's urban and regional developmental issues. Research fellows of CURS include faculty members of the University from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds who share a common interest in urban and regional research on China. It is the objective of CURS to enhance the University's status as an academic hub for the study of China's cities and regions.

Research conducted by CURS research fellows covers a wide range of intellectual and policy-oriented domains: housing privatization and housing market segmentation, transportation and land use, regional disparities, environmental management and sustainable development, social problems and social service provision, cultural landscapes, inter-regional and rural-urban migration, social stratification, quality of life, and urban modelling, including the application of geographic information systems and remote sensing techniques in the study of urban and regional change. Centre directors and fellows have pioneered in several areas of China urban studies including residential change, housing preferences, activity-travel behaviour analysis etc. Since founding, CURS has established collaboration with research institutions in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and elsewhere, such as the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, The Centre of Urban Studies and Urban Planning of The University of Hong Kong, the Urban China Research Network of the University at Albany, New York, the Urban China Research International Network of Cardiff University, Wales, and the Urban and Regional Research Centre of the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.

## 1.1 List of Staff Members

- **Prof. WANG Donggen** (*Department of Geography*), Director  
Research interests: Travel behaviour, Transport Geography, Time Geography
- **Ms. LIN Yonglang Lyn**, Research Assistant

## 1.2 List of Research Fellows

- **Dr. CHENG Yuk Shing** (*Department of Economics*)  
Research interests: China's regional growth empirics and economic reforms (with special interest in rural and fiscal reforms)
- **Prof. CHOW C. H. Larry** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Energy; Political
- **Prof. CHU Y. Y. Cindy** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Contemporary China; Chinese Foreign Relations; Sino-American Relations (Political and Cultural); Hong Kong Politics
- **Dr. CHUNG Him** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Regional Geography of China; Urban–Rural Relations; Rural Transformation
- **Prof. CHUNG P. Y. Stephanie** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Social and Economic History; Business History; History of Business Laws and Customs; Chinese Family Business in South China and Southeast Asia
- **Dr. KANG Yi** (*Department of Government and International Studies*)  
Research interests: Comparative Linguistics; Language Learning Pedagogy, Multilingual Education in Hong Kong
- **Dr. LAI W. F. Gina** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Mental Health; Social Networks; Gender Studies
- **Prof. LEE Kam Keung** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: History of Fujian and Taiwan; History of Chinese Revolution; History of Christianity in Modern China
- **Prof. LI Si-ming** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Urban; Housing; Regional Development
- **Dr. MAH Ngar-yin Daphne** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Sustainable energy (smart grids and renewable energy); Energy-related technological innovation; Comparative



energy governance in Asia, China and Guangdong-Hong Kong region; Energy policy and politics in Hong Kong

- **Dr. PENG Yinni** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Migration (Internal and International); Labor Politics; ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies); Gender and Society; Work, Employment and Management
- **Dr. RUAN Danching** (*Department of Sociology*)  
Research interests: Social Network Analysis; Comparative Sociology; Sociology of Chinese Societies
- **Prof. TANG Wing Shing** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Urban Planning under Socialism
- **Dr. TAM Ka-chai** (*Department of History*)  
Research interests: Chinese Legal History; Maritime History of East Asia; Economic Development and Social Order of Ming-Qing China; History of the Chinese Book; Historical Geographic Information System.
- **Prof. WONG Kenneth K. K.** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Environmental Studies
- **Prof. WONG Victor C. W.** (*Department of Social Work*)  
Research interests: Health; Youth; Social Policy; Public Sector Management
- **Dr. YU Xiaojiang** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Regional Environmental Planning; Environmental Policy; International Development; Energy and Transport Policy; Natural Resource Management in Southeast Asia; Social and Cultural Geography; Development and environmental cooperation in East Asia
- **Dr. YANG Chun** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Urban and regional development in China, particularly the Pearl River Delta and Hong Kong; Global production networks, transnational corporations and local development in China; Regional innovation systems and geography of indigenous entrepreneurship; Industrial clusters and foreign direct investment; Cross-border regions and geopolitics of mega city-region governance in China
- **Prof. ZHOU Qiming** (*Department of Geography*)  
Research interests: Change detection and land cover modelling with remote sensing; DTM-based terrain analysis; Spatial decision

support systems; 3-dimensional GIS; GIS and remote sensing applications

## **2. Academic Activities Conducted**

In order to promote academic exchange and networking among scholars in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan and overseas who are interested in China's urban and regional concerns, CURS has actively organized and sponsored international conferences, workshops, seminars and excursions. CURS has also been active in fostering collaborations between the university and other institutions.

### **2.1 Conferences /Workshops /Seminars organized**

#### *2.1.1 International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, 13-14 December 2012, Hong Kong*

The International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China held on 13 and 14 December 2012 was an academic activity under the "Global Social Sciences: Hong Kong Initiative" project of the Faculty of Social Sciences. It attracted more than 200 participants from Hong Kong as well as the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Greece, Korea, Taiwan and Mainland China. Five parallel sessions were carried out in four time sessions each day, and a total of 160 papers were presented at the conference. It was organized by HKBU's Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), jointly with the Department of Geography, and the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), as well as the Centre for Urban Studies and Urban Planning of The University of Hong Kong, and the Urban China Research Network of Brown University and the University at Albany, SUNY, USA.

An opening speech was officiated by Professor Anthony Cheung, Secretary for Transport and Housing, Hong Kong SAR Government. Welcome speeches were addressed by Professor Rick Wong, Vice-President (Research and Development) and Professor

Adrian Bailey, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Keynote speeches were delivered following the opening ceremony. Professor Deborah Davis, Professor of Sociology at Yale University, spoke on “Institutional and Theoretical Challenges to Understanding Urban China” and Professor Ning Yuemin, Professor of the School of Resources and Environmental Sciences at East China Normal University, spoke on “The Role of Large City Clusters in Regional Development”. More than 200 international scholars enjoyed sharing the current knowledge to promote and support study, practice, teaching and research at the conference. It brought a good opportunity for scholars to interact and share their research findings and experience in the areas of China’s urban development, spatial transformation and urbanisation.

### 2.1.2 Seminar on “Los Angeles: A transit metropolis in the making?” 11 April 2013, Hong Kong

Jointly with Department of Geography, Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies co-organized the seminar on “Los Angeles: A transit metropolis in the making?” Dr. He Ying Sylvia from Department of Geography and Resource Management, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, was invited to give the talk. The aim of the seminar is to bring out discussion about metropolitan transportation, specifically in the issues of public transport, car-centric tradition and transportation plan of Los Angeles examined with history review, contemporary analysis and the outlook for the future. This seminar attracted around twenty participants in total.

## 2.2 Fieldtrip to Wuhan

Prof. Wang Donggen, with the assistance from Ph.D student Mr. Lin Tao, led a group of 16 students to conduct a trip to Wuhan from 5 to 7 April 2013 to observe and experience the high-speed railway development and urban transport development in Mainland China. The trip is part of the course *Geography of Transportation*.

During this trip, students visited the Wuhan Urban Planning

Exhibition Center on 6 April and the Transportation Research Institute of Wuhan University on 7 April, and took a ride of the Wuhan-Guangzhou-Shenzhen high-speed railway.

As a metropolitan city with population of around 10 million in Central China, Wuhan provided the students with a good example demonstrating transportation issues in a major Chinese city. This trip provided students with the opportunity to observe and experience the high-speed railway development in China, and to learn about the urban transportation development and traffic problems in Wuhan. Students are encouraged to compare public transportation developments between Hong Kong and Wuhan. Through first-hand experience, this trip allowed students to apply their knowledge acquired from lectures and experiences gained from field studies to investigate and better understand transportation issues.



*Wuhan Railway Station*



*Visiting the Wuhan Urban Planning Exhibition Center*



*Group photo taken at Wuhan Urban Planning Exhibition Center*



*Transportation Research Institute of Wuhan University*

### **2.3 HKBU-Shenzhen University Collaborative PhD programme**

Through the connections with mainland China, CURS and CURS Director Prof. Donggen Wang provided supports to Prof. Rick Wong, Vice President (Research and Development) and HKBU Graduate School in the discussions and negotiations on a collaborative PhD programme between HKBU and Shenzhen University. The two universities reached an agreement last May. A signing ceremony of the agreement was held at Shenzhen University on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. According to the agreement, the two universities will collaborate in training PhD students who will spend one year in HKBU and two years in Shenzhen University. Successful completion of the PhD programme will be awarded HKBU PhD degree. Geography, Chemistry, mathematics, Chinese medicine, Communication and Chinese medicine are the five subject areas included in the first phase of the collaborative programme.

### **2.4 Sponsorship to CURS fellow Prof. Chung Po Yin's participation in the Eighth International Convention of Asia Scholars 24-27 June 2013 (report prepared by Prof. Chung Po Yin)**

Thanks to the generous support of CURS, I have attended and presented a paper at the 8th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8) in the summer of 2013. The exposure is a precious learning experience to me. Here are some highlights from the event. Co-organised by the Macao Foundation and the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden (IIAS), the convention was held from 24-27 at the Venetian Hotel in Macau. With over 1200 participating scholars from 56 countries, the program included panel presentation/discussion, a book exhibition and film-screenings. During the four-day convention, there were about 300 presentation panels. The first day witnessed the opening of the cultural exhibition entitled "Islam, Trade, and Politics across the Indian Ocean"(exactly my area of research!) This exhibition and photographic display was a solid piece of research co-produced by the British Academy, the Association of Southeast Asian Studies in the United Kingdom (ASEASUK), the British Institute at Ankara

(BIAA), and the British Library. Professor Arif Dirlik was the keynote speaker of the convention. He concluded in his speech, entitled “Asia is rising – but where is it going?” with the following remarks – “if Asia is to rise in a way that benefits all, ... Asians will have to stop listening to self-deceptive hype about “the rise” and confront problems that are not just legacies of the past, but products of development under the force of global capital.” Launched in 1997 under the auspices of the IAS, ICAS is the largest international gathering of Asia scholars to engage in scholarly dialogues on Asia. It takes place every two years and is organised by IAS in partnership with a host city – the host of the next ICAS (2016) is Adelaide, Australia.

## **2.5 Participation of CURS director and fellows in International Academic Activities**

### *2.5.1 A presentation on “Congested city, Stagnating Life? Congestion in Daily Travel and Its Impacts on Subjective Well-being in Beijing”, 8 December 2012, Beijing, China*

Prof. Wang Donggen gave a presentation on “Congested city, Stagnating Life? Congestion in Daily Travel and Its Impacts on Subjective Well-being in Beijing” at the Workshop on Space-time Behavior and Smart Travel Cum the Seventh Workshop on Spatial Behavior Research and Planning Spatial-temporal Behavior, Beijing.

### *2.5.2 A presentation on “One Country Two Life Styles: A Comparative study of Time Use and Activity-Travel Behavior between Hong Kong and Beijing”, 13-14 December 2012, Beijing, China*

Prof. Wang gave a presentation on “One Country Two Life Styles: A Comparative study of Time Use and Activity-Travel Behavior between Hong Kong and Beijing” at the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, Hong Kong, Dec. 13-14, 2012.

2.5.3 *An invited keynote speech on “Activity space: a new perspective of socio-spatial segregation in Beijing, China”, 14-15 March 2013, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou, China*

Prof. Wang was invited to give a speech as a keynote speaker at the research Seminar on Mobility, Segregation and Neighborhoods' Change in Tartu, Estonia and gave a presentation on “Activity space: a new perspective of socio-spatial segregation in Beijing, China”.

2.5.4 *An invited seminar on “The activity-based approach to modeling travel demand”, 18 March 2013, University of Tartu, Estonia*

Prof. Wang delivered an invited seminar on “The activity-based approach to modeling travel demand” at the Department of Geography, University of Tartu, Estonia.

2.5.5 *An invited seminar on “The Effects of Geographical and Social Contexts on Activity-Travel Behavior: Some Empirical Findings from Studies in Hong Kong and Beijing”, 6 May 2013, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Prof. Wang delivered an invited seminar on “The Effects of Geographical and Social Contexts on Activity-Travel Behavior: Some Empirical Findings from Studies in Hong Kong and Beijing”, at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on 6 May 2013.

2.5.6 *An invited seminar on “Built environment, Social environment and daily activity and travel behavior in Hong Kong and Beijing”, 5 June 2013, Shaanxi Normal University, China*

Prof. Wang delivered an invited seminar on “Built environment, Social environment and daily activity and travel behavior in Hong Kong and Beijing” Shaanxi Normal University, Xi An, China.

2.5.7 *A presentation on “A Study on Residential Subjective Wellbeing in Beijing, China”, 9-13 April 2013, Los Angeles, USA*

Prof. Wang gave a presentation on “A Study on Residential Subjective Wellbeing in Beijing, China” at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in Los Angeles, USA.

2.5.8 *A presentation on “Urban Contexts and Time Use: A Comparative Study of Time Use and Activity-Travel Behavior between Hong Kong and Beijing”, 9-13 April 2013, Los Angeles, USA*

Prof. Wang gave a presentation on “Urban Contexts and Time Use: A Comparative Study of Time Use and Activity-Travel Behavior between Hong Kong and Beijing” at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) in Los Angeles, USA.

2.5.9 *A presentation on “History of Contemporary China with Particular References to the Post-1978 Period”, 1-3 September 2012, Beijing, China*

Prof. Chu Yik Yi Cindy delivered a poster presentation on “History of Contemporary China with Particular References to the Post-1978 Period” at The 2012 EWC/EWCA International Conference on the theme “Community Building and Leadership in Asia Pacific,” jointly organized by the East-West Center and the East-West Center Association, held at Peking University.

2.5.10A *presentation on “The Catholic Church in China during the Republican Period”, 7-8 December 2012, Singapore*

Prof. Chu gave a presentation on “The Catholic Church in China during the Republican Period” at the International Conference on “Asia-Europe Encounters: Intellectual and Cultural Exchanges, 1900-1950,” jointly organized by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore) and International Institute for Asian Studies



(Leiden) in Singapore.

*2.5.11A presentation on “China and the Vatican, 1979 to the Present”, 6-7 June 2013, Hong Kong*

Prof. Chu gave a presentations on “China and the Vatican, 1979 to the Present” at the International Conference on “The Catholic Church in China from 1900 to the Present” organized by David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI) in Hong Kong.

*2.5.12A presentation on “The Globalization of the Catholic Church in China: 1979 to the Present”, 14-15 June 2013, Hong Kong*

Prof. Chu gave a presentation on “The Globalization of the Catholic Church in China: 1979 to the Present” at “The 8th International Symposium on the History of Christianity in Modern China” jointly organized by the Department of History (HKBU) and the Christianity and Chinese Culture Research Centre of Alliance Bible Seminary in Hong Kong.

*2.5.13A presentation on “China and the Vatican: Conflicts and Resolutions”, 24-27 June 2013, Macao*

Prof. Chu gave a presentation on “China and the Vatican: Conflicts and Resolutions” at the Eighth International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8) in Macao.

*2.5.14A presentation on “The Guangdong model: collective village land, urbanization, and the making of a new middle class”, 15-17 July 2012, Yunnan, China*

Dr. Chung Him delivered a paper entitled “The Guangdong model: collective village land, urbanization, and the making of a new middle class” in the Urbanisation of Rural China Workshop, organized by the Contemporary China Centre, the Australian National University in Yunnan, China

*2.5.15A presentation on “Territorial adjustment as a spatial strategy for governance in China” in the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China, 13-14 December 2012, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.*

Dr. Chung presented a paper entitled “Territorial adjustment as a spatial strategy for governance in China” in the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China at Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong.

*2.5.16A presentation on “From production brigade to shareholding company: functional change of rural collective units during urbanization”, 11-13 April 2013, the Old University of Wuerzburg, Germany*

Dr. Chung gave a presentation on “From production brigade to shareholding company: functional change of rural collective units during urbanization” in the Rural China under New Leadership – the 11th European Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development in China.

*2.5.17A presentation on “Cantonese Movies vs. “National Language Movement” – Past, Present and Future?”, 1-3 February, 2013, Hong Kong Baptist University*

Prof. Chung Po Yin Stephanie presented a paper on “Cantonese Movies vs. “National Language Movement” – Past, Present and Future?” at The Future of Cantonese Culture in Hong Kong in Department of Humanities and Creative Writing, Hong Kong Baptist University

*2.5.18A presentation on “At the Crossroads of East and West - Arab Merchants in Singapore, 1819 - 1980s”, 24-27 June 2013, Macao*

Prof. Chung presented a paper on “At the Crossroads of East and West - Arab Merchants in Singapore, 1819 - 1980s” at the Eighth International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 8). CURS

provide sponsorship of HK\$4,800 to Prof. Chung to support her activity in Macao.

*2.5.19A presentation on “The “Sinchew Case” (1830-1860s) and the Transplantation of the English Rule Against Perpetuities into the Straits Settlements”, 4-5 July 2013, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong*

Prof. Chung presented a paper “The “Sinchew Case” (1830-1860s) and the Transplantation of the English Rule Against Perpetuities into the Straits Settlements” at the Workshop on Colonial Land Law and Local Communities in Asia organised by the project on “The Historical Anthropology of Chinese Society” (funded by the UGC Areas of excellence - 5th round) in Chinese University of Hong Kong

*2.5.20A presentation on “A New Tale of Two Cities: Chinese movies industry in Hong Kong and Singapore in the 1950s and 1960s”, 7 September, 2013, Singapore*

Prof. Chung presented a paper entitled “A New Tale of Two Cities: Chinese movies industry in Hong Kong and Singapore in the 1950s and 1960s” (in absentia, presented by Dr Foo Tee Tuan [the deputy director of Chinese Studies at UniSIM] on her behalf), in Singapore, organized by Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore National Library Board, & Singapore Society of Asian Studies.

*2.5.21A presentation on “School and Unequal Access to Social Capital: A Study of High School Students in Urban Nanjing.”, 12-15 July 2013, Xi’an, China*

Dr. Lai Gina W.F. presented a paper entitled “School and Unequal Access to Social Capital: A Study of High School Students in Urban Nanjing.” at the 2013 Xi’an INSNA Conference, Xi’an, China

2.5.22A presentation on “Social Ties and Use of Chinese Medicine Consultation Services in Hong Kong.”, 10-13 August 2013, New York, U.S. A.

Dr. Lai presented a paper entitled “Social Ties and Use of Chinese Medicine Consultation Services in Hong Kong.” at the annual meeting of American Sociological Association, New York, New York, U.S.A.

2.5.23 發表論文〈海防、江防之籌議——姚錫光(1857-1921)及其《江鄂日記》〉，香港歷史博物館，2012年11月1-4日

李金強教授於由香港海防博物館、香港浸會大學歷史系與香港中國近代史學會合辦「第三屆近代中國海防國際研討會」發表論文：〈海防、江防之籌議——姚錫光(1857-1921)及其《江鄂日記》〉

2.5.24 發表論文〈何謂洋化〉，香港浸會大學，2012年12月6-7日

李教授於由國立中正大學歷史系、香港浸會大學歷史系、香港中文大學歷史系、香港中國近代史學會、北京師範大學歷史學院合辦的第三屆「漢化·胡化·洋化」國際學術研討會發表論文：〈何謂洋化〉

2.5.25 發表論文〈基督徒商人——呂明才(1888-1956)的生平及其貢獻〉，香港浸會大學，2013年6月14-15日

李教授於由香港浸會大學、建道神學院與中國基督教史學會合辦「第八屆近代中國基督教史研討會」發表論文：〈基督徒商人——呂明才(1888-1956)的生平及其貢獻〉

2.5.26A presentation on “Agency Problems in China's Disaster Response”, 01 Sep 2012, New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.

Dr. Kang Yi presented a paper on “Agency Problems in China's Disaster Response” at the Annual Meeting of the American

Political Science Association on 01 Sep 202.

2.5.27A presentation on “Challenge of Managing Openness”, 6 Jul 2013, Shanghai, China

Dr. Kang presented a paper on “Challenge of Managing Openness” at the Conference on Chinese Local Politics in Shanghai, China.

2.5.28A presentation on “The Roles of State in Sustainable Energy Transition: Case Studies of Smart Grid Developments in South Korea and Japan”, 9 Mar 2013, HKIEd, Hong Kong

Dr. Mah Ngar-yin Daphne presented a paper on “The Roles of State in Sustainable Energy Transition: Case Studies of Smart Grid Developments in South Korea and Japan” at the 8th Annual Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Hong Kong: Transformations, Development and Culture in Asia: Multidisciplinary Perspectives.

2.5.29A presentation on “The Roles of State in Sustainable Energy Transition: Case Studies of Smart Grid Developments in South Korea and Japan”, 29 May 2013, HKU, Hong Kong

Dr. Mah presented a paper on “The Roles of State in Sustainable Energy Transition: Case Studies of Smart Grid Developments in South Korea and Japan” at the Kadoorie Institute - Research Seminar at Hong Kong University.

2.5.30A presentation on “Transition from Production to Innovation: Foreign and Indigenous Technological Dynamisms in Shenzhen, China”, 13-14 December 2012, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong

Dr. Yang Chun gave a presentation on “Transition from Production to Innovation: Foreign and Indigenous Technological Dynamisms

in Shenzhen, China” at the International Conference on Spatial & Social Transformation in Urban China Hong Kong, December 13-14, 2012, Hong Kong.

*2.5.31A presentation on “Restructuring of Global Production Networks and Transformation of Regional Development in China”, 28-29 June 2013, Peking University, Beijing, China*

Dr. Yang gave a presentation on “Restructuring of Global Production Networks and Transformation of Regional Development in China” at the Second International Workshop on Regional, Urban, and Spatial Economics in China, Peking University, China.

*2.5.32A presentation on “Stratified random sample using geographic network construction based on fractal theory in the five Central Asian countries”, 20-22 December 2012, Hong Kong*

Prof. Zhou Qiming gave a presentation on “Stratified random sample using geographic network construction based on fractal theory in the five Central Asian countries” at International Workshop on Eco-system Monitoring and Management (EMM 2012) in Hong Kong

*2.5.33A presentation on “DEM-based ecological rainfall-runoff modeling in mountainous area of Hong Kong”, 23-25 May 2013, Wuhan, China*

Prof. Zhou delivered a presentation on “DEM-based ecological rainfall-runoff modeling in mountainous area of Hong Kong” at the 12th International Conference on Geocomputation in Wuhan, China.

*2.5.34A presentation on “Spatio-temporal pattern of snow cover change based on long-term time series of satellite images”, 26-27 May 2013, Wuhan, China*

Prof. Zhou delivered a presentation on “Spatio-temporal pattern of snow cover change based on long-term time series of satellite images” at the International Workshop on Change Detection Based on Satellite Images in Wuhan, China.

*2.5.35A presentation on “Mapping the landslide susceptibility of Hong Kong using cloud-computing geospatial method”, 20-22 June 2013, Kaifeng, China*

Prof. Zhou delivered a presentation on “Mapping the landslide susceptibility of Hong Kong using cloud-computing geospatial method” at Geoinformatics 2013 in Kaifeng, China.

### **3. Research Projects**

#### **3.1 Existing Research Projects**

The staff and research fellows of the CURS have undertaken a variety of research projects financed by the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC), Faculty Research Grants (FRG), and other sources. The following are some of the on-going projects and projects initiated over the year under review.

##### *3.1.1 Urban Form Remaking, Car-Dependence and Traffic Congestion in Urban China*

Investigators:	Prof. Donggen Wang
Exercise Period:	January 2011 – June 2014
Source of Funding:	GRF
Amount Awarded:	HK\$781,755

##### *Brief Introduction*

The significance of traffic congestion and air pollution in Chinese cities was highlighted during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The average speed of motor vehicles in the city centre at rush hour travel at 12-18 km per hour compared to 15 km per hour of a bicycle. Transport-related air pollutions account for about 23% of total air pollution in Beijing. Many attribute the problems to the rocket soaring car ownership and the increasing dependence on car for urban Chinese in their daily travel. More fundamental issues, however, have not yet received sufficient attention: apart from increased income, what other factors contribute to the growing demand for car? Apart from increased accessibility to car, what other factors contribute to the increased urban traffic? Based on our recent research on urban transportation in China, we hypothesise that urban form remaking, or spatial restructuring in Chinese cities, resulted from Danwei (or work unit), land, and housing reforms, has largely, if not fundamentally, changed the ways that urban Chinese use time and space and consequently their travel behaviour. This research is thus proposed to investigate the interrelations between urban form remaking, car-dependence and traffic congestion in Beijing. Specifically, we will collect first-hand data on individuals' preference towards living environment and travel behaviour, actual activity-travel behaviour and socio-economic variables at two time points. Secondary data will be collected to characterise the built environment in which individuals live. Econometric models especially longitudinal modeling tools such as the two-wave structural equation models will be used to establish associations as well as cause-effect relations between built environment and activity-travel behaviour in terms of car ownership, the use of time and space, travel frequencies and duration, and shares of motorised and non-motorised transport modes. This proposed research has both great academic significance and policy relevance. It will enrich the current literature on the connections between built environment and activity-travel behaviour with empirical findings from a case outside North America and Europe. It will also greatly contribute to the understanding of congestion and air pollution problems related to urban traffic in Chinese cities and based on which appropriate remedy policies may be proposed.



### 3.1.2 *China's Growth-Energy Nexus –Aggregate and Disaggregate*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Yuk-shing Cheng  
Exercise Period: October 2012 – March 2014  
Source of Funding: GRF (No. HKBU241612)  
Amount Awarded: HK\$ 205,514

#### *Brief Introduction*

How economic growth and energy consumption affect each other (the so-called growth-energy nexus) has long been a subject of academic and policy interests. The importance of exploring this relationship is particularly timely and relevant for the case of China. The nation's rapid economic growth and the accompanying rising energy demand have far-reaching economic and geopolitical impacts on the world. The phenomenon of global inflation in the past decade was driven up by the increase in energy prices, which was at least partly attributable to China's competition for resources. The new geopolitics and energy security consideration have also led to drastic changes in international relations. The Chinese government has been aware of its economic expansion and growing energy need. It has made great efforts to achieve a more energy-saving and environment-friendly growth in recent years. Formulating sensible growth and energy policies, however, requires an in-depth understanding of the relations between growth and energy in China. Unfortunately, there is only limited understanding available from extant research. This project aims to provide analyses to improve this understanding, by applying state-of-the-art methodologies to new data sets of China. Specifically, a long series of data covering the period 1952-2010 will be used in the aggregate analysis. Moreover, a panel data set covering most provinces for the period of 1991-2010 will be used in the disaggregate analysis. The nature of the data sets allows us to discern whether there exist structural breaks over time and regional variations. We will start with an estimation of the output elasticity of energy, followed by various causality tests. Our research will contribute to energy economics and inform the formulation of China's energy and economic growth policies in the next decade.

*3.1.3 Islamic Endowments [the Waqf] and the Chinese Ancestral [Tong]:  
A Comparative Appraisal of the Evolution of Ethical Capitalism,  
1830-2007*

Principal Investigator: Prof. Po Yin Chung Stephanie  
Exercise Period: 2009 – present  
Source of Funding: GRF  
Amount Awarded: HK\$1136,800

*3.1.4 Commissioned research by the Antiquities and Monument Office,  
HKSAR: A survey on the “Lung Tsun Stone Bridge, Kowloon  
Walled City”*

Principal Investigator: Prof. Po Yin Chung Stephanie  
Source of Funding: Antiquities and Monument Office, HKSAR  
Amount Awarded: HK\$147,200

*3.1.5 Commissioned research by the Hong Kong Museum of History,  
HKSAR: Merchant Communities in Hong Kong – the Story of the  
Parsee*

Principal Investigator: Prof. Po Yin Chung Stephanie  
Source of Funding: Hong Kong Museum of History, HKSAR  
Amount Awarded: HK\$259,900

*3.1.6 Investigation on Social Capital and Self-employment in Urban  
China*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Danching Ruan  
Exercise Period: 2012-2013  
Source of Funding: FRG1/12-13/051  
Amount Awarded: HK\$ 49,990

*Brief Introduction*

The private sector in China has played a central role in sustaining the reforms in the past three decades. The subjects of the proposed

study are owners of private businesses and enterprises in urban China today. Specifically, 1) we want to explore the extent to which self-employed people rely on their social networks to access resources needed for their business establishment and operation in a relatively well-regulated business environment. 2) We want to assess the degree of differential possession of social capital among self-employed. 3) We want to approach the above two research issues from a comparative angle; that is, comparing two groups of self-employed persons: local residents and migrants. We shall conduct our study in the city of Changshu near Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. It is a city with significant economic development, an extremely energetic private sector involving small and medium-sized businesses, and a sizeable migrant population. We shall conduct in-depth interviews with local officials, leaders of various business associations and with private business owners. We hope to contribute to the understanding of the influence of social capital in status achievement process in contemporary China.

### **3.2 Research Output of CURS Fellows**

#### **Prof. Wang Donggen**

##### **Journal Papers:**

- (With T. Lin), (2013), “Built environments, social environments, and activity-travel behavior: a case study of Hong Kong”. *Journal of Transport Geography* 31, 286-295.
- (With B. Chen, Q. Li and others) (2013), “Reliable Space-time Prism under Travel Time Uncertainty”. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, (in press)
- (With F. Li) (2013), “Cyberspace: Connected or Segregated? From Digital Divide to Virtual Segregation”. *Environment and Planning B* (in press).

##### **Conference papers:**

- (2012) (With T. Lin) “Social context and daily activity-travel companionship: a case study of Hong Kong” Paper included in proceedings of the 17th International Conference of Hong

Kong Society for Transportation Studies (HKSTS), Hong Kong, pp. 419-425.

- (December) (With F. Wang) “Exploring the links between the happiness and episode affect of daily travel: Evidence from Beijing, China” Paper included in proceedings of the 17th International Conference of Hong Kong Society for Transportation Studies (HKSTS), Hong Kong, pp. 117-124.

### **Dr. Cheng Yuk-shing**

#### **Journal Papers:**

- (2013) (with Kim-sau Chung) “Too many mothers-in-law?”, *Journal of Development Economics*, 105: 69-76
- (2013) (with W.K. Wong and C.K. Woo) “How Much Have Electricity Shortages Hampered China's GDP Growth?”, *Energy Policy*, 55:369-373

### **Prof. Chu Yik-yi Cindy**

#### **Book:**

- (2012) *The Catholic Church in China: 1978 to the Present*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan

### **Prof. Chung Po Yin**

#### **Book publications:**

- (2013) Chung Po-yin & Chiu Yu-Lok (eds), *Japanese communities in Hong Kong*. Hong Kong: Joint Publishing Co., in print, with contract

#### **Book Chapters:**

- (2012) “After the Gold Rush: the Northward Shift of Hong Kong Movie Industry and the Introduction of CEPA,

2003-2013,” in Today (Chinese University of Hong Kong Press) Winter 2012, no.99, pp.1-15

- (2013) “Chaozhou Merchant Networks in Southeast Asia and the Production of Chaozhou-dialect Films in Hong Kong, 1950-60s,” in Ng K.Y. (ed.), The Chaozhou-dialect Films of Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Film Archive 2013, pp. 28-58;
- (2013) “ Transnational Chinese Enterprise in early 20th Century Hong Kong,” Billy So (ed.), Treaty Port Economy in Modern China. Hangzhou: Zhejiang University Press, 2013, pp.201-15
- (2013) “Understanding Chinese Customs: the Irish Judges and the Sinchew Disputes in the Straits Settlements, 1830s–1870s,” in John McLaren & Shaunnagh Dorset (eds), Legal Histories of the British Empire: Laws, Engagements and Legacies. London: Routledge, in print, with contract
- (2013) "Transcending Borders: the Story of the Alsagoffs and Alkaffs in Singapore, 1820-1980s," Yuju Lin & Madeline Zelin (eds), Merchant Communities in Asia, 1600-1980. London: Pickering & Chatto Publishers, in print, with contract

### **Dr. Chung Him**

#### **Journal Papers:**

- (2013) (with Unger, J.) “The Guangdong Model of Urbanisation: Collective village land and the making of a new middle class”, China Perspectives. 3: 33-41.

#### **Book Chapter:**

- (2013) “Planning for *chengzhongcun* in Guangzhou and Shenzhen: redevelopment in the Chinese context”, in Wu, F. Zhang, F and Webster, C (eds.) Rural Migrants in Urban China: Enclaves and Transient Urbanism. Routledge, 256-274

## **Dr. Kang Yi**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2013) (a collaborative work with two professors in the department of management at Lingnan University) “Constructive controversy and relationships for disaster recovery in China: An empirical study of the Great Sichuan Earthquake”, *Human Relations*.
- (2013) “Managing Openness, Managing Disasters: China’s “Adaptation Quandary” in A Changing Era”, *The China Journal*.

## **Prof. Li Si-ming**

### **Journal papers:**

- (2012) (with Zhu, Yuhshu & Breitung, Werner) “The Changing Meaning of Neighbourhood Attachment in Chinese Commodity Housing Estates: Evidence from Guangzhou”, *Urban Studies*, 49(11): 439–2457.
- (2012) (with Song, Yuling & Breitung, Werner) “The Mobility and Attachment of Displaced Residents under Urban Redevelopment Projects in Shanghai”, *Issues and Studies*, 48(3): 43-73.
- (2012) “Housing Inequalities under Market Deepening: the Case of Guangzhou, China”, *Environment and Planning A*, 44 (12): 2852-2866.
- (with Li, Limei) (2013, April). “Becoming Homeowners: the Emergence and Use of Online Neighborhood Forums in Transitional Urban China”, *Habitat International*, 38: 232-239.

## **Prof. Lee Kam Keung**

### **Journal Paper:**

- (2012) 〈三·二九廣州黃花崗之役〉，《RC 文化雜誌》，83 期: 頁 45-52

### **Book publications:**

- (2012) 《中山先生與港澳》，台北：秀威資訊科技股份有限公司，共 226 頁
- (2013) (與麥勁生合編)《共和維新——辛亥革命百年紀念論文集》，香港：香港城市大學出版社，共 399 頁

### **Book chapters:**

- (2013) 〈清季革命之緣起：四大寇論〉，《共和維新——辛亥革命百年紀念論文集》，香港：香港城市大學出版社，頁 125-144
- (2013) 〈辛亥革命之搖籃——香港〉，鄭宇碩主編：《辛亥革命百週年學術研討會學術論文集》，香港：香港城市大學，頁 55-70
- (2012) 〈論孫中山的友好及同志〉，孫中山基金會編：《孫中山與辛亥革命》，北京：社會科學文獻出版社，下冊，頁 666-682
- (2013) 〈現代化與自立化——華南基督教史研究〉，黃文江、郭偉聯、劉義章主編：《法流十道——近代中國基督教區域史研究》，香港建道神學院，頁 xxiii-xxxi

## **Dr. Lai W.F. Gina**

### **Journal Paper:**

- (2013) (with Yao, Lu, and Danching Ruan) “Social Capital and Economic Integration of Migrants in Urban China”, *Social Networks*, 35:357-369

## **Dr. Mah Ngar-yin Daphne**

### **Journal Paper:**

- (2012) (with Vleuten, J. M., Hills, P. and Tao, J.) “Consumer Perceptions of Smart Grid Development: Results of a Hong Kong Survey and Policy Implications”, *Energy Policy*, 49:204-216

### **Publications:**

- (2013) ‘A Consultancy Study Titled Stakeholders' Attitudes, and Perceived Drivers and Barriers to Electricity Market Reforms in Hong Kong', Hong Kong Greenpeace China
- (2013) ‘Managing the Transition Towards a Low-carbon Economy: A Case Study of Guangdong-Hong Kong Energy Collaboration on the Development of Renewable Energy', Kadoorie Institute's Working Paper, No. 17, HKU

## **Dr. Danching Ruan**

### **Journal Paper:**

- (2013) (with Yao, L. & Lai, Gina). “Social Capital and Economic Integration of Migrants in Urban China”, *Social Networks*. 35 (3): 357-369

### **Book publication:**

- (2013) (with Chen Liang, Hao Zhang, Lan Li, Cameron Campbell, and James Lee) *Silent Revolution--Social Origins and University Matriculation at Peking University and Suzhou University, 1949-2002*. Beijing: Joint Publishing (Sanlian Chubanshe)



## **Prof. Wong Koon Kwai Kenneth**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2012) (with Sok, S. & Yu. X. J.) “Impediments to Community Fisheries Management: Some Findings in Kompong Pou Commune, Krakor District in Cambodia's Tonle Sap', Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, 33(3):398-413.
- (2012) (with Yu. X. J.) “Recreation Conflict Perception among Visitors to Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong, China: Outgroup Evaluation, Resource Specificity, and Lifestyle Tolerance', Managing Leisure, 17(4):349-362.

## **Prof. Wong C.W. Victor**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2012) “Introducing poststructuralist ideas in a workshop setting: The use of games and exercises as a prelude to narrative therapy training”, International Journal of Narrative Therapy and Community Development, 3: 69-79.
- (2012) “Social withdrawal as invisible youth disengagement: Government inaction and NGO responses in Hong Kong’, International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, 32(7/8): 415-430.

### **Publication:**

- (2012) Youth and social withdrawal: Myths and way out. Hong Kong: Red Publish, pp. 82-101 (in Chinese)

### **Conference paper:**

- (2012) “Policy and practice of youth development’, in proceedings of youth forum 2012: Youth policy and youth development in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao. Macao: Social Affairs and Culture Bureau, Maco SAR, pp. 17-26 (in Chinese)

## **Dr. Yang Chun**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2013) (with Li, S. M.)“Transformation of Cross-boundary Governance in the Greater Pearl River Delta, China: Contested Geopolitics and Emerging Conflicts”, *Habitat International*, 40:23-34.
- (2013) “From Strategic Coupling to Recoupling and Decoupling: Restructuring of Global Production Networks and Regional Evolution in China”, *European Planning Studies*, 21(7): 1046-1063.
- (2013) “Market Rebalancing of Global Production Networks in the Post-Washington Consensus Globalizing Era: Transformation of Export-oriented Development in China”, *Review of International Political Economy*, online published on April 2013.

## **Dr. Yu Xiaojiang**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2012) (with Takata, K. & Dryland, E.) “Cultural attraction, ‘soft power’ and proximity: the popularity of Japanese language in Hong Kong since the 1980s”, *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 29 (3):315-336.
- (2012) (with Wong, K. K.) “Recreation conflict perception among visitors to Tuen Mun Park, Hong Kong, China: outgroup evaluation, resource specificity, and lifestyle tolerance”, *Managing Leisure*, 17(4):349-362.
- (2012) (with Sok. S. & Wong, K. K.) “Impediments to community fisheries management in Kompong Pou commune, Krakor District in Cambodia’s Tonle Sap”, *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 33(3):398-413.

## **Prof. Zhou Qiming**

### **Journal Papers:**

- (2013) (with Zhu, A-X.) “The recent advancement in digital terrain analysis and modelling”, *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, 27(7): 1269–1271
- (2013) (with Chen, Y.) “A scale-adaptive DEM for multi-scale terrain analysis”, *International Journal of Geographical Information Science*, 27(7): 1329–1348

### **Conference papers:**

- (2012) (with Sun, B.) “Evaluating the consistency of remote sensing based snow depth products in arid zone of western China”. Paper included in the *International Archives of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences*, Volume XXXIX-B7, 22nd ISPRS Congress, Melbourne, Australia
- (2012) (with Huang, J.) “Recognition of urban fringe area based on remote sensing image: a case study of Guangzhou-Foshan Metropolitan Area”, in proceedings of the 33rd Asian Conference on Remote Sensing, November 25-30. Pattaya, Thailand, (CD-ROM)
- (2013) (with Sun, B.) “Validation of remote sensing snow depth estimates over the western aridzone of China”, in proceedings of the 2013 International Conference on Water Sustainability in Arid Regions, 12-14 August, Lanzhou, CD-ROM
- (2013g) (with Sun, B.) “Preliminary assessment for the fusion of remotely sensed snow cover products”, in proceedings of The 3rd International Workshop on Image and Data Fusion, 20-22 August, Antu, Jilin, China, CD-ROM

#### 4. Financial Review (1 July 2012– 30 June 2013)

	Amount (HKD)
<b>Previous Balance on 30 June 2012</b>	<b>851014.71</b>
<b>Income (+)</b>	
A. Hong Kong Baptist University Research Committee (RC) standard allocation	100,000.00
B. Sponsorship from UCRN at Conference	10,102.85
C. Sponsorship from Director's research account	11,550
D. Payment from Taylor & Francis for posting old copies of Asian Geographers	93.05
E. Income from selling CURS occasional papers and books	29.06
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b><u>121,774.96</u></b>
<b>Expenditure (-)</b>	
<b>A. Staffing</b>	
1. Full-time staff Salary	119,700
2. Full-time staff Salary supported by Director's research account	11,550
3. Medical insurance for full-time staff	330
4. Travelling insurance for full-time staff	458.33
<b><u>Subtotal of Staffing Costs</u></b>	<b><u>132,038.33</u></b>
<b>B. General Expenses</b>	
1. Computer expenditures and reference materials	931.6
2. CURS lunch meeting and hospitality expenses	2,106.3
3. Lunch with the vice president and his delegation of Shenzhen University on HKBU-Shenzhen U Collaborative PhD programme	1500
4. UCRN Cocktail reception and luncheon meeting (Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2012)	6,300
5. Printing (Annual report and Activity Promotion Material)	912
6. Deposit to petty cash	485.5
7. Sponsorship to the Wuhan Fieldtrip	4,386.5
8. Miscellaneous (Fax, telecom, payment to GEOG for coffee)	1,359.50
9. Admin/Service fee (10% overhead charge)	1013.2
<b><u>Subtotal of General Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>18,994.60</u></b>
<b><u>Total Expenditure (A+B)</u></b>	<b><u>151,032.93</u></b>
<b><u>Total Income – Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>(29,257.97)</u></b>
<b><u>Balance Brought forward to Year 2013/2014</u></b>	<b><u>821,756.74</u></b>

## **5. On-going Activities and Future Development**

### **5.1 Taught master programme in Urban Studies**

Together with the Department of Geography (GEOG), David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies (LEWI), CURS is proposing a taught master programme in Urban Studies and hopes to start the programme in the school year of 2014-15. If the programme will be successfully launched, CURS will be allocated HK\$ 200,000 annually for hiring a supporting staff to handle the day-to-day management of the programme and about HK\$150,000 annually for promotion and publicity of the programme, stationary, and other administration costs. The practice will be reviewed two years after the commencement of the programme. CURS shall take the responsibility of day-to-day management of the programme as an administrative support.

### **5.2 Workshop on Activity –Travel Behavior Analysis, 13 December 2013, Hong Kong**

This workshop aims to bring together academics, researchers and research postgraduates in the field of activity-travel behavior analysis and modeling to share their latest researches. Papers and presentations on various theoretical, methodological and empirical aspects of activity-travel behavior studies are welcome. The purpose of this workshop is to share ideas and experiences and learn lessons from past and on-going research. The workshop welcomes papers on both completed and on-going studies. Authors of selected papers may be invited to revise their papers for consideration of publication in a refereed international journal. The workshop has received in total 44 abstract submissions. Registration for the workshop will start soon.

### **5.3 Publication**

Some papers selected from the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China (13-14 Dec 2012) have been submitted to the Asian Geographer and will be published in a special issue on "Strategic Directions in Geography" in Asian Geographer. Target date of publication is tentatively in December

2014.

#### **5.4 Shenzhen office**

CURS director submitted last year a proposal to the university and faculty set up a research center at HKBU Shenzhen institute. The objectives of the Shenzhen office is to provide support to CURS fellows in applying research funds of China such as the National Science Foundation of China (NSFC); transfer knowledge to Chinese cities through conducting policy research for cities in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) and other parts of China; and assist CURS fellows and others including academics from overseas universities and research institutions to conduct field works and collect first and second hand data. We were recently informed that CURS can rent an office space of about 50m<sup>2</sup> at the HKBU Shenzhen Institute at the rate of about HK\$4,000 to 5,000 per month. Before a decision to/not to get this office space, we need to study the financial implications for CURS if CURS will commit the payment for renting this office space.

#### **5.5 Equipment matching grant**

CURS has recently secured a matching grant of HK\$21,225 from the university. Together with CURS's own contribution of HK\$21,225, A total of HK\$42,450 will be spent to purchase statistical year books that are relevant for China Urban and regional Studies. The following yearbooks will be purchased:

中国统计年鉴 2008(中国统计出版社)	中国城市年鉴 2006(中国城市年鉴社)
中国统计年鉴 2009(中国统计出版社)	中国城市年鉴 2007(中国城市年鉴社)
中国统计年鉴 2010(中国统计出版社)	中国城市年鉴 2008(中国城市年鉴社)
中国统计年鉴 2011(中国统计出版社)	中国城市年鉴 2009(中国城市年鉴社)
中国统计年鉴 2012(中国统计出版社)	中国城市年鉴 2010(中国城市年鉴社)
中国城市年鉴 2001(中国城市年鉴社)	中国城市年鉴 2011(中国城市年鉴社)
中国城市年鉴 2002(中国城市年鉴社)	中国城市年鉴 2012(中国城市年鉴社)
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2010 年上海市 1%人口抽样调查资料  
(中国统计出版社)  
广东省全国 1%人口抽样调查资料  
2010(中国统计出版社)  
中国 2005 年人口普查资料(中国统计出版社)  
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2010 年北京市 1%人口抽样调查资料  
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## 6. Overall Self Evaluation

In the academic years 2012-13 CURS continued its efforts in enhancing HKBU's role in promoting research and academic exchange on China's urban and regional development. It continued to build its national and international research networks in the pursuit of excellence in academic research and communication, and further established its position as an important hub for the study of China's cities and regions. A major endeavor in this regard during this academic year was the International Conference on Spatial and Social Transformation in Urban China that CURS hosted. This conference has enhanced the partnership between CURS and sister research centers and networks such as the Center of Urban Studies and Urban Planning of the University of Hong Kong and the Urban China Research Network (UCRN) affiliated with Brown University. It has also earned publicity for CURS through the support of the Geographical Society of China, Association of American Geographers, and Hong Kong Geographical Association to the conference. The conference attracted more than 200 participants from different countries in North America, Asia, and Europe. A total of 160 papers were presented at the conference. The conference was probably the largest gathering of international scholars on China Urban research.

Addressing one of the major suggestions on the future development of CURS in the last round of evaluation of HKBU research centers, CURS started to be more actively involved in teaching and training related activities in the past year. CURS has initiated the discussion on a taught master programme in urban studies. A programme



planning committee with CURS director Prof. Donggen Wang as the Chair was set up to develop the programme proposal. If successful, the programme will bring new opportunities to the future development of CURS. In addition, CURS supported a field trip to Wuhan by undergraduate students enrolled in the course “Geography of Transportation. This activity helped promote the image of CURS among undergraduate students.

Individually, the Director and fellows of the Centre were actively engaged in research and made constant appearance in international conferences. They were also rather successful in the bid for GRF, FRG and other competitive research grants and in getting their works published in leading journals and as books or book chapters by reputed publishing houses.

In the years to come, given the University’s increased emphasis on inter-disciplinary research, especially in response to recent policies initiatives promulgated by the University Grants Committee, the role of CURS as one of the research arms of the University will be enhanced further. We will maintain and further develop our good relations and collaborative efforts with different academic units of the University, particularly the Department of Geography and the David Lam Institute of East-West Studies, as well as academics and research institutes elsewhere in Hong Kong, on the mainland and overseas. As for the future developments of CURS, we shall continue our efforts to seek the support from the university and faculty to establish an office in Shenzhen and through which to extend CURS’s influence to mainland China. We shall also enhance the support of CURS office to CURS fellows in organizing workshops, conferences, book projects and other academic endeavors.

**Centre for China Urban and Regional Studies  
Hong Kong Baptist University**

**Tel: (852) 3411-5061**

**Fax: (852) 3411-6450**

**Email: [curs@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:curs@hkbu.edu.hk)**

**Website: [www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs](http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~curs)**