



Action Points

resulting from Prof Zuo Ting's visit to the University of Groningen

26 July 2012

From 17-19 July 2012, Professor Zuo Ting, Vice Dean of the College of Humanities and Development Studies (COHD) of the China Agricultural University visited the University of Groningen (RuG). Welcomed by Professor Dirk Jan Wolffram, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Arts and coordinated by Globalization Studies Groningen (GSG), Professor Zuo had detailed discussions with GSG staff including Professor Joost Herman, Dr Pieter Boele van Hensbroek and Dr Yongjun Zhao on a feasible framework of cooperation between the two institutions. He also held discussions with Dr Sjaak Swart, Drs Xuefei Knoester-Cao, Prof Oscar Couwenberg, Prof Leon Vertsappen, Prof Wilbert Kolkman, Prof Jan van der Harst, Prof Frank Vanclay, Prof Rafael Wittek, Dr Sanderine Nonhebel and Drs Tim Zwaagstra

from the Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Transfer & Liaison Group of RuG and the Confucius Institute Groningen. On 18 July Prof Zuo gave an interesting public lecture in the Senate Room of the Academy Building on: "Diversity, Decentralization and Dynamics: Rethinking China's Regional Development".

Main points of discussion with Prof Zuo were: 1) linking educational programmes; 2) recruitment for- and joint supervision of- PhD studies at RuG; 3) exchange of staff and students for teaching and research purposes; 4) joint research projects.

The GSG and COHD agreed on the following areas for closer cooperation:

Fostering exchange of students and staff and promoting the teaching and educational programmes from both sides:

- RuG students and staff to visit COHD, and vice versa, for a short stay period
- COHD to consider assisting in logistical arrangements for such visits in Beijing, and RuG to do the same
- COHD to promote RuG's teaching programmes in China to help attract Chinese students to study at the RuG.
- RuG to promote COHD's teaching programmes in the Netherlands to help attract Dutch students to study at the COHD.

Launching joint postgraduate programmes including Summer Schools related to globalization studies and natural resource governance:

- Jointly organizing and offering new short-term courses at Master level in Globalization Studies and Natural Resource Governance related topics in the Netherlands, China or Africa, which can be very attractive to Chinese students sent by the COHD. This can be combined with opportunities for students' joint fieldwork in these regions. Non-Chinese students should also be included. The example of COIMBRA Group summer school programmes to be followed
- GSG to play a role in linking Europe, Asia and Africa in promoting the joint programmes
- Whenever possible, COHD to consider sending its Master Public Administration students to receive short-term training at the RuG, for instance, in land and resource management

- COHD suggested that COHD and GSG jointly explore the possibilities to design and launch Masters Globalization Studies, which can attract Chinese students especially those from the COHD. The programme could be implemented in China and the Netherlands, as seen in the NOHA example
- COHD to send students to take part in the multidisciplinary Masters programmes offered by different RuG faculties.

COHD's participation in the Network of Organizations in Humanitarian Action (NOHA) through GSG:

- COHD's interest in joining NOHA as a non-EU member institution
- COHD to recommend students to participate in the NOHA teaching programmes, either as fully registered students or on an exchange basis
- COHD to consider how to include new courses in this special field in their existing programmes, and the possibility to design a Humanitarian Action educational programme in Beijing.

COHD's participation in the COIMBRA Group Development Master Initiative (CGDMI) in which RuG is a member:

- COHD's interest in joining the Coimbra Group Development Master Initiative (CGDMI) as a non-EU member institution
- COHD to support the programme of the Coimbra Group Development Master Initiative (CGDMI) by sending students to the participating universities

Joint supervision of Chinese PhD students recommended by the COHD and sponsored by both the COHD and China Scholarship Council at the RuG in the framework of the GSG PhD Hubs coordinated by the GSG:

- COHD to send at least 1 Chinese PhD student every year from 2013 to RuG with full Chinese government scholarships in the form of joint supervision, with PhD defence to be done at the RuG
- COHD to send PhD students with own scholarships to visit and conduct internships at the GSG as guest researchers
- Chinese PhD students to conduct research at the RuG under the Sandwich programme
- RuG PhD students can also conduct research and internship at the COHD.

Designing and implementing joint research projects to be coordinated by the GSG in working with other RuG faculties and international partners in fields such as Biosafety Policy, Law, Environmental Studies, and Sociology:

- COHD to work with GSG in applying for funding for a potential Biosafety in Asia network, combined with

Indonesian and other partners of RuG and COHD. The project design can be similar to the BSA (Biosafety in Africa) project. Participants: COHD, GSG, Science & Society Group, Indonesian partners. Partial funding will be sought from the Netherlands Embassy in Beijing

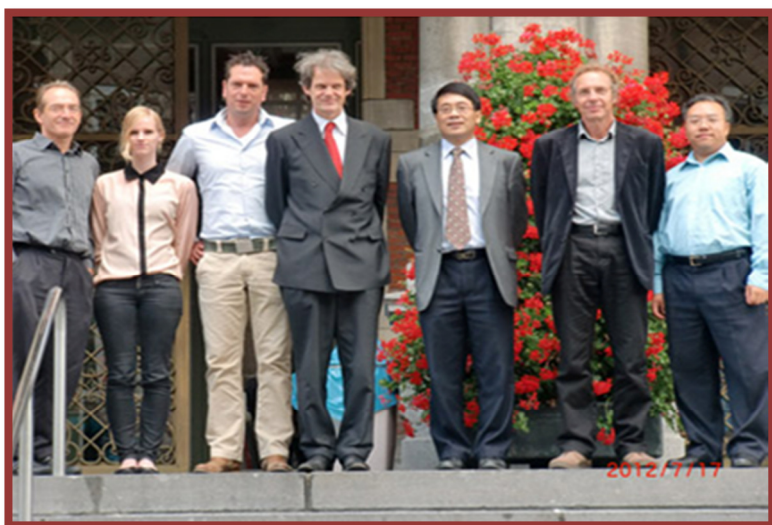
- COHD to further discuss with RuG's Transfer & Liaison Group on a new project in rural China as a follow-up of the mobile biodiesel production project in Kalimantan, after the outcomes of the Kalimantan project are confirmed; COHD to contact relevant local government for support. RuG partners include TLG and Chemical Engineering.
- COHD to collaborate in land related projects with the faculty of law and projects of other faculties when appropriate.

Joint hosting of academic events (seminars, workshops, conferences) in China, the Netherlands and Africa:

- COHD welcomes RuG's staff visit to Beijing in organizing joint events
- RuG welcomes COHD's staff visit to Groningen in organizing joint events
- Both to consider how to involve other EU and African partners

The COHD is one of China's primary centres of excellence in international development studies. Since 1998, it has expanded into an internationalized multidisciplinary teaching and research institution with more than 200 staff, 200 graduate students and 2,000 undergraduate students. With its 7 departments covering a wide range of major subjects (development studies, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, economics, law, literature, history, agriculture, business management, environmental studies, media and communication), the COHD plays an important role in influencing China's development policy as well. Its Masters in Development Studies programme attracts 30 international students annually. Dr Pieter Boele van Hensbroek and Dr Yongjun Zhao visited the COHD in November 2011 and gave a public lecture and had a meeting with the Dean of COHD, Professor Li Xiaoyun, and Dr Qi Gubo, Dr Xu Xiuli and Chinese and international students.

The RuG participants showed great appreciation for the visit seen as an excellent opportunity to get to know the Chinese Agricultural University as a leading development-focused university and to discuss opportunities for cooperation in a fruitful manner. They all expressed their commitments to this cooperation framework and would appreciate the GSG in coordinating the follow-up activities.



Professor Zuo also thanked the GSG in facilitating his visit, and confirmed his strong support for this cooperation at a strategic and institutional level. Thus, he agreed that Dr Yongjun Zhao from the Faculty of Law should act as the focal point of coordination for this initiative. He also kindly invited Professor Joost Herman and Dr Pieter Boele van Hensbroek and other RuG staff to visit the COHD.

A shorter version of this report is available on the GSG website: <http://www.rug.nl/gsg>. For further information, please contact: Dr Yongjun Zhao (yongjun.zhao@rug.nl) and Dr Pieter Boele van Hensbroek (p.boele@rug.nl).