

CROSSLINK — CONNECT — COMPREHEND

EURASIA-PACIFIC UNINET

ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018



Eurasia-Pacific Uninet is a network which aims at establishing contacts and scientific partnerships between Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, other research institutions and member institutions in East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific region. With its member institutions, the network promotes multilateral scientific cooperation, joint research, and conferences, as well as faculty and student exchanges. Eurasia-Pacific Uninet supports the concept of Austrian higher education policy with its focus on excellence.

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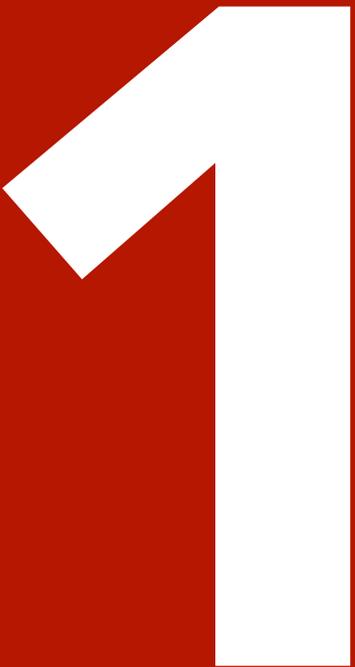
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Editorial:
Team of the EPU, 2019.

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EDITORIAL

by Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Rausch

For the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, the year 2019 marks 19 years of continued activities of Austrian universities and other educational institutions with our network partners in Asia. The financial base for our activities is provided by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Education. For administrative matters the Austrian agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research (OeAD) provides its excellent logistics to universities and exchange scientists.

Every year continuously new partners in Asia and Austria join the network and participate by sending out or accepting scientists and organize cooperations. The honest will of the member universities to cooperate with other partners abroad to exchange views and to jointly develop projects seems to be the key to success.

A look on the included map demonstrates this network has successfully linked Austria, a small landlocked country in the middle of Europe, with over 130 university partners in Asia. They all have joined this initial idea and cooperate by means of joint projects and scientific exchange on a PhD and postdoc level.

In this brochure you will find basic information about Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, its members and general activities. More details and printable matters are easily accessible on our websites <https://eurasiapacific.net/> and our bilingual new site <https://eurasia-pacific.info/>.

Projects in arts, music, law, architecture, natural sciences, medicine, and traditional medicine have contributed to mutual understanding, cooperation and the exchange of ideas within the partner institutions.

Various centers that work to support our cooperations have been established as fixed points of cooperation with certain member institutions. A brief overview of them is provided in this brochure. The Austrian Center in Shanghai promotes cooperation of OeAD and EPU with China.

Austria-specific activities take place there as well as in Ulan Bataar, Mongolia, trying to present Austria as an active country in international affairs, which knows how to present traditional culture, as well as contemporary economic interests and scientific activities. The annually organized Austrian days intend to show a surprisingly different picture of Austria away from a cliché of Mozart, Mountains and Sacher cake. We hope to demonstrate that modern cultural life has its place in our small country. As to ecology our country hopes to score a well-preserved clean environment, crystal cle-

clear lakes and a blue sky that are the result of environmental awareness, foresight, as well as planning and not merely a given reality in an unspoiled paradise.

The EPU summer schools both for Chinese students coming to Austria, as well as for Austrian students going to China, are a continued success. The number of participants is constantly growing, particularly on the Chinese side. Austrian students have a strong interest in Chinese culture, medicine and cuisine, as well as the economic growth of China and all the challenges related to these fields.

Five Plenary Meetings have been held so far, the last in 2015. In 2019 the 6th Plenary Meeting will take place in Vienna. Again we hope to welcome a large number of participants from all member institutions. They will introduce their institutions, give their ideas and suggestions and make decisions on future cooperations.

Next to the funding by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Education, the OSTA (Austrian Science and Technology Agency and the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and their commercial sections in Hong Kong, Beijing, and Shanghai are always of invaluable help.

The Austrian embassies in the member states and particularly in the embassy in Beijing contribute greatly by bringing together students and alumni and offering Austrian hospitality. Their help in visa affairs for the exchange students and visiting professors supports our work.

Cross-connecting of the partners is the primary aim of our network and we intend to motivate these partners to mutually support each other in their scientific activities. Our tools are project calls, bringing together the partners in workshops, meetings, and other activities. Our fellowship program, now called Ernst Mach/Eurasia-Pacific Uninet is the continued successful fellowship program of the last twenty years.

The staff of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet in Vienna, China, Mongolia and in the Central Asian countries is always happy to answer any upcoming questions, as well as to provide you with full support concerning visits to Austria, project or scholarship applications and cooperation with other member institutions.

With the best wishes for a continuing friendship and successful cooperation,



Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolf-Dieter Rausch
President of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet

EURASIA-PACIFIC UNINET



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ABOUT THE EURASIA-PACIFIC UNINET

a short introduction

The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU) is a network which aims at establishing contacts and scientific partnerships between Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, other research institutions and member institutions in East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific region. The network was founded in 2000 and is strongly supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, as well as the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research. Also, the network has a close cooperation with the Austrian Ministry for European and International Affairs.

With more than 170 member institutions in Austria, China, the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, India, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Bhutan the network promotes multilateral scientific cooperation, joint research, and conferences, as well as faculty and student exchanges between its members. Eurasia-Pacific Uninet is the biggest sovereign university network of its kind in Europe. Furthermore, the network supports the concept of Austrian higher education policy with its focus on excellence.

EPU supports scientific, economic, and cultural relations between Austria and the target countries, R&D activities of multinational companies, visiting professorships, and reciprocal acknowledgement of study degrees and programs.

EPU supplies research scholarships for member institutions, contacts between government agencies, and educational expertise through intensive programs and culture.

EPU initiates joint research centers, joint schools for teaching, research and training, development of joint curricula and double-degree programs, research activities by means of workshops, seminars, as well as conferences and through the exchange of scientists among member institutions.



TEAM OF THE EPU

international EPU staff in various countries

The EPU operates with the help of our excellent staff in our Austrian head office, situated on the campus of the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, and our assistants in China and Mongolia. As a network, we thrive through networking, collaborating, and cooperation with the students, researchers, and staff of our member institutions. We work hand in hand with the International offices of our many member institutions, as well as the coordinators in Austria.

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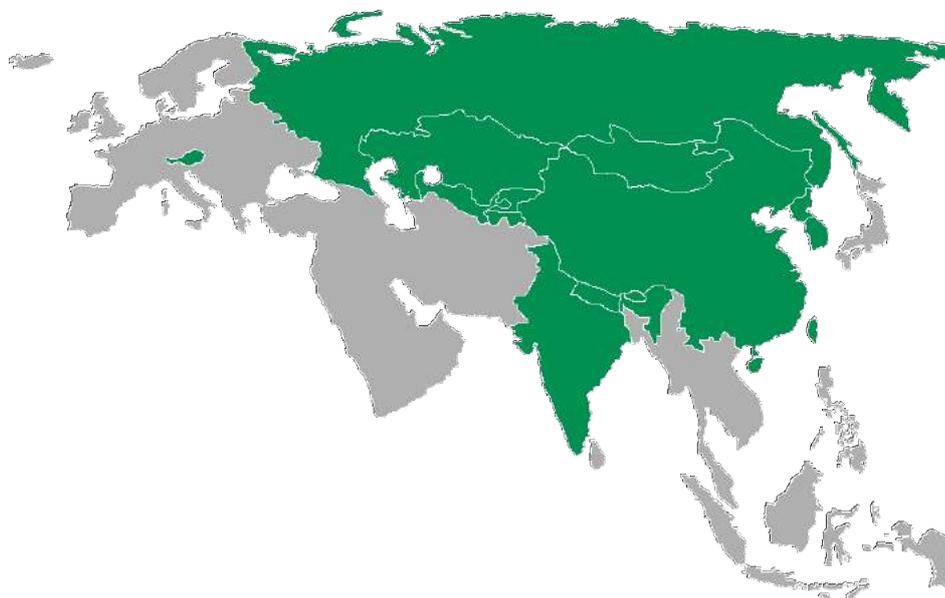
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MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE EPU

178 institutions in 13 countries

The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet has a total of 178 member institutions in 13 countries in Europe, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific Region. With 41 member institutions in Austria, the network incorporates various fields of study and covers a wide range of the Austrian higher education and research system. While the network has its origins and head office in Austria, the greater part of the member institutions are located in China. The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet prides itself with being the biggest of its kind in all of Europe.



AUSTRIA	42		
CHINA	77	TAJIKISTAN	4
INDIA	10	NEPAL	4
RUSSIA	9	REPUBLIC OF KOREA	4
KYRGYZSTAN	8	UZBEKISTAN	3
MONGOLIA	8	DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	5	BHUTAN	2

NETWORK OFFICES

EPU offices in Austria, China, and Mongolia



The premises for the EPU head office are kindly provided by the **UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, VIENNA.**

The very first network office of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet in China was established in 2005. As the result of a close relation and cooperation with Fudan University, Shanghai, the opening of the Austrian Center at the university was held in September 2005 and was attended by former Austrian Minister of Education, Science and Culture, Mrs. Elisabeth Gehrler.

In 2006, the network offices in Beijing, Xi'an, and Yangling were founded. In September 2007, in the course of the opening of the Sino-Austrian Collaborating Center for Chinese Medical Sciences, another network office was opened at the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. Other network offices in China, Mongolia, and the Kyrgyz Republic opened during the following three years.

To date, the below centers are active for the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet.

CHINA

AUSTRIAN CENTER/EPU LIAISON OFFICE
Fudan University

EPU LIAISON OFFICES
Inner Mongolia University of the Nationalities
Binzhou Medical University
Beijing University of Science and Technology

MONGOLIA

EPU OFFICE
Mongolian University of Science and Technology

KYRGYZSTAN

EPU OFFICE
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

JOINT RESEARCH CENTERS

Centers in China, Mongolia and the Kyrgyz Republic

As already stated, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet initiates both joint research centers and joint schools, covering a wide range of scientific areas, such as media, medicine, environmental protection, and others. Here, we would like to introduce our currently established joint research centers.

Since the first joint research center was established in 2004 at Fudan University in Shanghai, seven more followed, adding diversity to the field of activities of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet. While the majority of joint research centers are located in the People's Republic of China, one joint research center concerned with the development of Austrian and Central Asian relations was opened in 2007 in the Kyrgyz Republic. The joint research centers not only contribute to the current state of research in their respective fields, but just as importantly promote international exchange and mutual understanding for all the people involved.

See below all present joint research centers, their location, and year of opening.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Sino-Austria Center for Media and Marketing
Fudan University, 2004

Sino-Austrian Biomarker Research Center
Peking University Health Science Center, 2006

Austria-China Research Center on Tunnel and Underground Engineering
Tongji University, 2007

Sino-Austrian Collaborating Center for Chinese Medical Sciences
China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, 2007

Sino-Austrian Research Center for Environmental Protection
Northwest A&F University, 2007

China-Austria Center for Research and Innovation in Logistics, Supply Chain Management and Material Flow
Beijing Jiaotong University, 2009

Sino-Austria Diagnosis, Treatment and Research Center of Cardiovascular Diseases
Nanjing First Hospital, 2010

MONGOLIA

Kyrgyz-Mongolian Grassland Center
Mongolian University of Life Sciences, 2013

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Austria-Central Asia Collaborating Center for GIScience
Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transportation and Architecture, 2008

The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet would kindly like to thank the respective institutions for their help and support in establishing and maintaining the aforementioned joint research centers, as well as providing working space free of charge.



PLENARY MEETINGS

organized regularly to support exchanges between member institutions

The Eurasia-Pacific Uninet regularly organizes plenary meetings, in which representatives of member institutions and member countries are free to participate. A general target of these assemblies is the international exchange and the hence resultant development in various scientific and academic areas. In recent years, the participants consistently counted over 100, providing for presentations covering a wide range of topics, as well as differentiated opinions which offer a basis for productive discussions.

An important outcome of the 1st plenary meeting (held in Beijing 2004) was the identification of common goals for the purpose of establishing interdisciplinary scientific exchange, as well as the enhancement of cooperation between the member institutions.

During the 2nd plenary meeting (held in Shanghai 2007), participants had the opportunity to introduce their home country and workplace, as well as their focus areas of research, so as to give the audience a broader understanding of the respective member institution. In the second part of the assembly, the participants were split into four working groups with the task of discussing common fields of research for future projects and cooperation activities.

Following the theme of international exchange in order to facilitate cross-nation cooperation, new member institutions were introduced in all the following plenary meetings (held in Nanjing 2010, Shanghai 2012, and Vienna 2015). With this, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet plenary assemblies function not only as a platform facilitating future cooperation projects, but also simply bring people from different backgrounds together, leading to mutual understanding – a key role in any activity involving international exchange.

So far, five plenary assemblies have been held while the latest was hosted in May 2019 in Vienna.

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SUMMER SCHOOLS

Chinese Austrian EU and China Know-How

In cooperation with other institutions, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet is able to offer two annually organized summer school programs: the Chinese-Austrian-EU and the Chinese Know-How.

While the Chinese-Austrian-EU summer school is intended for Chinese students from member institutions located in China, the participation in the China Know-How summer school is open for any European citizen interested in China.

CHINESE-AUSTRIAN-EU SUMMER SCHOOL

Since 2002, the Chinese Studies Center of the University of Salzburg in cooperation with the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet has been annually organizing the Chinese-Austrian-EU summer school for students from Chinese member institutions.

The Chinese-Austrian-EU summer school is directed towards students who want to deepen their knowledge about Europe in general, and Austria in particular. Lectures and workshops cover aspects of European and Austrian history and culture, as well as Austrian economy, law, and politics.

CHINA KNOW-HOW SUMMER SCHOOL

Since 1999, the China Know-How summer school has been annually organized in August and September and supported by the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet. The target group for this program includes students from Austrian or European universities and universities of applied sciences, employees of international companies, people working in various commercial departments, or whoever is simply interested in China.

Course A, CHINA KNOW-HOW - Modern China Studies for Scientists and Economists, focuses on topics such as economics, history, culture, politics, law, and cross-cultural management in modern China. The units are conducted in English at the renowned Peking University and Fudan University.

Course B, CHINA KNOW-HOW - Chinese Language and Cultural Studies, focuses on acquiring and deepening knowledge of Chinese language and cultural skills. The courses included in this program will be held at Beijing Foreign Studies University.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Chinese Austrian EU and China Know-How

The program aims at strengthening the student's ability to compete in the international market by means of study and research semesters, as well as teaching at member universities and research institutions. Furthermore, the project serves as a contribution to the internationalization of the science and technology-related economy. Eligible fields of study/research include technical sciences, natural sciences, agricultural sciences, medicine, environmental sciences, economic sciences (including tourism research) humanities, and social sciences, as well as arts and music.

The final selection of Ph.D. and Post-Doc scholarship-holders will be made by Austrian scientists, EPU coordinators, and other researchers.

ERNST MACH GRANT - EURASIA-PACIFIC UNINET SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is awarded by the Republic of Austria to all EPU members in China and Mongolia. The universities are asked to preselect and nominate the best qualified Ph.D. and Post-Doc candidates. Thereupon, the complete application files have to be forwarded to the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet office in Austria.

All administrative procedures regarding the scholarship will be coordinated through the OeAD. This includes visa concerns, monthly payment of the scholarship, accommodation (upon request of scholarship-holder), and health insurance.

ERNST MACH GRANT - WORLDWIDE

The Ernst Mach Grant - worldwide is targeted at young researchers from all disciplines and countries (except Austria), who wish to pursue a research project in Austria.

EPU members from the following countries are eligible for the Ernst Mach Grant - worldwide: Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, North Korea, Russia, South Korea, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

For further information, please visit <https://grants.at/>.

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VISITS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

exchanges with member institutions and other network activities

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UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (UIBE) VISITS EPU AND THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

On June 18, 2018, Mr. Guo Deyu, Vice Dean of the School of Foreign Languages and Business of the University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), accompanied by the Japanese Department Director Zhao Liwei and the Japanese Department lecturer Ms. Shi Ge and his team were invited to visit the Eurasian Pacific Association and the Confucius Institute at the University of Vienna. College. Prof. Trappl, President of Confucius Institute, Mr. Li Kaning, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. Lysaght, Director of the Office of the Confucius Institute/Project Manager of the EPU Association, together with Ms. Shang Wei, Project Manager of the EPU Association, hosted the guests from far away.

Professor Trappl expressed his welcome to President Guo and his delegation on behalf of the Austrian side, and introduced the general situation of the University of Vienna, the teaching and teaching of the Confucius Institute and the Confucius Institute as a bridge connecting the cultural exchanges between China and the Austrian government, embassies and universities. Class activities, etc. Ms. Shang Yu, Project Manager of EPU Association, introduced the EPU profile, including its main functions and operation modes, and cooperation projects with Chinese universities and research institutions, and welcomed the UIBE teachers and students to actively participate in the scholarship application.

On behalf of UIBE, Mr. Guo Deyu expressed his gratitude to the Austrian reception and introduced the history of UIBE, the level of the subject, the School of Foreign Languages and the Sino-German College. He also hopes that several languages representing the Oriental language department are the Department of Sinology, Japanese and Korean. It is possible to carry out substantive exchanges with the Austrian side for cooperation between students and international students. Vice President Guo said that UIBE is a new school that joined the EPU Association in 2017 and is a new friend of the EPU Association. He hopes and invites the EPU Association and the Austrian League to participate in the next Beijing Humboldt Forum held at UIBE. Open up more channels to strengthen the links and exchanges between China and Austria.



SHANDONG PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, BINZHOU MEDICAL COLLEGE, SHANDONG FOREIGN TRADE VOCATIONAL COLLEGE VISIT EPU

On June 3, 2018, Binzhou Medical College held a special high-end talent policy promotion meeting at the University of Vienna, Austria. Zhou Zhiqiang, Cultural Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Austria, Jing Ge, the second inspector of the Shandong Provincial Education Department, and Wolf Dieter, Chairman of the Eurasian Pacific Academic Association. Rausch, Professor Fan Xiaohui of the Vienna Medical University attended the promotion meeting, and more than 30 representatives from the Austrian students attended the conference. Wang Wei, deputy director of the Personnel Department of Binzhou Medical College, presided over the promotion meeting and made high-end talent policy and demand recommendation. Lu Changjun, deputy dean of Binzhou Medical College, and his delegation had a candid exchange with the participating students on relevant academic platforms and scientific research cooperation.

On June 4th, at the headquarters of the Eurasian Pacific Academic Association in Vienna, Austria, Jing Ge, the second inspector of the Shandong Provincial Education Department, Lu Changjun, the deputy director of the Binzhou Medical College, and the dean of the Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College, Jiandong Jian, and the Chairman of the EPU Association, Professor Wolf Dieter Rausch. Cooperate in running schools, teacher training, joint research, etc., and signed the "Cooperation Agreement."

On June 4th, Lu Changjun and his entourage from Binzhou Medical College visited the Vienna Medical University and its affiliated hospitals. Dr. Ma Yan, the director of the Molecular Research Office of the school, introduced the basic situation of the university and the hospital, and studied infectious diseases, immunology and pathology. Research on physiology and allergy research has been carried out.

The delegation's exchange visit opened a new field of talent training and scientific research cooperation between the school and the Central and Eastern European countries, expanded the school's popularity and influence in Austria, and deepened the exchange and cooperation mechanism with the Eurasian Pacific Academic Association to further develop the school. The European talent academic platform has laid a solid foundation.



BEIJING DANCE ACADEMY VISITS EPU

On the morning of June 22, 2018, Professor Rausch received a visit from the Beijing Dance Academy at the headquarters in Vienna. During the talks, President Rausch first welcomed the guests, then introduced the development of EPU, the cooperation between the organization and the art league, and the dances of Austria. It also expressed great interest in Chinese dance, especially traditional folk dance. Beijing Dance Academy is the first dance league school to join the EPU Association. It is hoped that both China and Austria will carry out more exchanges and cooperation in the field of dance art. Wang Xudong, head of the delegation and secretary of the Party Committee of the Beijing Dance Academy, thanked President Rausch for his reception and introduced the general situation of the Beijing Dance Academy:

As the only specialized dance education college in China, Beijing Dance Academy is known as the “cradle of dancers”. It has dance performance teaching departments, such as Chinese classical dance, Chinese folk dance, ballet, as well as the musical drama department, creative school, humanities college, continuing education college and dance examination institute, cover the majors of performance, choreography, education and art management.

The School and the Confucius Institute for Dance and Performance at Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK, is the only Confucius Institute in the world. It has signed cooperation agreements with dozens of universities in the United States, Britain, Italy, Austria, New Zealand, South Korea, Singapore, Russia, Poland and other countries to maintain active exchanges and cooperation.

In addition to strictly requiring students to receive professional studies at the school, the school also encourages and organizes students to actively participate in various practices, such as participating in the “Happy Spring Festival” sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, the “Overseas Chinese Spring” of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office, and the three tour tours of Hanban. Cultural exchange activities, participated in the Beijing Olympic Games, APPEC Summit, G20 Summit, "One Belt and One Road" International Cooperation Summit Forum, US President Trump's Welcome Dinner to China and other major diplomatic activities.

On behalf of the Beijing Dance Academy, Wang Xudong expressed his willingness to join the EPU Association and hopes to promote exchanges and cooperation with Austria, Europe and other countries in the fields of dance, music, culture, education and intercultural studies. After the meeting, representatives of China and Austria signed a cooperation agreement and exchanged gifts.



BEIJING HUMBOLDT FORUM: AUSTRIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUB-FORUM

In September 2018, the Beijing Humboldt Forum was held at the University of International Business and Economics. More than 500 well-known experts, scholars and political and business people from China, Germany, Austria, the United States, Japan and other countries gathered together to discuss the hot topics of green economy, cultural heritage and education 2035 from multiple angles.

“Beijing Humboldt Forum – Austrian Alumni Association Sub-forum” was successfully held on September 16th at the University of International Business and Economics. The Austrian Embassy Science and Technology Department (OSTA) co-ordinated the event.

The Austrian Alumni Association Sub-Forum is dedicated to building a platform for Chinese alumni who have studied, worked and engaged in academic research in Austria, and Austrian alumni who exchange in China to provide opportunities for alumni to connect. During the event, Chinese alumni and Austrian alumni can share their extensive experience in various fields of society, thus establishing a closer network of alumni cooperation.

This year's Alumni Association Sub-forum was co-chaired by Mr. Philipp Agathonos, Director of the Austrian Embassy in China (Technology) and Science and Technology Department, and Ms. Li Xiaoxin, Vice President of the European and American Alumni Association and President of the German Olympics.

Mr. Martin Thenmayer, Director of the Liaison and Coordination Division of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Mr. Arnold Obermayr, Cultural Counselor of the Austrian Embassy in China, Professor Wolf-Dieter Rausch, Chairman of the Eurasian Pacific Academic Association, and the Central Olympic Environment of the Northwest A&F University Mr. Liu Guangzhe, Director of the Office of the Protection Research Center, and other guests from all walks of life gave a speech.

Ms. Alexandra Wagner, Director of the Austria Center, was also invited to attend the sub-forum and introduced the responsibilities and achievements of the Austria Center as a bridge for academic exchanges. Ms. Wagner also expressed her sincere gratitude to OSTA for creating the Austrian alumni database, and said that it will hold more alumni activities together with OSTA in the future.

As Mr. Yang Fan said in his speech at this event, Austria and China have a long history of cooperation in the field of science and technology, and the results are remarkable. The two countries also support academic exchanges. On this basis, the Austria Center will continue to work hard to promote cooperation in the field of education and scientific research in China and Austria.



EPU IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE „SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS IN CHINA“ BUSINESS BREAKFAST MEETING

As one of the top ten law firms in the world, CMS Law Firm serves businesses and individuals in 42 countries and 74 branches worldwide. Four thousand CMS lawyers can provide industry-specific advice based on local market and the needs of different legal systems. On September 18, 2018, the EPU Association was invited to participate in the "Successful Business in China" business breakfast conference organized by CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz (CMS) in Vienna. The conference provides relevant professional reports on the creation, development and financing of businesses and individuals in Austria and Europe. At 8 o'clock on the 18th, the representatives of the company and the CMS speakers and the CMS lawyers team enjoyed a fine breakfast in a pleasant atmosphere.

At 8:30, Mr. Peter Huber, the head of CMS, led the guests and delegates to give a welcome speech and host the whole meeting. The meeting was held by three heavyweight guests to discuss issues arising from business development in China and share their own professional experience.

First, Mr. Dietermar Schwank, Regional Manager for the Far East and Oceania from the Austrian Chamber of Economics, gave a speech, and Mr. Schwank provided consulting support for "market access and development of the Chinese business".

Then, Mr. Dieter Hengl, an export and trade finance expert from the Austrian Bank of Austria, was introduced to, among other things, export and trade finance and UniCredit Bank in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, local financing and cash management solutions. Program.

Finally, CMS China experts and Ms. Jeanette Yu, a partner of CMS in China, provided detailed and professional introductions for European companies' entrepreneurial and labor issues in China and how to protect data through the new Internet data security law.

Based on the principle of "linking-crosslinking-understanding", the EPU Association aims to promote contacts and cooperation between Austrian universities and institutions in Asia and the Pacific. Thanks to the invitation of CMS, the EPU Association has met new friends in this field. We are willing to cooperate with various enterprises through CMS and expand cooperation and exchange in China and Austria.



RETREAT AND SAIL: PROFESSOR RAUSCH'S DEPARTURE FAREWELL PARTY

Dr. Wolf-Dieter Rausch is a Professor of Medical Biochemistry at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Veterinary University of Vienna. After receiving his Ph.D. in biochemistry, he obtained a two-year postdoc fellowship from the National Institute of Health Sciences, USA, and entered the Veterinary University in 1980. His main research direction is neurochemistry, especially aging and neurological diseases such as Parkinson's disease. He is a leader in neurochemical teams, focusing on cell and animal models of human neurodegenerative diseases; he is also a visiting professor at various universities in the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Tajikistan. At present, he has scientific research cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Capital Medical University on neurological protection.

Since the end of 2012, Prof. Rausch has served as the chairman of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, which was established in 2000 and is an academic institution supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Scientific Research, which aims to establish Austrian research institutes with Asia and the Pacific region. The EPU continued its activities with its member partners in Asia and Austria with the original aim of "Crosslink - Connect - Comprehend". Since the appointment, new members from Asia and Austria have joined the EPU Association and cooperated. Now the EPU has successfully linked Austria, a small country in central Europe, to hundreds of affiliate schools in Asia.

Prof. Rausch has been working on academic exchanges in Austria and Asia for many years, especially with China. He has given great support and help to Chinese students and scholars. On September 28, 2018, Professor Rausch officially retired from the university, but he will continue to serve as the chairman of the EPU.

This is a farewell party that is not a farewell party. Whether it is for work or life, the professor is always full of enthusiasm and exploration spirit, and is deeply respected and loved by leaders, colleagues, colleagues and students. At the farewell party, the president of the Veterinary University of Vienna and the director of the Institute of Biochemistry of the University and professors from the Austrian universities, and the Cultural Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in the Austrian Embassy attended the farewell party and delivered a speech. At the meeting, Prof. Rausch expressed his gratitude and expressed his gratitude to colleagues and friends from all walks of life for their strong support. At the same time, he also wished that he could "retreat, play the heat, and then sail, hope that there are more Chinese students. Have the opportunity to come to Austria to study."



THE 13TH CHINA BEIJING INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY EXPO

The opening ceremony and theme report of the 13th China Beijing International Cultural and Creative Industry Expo was held on the morning of October 25th at the Capital Hotel. Du Feijin, member of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal Committee and Minister of the Propaganda Department, delivered a speech. The organizers of the Cultural and Tourism Department of the Cultural Expo, the State Administration of Radio and Television, and the heads of relevant departments of the State Press and Publication Administration, came to participate in the international organizations of the Cultural Fair and representatives of domestic and foreign delegations, experts and scholars in the cultural and creative industries and relevant people in the capital. 500 people attended the meeting.

Founded in 2006, the Expo serves as an innovation and international exchange platform. It accelerates the development of cultural industries, promotes the construction of a cultural powerhouse, and displays the international cultural and creative industries in Beijing. It is a unique platform for communication and cooperation.

With the theme of “Leading the high-quality development of cultural industry to promote the construction of national cultural center”, this year's fair hosted comprehensive activities, exhibitions, promotion transactions, forum meetings, creative activities, and six major series of eight theme exhibition areas.

International organizations such as UNESCO, World Trade Center Association, International Association of Multimedia Associations, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations, 68 countries and 16 Chinese provinces participated in the meeting.

From the 25th to the 28th, nearly 100 events of the exhibition, promotion transaction, forum meeting, and creative experience of this fair took place in Beijing. Located at the main exhibition hall of China International Exhibition Center, more than 1,800 domestic and foreign cultural and creative companies showcased creativity in various fields. New products, ideas, projects, models, and formats in key cultural and creative industries such as gifts and works of art, sports and leisure, cultural tourism, cultural science and technology, and cultural finance. In the same period, it held 11 promotion transactions, 10 forum meetings, 7 creative activities and more than 40 breakout venues.

EPU was invited to participate in the exhibition as an academic institution connecting European and Chinese institutions, and set up a booth in the theme area of Beijing International Science and Technology Resources Expo in Hall 8.



2018 AUSTRIA ALUMNI PARTY

On December 8th, the 2018 Austrian alumni event hosted by the Shanghai Austria Center opened at the Radisson Hotel Shanghai New World.

Ms. Shi Liting, Consul General of Austria in Shanghai, Ms. Xue Shan, Commercial Director of the Austrian Office of Business in Austria, and Mr. Zhang Chao, Director of the Austrian Embassy in Beijing and Director of the Science and Technology Department attended the event.

The event was hosted by the Director of the Austria Center and the Deputy Consul of Austrian Science and Education in Shanghai. After the welcome speech, Ms. Wangege gave a brief introduction to the work of the Austria Center and the construction of the alumni network of OeAD.

Afterwards, she expressed her gratitude to the sponsors of the event. Funding for this alumni event is fully provided by Austrian companies and institutions. Primetals Metallurgical Technologies, RHI Magnesita (refractory), and Gibda Weiss (logistics and transportation), as Austrian companies with a thriving business in China, have given strong support to this event, Austrian Science and Technology Department, Commercial Office, Shanghai The Consulate General and the Eurasian Pacific Academic Association (EPU) also provided various assistance for the smooth running of the event.

During the event, the sponsors spoke separately to the guests. After the speech, we launched a lucky draw, the prize is a China-Austria round-trip ticket coupon provided by EPU.

Last year, the Shanghai Austria Center officially held an Austrian alumni event in Shanghai, which attracted more than 80 guests. This year's activities have not been reduced, and more than 120 guests from the fields of medical, economic, legal, ecological and engineering have gathered together.

Many alumni have become well-known scholars and business leaders. I am very happy to take this opportunity to reunite with my old friends, to recall the good times I have spent in Austria and to improve my understanding of Austrian companies in China.

In addition, the guests found new alumni at the event and met representatives of Austrian companies. Participants expressed that they hope to hold more similar events in the future to promote exchanges between Austrian alumni and industry and commerce.

The Austria Center and the EPU Association wish you all a Merry Christmas in advance!



EPU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: 2018 CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 12th, the EPU Association invited scholarship students and scholars from China and Mongolia to study and research at the Austrian League School to participate in the EPU Scholarship Program-2018 Christmas Party held at the EPU Vienna Headquarters and gathered together for the dinner.

At 14 o'clock in the afternoon, the party was presided over by the Chairman of the EPU Association, Professor Rausch, and a speech was given. The students were welcome to come and gave a presentation on the scholarship program and the EPU Association and the universities in Europe and Asia.

After watching the EPU Association video presentation, students/scholars from different fields of expertise made presentations about their alma mater, their majors, and their future plans. The students have a combination of professional arts and sciences, including technology, natural sciences, medicine, and humanities. In addition to discussing their respective views, everyone shared the experience of living and learning in Austria.

Finally, the EPU Association invites everyone to dinner together at an Austrian restaurant with local traditional features. The gathering not only brought together the students who had left home, but also promoted the exchange of academic and interdisciplinary students between the Chinese and Mongolian students. Everyone said that in addition to meeting their alumni and meeting new friends again, in this cold season, everyone's mood is warm and enthusiastic. The EPU Association is very happy that everyone has had a good time in Vienna and wish the students to study and live in Austria smoothly!



EPU FINALLY OPENS WEIBO

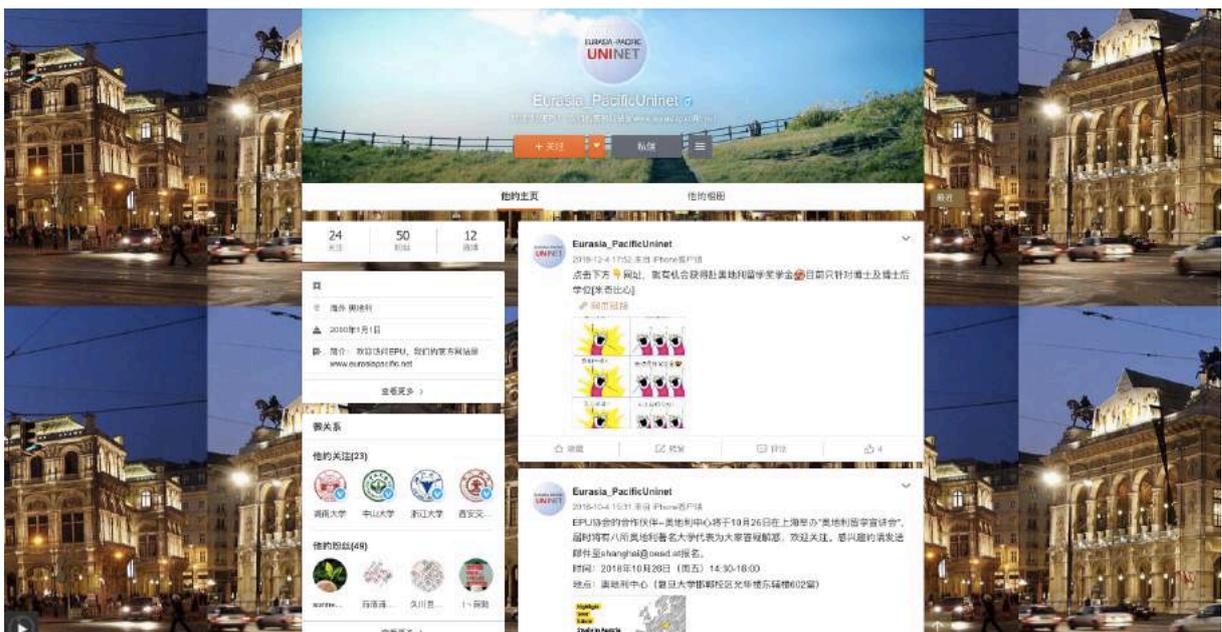
Eurasia-Pacific Uninet has finally joined the big family of Weibo (the biggest micro-blogging service in China).

This gives Chinese users of Weibo the chance of getting into touch with the team of the EPU. Any questions they have can be consulted through the Weibo private messenger or our official email address.

Find us on Weibo under the following user name or link:

https://www.weibo.com/u/6560784852?refer_flag=1001030103_&is_all=1

Eurasia_PacificUninet



PROFESSOR RAUSCH VISITS FUJIAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

On April 2, 2018, Professor Eurasian Pacific Academic Association (EPU) and Professor Wolf-Dieter Rausch of the Austrian Veterinary University were invited to visit Fujian Medical University. Vice President Zhou Ruixiang and Lin Xu met with the guests respectively.

On behalf of the school, Lin Xu held formal talks with Professor Rausch. He hoped that President Rausch will continue to bridge the school in the future and promote exchanges between universities in the countries along the “Belt and Road” of the Development Alliance and our school. Chairman Rausch said that he will do his best to help our school to communicate and cooperate with more members of the Alliance.

During the visit, Prof. Rausch also attended the teacher-student symposium of the Institute of Translational Medicine of the School of Basic Medicine and the Key Laboratory of Digestive Tract Cancer Ministry. The two sides introduced their research directions and results, and visited the Clinical Skills Center and the School History Museum. In the evening, I watched a special performance by the Fujian Provincial Acrobatic Troupe organized by the Youth League Committee. (International Medical and Cooperation Department, Fujian Medical University).

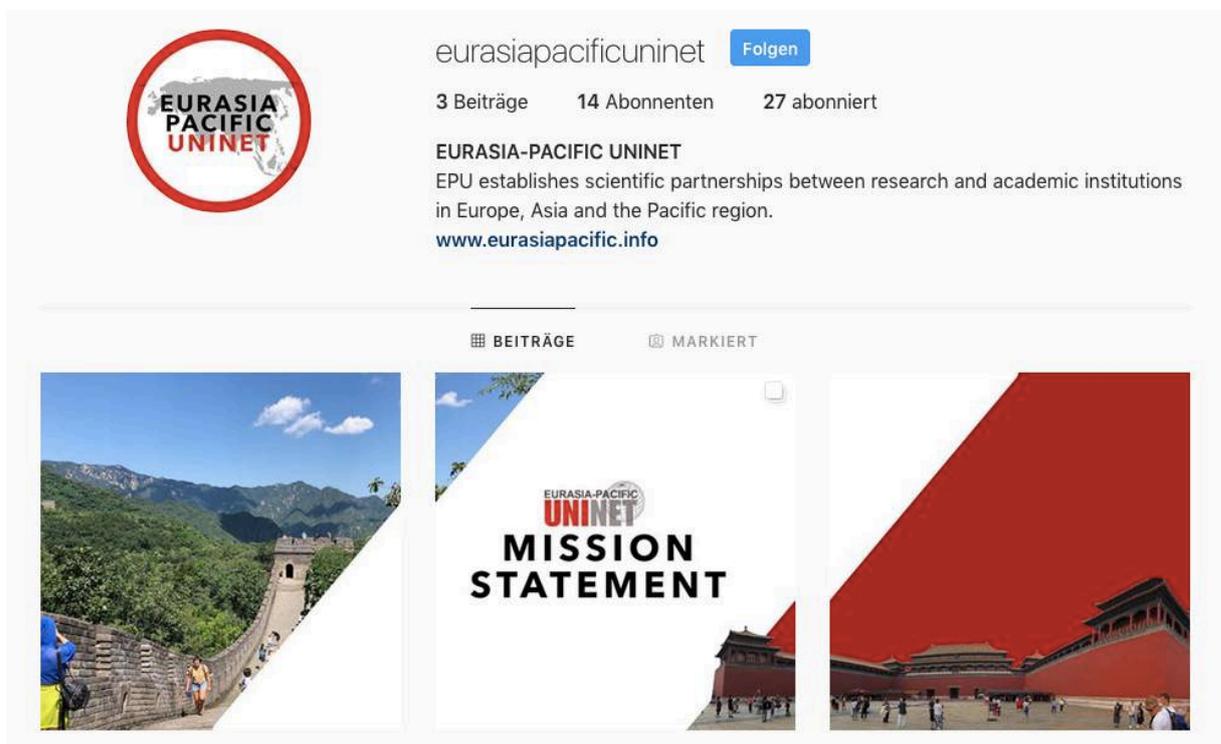


EPU OPENS INSTAGRAM PROFILE

In order to reach more people, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet has opened an Instagram profile. This enables the network to get in touch with students and other people using social media. On our profile, we will post general information about the network and its activities, as well as photos illustrating these. This way, the profile functions as an illustrative addition to the information available at the website of the EPU.

Find us on Instagram under the user name @eurasiapacificuninet or follow the link below!

<https://www.instagram.com/eurasiapacificuninet/>





PROJECTS

Supported and initiated by the EPU

Every year, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet promotes and supports dozens of multilateral research projects and other scientific activities, which are focused on its member institutions. In these projects, a wide number of scientific fields, such as Science and Technology, Medicine and Health, Life Sciences, Social Sciences and Languages, as well as Arts and Music.

TARGET GROUP

Scientists from all partner institutions of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet

OBJECTIVE

Support of projects in the fields of research, research-based teaching and arts

PREREQUISITE

Several member institutions of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet in at least two partner countries

REQUIREMENTS

High scientific and artistic quality on an international level

In addition to the aforementioned projects, the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet also offers training programs in various fields, such as public management, healthcare management, or tourism management, which may be organized on request of partner institutions or governmental authorities.

The application (in German or English) is held via the Austrian partner institutions of the Eurasia Pacific Uninet. A call for applications is made every year.

On the following pages, you will find introductions of 32 projects supported by the EPU in 2018. You will see that the projects cover a wide range of topics, representing the diversity of institutions, researchers and fields of research comprised by the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet.

EPU PROJECTS 2017

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IN-SITU TEM INVESTIGATION ON THE MICROSTRUCTURE EVOLUTION AND DEFORMATION BEHAVIOUR OF HIGH PERFORMANCE MG ALLOYS

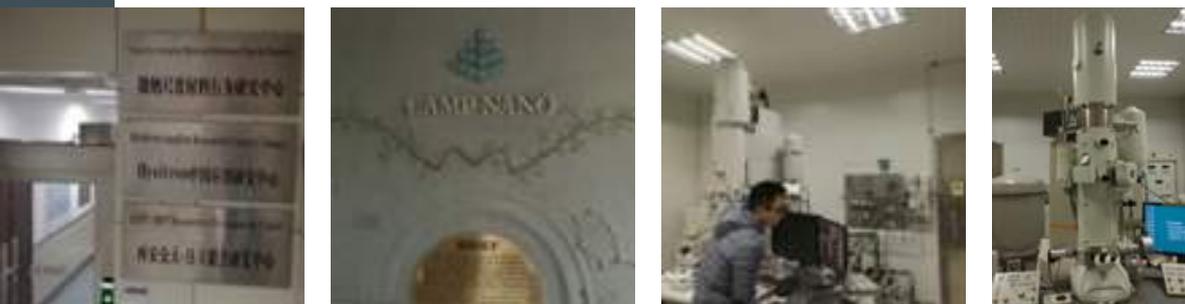
LI Jiehua, Montanuniversität Leoben

SHAN Zhiwei, Xi'an Jiaotong University

Following up the project (06/2015) and the project (09/2016), the project (04/2017) was aimed to perform the in-situ TEM investigation, including in-situ TEM heating and cooling experiments to simulate the precipitation process (phase transformation at the solid state). Two Mg alloys systems have been tested. One is Mg-Zn-Gd-Zr alloy. The other is Mg-Al-Ca-Mn. It should be noted here that the in-situ TEM heating and cooling experiments is relatively complicated. The main problem comes from the TEM sample preparation using FIB, which is extremely time consuming and very expensive. Furthermore, it should also be noted here that there is still a lack of in-situ TEM tensile testing experiments on single precipitates within the Mg matrix to elucidate the deformation behaviour of single precipitates, which is very challenging at this moment. During this year, I was the winner of the international prestigious Humboldt Research Fellowships for experienced researcher. The research topic is about the solute segregation to grain boundaries in Mg alloys. I have worked with Prof Dierk Raabe in Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung GmbH (MPIE) from 1 June to 31 September 2018. In MPIE, the solute segregation of Al, Ca, Mn to grain boundaries in Mg-Al-Ca-Mn alloys has been investigated in detail using TEM and atom probe tomography. Some nice data has been collected. At least one manuscript has been prepared for Acta Mater. Apart from the research work, during this year, two strong collaborations with another two partners (Jilin University, China, University of Sydney, Australian) have been established. Firstly, together with Prof. Huiyuan Wang in Jilin University, China, one new EPU project has been applied in 2018. Secondly, together with Prof Hala Zreiqat in University of Sydney, Australian, one project has been fixed in July 2018. Right now, one Ph.D student (Mr Jianing Zhu in Leoben) is working together with us on the development of novel Mg-Zn-Ca-Sn-Mn alloy for bio-application.

During this year, the project funding (€6000, with €4800 in advance and €1200 still left) is used to cover visits to China. It was almost spent up.

In summary, in the past three years, we worked on the in-situ TEM investigation on the microstructure evolution and deformation behaviour of high performance Mg alloys. Some nice data has been collected. Some important papers have been published. Although there is still a lack of in-situ TEM tensile testing experiments on single precipitates within the Mg matrix, the main research goal has been achieved.



ACUPUNCTURE AND MODERN EYE DISEASES: A TRANSCONTINENTAL PILOT STUDY

LITSCHER Gerhard, Medical University of Graz

WANG Lu, Medical University of Graz

LITSCHER Daniela, Medical University of Graz

LIU Dongfang, Hospital affiliated to Beijing University of Chinese Medicine

CHEN Luquan, Tongren Hospital affiliated to Capital Medical University

SHANG Xiaojuan, Tongren Hospital affiliated to Capital Medical University

Background

Lifestyle risks for myopia are well known and the disease has become a major global public health issue worldwide. There is a relation between reading, writing, and computer work and the development of myopia. **Methods:** Within this prospective pilot study in 44 patients aged between 6 and 12 years with myopia we compared possible treatment effects of acupuncture or moxibustion. The diopters of the right and left eye were evaluated before and after the two treatment methods. **Results:** Myopia was improved in 14 eyes of 13 patients (15.9%) within both complementary methods. Using acupuncture an improvement was observed in seven eyes from six patients out of 22 patients and a similar result (improvement in seven eyes from seven patients out of 22 patients) was noticed in the moxibustion group. The extent of improvement was better in the acupuncture group ($p = 0.008$ s., comparison before and after treatment); however, group analysis between acupuncture and moxibustion revealed no significant difference. **Conclusions:** Possible therapeutic aspects with the help of evidence-based complementary methods like acupuncture or moxibustion have not yet been investigated adequately in myopic patients. Our study showed that both acupuncture and moxibustion can improve myopia of young patients. Acupuncture seems to be more effective than moxibustion in treating myopia, however group analysis did not prove this trend. Therefore, further Big data studies are necessary to confirm or refute the preliminary results.

Introduction

Myopia has become a major global public health issue worldwide. Lifestyle risk factors are well known and summarized in recent publications [1–3]. It has been shown that there is a relation between reading and writing from a short distance and the development of myopia. Computer work is also responsible for this relationship [4–7].

The constantly increasing number of eye diseases, as a result of too intensive personal computer work, increases the need for adequate treatment methods. In this context evidence-based complementary methods like acupuncture and/or moxibustion could be potential starting points for early intervention of myopia, which is defined as more than equal to -0.50 diopter (D) [3].

The purpose of this study was to investigate complementary medical methods (acupuncture and moxibustion) in school children with mild or moderate myopia because conventional medical therapies do not show sufficient improvements [1–3]. Acupuncture and moxibustion are among the most important methods used clinically in myopia in school age in China. Since this is an invasive method (needle acupuncture) on the one hand and a non-invasive procedure (moxibustion) on the other hand, it is obvious to compare both methods in one study. The aim is also to find out whether the methods differ significantly in terms of a possible improvement of myopia or not.

Materials and Methods

Patients

A total of 44 patients aged between 6 and 12 years, with a mean age \pm SD of 9.3 ± 1.4 years (27 female, 17 male) were treated either with acupuncture (group A) or with moxibustion (group B). The children suffer from mild-to-moderate myopia (-0.5 D to -4.25 D), and their lens-corrected vision was 100%. The average stature of the 44 subjects was 137.7 ± 9.4 cm (115–157 cm), and the average body weight was 33.2 ± 7.9 kg (21–53 kg). No person was under the influence of drugs. The treatments (needle acupuncture or moxibustion) were approved by the local ethics committee of the Tongren Hospital for treatment and research (EPU 5/2017) and performed in accordance with the recommendations of the Helsinki Declaration of the World Medical Association. Informed consent has been obtained orally from at least one of their parents. Acupuncture treatment was used in group A, moxibustion in group B. Each group consisted of 22 patients. Age, sex, and basic demographic data are shown in Table 1.

Randomization to one of the groups A or B has been done by an independent employee (medical doctor) from the Tongren Hospital using an envelope (group A, group B). The duration of one treatment (acupuncture or moxibustion) was 20 min. Altogether completion of 10 sessions was planned (~2 sessions per week) however not all participants could finish the examinations (compare treatment sessions in Table 1).

The following exclusion criteria were applied: (i) Less than -0.5 diopters; (ii) other eye diseases/disorders affecting visual acuity; (iii) secondary eye diseases (e.g., following diabetes); (iv) cardiologic, neurologic, nephrologic, hepatologic, hematologic, or psychiatric disorders; (v) chronic diseases requiring medication that must not be interrupted.

Treatment Methods

Acupuncture

All 22 patients in group A received needle acupuncture at traditional point locations (see Figures 1 and 2).



CHINA KNOW-HOW SUMMER SCHOOL

SUCHANEK Judith, Chinese Studies Center of the University of Salzburg

RAUSCH Wolf-Dieter, Eurasia-Pacific Uninet

HUANG Yumei, Peking University

GU Yiran, Fudan University

The China Know-How Summer School has been annually organized (August/September) since 1999 by the Chinese Studies Center of the University of Salzburg in cooperation with the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet. Target audiences are mainly students from Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences.

In 2017, the Summer School started in Shanghai at the Fudan University and ended in Beijing at the Peking University. 2017, the Summer School again focused on relevant topics among others such as cultural differences, economics, politics, law as well as cross-cultural management in modern China. The lectures were conducted in English language. In addition, lectures and discussions conducted by Chinese and Austrian experts, excursions and visits to joint-venture companies were also included in this year's program.

The Summer School was concluded with two exams for which 5 ECTS credits could be rewarded at students' home university or university of applied sciences. This year, 15 students participated in the Summer School. Starting from 1999 up to 2017 around 1,150 students from Austria and other European countries participated in this program.

The China Know-How Summer School welcomes students from Austrian and other European universities and universities of applied sciences, employees preferably from an international company or working in various commercial departments, and people simply interested in China.

Targets of the program

- Know-How regarding Eastern Asia, especially China
- Obtaining experience in cooperating with China
- Preparing for future trading markets by becoming acquainted with the legal and economic system, labor and production processes, social and environmental situation, culture and living conditions in China
- Acquisition of additional qualifications useful for a potential future career in Asia
- Obtaining a basic command of the Chinese language

Program

- Modules in English on China-related topics in the fields of economics, politics, law, environment, culture and other relevant topics
- Lectures and discussions conducted by experts
- Visits to Austrian and international joint venture companies, excursions
- End-of-program exams (Shanghai and Beijing), with possible accreditation

Participants from the following higher education institutions attended the China Know-How Summer School in 2017: Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt, THI Business School Ingolstadt, University of Vienna, Vienna University of Business and Economics, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, University of Leoben, University of Salzburg

Participants from the following higher education institutions attended the China Know-How Summer School in 2017: Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt, THI Business School Ingolstadt, University of Vienna, Vienna University of Business and Economics, University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, University of Leoben, University of Salzburg

Scholarship

Students studying at Austrian universities and universities of applied sciences, which are partner institutions of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet, had the opportunity to apply for two kinds of scholarship: Eurasia-Pacific Uninet Scholarship or Scholarship from the home university

At the Fudan University, the China Know-How Summer School participants had the pleasure to attend the following lectures as well as visit the following companies:

- Chinese History
- The Political System of China
- Chinese Financial Markets
- China's Internet Policy
- Kung Fu & Taiji Practice
- China's Changing Values
- Gender Situation in China
- Doing Business in China
- Introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine TCM
- Chinese Language Classes
- SANY PALFINGER Trading Co. Ltd.
- ENGEL MACHINERY Shanghai Co. Ltd.

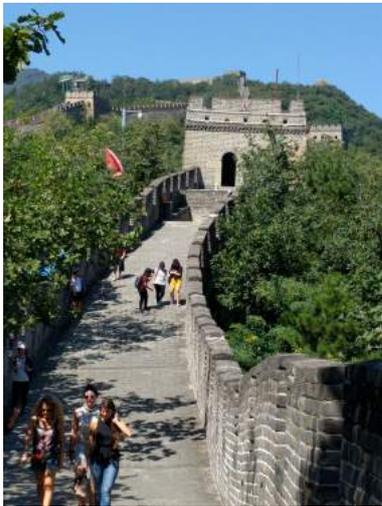
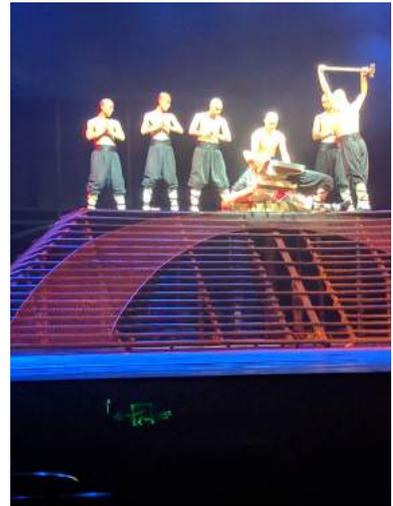
Students had the possibility to attend the following lectures at the Peking University:

- The Chinese Thought – Chinese Philosophy then and now
- China's Economy
- Introduction to the Chinese Law System
- Foreign Policy in China
- China and her Environmental Challenges
- China's Population
- Introduction to the Traditional Chinese Painting
- Chinese Language Classes

Following Austrian and Chinese experts held lectures at the Peking University:

- Contemporary China's Mentality and Economic Setup: Links to History and Philosophy", Mag. Andreas Werner, Former CEO, Raiffeisen Bank International, Beijing
- "Daimler China at a Glance", Senior Manager Mr. Hika Chan

In addition, a sightseeing program to several places of historic and cultural interest in Shanghai (Yu Garden, Historical City, Chinese Acrobatic Show, Shanghai Museum, boat trip on the Huangpu River, Moganshan Road Arts District, trip to Suzhou) and Beijing (Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Peking Opera, Kungfu Show, the Great Wall, Lama Temple) were a part of the official schedule.



DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING EXCHANGE BASED ON ENERGY EFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS, DISTRICTS AND CITIES FROM CONCEPT INTO REALISATION

KRIZ Agnes, FH Technikum Wien

FRANZ Peter, FH Technikum Wien

MUSS Christoph, FH Technikum Wien

MUNKHBAYAR Buyan, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

LI Yunjiang, China Three Gorges University

Introduction

The Universities UAS Technikum Wien, CTGU-China Three Gorges University and MUST-Mongolian University of Science and Technology have been working together successfully for many years in the frame of the EPU network. Especially in the field of Renewable Energy Technologies and Building Technologies, the institutions first developed the fundamentals in the common knowledge of technological applications in Austria, China and Mongolia. Then a transforming process started in the adaption of engineering processes under local considerations. Especially the Passive House concept was adapted to the local markets and social behaviours of the people.

The goals of this project focused on the following objectives:

- to deepen and extend the existing partners' cooperation with the intention to bring existing projects into realization,
- to intensify the cooperation with the purpose to integrate local authorities and local companies in the ongoing projects that leads to higher acceptance in European high-end technologies,
- the integration of energy and building topics in the wider context of smart districts and urban development,
- a next step in common education and research programs.

Project activities

August/September 2017: In preparation of the new academic year 2017/18, the discussions of the new project and research items started with the project partners in Mongolia (MUST) and China (CTGU).

The following project topics were jointly agreed:

- Elaboration and comparison upon efficiency and CO₂ emissions of heating concepts using thermally activated building systems for ECOdaycare kindergarten in Ulaanbaatar
- Towards Sustainable Green Infrastructure in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia) with the Help of Cartography
- ECOdaycare: Investigation on energy performance regarding heat bridges and the airtightness of the thermal hull
- Design and development and feasibility analysis of a solar heating system with an efficiency independent of the outdoor temperature for a kindergarten concept in Ulaanbaatar
- Country Report on the Energy Efficiency Services Market and Quality for Austria for the project "QualitEE" by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme

- China hot summer cold winter region: the change of unheated to heated buildings regarding comfort, health, HVAC possibilities and energy demand
- Optimizing electric installation system and total energy demand for office and research buildings in China hot summer cold winter region
- Curriculum Setting of International Interdisciplinary Dual Master Degree Program in UAS Technikum Wien and CTGU
- Natural and mechanical cooling and dehumidification possibilities for office and research buildings in a hot summer, cold winter region in China
- A comparison of well insulated buildings without room heating system with heated buildings regarding different thermal insulation and humidity protection concepts
- Energy Efficient Components: A survey of simple measures to increase building thermal quality in China Yichang region learning from the history of energy efficient buildings in central Europe
- Ecological impacts of the Kai Li Feng insulation production process
- Kai Li Feng Project in China hot summer cold winter region Analysis/ Comparison of office layout between China style and western style

October/November 2017: The international project teams of UAS Technikum Wien, MUST and CTGU students worked out their project tasks under the supervision of the professors and company's' advices. The project teams are fully integrated in the curricula schedule of the Bachelor's program 'Urban Renewable Energy Technologies' within the specialisation of Building-Energy-Design of UAS Technikum Wien. The students have to write their Bachelor's thesis within the international and interdisciplinary project.

December 2017: The project teams presented their preliminary results on the 15th of December under the supervision of an international commission. Final technical and formal recommendations are discussed within the project teams to be implemented in the thesis.

January 2018: The project teams of UAS Technikum Wien, CTGU and MUST held workshops during the International week from 20th to 26th of January 2018 in Vienna. The delegates of CTGU, MUST and UAS TW met for the Young Researcher's Workshop Day to proceed with the common projects on Building-Energy-Design. Research Professors presented their recent studies in the field of Buildings and Energy. Students presented their results of this year's project Energybase International-Energy Efficient Buildings in China and Mongolia under the supervision of their Professors. The interdisciplinary teams of the partner Universities in the fields of Architecture, Buildings and Energy Design discussed upcoming student and research projects and common activities in the field of curricula development and partner exchange activities. Another highlight was the participation of UAS Technikum Wien partners from China and Mongolia at the Vienna Congress on Sustainable Building, BauZ! Within the conference the following topics were presented by the partners: „Challenges in the implementation of Passivehouses and low energy building concepts in the 'hot summer cold winter climate region' of China“ and „Passive house engineering in emerging countries“. The International Congress on Sustainable Building BauZ! took place from the 24th–26th January 2018 and was held in the framework of the Vienna Bauen & Energie trade fair.

International week 2018 in Building Engineering, Energy & Mobility (see Appendix 1)

February/May 2018: Seven students from UAS Technikum Wien spent their Internship at the partner Universities in China at CTGU and Mongolia at MUST for 14 weeks. During their internship students discussed and developed their research results on site. End of March/ beginning of April, two workshops held under the attendance of four Austrian UAS TW Professors at CTGU and MUST with the presence of further local partners and companies such as Hubei University of Science and Technology-China and the 'Ger community mapping center-GCMC', as well as representatives from the Mongolian Construction Association-MCA.

Following the results of the Internship reports of CTGU and MUST students' delegation:

Students' reports of the internship at CTGU and MUST (see Appendix 2)

15th to 22nd of April 2018: Teaching activities were conducted at MUST as planned. UAS Technikum Wien Professor Dipl.-Ing. Matthias Schindegger held a 3 unit lecture on "Contemporary Wood Architecture in Europe – an Overview", followed by two "Design workshop for a single family house in Mongolian climate" and a final presentation for a total of 12 units over two separate days. The lecture and workshops were attended by 5 master students of architecture and approx. 25-30 bachelor students and were very well received. UAS Technikum Wien lecturer and junior researcher Simon Schneider, MSc. held a 4 unit lecture on "District and City scale building stock energy simulation and forecasting – a potential method for UB" with consecutive discussion. The lecture was attended by Prof. Munkhbayar and his assistants Munkhtsetseg Lkhagvasuren and Purevdorj Mandakhnaran, as well as 3 master students of architecture.

Summer/autumn 2018: For the following academic year 2018/19 further topics and projects with the partners were discussed. Following the results of a brainstorming of ongoing projects:

- Verification and audit of a Passivhouse Project in middle Gobi desert. Several meetings with suggestions to project owner, conductance of a "blower door test", heat imagery, support with U-Value calculations.
- Collaboration with US Expat to develop a PH Ger concept with milk carton box insulation
- Exploration of a Cashmere Factory as a prospective new project for teaching at FHTW, i.e. energy audit and proposition of energy efficiency improvement measures
- Experimental research on GER heating ovens to improve efficiency of fuel utilization and heat flow.
- Partnership for a research proposal in "Sustainable Urbanisation, Europe-China Joint Call for Proposals"

The University teams of all partners in China, Mongolia and Austria made great progress in the development of research and teaching exchange based on energy efficient, sustainable buildings, districts and cities. New building concepts were realised by the team work of Professors, students and companies. An upcoming highlight will be the next years Passive house Conference in China where all partners decided yet to participate. Even new ideas of deepening the cooperation were discussed and are ready for realisation.

APPENDIX 1

International Week 2018 in Building Engineering, Energy & Mobility

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Arrival of partners, check-in, afternoon/ evening meetings to be defined

Sunday, January 21, 2018

18:00–20:00 Welcome Dinner: Stiegl Ambulanz | Alser Straße 4, 1090 Wien

<http://www.stiegl-ambulanz.com/>

Monday, January 22, 2018 VIE – Bratislava (Meeting point: Höchstädtplatz 6, 1200 Wien)

08:00–12:00 Excursion to Science park – Energy region Bruck/Leitha

DI Karin Mottl, MSc, Managing Director Energiepark Bruck/Leitha

13:00–17:00 Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava, Slovakia

Prof. DI Stefan Stanko, PhD, Vice Rector for Education and Int. mobilities

Assoc. prof. Ing. Michal Masaryk, PhD, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

Prof. Ing. arch. Lubica Vitkova, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture

18:00–20:00 Dinner at Parliament Restaurant, Bratislava

Arriving at the center of Energiepark Bruck/Leitha the Managing Director Karin Mottl introduced the concept of the energy region. In a lively discussion the International delegation members wanted to know more details about this successful concept and how to adapt it possibly to other regions and countries. The delegation focused not only on technology concepts but also on business models. The excursion continued with a round trip through the industrial plants, such as the wind park, biomass and biogas plant and ecoduna, the new bioalgee production plant. (see presentation attached: EPK_Praesentation_180122_-Technikum.pdf)

<http://www.energiepark.at/start.html>

In the afternoon the delegation arrived at the Slovak University of Technology, STU, in Bratislava. The Vice Rector Stefan Stanko introduced in the activities of STU in the field of education, Int. mobility and Research & Development. After the delegation's presentation of their research areas the delegation members exchanged possible joint activities in the future. STU gave an insight view of various projects in the Faculties of Architecture and Mechanical Engineering (hydro-system lab, Eko-urban smart cities, waste processing and automation labs, automotive sector).

<https://www.stuba.sk/>

Tuesday, January 23, 2018, Campus Giefinggasse 6, 1210 Wien

After the opening session of UAS Technikum Wien rector Fritz Schmöllebeck the delegates of UTAD and Brasov met for the Workshop on Smart Cities & Mobility for Teaching & Research with UAS TW Department members of Information Engineering & Security. The delegates of CTGU, MUST, USMB and UAS TW met for the Young Researcher's Workshop Day to proceed with the common projects on Building-Energy-Design. Research Professors presented their recent studies in the field of Buildings and Energy. Students presented their results of this years project Energybase International-Energy Efficient Buildings in China and Mongolia under the supervision of their Professors. The interdisciplinary teams of the partner Universities in the fields of Architecture, Buildings and Energy Design discussed upcoming student and research projects and common activities in the field of curricula development and partner exchange activities.

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018 - Main Campus Höchstädtplatz 6
Science Day, Research and Development of Partner Universities**

08:30–08:45 Welcome by the Managing Director Gabriele Költringer

08:45–09:00 UAS TW – Building and Energy (M. Tragner, C. Muss)

09:00–09:15 UAS TW – Smart Cities and Mobility (H. Wahl, Cristina Olaverri Monreal)

09:15–09:30 UAS TW – IT and Biomed (P. Urbauer)

09:30–09:45 BRASOV – Research projects

09:45–10:45 Research Projects

10:45–11:00 Coffee Break at the Center for International Relations (room B6.04)

11:00–12:30 Coordination and Networking talks with Center for International Relations

12:30–13:30 Lunch at the Center for International Relations

13:45–14:00 Project Internationalization IoCEST, Thomas WALA, UAS TW
14:00–15:30 Workshop Possibilities of Joint Research Partner Projects
15:30–16:00 Résumé of R&D Cooperation partner projects (Tragner, Wahl, Urbauer)
Evening free time at your disposal

Science Day: After the opening session of UAS Technikum Managing Director Gabriele Køltringer all delegates came together to discuss Research activities of the partner institutions. The presentations focused on three research topics, Building and Energy, Smart Cities and Mobility, IT and Biomed. As a common focus the partners also identified the field of Internationalization. The increase of International activities is one of the main aspects of the UAS TW project “IoCEST- Internationalization of Curricula”. The concept of this years International week has been seen as one major activity to strengthen International Relations between partner institutions. Education and study projects as well as research topics were discussed intensively between the University partners. Common concepts like Double Degree Programs or the organization of a common summer school were identified as further activities in the future.

Thursday, January 25, 2018 – Messe Congress Center BauZ! Vienna Congress on Sustainable Building, Main Campus Höchstädtplatz 6

<http://www.bauz.at/en/donnerstag-25-januar-2018/>

09:15-18:00 Workshop on Teaching and R&D eHealth/Biomed, Show Cases for UTAD & BRASOV members organised by Ph. Urbauer, H. Wahl

Friday, January 26, 2018 – Messe Congress Center

Optional Congress Day

Optional Visit of Vienna Bauen & Energie (Construction & Energy) trade fair

Another highlight was the participation of UAS Technikum Wien partners from China, Mongolia and France at the Vienna Congress on Sustainable Building, BauZ!

Within the Panel discussion: International Experiences, the following topics were presented. Challenges in the implementation of Passivehouses and low energy building concepts in the “hot summer cold winter climate region“ of China. and Passive house engineering in emerging countries. The International Congress on Sustainable Building BauZ! took place from the 24th–26th January 2018 and was held in the framework of the Vienna Bauen & Energie trade fair.

<http://www.bauz.at/en/>



BENEFITS OF NATURE IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT: PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR URBAN BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

BREUSTE Jürgen, University of Salzburg
GAN Jing, Tongji University
LI Junxiang, East China Normal University

The intention of the symposium was to develop the foundation for the Sino-Austrian research project, and to identify its state of the art in scientific research on this topic to bring forward new methodological ideas. Europe has abundant experiences with nature-based indicators and integrated planning methods for the development of eco-cities, sustainable urban development and green-blue infrastructure. Some of these experiences may be introduced to China. Both partners seek comparable goals for ecological support of urban development and resilient cities based on nature-based solutions for urban problems (human health, climate change, risk reduction, reduction of land and resource consumption, urban protection, application of renewable energies and the enhancement of living standards). As a result of former discussions, four subject areas addressing the major problems around nature-based solutions and strategic urban ecological development were identified. They will be the topics of the planned Symposium:

1. The urban resilience concept based on urban natural ecosystem responses to external disturbances (e.g. climate change)
2. The eco-city and eco-civilization concept – guidelines for sustainable urban development in Germany and China
3. Urban green-blue infrastructure - Innovative ecological planning instruments to integrate nature-based solutions into urban development strategies.

There is a need to respect, protect, and stay in tune with nature in urban areas. Nature is vital not only to sustained, healthy economic development, but also to political and social progress, and must therefore be given a position of prominence in every aspect of the whole process of economic, political, cultural, and social development.

It has to be shown how re-naturing of cities can lead the greening of the economy, to present urban developers, planners and the construction sector how to innovate cities with nature, how cities can adapt to climate change and natural disasters by using nature-based solutions. In order to increase the resilience of cities concrete initiatives need to be launched by cities to promote nature-based solutions.

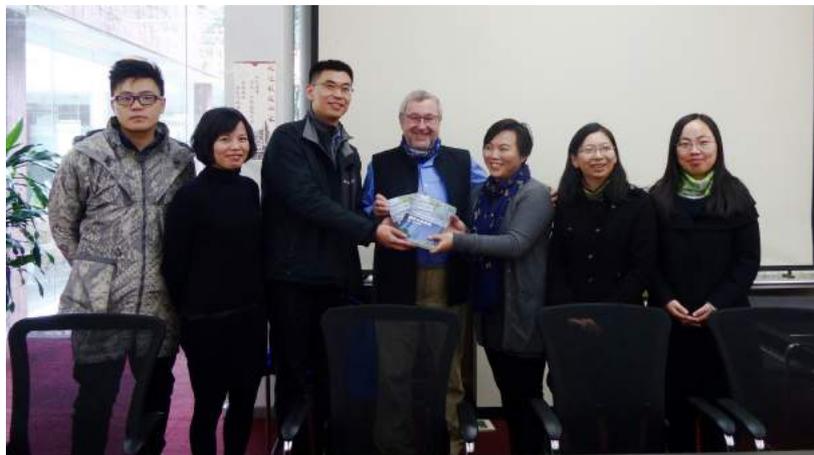
In 2016 the 2nd Symposium of SURE China Centre for Urban Ecology “Building Resilient Smart-Eco-Cities by Re-Naturation: Addressing Environmental Challenges through Nature-Based Solutions” was successfully proceeded with ECNU Shanghai in Shanghai. 3rd Symposium of SURE China Centre for Urban Ecology ‘Benefits of nature in urban development - Planning & Design for Urban biodiversity and ecosystem services’ as the key for their sustainable development was organized in 2017 three sites in China, Xiamen, Beijing and Shanghai.

12-16 November – Academy of Science - Institute of Urban Environment/IUE in Xiamen and
17- 20 November Academy of Science - State Key Lab of Urban and Regional Ecology and
College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Beijing University of Technology (BJUT)

20 – 24 November – Shanghai, East China Normal University, Department of Environmental
Science and Tongji University, CAUP College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Prof Dr. Breuste participated in all these events and reported and discussed on “Urban Bio-
diversity. What it is and how we can target it in design and planning”. In Tongji CAPU he
presented his book.

The new partner Tongji University as expert in architecture and urban planning could togeth-
er with ECNU activate 2 Academy institutes in Xiamen and Beijing and the Beijing Univer-
sity of Technology (BJUT) as partners for this subject together with practitioners.



DURCHFÜHRUNG NEUER MBA MODULSCHWERPUNKTE IN SHANGHAI

PROJECT 9

GERNER Norbert, University of Salzburg Business School GmbH
YIN Zhiwen, Fudan University

Die SMBS - University of Salzburg Business School unterhält mit der Fudan University in Shanghai eine mehr als 10-jährige erfolgreiche Partnerschaft. Jedes Jahr absolvieren SMBS MBA Studierende ihr lt. Curriculum verbindliches Modul „Doing Business in China“ an der Fudan University. Dieses Modul für unsere Exec. MBA General Management Studierenden war durch kontinuierlich steigende Qualität gekennzeichnet.

Mit Oktober 2016 trat ein neues Curriculum in Kraft (Global Executive MBA) - die gelehrt Inhalte für das Modul in Shanghai mussten den Vorgaben des Curriculums angepasst bzw. Adaptiert werden. Im Mai 2017 gab es zwischen SMBS und Fudan University erste Sondierungsgespräche der Verantwortlichen welche in die Vertragsverlängerung der Kooperation zwischen Fudan University und SMBS im Oktober 2017 mündete. Es gab auch Gespräche zwecks Implementierung anderer MBA Schwerpunktmodule in Shanghai, davon wird aber im Moment aufgrund der Nachfragesituation Abstand genommen.

Die erste Global Exec. MBA Gruppe war unter Einsatz des neuen Curriculums heuer im Mai 2018 in Shanghai - die Rückmeldungen der Gruppe zu den Inhalten sind ausgezeichnet.



10 RESEARCH SCHOOL ON FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS AND PDES

ARNOLD Anton, TU Wien

TSEDENDAMBA Sarantuya, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

REMTSEN Enkhabat, Mongolian University of Science and Technology

TANG Shaoqiang, Peking Univeristy

In planning our participation in the CIMPA Summer School "Research School on Functional Analysis and PDEs "in Khovd was assumed that 5 people from Austria would attend: two lecturers, Prof. Anton Arnold and Prof. Ewa Weinmüller (each with four one-hour lectures) and three students, BSc Merlin Fallahpour, Dr. Giacomo di Gezu and MSc Tobias Wöhler (each with a lecture on 30 minutes). Due to various circumstances, this was not possible, so finally Prof. Weinmüller with BSc Fallahpour and MSc Wöhler participated in the summer school in Khovd, Mongolia. More information about the summer school can be found at <http://www.cimpa2017.mn/>.

Presentations at the summer school included 9 scientists from Germany, France, Japan, Austria, South Korea and Switzerland. Approx. 30 students participated coming from Cambodia, Mongolia, Austria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea and Vietnam. Because of the illness of Prof. Arnold the visit with Prof. S. Tang at Peking University had to be cancelled.

Prof. Weinmüller gave a series of lectures that covered the analysis, numerical methods and principles of software development for singular boundary value tasks that have to deal with ordinary differential equations.

Applications were shown on how to apply special types of partial differential equations to solve the solution of singular problems numerically. These were exemplified by the Schrödinger Equation, Ginzburg-Landau equation, quasi-parabolic equation and Korteweg-de Vries Equation that were discussed.

Thanks to this summer school, new contacts were established, which led to cooperations with Yonsei University in South Korea (Prof. Seick Kim, Dr. Sukjung Hwang and MSc Sunghin Lee) , and in the Philippines with Diliman University (Dr. Renier Mendosa) Contacts were made with Dr. Nguyen Duong Toan of the University of Haiphong in Vietnam. Here another meeting was agreed for March 2018 in Hanoi, at the conference "High Performance Scientific Computing, Modeling, Simulation and Optimization of Complex Processes ,,".

The contact to Yonsei University is about solving the Helmholtz equation. Before one begins to analyze this partial differential equation, a simulation of a parameter-dependent singular ordinary differential equation gives first insights.

In the discussion, it was possible to transfer the incorrect initial value problem into one to formulate a boundary value task so that it can be treated numerically. BSc Merlin Fallahpour will have access in the near future to the "bvpsuite" code developed at the Vienna University of Technology that is used to perform this simulation. In contact with Diliman University in Philippines it is planned that master students who are interested in a student exchange in such topics intending to integrate singular ODEs in Vienna, they may do part of their master thesis under the instructions of Prof. Weinmüller. Since at present the Philippines government strongly supports travels, the travel expenses and daily expenses of the students will be carried by the Philippine side.

Possible further, at present though not decided, contacts with Pakistan and Cambodia will be established.



INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHINESE AND AUSTRIAN GERMANISTS AND FILM SCHOLARS

JANKE Pia, Forschungsplattform Elfriede Jelinek

WEIGELIN-SCHWIEDRZIK Susanne, University of Vienna

WOLTE Isabel, China Film Consult Wolte KG

WANG Jianbin, Beijing Foreign Studies University

LIU Wei, Fudan University Shanghai

LIU Xuehui, Beijing International Studies University

The project was initiated to intensify the intercultural dialogue between Chinese and Austrian Germanists and film scholars and to present a retrospective of Austrian films to the Chinese audience: masterpieces of Austrian female directors and film adaptations of Austrian Literature written by female authors. By focusing on female artists the project intended to accentuate gender relevance in art and science. The cooperations among Chinese and Austrian institutions continued already existing connections between Filmarchiv Austria and China Film Archive, at the same time the project provided the opportunity to deepen scientific exchange between Austrian and Chinese German Studies that started in the year 2012 with the Conference “FRAUEN.SCHREIBEN” at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Therefore a team of Austrian experts in collaboration with China Film Archive and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) organized a symposium accompanied by an Austrian film-retrospective. The Austrian team included Pia Janke, head of Forschungsplattform Elfriede Jelinek, her colleagues Christian Schenkermayr and Susanne Teutsch, furthermore Claudia Walkensteiner-Preschl, head of Vienna Film Academy and Isabel Wolte, head of Chinese Film Consult, Chinese Film expert and also initiator of the current project.

The symposium started at China Film Archive with presentations about Chinese and Austrian film and literature and a screening of “Die Geträumten”/“The Dreamed Ones” by director Ruth Beckermann that also included an introduction by the filmmaker, Pia Janke and Prof. JIANG Li, vice dean of the School of Foreign Studies from the University of International Business and Economics Beijing and a Q&A-session after the film. The next day took place at the German Department of BFSU and focused on film adaptations of literature by Ingeborg Bachmann, Elfriede Jelinek and Marlen Haushofer. In addition to academic lectures, the program specifically included discussion and talks between the participants so that there was enough room to exchange ideas and opinions and to promote intercultural scientific transfer. The day was closed by a discussion presented by Pia Janke with CHEN Zhuangying, dean of the German Faculty of Shanghai International Studies University, Prof. HAN Ruixiang, BFSU, Prof. YANG Hui of Beijing Film Academy and Isabel Wolte. In the evening the program continued with the film adaptation “Chucks” by directors Sabine Hiebler and Gerhard Ertl based on the novel by Cornelia Travnicek who was also present and introduced the screening. On the following days selected films were shown during the seminars of German Studies at BFSU introduced and presented by the Austrian experts.

The project was in many regards successful: Both Austrian and Chinese experts, as well as the public benefited from the lively discussions and scientific exchange during the symposium and the screenings of Austrian films of which most of them had never been shown to the public in China before. The detailed program and a current documentation of the project is published on the website of Forschungsplattform Elfriede Jelinek: <https://fpjelinek.univie.ac.at/veranstaltungen/symposium-china-2017/>, a profound analysis by Austrian and Chinese participants will be published 2019 in the yearbook by Elfriede Jelinek-Forschungszentrum. Selected lectures from the symposium will be included in a special issue on Austrian cinema of the Chinese language publication Shijie Dianying (World Cinema) in 2018.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY (ISU) HONGKONG 2017

PROJECT 12

LITTICH Edith, Vienna University of Economics and Business
HUI Pamsy, The Hongkong Polytechnic University

General Information

The International Summer University (ISU) program Hong Kong 2017 (hereinafter referred to as ISU Hong Kong 2017) was held in Hong Kong from July 10 to August 4, 2017 as a joint program of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (hereinafter referred to as PolyU) and WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) (hereinafter referred to as WU). The ISU Hong Kong was a success considering that it was organized for the first time, fulfilling both the expectations of the PolyU and of the Austrian students (overall satisfaction: 2,04; WU: 2,05, PolyU: 2,00). The program was co-taught by faculty members from PolyU and WU. It focused on “Managing global business and marketing challenges – An Asian Perspective”. In total 30 students have been nominated to take part in ISU Hong Kong 2017 (20 WU/10 PolyU).

Academic Program

The academic coordination of ISU Hong Kong 2017 was carried out jointly by Prof. Dr. Barbara Stöttinger (WU) und Dr. Pun-zee Pamsy Hui (PolyU) as well as Mr. Sherman Lam. Classes had a strong emphasis on interactivity and presentations. Topics focused on understanding the Hong Kong and Chinese market and conducting a marketing entry strategy for different Asian countries. WU faculty representatives were Prof. Dr. Barbara Stöttinger and Dr. Brigitte Bojkowszky. The lecturer teaching from PolyU was Mr. Sherman Lam, M.B.A.

Company Visits

Four company visits enriched the academic courses. They allowed students to experience how businesses work in the region and provided useful and interesting insights into the respective companies. The students visited “STS Sugar Co. Ltd.”, their project partner “Paul Lafayet”, “Liebherr (HKG) Ltd.” and “Red Bull Hong Kong Ltd.” Furthermore, Mag. Franz Rössler, the Austrian Trade Commissioner for Hong Kong, Macao and South China held a fascinating guest speech at the PolyU. The students appreciated all of the visits, especially the visit to Paul Lafayet and Red Bull.

Intercultural Evening and Understanding

In addition to international teamwork on a group project throughout the program, students held an International Cultural Event (ICE) on July 20, 2017. At the so-called „ICE“, students presented their everyday life at their respective country by introducing traditional food, music, games and dances. The Hong Kong field trip was a highlight for the WU students because they had the chance to discover different sides of Hong Kong at the very beginning of the program.



INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY (ISU) ST. PETERSBURG 2017

PROJECT 13

LITTICH Edith, Vienna University of Economics and Business
LATHUKA Marina, St. Petersburg University

General Information

The International Summer University Russia 2017 (hereinafter referred to as ISU Russia 2017, known as ISU St. Petersburg in previous years) was held in St. Petersburg for the ninth consecutive time from September 4 to September 22, 2017 as a joint program of St. Petersburg University, Graduate School of Management (hereinafter referred to as GSOM) and WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) (hereinafter referred to as WU). The ISU Russia 2017 was co-taught by faculty members from GSOM and WU. The program focused on “Challenges in Leadership and Strategy: Managing People in Global Organizations”. In total 32 students have been nominated to take part in ISU Russia 2017 (20 WU/12 GSOM).

Academic Program

The academic coordination of ISU Russia 2017 was carried out jointly by Dr. Katharina Pernkopf (WU) und Dr. Marina O. Latukha (GSOM). Classes had a strong emphasis on interactivity and presentations. The ISU Russia applied contemporary theory and research in HRM and OB to issues arising in organizations from internationalization and globalization. WU faculty representatives were Dr. Katharina Pernkopf and Tobias Knoll, MSc.

Lecturers teaching for GSOM were Dr. Zamulin, Dr. Latukha, Kucherov, Dr. Lisovskaya, Dr. Makarova, Dr. Panibratov and Dr. Freixanet Solervicens.

Intercultural Understanding

Two International Cultural Evenings were organized by the students and were aimed at presenting the country’s culture, history and special features (one was organized by WU students, representing Austria, one was organized by GSOM students, representing Russia).

Apart from the academic program, the students also got to enjoy a sightseeing and event program, organized by WU coordinator David Pinchasov. This included a guided city tour through Saint Petersburg, visits to the State Hermitage museum, a visit to the opening of the bridges on the river Neva, day trips to the palaces in Peterhof and Tsarskoe Selo.



14

COLLECTION AND PRELIMINARY ANTI-BACTERIAL SCREENING OF PLANTS USED IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

BRANTNER Adelheid, University of Graz

WANG Yi, Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences

In light of the emergence of antibiotic resistance and lack of new drugs, herbal drug and antibiotic combinations may represent an interesting therapy option for treating multidrug resistant bacteria.

2008 our research started to explore the antibiotic mechanism of a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and strategies for multidrug resistant bacteria. At this time Dr. Wang Yi was granted a postdoc scholarship for 6 months by EURASIA Pacific Uninet at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Graz to perform this project under the supervision of Prof. Dr Adelheid Brantner. The antibacterial activity of an herbal TCM formulation which is composed of extracts from *Scutellariae radix*, *Ursi fel*, *Naemorhedi cornu*, *Lonicerae flos* and *Forsythiae fructus* was investigated. According to TCM, this formula clears heat and removes phlegm. In China it is used to treat respiratory tract infections.

During our study, we found that penicillin, a clinically routine anti-infective drug, showed inhibitory effects on the suspended bacteria as well as on the initial state of the biofilm formation. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) is 8250 times higher than that of the TCM formulation. But when the bacteria form mature biofilms, the TCM formulation showed a strong bactericidal effect against these biofilm forming bacteria. The effective concentration is far lower than the blood drug concentration, but in contrast, penicillin has no effect on the mature biofilm. The results indicate that TCM and antibiotics have different antibacterial mechanisms, and also indicate the limitations of existing evaluation methods. We published our results in the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (Wang Y, Wang T, Hu J, Ren C, Lei H, Hou Y, Brantner AH. Anti-biofilm activity of TanReQing, a Traditional Chinese Medicine used for the treatment of acute pneumonia. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 134(1),165-170, 2011). Our research on this very important topic of anti-infective TCM drugs is still ongoing. So in August 2018 Prof Dr Adelheid Brantner visited the CACMS in Beijing to discuss further cooperation projects on this topic.

September 2018 Prof Dr Wang Yi from the CACMS in Beijing performed some experiments at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, University of Graz on the *in vitro* antibacterial activity of TCM plants and possible synergistic interactions with selected antibiotics against Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) by the microdilution method. Possible synergies were studied with the checkerboard technique and the time kill curve assay. Obtained values of the fractional inhibitory concentration index suggested no interactive effects of the tested combinations. Our study demonstrated that the investigated TCM drugs inhibited the growth of planktonic *Staphylococcus aureus* as well as bacterial cells embedded in a biofilm. It showed synergistic interactions with conventional antibiotics against MRSA. On the platform of EPU we have also explored the goals of mutual interests. In the frame of this EPU project scientists from the CACMS in Beijing and different Institutes from the University of Graz had the possibility to create a network which aims at establishing contacts and scientific partnerships.

RESEARCH ON BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FROM TCM PLANTS APPLIED AGAINST CHRONIC DISEASES

PROJECT 15

BRANTNER Adelheid, University of Graz

BIAN Baolin, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences

In August 2018 Professor Dr Adelheid Brantner travelled to China to visit Prof Dr Daofeng Chen from the Department of Pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy at the Fudan University in Shanghai and Professor Bian Baolin, Vice director of the Institute of Materia Medica from the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing to discuss further cooperation projects.

During summer 2018 Mrs. Mattea-Coco Marnul and Mrs. Marion Steger, two master students of pharmacy from the University of Graz, performed phytochemical experiments on the traditional Chinese formulation Fang Feng Tong Sheng Sun in the laboratories of Prof Bian Baolin at the Institute of Materia Medica at the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing.. This ancient formula consists of 14 component herbs and three salts. Therefore the mixture requires challenging analytical methods. In the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing the Austrian students had the possibility to use new sophisticated equipment like UHPLC-ESI-Orbitrap MS coupled with UHPLC-ESI-QqQ MS for the analytical analysis. During her stay in Beijing, Prof Brantner was working with her students to establish a method for metabolic profiling of this complex mixture, its main active ingredients and its component herbs.

Prof Brantner was also discussing with Prof Bian Baolin and his co-workers the results of pharmacological in vitro experiments on Fang Feng Tong Sheng Sun with human dermal fibroblasts and RAW264.7 cells. The results are promising concerning the application of Fang Feng Tong Sheng Sun against inflammatory diseases and for supporting the wound-healing process. Therefore a manuscript was prepared to publish these interesting outcomes.

Apart from the intensive and fruitful scientific exchange, this project strengthened the consistent and sustainable research cooperation of Prof Brantner with Prof Bian Baolin and his group from the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. Moreover, numerous new ideas for future joint projects were developed. Therefore, the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Graz and its cooperation partners look not only back to another very successful project, but also to the next activities of this unique cooperation.



16

DIGITALIZATION, SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE FAMILY BUSINESS

ZEHRER Anita, MCI Management Center Innsbruck

SCHUCKERT Markus, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Introduction

The majority of tourism enterprises are family businesses, of which many are SMEs (Chrisman et al. 2008; Astrachan & Shanker, 2003; Poutziouris & Chittenden, 1996). Family firms are defined “as one that will be passed on for the family’s next generation to manage and control” (Ward, 2011, p. 273). Despite the fact that family firms have been one of the most investigated topics (Bracci & Vagnoni, 2011; Sharma, 2004), there often remains a “naïve, over-simplistic understanding of the motivation of those in the small business sector” (Culkin & Smith, 2000, p. 145). Small family firms have not been receiving much interest on how they handle digitalization and the new digital age in their businesses.

Based on our findings we generated in project No 45/2016, where we presented our findings from a quantitative survey on digitalization completed by family firms in the Tirol, this prolongation project (EPU 16/2017) aims at presenting the additional results which we generated in Hong Kong using a qualitative approach (guided interviews with family firms).

Both projects in the context of family business and digitalization, had the purpose to explore the use and adoption of digital and social media in family businesses in the Europe and East Asia, and to find out differences and barriers in the usage of tools and technology.

Method of Collaboration

For developing the research design, the project partners used the following methods and tools of collaboration:

- Skype sessions: Project kick-off with project briefing will all related parties: Project schedule was discussed, agreed and minuted; Further skype sessions during the project elaboration
- WhatsApp and Email for text based conversation
- Dropbox for data exchange
- Visits at partner institution: Dr. Schuckert visited MCI (May 1-5, 2018): workshop with faculty, guest lecture, development of interview guideline with Dr. Zehrer and launch of the qualitative study in Hong Kong, project reporting; Dr. Zehrer visited Hong Kong PolyU (October 15-19, 2018): workshop with faculty, guest lecture, discussion of final results of both projects together with Dr. Schuckert, project reporting

Methodology

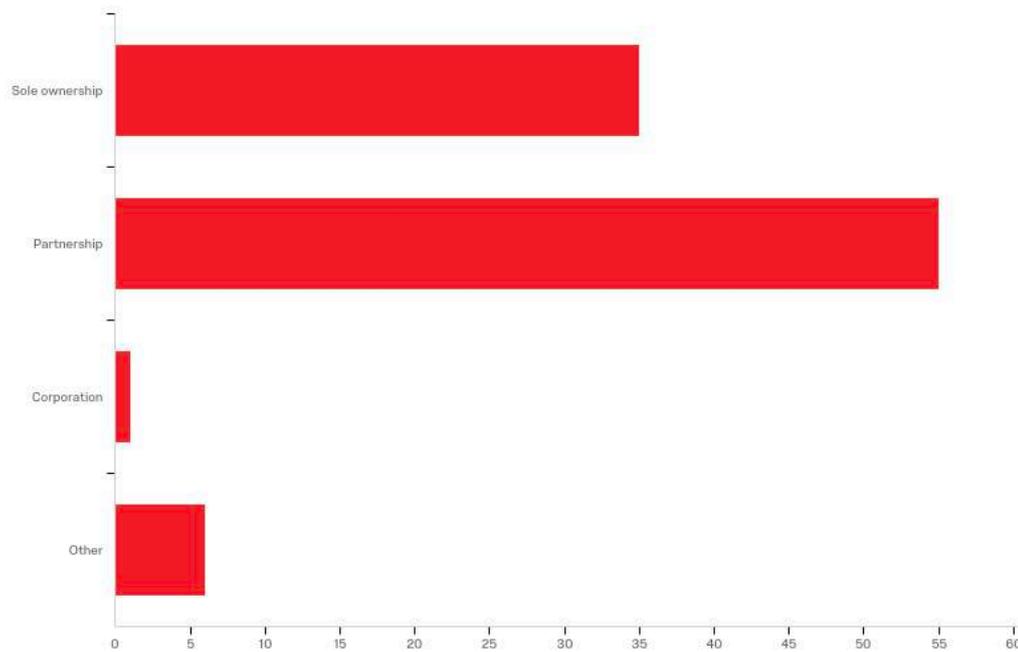
The research methodology is split up into two parts: part A consisted of a systematic literature review as well as data collection via a quantitative research method (questionnaire) in Europe (Austria) and is attributed to project EPU 45/2016. Part B consisted of data collection via a qualitative research method (guided interviews) in East Asia (Hong Kong) and was undertaken in the prolongation project EPU 16/2017.

Findings

Altogether, we interviewed 99 hospitality enterprises in Hong Kong, which responded to our interview request.

1. Ownership

With regard to the ownership structure, we found that most of the enterprises are based on a partnership when it comes down to owning the enterprise. At 2nd, single or solo ownership is important, too. In terms of partnership, this includes core ownership schemes between family members, family and friends, friends or family/friends with business partners in an investment role.



2. Establishment of the business and stage of the owner

Regarding our research questions, we have been asking about the age of the participant, when they started their business. This is an important question related to experience, perspective of the industry and the related question of digitalization. The following table gives an idea about the age distribution and establishment of the business.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	18-25	46.88%	45
2	26-33	28.13%	27
3	34-40	15.63%	15
4	41-50	8.33%	8
5	Over 50	1.04%	1
	Total	100%	96

It is obvious that most of the owners are of younger age and then the number of owners, who started the business in a later stage of their life, is decreasing. Reasons are the access to full-time employed jobs, the interest in driving an own business, limited access and/or funding for tertiary education, and the dynamic situation of the economy in Hong Kong. Regarding digitalization it becomes clear that the younger generation of owners has a better excess and understanding of technology compared to the elder generation of owners. Integrating modern technology into their business is within the DNA of generation Y or the Millennials, while digitalization of generation X and baby boomers comes with higher entry burden.

3. Gender distribution

The gender distribution among the business owners tends towards male with 73.2%. Females count for 26.8% in this sample.

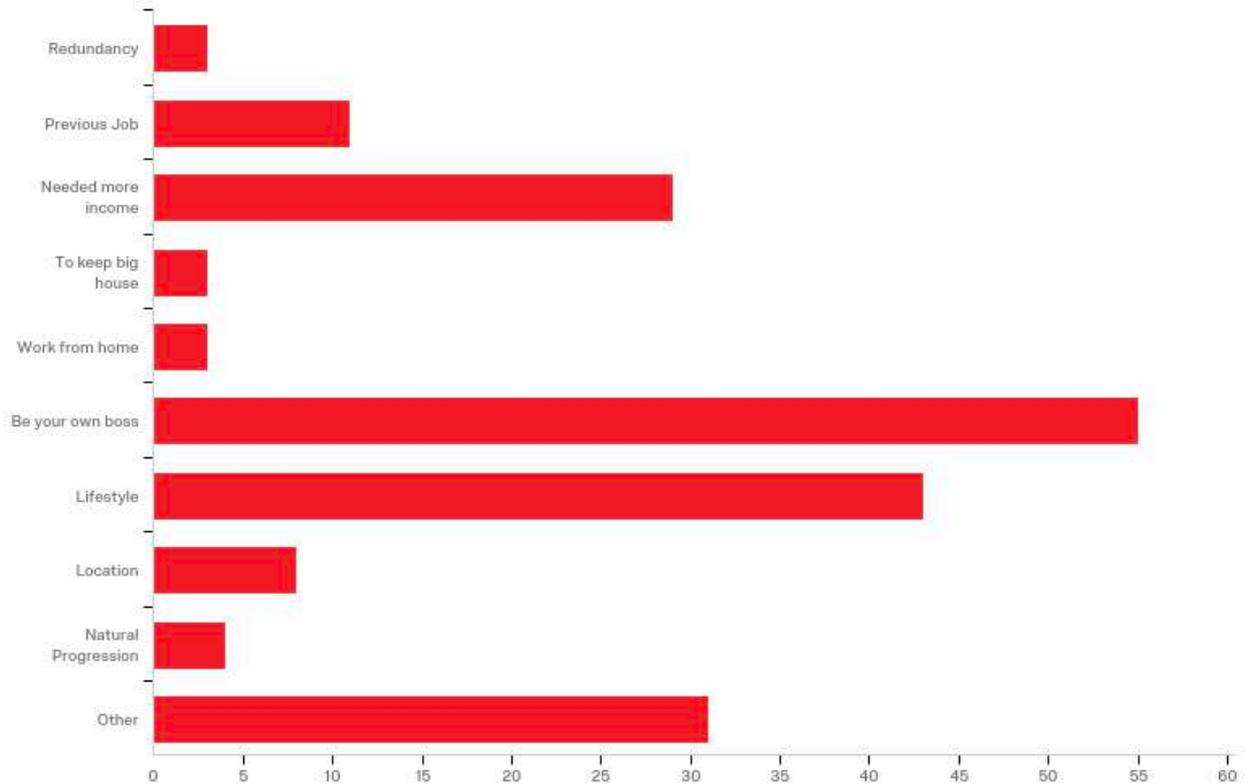
4. Prior Experience or knowledge

We have been interested in how much work experience did the owners have prior to their startup activities, because this relates very much to the success of SMEs as well as the long-term growth development of a company. It confirms as well the entrepreneurial theory with regard to reasons to be motivated to become an entrepreneur. The level of experience shows a bell-shape in terms of a normal distribution, the share of very experienced entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs with almost no prior experience are the minority, the absolute majority has an intermediate experience before starting up a company. A similar share has somewhat more experience and a comparable share has less experience in terms of starting a business. In our preliminary analysis it shows, that all these startup entrepreneurs gaining some experience in the industry and then decide to spin of their 6 business. Only a few are the rookies with zero experience compared to the very experienced late starters to establish a firm. Table 2 shows the distribution with two answers missing.

#	Answer	%	Count
1	A great deal	12.37%	12
2	A lot	25.77%	25
3	A moderate amount	27.84%	27
4	A little	26.80%	26
5	None at all	7.22%	7
	Total	100%	97

5. Institutional support

Asking for the support by government, nonprofit organization or other institutions 11 out of 97 entrepreneurs received or reached out for institutional help or aid. The vast majority of 86 entrepreneurs managed to start up themselves.



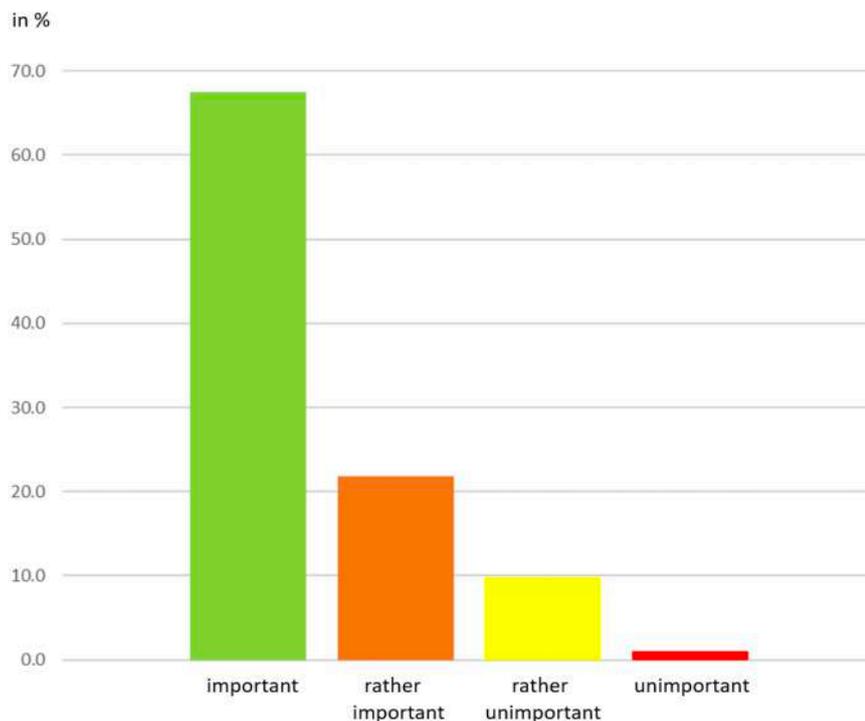
6. Start-up reasons

The reasons for starting an own business are elaborated well in academic literature. For the case of Hong Kong for small and medium-sized enterprises in hospitality business, the distribution is somewhat different and somewhat coherent with earlier studies.

Strong motivators are: becoming independent and the own boss (pull factor), change of lifestyle (pull factor; in case of Hong Kong flexible working hours and flexible workplace), increase of income (push factor), as well as other reasons like lack of options for corporate position or access to Hong Kong via related visa schemes.

7. Digitalization

Digitalization and social media is regarded important in more than two thirds of the respondents (67.5%), while 21.8% regard it as being important. Only a small proportion of the respondents find digitalization and social media rather unimportant (9.8%) or unimportant (1.0%). In the case of Hong Kong, digitalization is fourfold: social media for advertising, chat applications for communication, online payment and mobile payment solutions for locals and tourists, processing of tax via online application.



Furthermore, we have been asking for examples of digital applications:

Facebook and OpenRice to promote the local business. These platforms allow to promote the own business and receive feedback from customers. A badge system helps to increase awareness and recognition (replication).

Whatsapp and Wechat: both applications have underlying principle of one-to-one and one-to-many communication. These applications are rather used on mobile devices than on desktop solutions. Since in Hong Kong the Western and the Chinese social media paradigm are blending into each other, customers are using one or both applications. In terms of Western users, Wechat is a rather new experience and not widely used, what absolutely dominant in China.

Octopus, ApplePay or Alipay. In contrast to Europe, mobile payment is strongly on the rise in Asia. Especially Hong Kong and China show a high degree of growth in terms of the acceptance of mobile payment. This has been started in Hong Kong with an RFID value card system (Octopus), a system known in Europe e.g. London, UK, to transfer small payments in public transportation or convenient shops. Recently, ApplePay (Alibaba) is on the rise in Hong Kong as well as the Chinese based WechatPay or Alipay. The latter two are extremely important for Chinese tourists visiting the city, since China has currency restrictions in place, the axis II credit cards are still limited, and the handling of cash for most of people bothersome. Those in other reasons need to abide the acceptance of mobile payment solutions even for micro business in China. Based on this habit by the customers, Hong Kong businesses are forced into the acceptance on mobile payment solutions.

IMPROVEMENT OF VENTRICULAR REMODELING AFTER MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION BY PANEX QUINQUEFOLIUS SAPONINS AND THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH ASPIRIN AND CLOPIDOGREL

MA Yan, Medical University of Vienna

SHI Dazhuo, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences

ZHANG Dongmei, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine

WANG Shukui, Nanjing Medical University

Myocardial infarction (MI) can be a killing disease. It is one of the major causes of heart failure (HF). Every sixth man and every seventh woman in Europe died from MI. Due to changes in lifestyle over the past decade the incidence of MI has been increasing in China. Recovery from MI is characterized by stages of initial inflammation, angiogenesis, fibroblast proliferation, and collagen deposition, followed by scar formation in the maturation and remodeling phase leading to infarct area expansion and dilatation of the heart by left ventricle (LV) remodeling, and ultimately develops into chronic HF. The current medical treatment of MI includes antithrombotic therapy, beta-blockers, lipid-lowering therapy, nitrates, calcium antagonists, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, and angiotensin receptor blockers. Still, there is an urgent need for novel additional therapeutic compounds supporting either conservative pharmacological treatment or replacing it by newly identified pharmaceuticals. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has been used in China for centuries for treatment of cardiac disease and is now attracting interest in Western countries as a source of alternative or complementary therapies due to its reputed effectiveness, low cost, and relative absence of side effects. Previous studies provided scientific evidence to support the use of Chinese herbal medicine (CHM) for treating MI and HF. Ventricular remodeling (VR) after acute myocardial infarction (AMI) is a complicated pathological process that includes bulging of the infarcted region, myocardial hypertrophy and myocardial interstitial fibrosis in the non-infarcted region, which finally lead to progressive ventricular dilatation, loss of normal morphology of cardiac chamber and decreased cardiac function. Even AMI patients with successful percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) are still on the residual risks of VR. VR is well evidenced to be associated with adverse outcomes and related to increased morbidity and mortality. The current medical treatment of VR after AMI includes angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEI), angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) and beta-receptor blockers. A number of multi-center double-blind controlled clinical trials demonstrated that ACEI could effectively slow down or even reverse VR after AMI, alleviate heart failure symptoms, improve exercise tolerance and improve the quality of life. Although modern medicine has made significant progress in opening clogged and narrow blood vessels and restoring blood flow in ischemic areas, there are still many unresolved issues: (1) The above method is only remedy after the occurrence of cardiovascular events, and even if culprit vessels are treated promptly, the blocking vessels have already caused irreversible damage to myocardium; (2) Arterial thrombosis leading to tissue necrosis, infiltration of inflammatory cytokines, oxygen free radicals outbreak, calcium overloading, endoplasmic reticulum stress response, cell apoptosis, etc., can aggravate VR, and currently, there is no ideal prevention and intervention measure in modern medicine for VR.

Joint meetings in Beijing and in Nanjing, China

A meeting of the “Joint Project on Improvement of Ventricular Remodeling after Myocardial Infarction by Panax quinquefolius Saponins and Their Interactions with Aspirin and Clopidogrel” was held in October 2018 in Beijing and in Nanjing, China.

The professors, cardiologists, postdocs and students of the partner institutions participated in the Joint Meeting. The further related meetings were held in July 10th, 2018 at the Vienna Medical University. One of the outcome of these meetings was the draft of a project with the topic of “Integrative Medicine and multimodal approaches for patients with obesity”, which will be submitted to European Commission in April 2018.

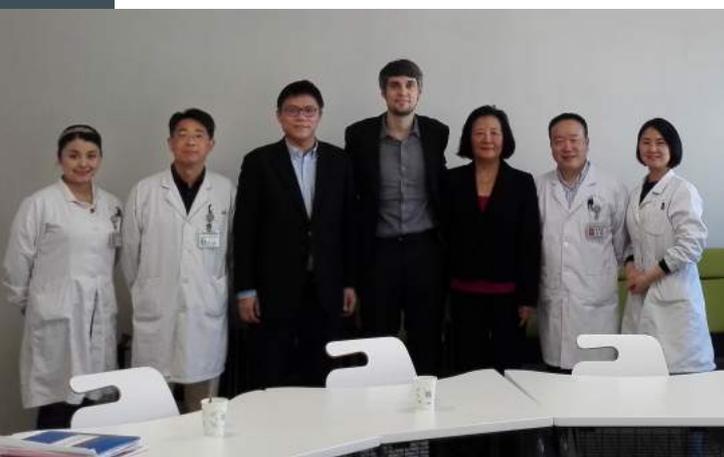
Exchange activities in China and in Austria during this project

Ms. Dr. Ping Zhang from Xiyuan Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing, China visited the Medical University of Vienna from 6th January 2017 to 29th May 2018. She joined our cell culture and clinical research projects. Dr. Zhang has excellent expertise in TCM and herbal medicine research for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. She supported the project of “syndrome diagnosis of traditional Chinese medicine in cardiac amyloidosis: an observational study” during her stay in Vienna. Her visit to the Medical University of Vienna will improve our mutual cooperation in the field of Chinese Medicine research and teaching in the future.

Prof. Dr. Yan Ma visited the China Academy of Chinese Medicine Sciences, the Nanjing Medical University and the Jiang Su Academy of Chinese Medicine Sciences and Nanjing First Hospital, Nanjing Medical University for scientific exchange during this project.

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LANG Michael, Vienna University of Economics and Business

OBENAUS Wolfgang, Vienna University of Economics and Business

LIU Jianwen, Peking University

CAO Mingxing, Peking University

ZHU Yansheng, Xiamen University

WEI Xiong, Wuhan University

The Austrian-Chinese Tax Research Network

Starting from 2008, the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law at WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business), together with the Peking University (PKU), the Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), the Central University of Finance and Economics (CUFE) in Beijing and the Wuhan University (WHU) have established a research network with the focus on international tax law.

Within this cooperation, members of the Institute gave a five-day lecture on international tax law in Beijing to undergraduate students and master students from PKU and CUFE in May 2018. The Austrian Team consisted of Karol Dziwinski, Andreas Langer and Selina Siller.

In July 2018, the 5th Summer School of International Tax Law at Xiamen University took place. The lectures, attended by approximately 100 participants including academics, students, professionals and representatives of the Chinese tax authorities, dealt with recent cases in the field of international tax law and recent developments of the OECD and the UN in the field of taxes. The Austrian Team consisted of Marta Olowaska, Claire Peng, Andreas Ullmann and Jean-Philippe Van West.

On April 17 2018 the 2nd Belt and Road Forum on International Tax Policy was organized at the premises of Vienna University of Economics and Business. High – ranked representatives of the Chinese State Administration (SAT) and Chinese businesses were invited to attend the conference and to present therein. Papers were drafted by the participants of the conference in advance.

On July 21 - 22 2018 a conference on "Addressing Tax Challenges in a Global Digital Environment" was held in Xiamen organised by the WU Global Tax Policy Centre and Xiamen University. This international conference brought together participants from academia, businesses and government out of 23 different countries. . Researchers of the Institute contributed to the discussions at the conference by being members of various panel discussions.

The third meeting of the OBOR International Tax Policy Forum is planned to be held in China in 2019, organised by WU, Peking University Tax Law Center and CUFE. Also a conference in the about "Taxation in Digital Economy" will be held in Xiamen in 2019, organised by the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law and Xiamen University.

Moreover, a Viennese delegation will give a five-day course in Beijing to 4th year undergraduate students and master students from PKU/CUFE in the first half of 2019. Like in the previous years the lecture will focus on tax treaty law and basic case studies. Moreover, a further Viennese delegation will lecture in the 6th Summer School of International Tax Law at Xiamen University in July 2019. The lectures will deal with recent cases of tax treaty law and recent developments of the OECD and the UN in the field of taxes.



„QUALITY OF LIFE: TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY (2017)“

PROJECT 27

HÖFER Stefan, Medical University of Innsbruck

RENN Daniela, Schwaz Hospital

LEE Seung Jong, Seoul National University

SHEK Daniel, The Hongkong Polytechnic University

The annual conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies took place 2016 in Seoul, Korea (25-28. August 2016). The topic of the meeting was “Bridging Quality-of-Life Experiences from East to West”. Prof. Stefan Höfer presented on behalf of his team recent scientific evidence on “Health and Well-being of Medical Students”(Höfer et al. 2016). This project is currently funded by the Austrian Science Fund (P27228-G22). At the meeting Prof. Höfer served as Track Chair, but also made essential contacts with the participants to promote the upcoming annual conference of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies 2017, which was hosted in Innsbruck Austria (27-30. September 2017). A 30 minutes presentation about Austria, Tirol, Innsbruck and in particular about the Universities in Innsbruck (University of Innsbruck, Medical University Innsbruck and Management Center Innsbruck) was part of his active participation (please see also EPU 18/2015).

The successful participation and the ongoing interaction with one of the host of the 14th annual meeting of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (Prof. Lee) led to the active participation of over 60 participants from the Asian region at the 15th annual meeting in Innsbruck (27 – 30. September 2017). The topic of the meeting was “Quality of Life: towards a better society”. In total over 500 delegates from six continents participated in the meeting. The full program and further details of the meeting is available at www.isqols2017.org. The meeting received full media coverage in Tyrol (Tirol Heute, Tiroler Tageszeitung) but also across Austria (OE3 Wecker, Kurier) (please see also EPU 18/2016). A full summary of the conference including photos can be found here: <http://www.isqols.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Innsbruck-Conference-re-cap-2017.pdf>.

This ongoing collaboration over the recent years with support of the EPU was extended into 2018 with the participation of Dr. Renn and Prof. Höfer at the 16th annual meeting of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (Prof. Shek), Honk Kong, Hongkong Polytechnic University (www.isqols2018.hk). The topic of this years meeting was “PROMOTION OF QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CHANGING WORLD”. A summary of the conference incl. photos can be found here: <http://www.isqols.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/2018-Conference-summary-.pdf>.) Prof. Höfer and Dr. Renn presented on the “Value in Action Survey of Character Strenghts”. Based on the presentation and networking activities at theme eting, Prof. Höfer was invited by Prof. Shek to become the Editor of a Special Issue for the Journal of Applied Research in Quality-of-Life studies (Editor Prof. Shek). This journal is the official organ of the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies. Further it was agreed between Prof. Shek and Prof. Höfer to organize in 2019 two workshops, one in Hong Kong at the Polytech University and one in Austria at the Medical University Innsbruck, to foster knowledge exchange for students on the following topics:

Hong Kong: Health and Wellbeing of young adolescents

Austria: Health and Wellbeing of Medical Students and Practitioners



SOIL EROSION IN MONGOLIA: ASSESSMENT METHODS AND PROTECTION MEASURES

KLIK Andreas, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

FAULHAMMER Martina, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

STRAUSS Peter, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences

BOLD Bat, National University of Mongolia

BAATAR Undrakh-Od, Mongolian Academy of Science

Soil erosion is a major threat to the resource soil in Mongolia. It reduces all functions a soil has to fulfill including crop productivity, water and nutrient storage, as well as filtering a buffering of different substances and contaminants. Soil erosion is an irreversible process and, therefore, thresholds should not be exceeded to maintain sustainable soil health. In order to know if the occurring erosion exceeds tolerable soil losses or not, different assessment methods and approaches are available. Until now such methods are not known in Mongolia.

- The overall objective of this collaborative project was to
- introduce new methodologies of soil erosion assessment to Mongolia to determine the current state of soil erosion and
- to select and evaluate appropriate soil protection measures.

The specific objectives were teach soil erosion model theoretically in the class room, to show a method how to collect the right data in field in order to assess the soil erosion, introduce protection measures to improve the soil fertility, develop a manual which can be used by public/farmers/scientists.

In August 2017 Prof. Bat Bold from the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar visited the Institute of Hydraulics and Rural Water Management at BOKU. During his stay we organized a seminar to present the ongoing research at our institute related to soil erosion assessment and mitigation. In addition he presented his recent research focusing on soil quality. We discussed in detail the objectives of the project and worked out a detailed timetable for the soil erosion workshop to be held in Ulaanbaatar.

A one day excursion was organized by Dr. Josef Rosner from the Government of Lower Austria to the Agricultural schools in Mistelbach and Hollabrunn to show our colleagues the newest developments of implements for conservation agriculture. They were shown the long-term erosion plots of BOKU which collect data since 1994. Dr. Rosner also gave a seminar about new technologies of soil tillage. He organized a presentation of different machineries for no tillage systems.

The following day an excursion to the Institute of Land and Water Management Research in Petzenkirchen was organized by Dr. Peter Strauss. We visited the Hydrological Open Air Laboratory (HOAL) which is an extensively scientifically equipped and monitored 60 ha watershed where all processes of water in soil are investigated.

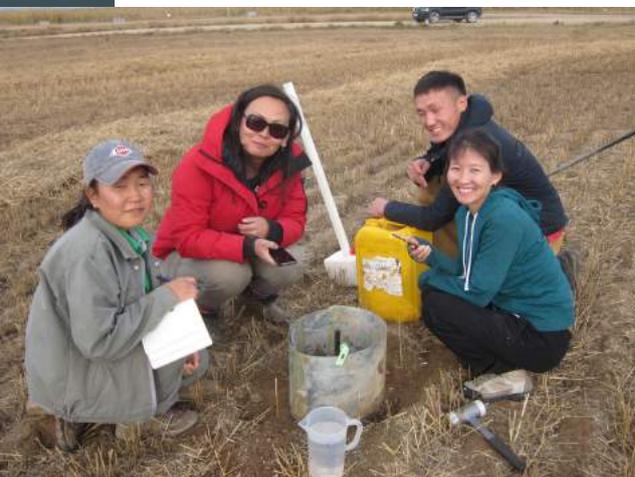
In September 2017 Dr. Peter Strauss and Prof. Andreas Klik visited Mongolia to give a workshop about soil erosion modelling which was organized by Undrakh Baatar. The first day we visited a large farm in the northern part of Mongolia to get familiar with soil and land use in Mongolia as well as with the regional management operations.

During this stay we introduced to the agricultural scientists of the farm methodologies how to measure saturated hydraulic conductivity. Then we performed a measurement in the field. Data were used to teach the scientists about irrigation scheduling and management. Then followed a two day workshop at the National University of Mongolia in Ulaanbaatar.

The first day was dealing with the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE), one of the first soil erosion models. The second day various soil protection measures were presented and their impacts on soil quality and productivity were explained. Overall, 23 teachers of universities, scientists from research institutions and government employees attended the workshop.

For the second part of the workshop Undrakh Baatar organized a two day excursion to the Middle Gobi region. The first day all workshop attendees visited a research facility where different range land management systems were investigated. The participants were taught how to take soil samples and how to determine main physical and chemical properties. A soil survey was undertaken to describe the ecological state of the soil. In the morning of the second day a lecture about fundamental soil physics was given. On the way back to Ulaanbaatar different other ecological areas within the Middle Gobi region were visited.

This workshop was a first step to raise awareness about soil erosion and its negative impacts on soil functions in Mongolia. All attendees were very interested in the subject and told us that it increased their knowledge. To know the actual soil erosion rates and about possible mitigation measured is a first step to maintain and improve crop productivity of Mongolian soils.



WORKSHOP TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION & PARTICIPATION: GUANGZHOU (CHINA)

SCHOSSBOECK Judith, Danube University Krems
PARYCEK Peter, Danube University Krems
SCORIC Marko, City University of Hong Kong
KOBAYASHI Tetsuro, City University of Hong Kong
ZHENG Yueping, Sun Yat-sen University

PROJECT
30

From 21-23 July 2018 the workshop Technology Revolution and Public Administration took place in Guangzhou, China. This workshop was sponsored by a grant from the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (EPU). Researchers from the Centre for E-Governance at Danube University Krems and the Department of Media and Communication at City University Hong Kong took part. It was hosted by the Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou.

The first session addressed aspects of governmental innovation, e-governance and digital and mobile governance. A particular emphasis was on governmental hotlines and artificial intelligence as well as accessibility of hotlines, f.i. through the usage of languages (50 different languages can be selected in New York, for instance. In general, the case of New York was mentioned a couple of times with view to open data practices, and can be seen as a best practise or model for inspiration). Examples from New York also included open data contests (Big Apps 3.0) and open data principles. It is interesting that Big Data was called a “tiger flying” in this context – hinting at the different techno-positive metaphors of datafication that seem to be found for this phenomenon around the world. This would certainly make for interesting research. Another big emphasis was on the usage of AI, for instance for governmental services like the governmental hotline. The governmental hotline in Guangzhou is called 12345 (and can be seen everywhere, for instance in taxis), and a few presentations were held around this topic.

Political participation and social media

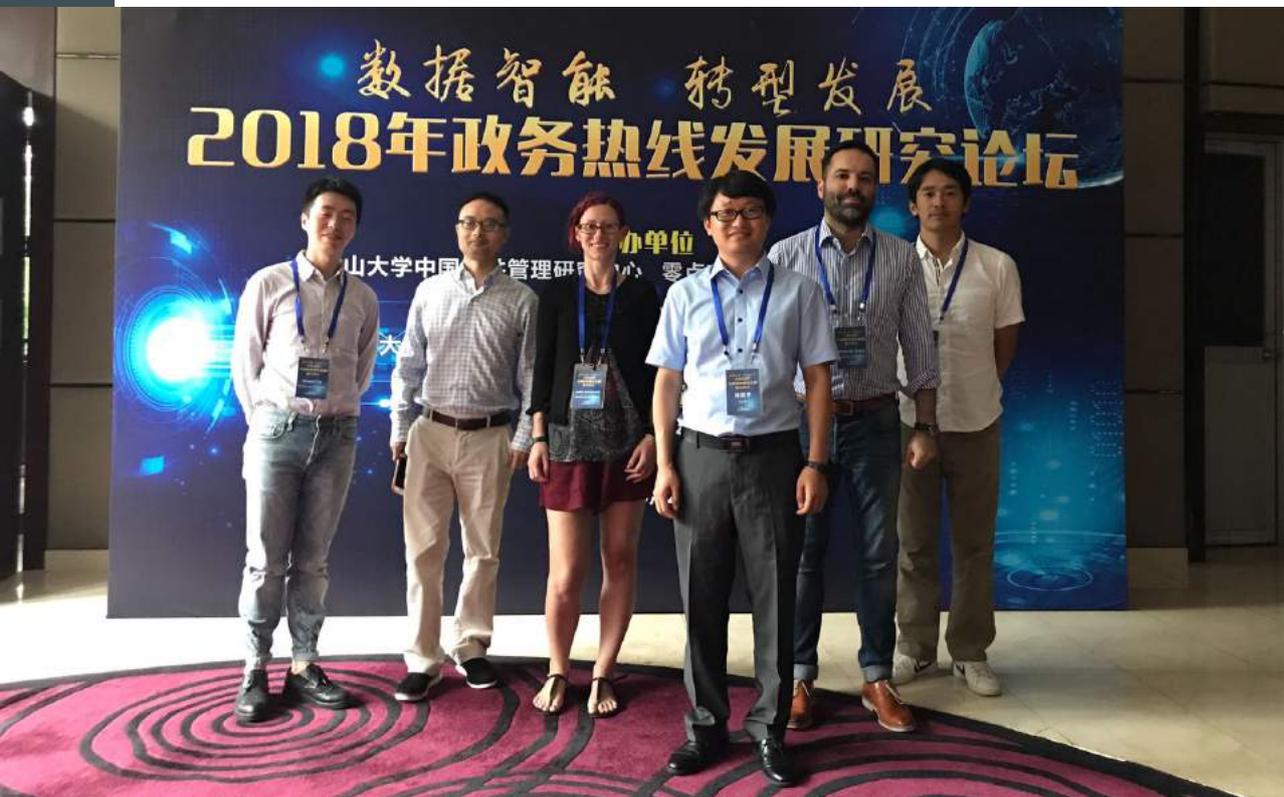
The second session of the workshop addressed aspects of political participation, civic engagement and social media in a global and Asian context. The following presentations were held:

- Why are politically active people avoided in East Asia? (Tetsuro Kobayashi)
- Dynamics of government attention and public opinion in post-handover Hong Kong (Fei Shen and Chuanli Xia)
- The impact of informational use of social network sites vs. messaging apps on citizen engagement: A comparative study of Asian societies (Marko M. Skoric)
- Digitally networked health advocacy (Judith Schossboeck)

It became apparent that political participation is evaluated differently in different societies (people socially distance themselves more from people who participate in protests in countries like China and Japan for instance) and that relating civic engagement to specific media (for instance applications versus classic social media) stays difficult, due to the dynamic nature of social media and different usage patterns around the world (for instance, Americans still use more texting compared to instant messaging apps).

Regarding governmental responsiveness, the influence of current events is strong, and results differ according to different governmental domains.

This emphasises the importance of new research areas that are investigating current events or disasters. When it comes to health advocacy in a digitally networked environment, social media can offer a place for the creation of alternative illness narratives, discourses and practices, and patients often choose between competing narratives that promote or contest classic medical paradigms. Newer research, like the one addressing the nature of fake news, tries to shed more light on online paradigms and why they might travel so fast. Participants enjoyed a networking dinner with the hosts afterwards. Participants were f.i. invited to a dinner in the dinner rooms of the Sun Yat-Sen University, which was joined by more researchers, PhD students and future researchers.



REMOTE SENSING, GIS, AND CARTOGRAPHY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN APPLICATIONS USING CHINESE ZY-3 DATA

KAINZ Wolfgang, University of Vienna
LI Deren, Wuhan University
LI Zhilin, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
ZHOU Qiming, Hong Kong Baptist University
TONG Xiaohua, Tongji University

PROJECT
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The Chinese earth observation satellite system ZY-3 is the first civilian satellite of China. The University of Vienna has a cooperation agreement with the Satellite Surveying and Mapping Application Center of the National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geo-Information of the Peoples Republic of China with the aim to use, promote, and conduct research with ZY-3 data.

This project's objectives were to

- conducts scientific exchange with leading universities in China on the use of satellite remote sensing data for various environmental and urban applications
- organize a workshop in Vienna on the use of Chinese earth observation data
- present and publish results of the use of ZY-3 data for applications in Austria to the Chinese partners
- establish organized links between universities
- give lectures for Chinese researchers, graduate students, and environmental scientists from rural and urban areas

Due to limited funding, only the workshop with participation of leading Chinese universities (Wuhan University, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Tongji University), the Chinese Satellite Surveying and Mapping Center (SASMAC), and Austrian companies (Geoville, Synergis) was organized in Vienna (China-Sat-Workshop See <http://china-sat-workshop.univie.ac.at/>) on June 11-12, 2018. This workshop should be the first in a series of workshops in Austria and China to promote and demonstrate the applications of Chinese satellite data. An additional trip of W. Kainz to Wuhan for further discussions was partly funded by this project.

More information about the workshop can be found on the workshop web page. A follow up project to complete the original objectives has been submitted for the 2018 call.

Workshop on Earth Observation with Chinese Satellite Systems

44th Meeting of the Austrian Cartographic Commission (ÖKK)

Program

Monday, 11 June 2018

08:00 – 09:00	Registration Aula, Campus of the University of Vienna
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Prof. Regina HITZENBERGER (Vice Rector – University of Vienna) Prof. João ALVES (Dean – Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy) Prof. Wolfgang KAINZ (Department of Geography and Regional Research)
09:30 – 10:30	Opening Keynote Prof. Jianya GONG (Wuhan University) <i>High Precision Processing for High Resolution Remote Sensing of China</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:45	Keynote Prof. Xinming TANG (SASMAC) <i>Chinese Mapping Satellites and Cloud Service Platform</i>
11:45 – 12:15	ÖKK Award Ceremony for the Best Master Thesis
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Presentations Prof. Zhilin LI (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) <i>Effect of Spatial Resolution on Extraction of Features from Satellite Images</i> Prof. Qiming ZHOU (Hong Kong Baptist University) <i>Application of ZY-3 Satellite Images in Central Asia</i> Prof. Xiaohua TONG (Tongji University) <i>Jitter Detection, Separability and Compensation of High-Resolution Satellites</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:00	Presentations Christian HOFFMANN (GeoVille) <i>Copernicus Land Monitoring in Action – 20 Years of Development</i> Clemens NADERER (SynerGIS) <i>ZY-3 – A Standard Raster Type in ArcGIS Supporting Visualization (2D, 3D) and Analysis</i>
17:00	Closing Session
19:00 – 22:00	Social get-together

Tuesday, 12 June 2018 – Technical Visits

08:30 – 09:30	Hyperglobe Research Group Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna Universitätsstraße 7, III, 1 st floor, 1010 Vienna Demonstration by Renée BICHLER and Andreas RIEDL, Hyperglobe Research Group
10:00 – 11:30	Globe Museum of the Austrian National Library Herrngasse 9, 1010 Vienna, Palais Mollard, Servicedesk Guided tour by Jan MOKRE, Head of Map Collection and Globe Museum Meeting Point: 09:30, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna, main entrance hall or individual arrival at venue
10:00 – 11:00	Tour of Main Building of the University of Vienna Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna Meeting Point: 09:45, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna, main entrance hall or individual arrival at venue
14:00 – 15:30	Austrian National Mapping Agency Schiffamtsgasse 1-3, 1020 Vienna Presentations by Gert STEINKELLNER, Ernst ZAHN, Gerald KOHLHOFER Meeting Point: 13:30, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Vienna, main entrance hall or individual arrival at venue

Website: <http://china-sat-workshop.univie.ac.at>

Workshop Venue

Campus of the University of Vienna
Aula



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MONGOLIAN HEAVY METAL POLLUTED SITES AND THEIR VEGETATION

LICHTSCHEIDL Irene, University of Vienna
SCHMIDT Brigitte, University of Vienna
ADLASSNIG Wolfram, University of Vienna
DISAN Gunbilig, Mongolian Academy of Sciences

PROJECT
36

G. Disan from UB and I Lichtscheidl from UNIVIE combined to investigate heavy metal tolerant plants and to exploit their potential for remediation of mine spoil dumps. Their main goals and achievements were:

Research

We analyzed the vegetation of mine dumps in Mongolia and in Austria in the frame of field work and excursions, in combination also with students courses because of our focus in education. Selected plants were further investigated in the laboratories of UB and UNIVIE.

In Mongolia, we visited: Active copper mine in Erdenet, Active zinc mine in Tsairt, abandoned gold mine in Boro, and coal mine in Tavan Togul.

We selected plants which grow in the most polluted areas for further investigation. They were classified with the help of Dr. Urgamal Magsar (MAS) and Dr. Oyun Batlai, taxonomists in the National University of Mongolia. Prof- Katarzyna Turnau from Krakow University/Poland joined in the second excursion to Mongolia and shared her expertise about microbes in soils and plants.

Laboratory work on plants collected in the areas included analysis of the morphology and anatomy of the selected plants, tolerance of plant cells towards hm and expression of stress symptoms, and uptake or exclusion of hm from the plant body, as well as isolation and characterization of plant endophytes and soil microbes.

Education

In Austria:

IL together with Wolfram Adlassnig and Brigitte Schmidt gave a project practicum about heavy metal stress in plants, from which 2 Bachelor Theses resulted and 4 normal protocols. In several excursions in Austria, IL supervised research projects of Master students in Ecology and Botany.

In Mongolia:

Plenary talks were given in both Symposia about state-of-the-art techniques and research trends. Protocols were and are exchanged about analysis of soils and plants, research papers were and are discussed and best practice of instruments is evaluated. Young Mongolian researcher Ulziinyam Rentsendorj was awarded with an Ernst Mach Stipendium and spends her research stay with IL, UNIVIE to learn and work about the aims of MOVE.

Communication

Communication with and among researchers in Mongolia was achieved by organizing two meetings in UB, one smaller kick-off meeting at the start of the project and one large Symposium at the end of the meeting. A book of abstract resulted.

In Austria, research was extended to cooperation with Polish microbiology colleagues in the frame of the WTZ TrinumPerfectum and common excursions and meetings shaped our common research.

In Mongolia, contact to mining companies was very important for the environmental miners who got information about possibilities of phytoremediation, and for us because we plan now some experimental fields in the mining areas where we can bring our lab results into practice. In addition, also contact to environmental officers of the Communities effected by mining proved very important and yielded start of cooperation between Mongolian researchers and Mining Communities.

We are thankful to EPU/ÖAD for the possibilities offered and the results achieved by this project and attach a detailed report.

General Goals of the project

High concentrations of heavy metals (hm) in soil are highly toxic for organisms. Accordingly, metal mining dumps represent a big danger for the local population. In Mongolia, mining activities in the last two decades have led to seriously destroyed land and dangerous health situation for the population. Environment and eco-systems have suffered strongly due to reckless exploitation of metal mining sites, leaving large contaminated areas with barren soil, leading to contaminated water and making soils disabled for agricultural use and animal husbandary. However, some plants and microbes developed resilience to metal contamination, they can grow in toxic mine spoil heaps. They are candidates for phytoremediation, i.e. growing new healthy vegetation over toxic ground.

Also in Austria, similar as in other middle-European countries, mine waste has remained from earlier exploitation. This is however often not a danger for the environment, because areas are small and in remote regions, but they are, on the contrary, hot spots for plants that are tolerant to hm.

Accordingly, G. Disan from Institute of Chemical Ecology in Academy of Sciences of Mongolia (GD/UB), and I Lichtscheidl from Cell Imaging and Ultrastructure Research, University of Vienna (IL/UNIVIE) combined to investigate heavy metal tolerant plants and to exploit their potential for remediation of mine spoil dumps.

Soil is the basis of terrestrial life, particularly for agriculture, forestry, and general land-use by man. We therefore focused in the frame of this project on the terrestrial ecosystem in heavy metal polluted land and the biota within, it is plants and their root systems. They interact and also actively shape their environment. We investigated the vegetation of hm contaminated areas in Mongolia and in Austria for hm tolerant plants that can be used either for stabilizing hm in the soil, hence preventing uptake by plants and seepage into groundwater ("phyto-stabilization"), or for extracting hm from soil by plants specialized in hyper-accumulating hm ("phyto-extraction", "phyto-mining"), or for the production of high biomass gain from growth of short-rotation plants for bio-energy production. It is of importance that plants are studied and selected, which have their origin in the areas of interest, because they are adapted to the ecological situation and they cause no harm considering invasiveness and replacement of native vegetation. Plants and soils are also heavily influenced by soil microbes such as fungi and bacteria, as well as by endophytic microbes. Big efforts have been started to improve plant growth in difficult ecologic situation by supplementing them with beneficial microbes (eg UMBRELLA, Wernitznig et al.2013). We therefore invited Prof Katarzyna Turnau from University of Krakow in Poland to cooperate in our project and she thankfully accepted. She has joined us so far in our research and field work, in our symposium and communication efforts, and in our teaching and education goals.

The results of our One Year project MOVE can be summarized according to the following main goals: Research – Education - Communication

Research

In the main focus of our research was the investigation of plants that are tolerant to soil pollution by hm. Accordingly, we analyzed the vegetation of mine dumps in Mongolia and in Austria in the frame of field work and excursions, in combination also with students courses because of our focus in education. Selected plants were further investigated in the laboratories of UB and UNIVIE.

Field work was carried out in Austria and in Mongolia in order to analyze the vegetation in hm rich soil investigate the reactions of plants to hm develop measures how to mitigate toxic environmental situations.

In Austria, we focused on abandoned silver and zinc mines in Ramingstein/Sbg and Arzberg/Stmk abandoned copper mine in Reichenau/NÖ natural nickel and chromium rich Serpentinite areas in Redlschlag/Bgld, Kraubath/Stmk, Pernegg/Stmk abandoned copper mines in Hüttschlag/Salzburg We attach vegetation lists and students' reports. They were/will be incorporated into our BIOREM database www.biorem.univie.ac.at.

In Mongolia, we visited active copper mine in Erdenet Active zinc mine in Tsairt abandoned gold mine in Boro coal mine in Tavan Togol.

We could not make a complete list of vegetation, but we selected plants which grow in the most polluted areas for further investigation. They were classified with the help of Dr. Urgamal Magsar (MAS) and Dr. Oyun Batlai, taxonomists in the National University of Mongolia.

The ecologic situation of the areas will be taken up into the BIOREM data base. Pictures of the classified plants were communicated to colleagues from Greifswald University and will be incorporated into the website of Virtual Guide to the Flora of Mongolia by the University of Greifswald (<https://floragreif.uni-greifswald.de/floragreif/>).

Laboratory work on plants collected in the areas included: Analysis of the morphology and anatomy of the selected plants (eg hairs, glandular cells, special kinds of root re-inforcements ...)

Tolerance of plant cells towards hm and expression of stress symptoms uptake or exclusion of hm from the plant body: acid digestion of soils and plants, measuring the hm content chemically by ICP-OES localize hm in plant tissue by EDX in the scanning electron microscope.

In a further step, GD started to analyze stress metabolites in Zinc- and Nickel hyper accumulating plants by LCMS-QTOF instruments.

Education

We are well aware that we need the experience and dedication of young researchers to do active research in the field and promote progress for bioremediation. We therefore both have a strong motivation to teach in the frame of organized courses and in the frame of Bachelor- and Master Theses.

In Austria

IL together with Wolfram Adlassnig and Brigitte Schmidt gave a project practicum about heavy metal stress in plants, from which 2 Bachelor Theses resulted about *Noccaea caerulea* in serpentinite and about different species of *Silene* in copper, nickel and zinc rich soil. Also 4 normal protocols were made from those participants who had their Bachelor Thesis already finished. In several excursions, IL went with the students to Hirschwang/Rax (copper mine waste), Ramingstein and Arzberg (zinc waste), and to the natural serpentinite areas in Redlschlag, Kraubath and Pernegg.

Both, practicum and excursions were organized together with Stephan Krämer and Jan Wiederhold from the Geological Department in the frame of their Master student course about heavy metals in soils, and with strong cooperation of GD.

For understanding of the cooperation of soil microbes in plant tolerance towards copper, IL worked in the abandoned copper spoil heap "Schwarzwand" together with Katarzyna Turnau from Institute of Environmental Sciences, University of Krakow/Poland.

In the frame of a specific research project for Ecologists and for Botanists, hands-on training in plant cell physiological techniques was given and 3 small projects were finished about the copper tolerant plant *Saxifraga stellaris* from a copper mine waste in Schwarzwand/Sbg, about *Rumex acetosella* from copper and zinc rich areas, and about different species of *Noccaea* in nickel and zinc rich soil.

In the frame of the Department Seminar of IL, topics and results were presented and discussed. In the frame of Ernst Mach program, the young researcher Ulziinyam Rentsendorj was awarded to spend a research stay at CIUS, UNIVIE. In her currently running research in Vienna, Mrs. Ulziinyam Rentsendorj specializes in various techniques e.g. SEM-EDAX, ICP as well as wet chemistry sample processing. Up to date, she is analyzing samples collected during this particular project with above techniques and a separate report will follow with fine details of her results at the end of scholarship period. Preliminary observations show a positive and reproducible data well following the current environmental conditions and their vegetation. Participation in excursions, lectures/seminars and project related discussions is an essential part of her stay.

In Mongolia

Plenary talks were given in both Symposia about state-of-the-art techniques and research trends. Protocols were and are exchanged about analysis of soils and plants, research papers were and are discussed and best practice of instruments is evaluated.

Communication

Communication between partners and also with companies, artisanal miners and authorities is of paramount importance for successful remediation. We therefore made more excursions and meetings than could be funded, but we paid from our own sources because we think that it was important to have two meetings in UB, one at the beginning so that we could start our plant work, and one in the end where we could explain also to stakeholders what we found and what could be done to improve the environmental situation. Meetings in Austria occurred in the frame of common excursions and invited guest seminars, where also our long-term colleagues Katarzyna Turnau and her post-doc assistants, Przemek Rysak and Piotr Rozpadek from University of Poland participated, and Marek Vaculik and his PhD student Jan Kovac from University of Bratislava/SK.

Communication with and among researchers in Mongolia

was started with a kick-off meeting in July 2017 in Ulaanbaatar at the start of the project year, in July 2017. Colleagues from the Academy of Sciences in UB and from the National University in Mongolia participated; they showed great interest and shared their experience with us. This led us to organize a 1st International Symposium about Mongolian heavy metal rich sites and their vegetation in UB at the end of the project year, in June 2018.

Communication with mining companies in Mongolia

In Mongolia, we were received by the Environmental Scientists of:

Boroo Gold Mine, a former open pit gold mine which was operated from 2004 through to 2015 until a severe environmental accident. The polluted area has been remediated since, and has led to good results. However, there is still a vast amount of arsenic in soil and waters. June 2017. Plants were further analysed in UNIVIE. Soil was analysed in UB.

Tsairt Mineral, the largest active zinc mine of the region, is a joint venture by the Mongolian and Chinese Investors. Ore is deposited in two large heaps before further processing. The company provided data of hm in soils and led us to various areas in order to investigate the vegetation. June 2018. Plants were further analysed in UNIVIE.

Tavan Tolgoi Coal Mine, is one of the world largest coking coal deposit (estimated 6.4 billion tons) located in South Gobi is under operation since 2010. Divided into six different operation sites all of them owned by Erdenes Tavan Tolgoi, a government owned company. Dust generated by operation especially, the amount of PM 10 and PM 2.5 particle tends to increase in the area. Excess use of ground water and its scarcity has a long term environmental effect according to the environmental department. Both plant and soil samples were analysed in UNIVIE.

Erdenet Copper-Molybdenum Mine, the largest active copper mine of the region, presents a serious threat for the environment due to the finely grounded ore remains as well as to mine drainage. The company, however, did not allow us to enter. We could observe and take samples only from outside of the fences. Samples were taken from the mining wastewater impoundment. Level of metalloids in mining discharge after ore concentration and its dust from tailing beach cause severe environmental pollution in the urban area. Plant and soil samples are under investigation in UNIVIE.

Communication with Communities in Mongolia

Erdenet City Department of nature, environment and tourism and the head and senior officers welcomed us. Visit of mining discharge area was guided by one of the environmental officers. Baruun-Urt City, is a seat of Tsairt Mineral LLC. Meeting with environmental specialists from the Sukhbaatar province department of nature, environment and tourism. Reports on local flora, environmental management reports etc. was kindly provided for our research purpose as a reference.

Ulaanbaatar is a seat of most academic organizations in Mongolia. Successful meetings with numerous scientists from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences (e.g. Secretary General Dr. Avid Budeebazar, Director of the Institute for chemistry and chemical technology. Dr. Jargalsaikhan Lkhasuren and colleagues e.g. Dr. Azzaya Tumendelger, Badgaa Amarsanaa) as well as Prof. Dr. Oyun Batlai (head of department for biology, National University of Mongolia), Assistant Prof. Dr. Buyan Chuluun (Department for Chemistry, NUM) et al. during official visit was held. Meeting with environmental officials from the Ministry of nature and green development, Dr. S. Bayarkhuu, former scientist in the field of gene banking was also held.

In media, a newspaper interview (D. Gunbilig, "Plants with potential for soil remediation" Daily News 2018 June 15 p.19) and a series of TV news and short interview with Prof. Dr. Irene Lichtscheidl in TV6 channel broadcasted (See Appendix 3).

Continuation and Sustainability of the Project MOVE

Our activities awoke sufficient interest so that the former colleague of G Disan from ICCT, Academy of Sciences, Amarsanaa Badgaa, considers to apply for financing for a research project on phytoremediation of industrial/oil polluted urban areas for the next fiscal year of 2019-2020.

In continuation of this project in the frame of EPU, we apply for MOVE-ON, the chemical and physiological analysis of Mongolian plants stressed by heavy metals and by water deficiency. This will also include again the cooperation of Katarzyna Turnau and her expertise about microbes in soils and in plants.

In Austria, we continue to analyse the collected samples in the laboratory in the frame of specific research projects with young researchers (Bachelor and Master students) in order to gain two, hopefully three publications.

EXCHANGE OF STRATEGIES IN TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT EUROPE ASIA IN MASTERCLASSES FOR CHAMBER MUSIC AND VIOLIN

BING Yu, Central Conservatory of Music Beijing

BAEK Ju-Young, Seoul National University Music College

I left Vienna on November 13th and arrived on November 14th at the Beijing Airport to continue my flight to Seoul after a stopover of three hours.

After my arrival I took a cab to the National University where I stayed at the guest house on campus for the following days.

The campus is quite impressive and the Seoul National University (SNU) certainly ranks among Asians leading Universities. With roots in 1895 it exists in today's formation as a unification of 10 Seoul colleges.

Within the Music College the strongest asset in the musical education is most likely the instrumental department, in this case namely the string department where the students can apply for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.

During a student's four years of undergraduate studies, each semester's curriculum includes core courses. In addition, students are also required to take string ensemble courses, orchestral classes, and chamber music classes. Students not only study instruments of their own major but also study other areas of music such as the history of Western music, musical analysis, harmonics, counterpoint, sight-reading, music dictation as part of their required core major coursework. After four semesters of graduate studies the highest academic honors can be achieved in the doctoral course where the students are required to study the instrument of their major, ensemble work and advanced theory.

The level of the student performances which I heard during the masterclasses for chamber music on the first day (November 15th) and violin on the second (November 16th) was refreshingly high and especially on the instrumental level it was a top international standard. The quality of the chamber music was high but still left some room open for handling stylistic and sound production issues.

After my stay in Seoul I continued my educational trip on the following day to Beijing, China.

At the airport was picked up by the driver from the Conservatory and brought to the Merchantel Hotel where I stayed during my visit.

On November 18th a graduate student met me at the lobby and guided me to the Central Conservatory of Music, which is located within 10 minutes of walking distance.

At the performance hall I met Professor Yu Bing, who is teaching violin and chamber music and he was my host during my stay. His former education has a strong Viennese background in studying with Prof Franz Samohyl in the seventies at the Wiener Musikhochschule, which is now known as University of Music and Performing Arts (mdw).

On both days I listened to chamber music performances of pieces of the main repertoire like Mendelssohn, Schubert and Mozart.

The performances showed a high standard on the instrumental level as well as in ensemble playing.

In my opinion, the chamber music education is still ranked second behind the more supported solo skills but there are unquestionable efforts going on to point out the values of chamber music in general and string quartet in particular. Like in many Universities in Asia it seems to be important to show and explain to their administrative leaders that chamber music carries all core qualities you need to be a good orchestra player or even soloist.

To form a strong musical personality chamber music serves as a tool, which not only focuses on detailed musical strategies but also needs to develop a higher sense of communicating skills within a group. The communication process not only happens in musical performances but also in building up an ensemble identity. The experiences in social aspects when playing in a chamber music group are as helpful in the musical development as they are in normal life.

Also is a career as a free-lance chamber musician not as easy to achieve as one might think.

The development of chamber music in the CCOM to international excellence level would certainly need some more efforts like hiring first rate teachers and guest lecturers who would work with the students on a regular basis. Some steps in that direction were already taken by the school in adding an experienced chamber musician, Professor Frank GF Yang, who partly lives and performs in the US, to the faculty.

The interest in studying in Europe is certainly strong among many students and mostly can be realized on the master's level. However there are concerns from Chinese authorities not to lose highly advanced musicians to the European job market.

An intensified musical cooperation between the CCOM and the mdw might certainly lead to an increasingly high interest in the use of supported exchange programmes for both, students and teachers.



TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND TRANSCULTURAL PERFORMANCE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND AUSTRIA

KRETZ Johannes, Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien
Chinese Culture University Taiwan

The collaboration with artists, scholars and cultural managers in Taiwan between 5th and 24th of September 2017 was intense and many-sided. As it appears to be rather typical for Taiwan, besides the planned activities a multitude of unplanned occasions and interesting perspectives occurred on the way.

The concept of the concert with the Taipei Grass Mountain Folk Orchestra (headed by Prof. Tsun-Shin Huang / Chinese Culture University Taiwan) on September 10th, 2017 in the Recital Hall of Taipei National Concert Hall aimed to find new ways of musical expression on the basis of traditional Chinese instruments and playing techniques in order to create a bridge between past and present as well as between different cultural premises. This implied on one hand the creation of a new artistic space with the help of methods of composition, notation and live electronic sound processing, which would give the involved musicians enough freedom to include traditional ways of sound articulation into a more contemporary context. On the other hand the collaboration also developed into including a socio-political dimension, partly through including videos of the Iranian / Austrian visual artist Mahdieh Bayat.

In this way a program of new compositions for Chinese instruments by composers from Taiwan and Austria was presented, which opened a wide range of perspectives: The world premieres of compositions by Johannes Kretz took a central role and also required the development of various artistic approaches. In black tide echo for erhu, pipa, dizi, guzheng, Chinese ensemble and live electronics the musicians together realized a drone-like sound scape with continuous development. This drone was transformed with the help of live electronics in a particular way: selected songs from the Tao, an indigenous Taiwanese minority living on Lanyu island (Orchid island), were analysed with regard to their microtonal pitch curves. This analysis was then used to modify the sound of instruments in the concert in a subtle way. (The recordings of the Tao songs could not directly be heard by the audience, only their indirect effects – how they modified the instrumental sounds in the hall – were exposed. This approach was not merely a technical experiment. In the sense of artistic research the idea was rather the verification of a hypothesis: Since the Tao regard the structuring and articulation of certain melodies from their tradition as direct representation of the nature of ocean waves, the transformation of the instrumental drones in the concert hall based on the analysis of specific Tao melodies should have the effect of introducing the perception of ocean waves into the music. The numerous audience was able to perceive this effect quite clearly.

In soundspace dreamland for Chinese ensemble and live electronics special aspects played an important role. The musicians were split into three groups of four musicians each (4 PIPAs, 4 Erhus, 4 Dizis). Each group performed a specific musical material, which was handed over from player to player in time. Nevertheless, the complexity of the material was increased from round to round with particular embellishments. In this way interleaved rotating movements manifested and delved into a spiral of sound progressions.

The composition parallel universe carousel for Chinese Ensemble challenged the musicians in a different way. In this work the musical structures were developed together in real time.

Based on given musical motives the musicians received instructions through an iPad remotely controlled through WLAN, inviting them to change their behaviour constantly. Each of four different groups of musicians was confronted with various categories of instructions. Through a combination of styles (traditional Chinese, contemporary), emotions (sad, happy, aggressive, peaceful) and gestures (up, down, repeating, wavelike) the composer was able to influence a highly complex architecture of sounds in real time. Performers and composer entered an exciting dialogue (one could even say: a “cat and mouse game”).

Finally the composition act pure for Chinese ensemble, live electronics and video guided back into reality. The video by Mahdieh Bayat showed the issue of a nuclear waste facility on Lanyu island (orchid island, Taiwan) visually, also in opposition to the fact that Taipei city is getting cleaner and cleaner. The interaction of visual and musical performance created an expression of socio-political responsibility.

After the concert on Sept. 10th various opportunities of intense thought exchange continued, for example with colleagues of National Dong Hwa University in Hualien. This university has a strong focus on the issues of indigenous groups in Taiwan. Currently the foundation of a new university for indigenous knowledge in Taiwan is prepared there. This project is particularly interesting in the context of the activities of Wei-Ya Lin (ethnomusicology) and Johannes Kretz (composition, artistic research), who can look back on 12 years of collaboration with indigenous groups, artists and scholars. Furthermore, since Austrian art universities have a strong experience in developing those concepts, which allow to extend academic systems through additional concepts of knowledge production (those exceeding spoken/written academic language), this might lead to promising future collaborations. (The concept of “Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste” / “development and advancement of the arts” as introduced for the transitions of art academies into universities might play a key role here).

This thought exchange provided interesting perspectives for all participants, who are very interested in future collaborations. In the same way the meeting with the head of the Museum of Contemporary Art Taipei was promising. MOCA will host the prize winners of the coming Pulima prize for Taiwanese indigenous artists.

Finally, an invitation by Prof. Wen-Yea Lu for giving a guest lecture at the Taipei National University of the Arts – for colleagues and students of composition and of musicology – presenting the approach of Johannes Kretz and Wei-Ya Lin of integrating of indigenous music traditions and contemporary forms of composition completed the project.

現代音畫遙思

維也納現代藝術大師



作曲・電子樂 / Johannes Kretz



畫家 / Mahdiah Bayat

2017
09/10 sun. PM 4:30

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(Black tide echo)・

(Soundscape dreamland)・

(Parallel universe carousel)・

曲文軍 (渭水情)・

高松華 (咏)・

許纓姪 (星空・阿納絲塔夏)・

羅永輝 (器)・

趙松庭 (鷓鴣飛)・

曲大衛 (紅土印象)・

琵琶 陳翠芳



二胡 林奕忠



琵琶 田鴻秀



笛 蘇文靜



鋼琴 黃理登



古箏 許纓姪



二胡 張恩航



Johannes Kretz

國立維也納音樂表演藝術大學作曲與電音學院院長

Mahdiah Bayat

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SWISSINO MUSICAL TALENT STUDY

LIN Wei-Ya, Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien
TSENG Yu-Fen, National Taiwan University

PROJECT 39

The project SwisSino Musical Talent Study started in the summer of 2017, is based on a collaboration between the Lucerne University of Music, Geneva University of Music, Beijing Normal University, the Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, Soochow University (PRC), National Taiwan University and National Chiayi University (ROC), aims to identify similarities and differences in the concept of talent development education in the area of primarily globalized art music of European tradition, in places with different pedagogical and cultural traditions. The project aims to collect data on conceptions in East China (Taipei, Chiayi, Beijing, Suzhou) and Switzerland (Geneva, Lucerne) – on the one hand from the perspective of students (by researching their biographies and their musical self-concepts), and on the other hand from an institutional perspective (by describing music education contributions and their assessments by professionals). The results of the project should enable a deeper understanding of culturally different developments of musical talent education, so that the differences of musical talent development in intercultural settings can be defined. Furthermore, this project aims to develop strategies for supporting musical talent development in researched contexts.

The project takes the fact into account that the art music of European tradition is dominated by conservatoires not only in Europe but also in Eastern Asia (in this case PRC and ROC). There is an exchange between lecturers and students from both regions, especially by many young people from China studying in Europe. In this exchange, equalization tendencies as well as culture-specific factors are important influences in the conception of talent development in higher music education institutions. Although comparative education has taken up issues of talent development in various fields, it has hardly been explored in the domain of European art music. The project should therefore provide the first answers on how to differentiate or harmonize talent promotions in the context of globalized music education.

In this international project SwisSino Musical Talent Study on comparative genealogy in the field of European art music, I took over the role as a scholarly consultant. I supported translation of the central concepts incorporated in the SwisSino Musical Talent Study, such as “giftedness” or “music” into Chinese, and mediated and the pre-structured interview questionnaires between the Swiss project partner Marc-Antoine Camp and the Taiwanese research partner Tseng, Yu-Fen, as well as participating the discussions during September 1th to 7th in Taipei.

Because of my research project Bi-/Multimusicality (2016-2017) at the Department of Folk Music Research and Ethnomusicology at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw) on the one hand, I was invited by the Taiwanese partner Tseng, Yu-Fen for a lecture on September 22nd at the Taipei National University of Arts in Taiwan.

This gave an insight of the talents studying and working at the mdw, such as the musical and artistic facets and outputs of bi-/multimusical students and teachers.

Between September 7th and 11th I travelled with the Swiss partner to National Dong Hwa University in the Huanlien City of the eastern part of Taiwan for establishing further possible cooperation. Since Taiwan President Tsai, Ying-Wen intends to develop strategies for empowering indigenous communities; an university from the indigenous perspectives should be authorized by the Taiwanese parliament in the beginning of 2018.

The Swiss partner Marc-Antoine Camp (also a board member of the Swiss UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage committee), Johannes Kretz (department dean of the Department of Composition, Electro-Acoustics and Tonmeister Education), Bernd Brabec (well-known ethnomusicologist in South American indigenous study) and myself (ethnomusicologist with 12 years experiences with Taiwanese indigenous study) could apparently give constructive suggestions for this preparation process. The future director of this indigenous university, at the same time the dean of the Ethnology College of the National Dong Hwa University – Pu, Chung-Cheng and one of the associated professor in anthropology in the same college – Yang, Cheng-Hsien wished to invite us again in 2018 for an international conference for discussing more details about this indigenous university establishment. Also they wished to invite us for an on-month lecture at the National Dong Hwa University in Autumn 2018.

From September 12th to 20th I was able to visit the Lanyu Island, where the indigenous group Tao people live, and with whom I conducted research for my doctoral thesis, accompanied by Johannes Kretz, Mahdieh Bayat and Bernd Brabec. I could record five hours of traditional songs, what were not able to be involved in my PhD thesis. And at the same time, these songs are disappearing today in the Tao people's everyday life.

This trip to Taiwan was fruitful, and all these mentioned persons in this report wish to continue exchanges between Taiwan and Europe, especially with Austrian scholars and artists, in the future.



„TRANSLATION“ - NEW APPROACHES TO MUSIC THEATRE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND TAIWAN

KARGER Reinhard, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

SCHIPHORST Iris ter, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

WANG Hsiao-Yin, Chinese Culture University Taipei

LIN Kueiju, Shi Jian University Taipei

PROJECT
40

The „Translation“ exchange project took place between end of January 2018 and beginning of April 2018 in Vienna, Taipei and Hsinchu.

In January 2018 the two composition professors Hsiao-Yin Wang and Chaoming Tung visited the mdw in Vienna, two presentations about new approaches to music theatre in Taiwan were followed by a whole week of individual lessons with the composition students of Iris ter Schiphorst and Reinhard Karger.

Here are the reports of our taiwanese guests:

Chaoming Tung, Report on the exchange project between the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Taiwan Universities

Participating Professors: Chao-Ming Tung / National Chiao Tung University Hsinchu, Taiwan; Hsiao-Yin Wang / Chinese Culture University Taipei, Taiwan

Title of the lecture: The extension and the transformation of the musical elements in my music theater compositions

The focus of the exchange project is on the "music theater", which is handled in different compositional methods and is related to other forms of art in various ways. Two lectures were given on January 24, 2018 in the MDW Electronic Music Studio at 9:00 and 10:30 by professor Tung and professor Wang. The lecture by professor Tung has the title "The Expansion and Transformation of the Musical Elements in My Music Theater Compositions" and related to his own music theater works. professor Tung explained it with three different aspects of the composition for musical theater:

- Transformation of musical elements into the theatrical ones
- Transformation of theatrical elements into the musical ones
- Symbiotic relationship between music and theater

By "transforming musical elements into theatrical ones", it means that the musical elements such as pitch, rhythm or dynamics could be replaced in the theatrical elements such as lighting, body movements, pictures etc. The musical dynamics could be for instance transformed to the light intensity. As an example, my music theater composition "In Temple" (2001) for Chinese chamber music was taken. By "transforming theatrical elements into the musical ones", it means that the theatrical elements such as lighting, body movement, or pictures could substitute musical elements such as pitch, rhythm or dynamics etc.. The body movements of the musicians could be transformed for instance into the musical rhythms. As an example, my music theater composition "Ponso no Tau" for quintet (2008) was taken.

"The symbolic relationship between music and theater" is based on the interaction that could be realized by modern technology of the sensors and the communication system with the computer. As an example, the multimedia music theater composition "Darwin's Pipa" (2014) was shown.

Before the beginning of the first lecture, the composition "bonds of affection" for pipa and small drum (2016) by professor Tung was performed to give a live example of music theater. After the first lecture, a number of questions were asked which particularly referred to the performance praxis and transforming process of the composition.

To elaborate further on the details of the theme of "Music Theater", individual lessons for students were organized between January 24th and 30th. Professor Tung discussed with the students their own compositions relating to music theater or media compositions. It was a very intensive and inspiring time with professor Tung and all students. Professor Tung has used his experience with the Asian students on this occasion to pull through a kind of "eastern musical thought" in the compositions of Viennese students and to discover something common in both musical cultures, and to explain something new in this aspect. It was a very valuable project for professor Tung and for the students in Vienna. Professor Tung has expressed his gratitude to professor Karger, professor Schiphorst and all students, and his desire to continue the project!

Hsiao-Yin Wang, Report on the exchange project between the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and Taiwan Universities

Participating Professors: Chao-Ming Tung / National Chiao Tung University Hsinchu, Taiwan; Hsiao-Yin Wang / Chinese Culture University Taipei, Taiwan

Date: 2018.01.24

Title of the lecture: The Elements of the Eastern Music in My Compositions for Music Theater

The music theater has found its root in the eastern musical tradition long since. In particular, the traditional drum music is performed with combat-like movements. The movements and shouts of the drummers, the disposition of the percussion instruments as well as the costumes form a kind of music theater that is very different from the western term "music theater". After my studies in Paris, I tried to combine abstract music with the Chinese drum music, whereby I also choreographed the body movements of the drummers.

My lecture is entitled "The Elements of the Eastern Music in My Compositions for Music Theater" and refers to the new form of Chinese drum music that I characterize as stage music composition. Props, language, body movements, martial arts, dance, costumes and lighting are the key elements in my music theater, additionally the traditionally spoken drumming texts as musical content. It is about the fusion of eastern and western musical thoughts, which seek to find common understandings in contemporary music and to form the spirit of our time.

I thank you very much for this wonderful opportunity to present my works in Vienna, and for taking great care of my accommodation, as well as the entire organization that made this exchange project possible and successful. Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to professor Reinhard Karger and professor Iris ter Schiphorst, who took great care of me during my stay. I sincerely hope that the exchange between the two countries could be continued and look forward to meeting you soon!

Between March 26 and April 9 2018 professors Reinhard Karger and Iris ter Schiphorst spent two weeks in Taiwan presenting new ideas about music theatre and their own works in different formats and places:

1 seminar at the Chinese Culture University Taipei about different concepts in new music theatre, presentation of own works

2 seminars at the National Chao Tung University Hsinchu, the first about music theatre, the second about the curriculum of the mdw and presentation of the works of the students of Iris ter Schiphorst and Reinhard Karger

1 seminar at the Shi Jian University Taipei about music theatre with mostly chinese instrumental students, very lively discussions about the topic

concert at the Goethe Institute Taipei (the concert was sold out!), live performance of „An Joseph Roth“ for clarinet solo by Reinhard Karger, performed by Uros Rojko, and „10 miniatures“ for clarinet and accordeon by Iris ter Schiphorst, performed by Uros Rojko and Primoz Parovel, video presentations of „also dann“, music theatre for 2 actors and 2 pianos by Reinhard Karger and „Sinfonie einer Großstadt“, a film by Thomas Schadt with orchestral music by Iris ter Schiphorst and Helmut Oehring.

Remarks by Reinhard Karger

This was my third exchange project with artists in Taiwan and again I was stunned by the intensity of the discussions and the curiosity of our partners (Jessica Wang, Gary Wu, Huikuan Lin, Chaoming Tung, Kueiju Lin). Everything was perfectly organized, and we felt warmly welcomed and overwhelmed by the friendliness of the taiwanese people. Spontaneously some new ideas for future projects emerged, and we all hope to be able to continue our common adventures!

Report by Iris ter Shiphorst

On 26.3. 2018 at 6 o'clock in the morning we arrived in Taipei.. 'We', that is: Prof. Reinhard Karger, his wife Verena Joos and their son Willy, as well as my partner Prof. Uros Rojko, my son Philipp and I myself (like Reinhard Karger Professor of Media Composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna).

Prof. Karger and I had been invited to Taiwan through a project of the Eurasia-Pacific Uninet academic university (EPU) to hold seminars on 'music-theatrical aspects in New Music' in various universities across the country. Since the work of Prof. Karger is closely interwoven with that of writer Verena Joos, it seemed a good idea for them to travel together. The same was true for Uros Rojko and me: because Uros Rojko is not only an outstanding composer, but also an excellent clarinetist; and exactly in this capacity we needed him on this journey: in the concert of the Goethe Institute at the end of our first week he should perform a work by Reinhard Karger, as well as one of my works.

But in turn: One of our hostesses, Huikuan, picked us up from Taipei airport after a 13-hour flight on early Monday morning and first took us to the very pleasant First Hotel. After a short break, however, we left again, because we had date for lunch with the artistic director of the Chinese Culture University Taipei Gerry and some of his colleagues. The Chinese Culture University is located on a mountain with a wonderful view of Taipei and is built in traditional Taiwanese style, incredibly impressive for Europeans.

After lunch we gave our first seminar on 'Theatrical aspects in new music'. First we showed excerpts of our own music theater works in video format (as a precaution we had made Chinese subtitles) and then talked about dramaturgical and compositional details. The students were very interested and there were lively discussions. Afterwards our colleagues showed us the beautiful area of the university (the National Park of Taipei is not far away from the Chinese-Culture-University). It was exciting for us how much the air smelled of sulfur, something normal for the locals, since the island consists of volcanic rock and still it is rumbling below the surface; depending on the weather sulfur odors are rising up from the earth and cover the whole city with their smell.

The next day we went to Chiao Tung University in Hsinchu, where we also gave a seminar on our topic. Again, the discussion showed how interested the students were. It was pretty unusual for us to see how heterogeneous the group was; it consisted not only of composition students, but also of instrumentalists, directing students and computer scientists.

After the seminar, our host, Chaoming, took us to the famous fish market at 'Hsinchu Harbor', an especially memorable experience! Innumerable, sometimes unknown, specimens of marine animals were offered for sale in a huge hall, including snakes, dreadful big crabs, and frogs. We were allowed to put together a lunch from this offer, which was then prepared on the floor above by knowledgeable cooks and finally eaten by us. Very delicious!

After this experience, we went back to Chiao-tung University, where we gave some insights into the media composition as taught at the MDW. There was also a lot of interest in this topic. Maybe some students will eventually come to Vienna to study at the MDW.

The next day we took a taxi to Shi Jian University in Taipei, where we met a colleague named Kueiju Lin, a composer who researches and experiments in the field of new music theater (among other things, she develops robot-like instruments together with computer scientist). to stimulate prepared pianos...).

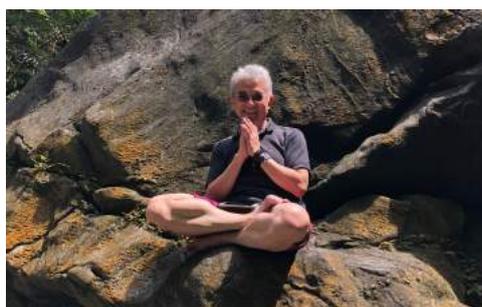
In our opinion, Ms. Lin had particularly open-minded students in her class, and we suspect that this is probably due to her exceptionally experimental and open teaching. She encourages her students in the spirit of John Cage, to investigate any situation in terms of their music-theatrical aspects and to experiment with all conceivable sounds in the most unusual situations. Anyway, the discussion after our seminar was very lively, which we really enjoyed.

Afterwards, Ms. Lin took us to a very pleasant bistro. We exchanged views on the cultural situation of the cities of Vienna, Taipei and Berlin and together we considered how we could bring work from us to Taipei and, conversely, bring the work of our Taiwanese colleagues to Vienna. We will pursue these thoughts.

In the afternoon rehearsals for the concert at Goethe-Institut Taipei for the next day took place. Uros Rojko, who had come with us, rehearsed a solo clarinet piece by Reinhard Karger, as well as the clarinet part of a duo for clarinet and accordion of mine, which he should perform together with Slovenian accordionist - Primos Parovel. Primos has been living and working in Taipei for 6 years. The rehearsals went very well because the musicians were so well prepared; so we were very much looking forward to the concert the next day.

On Friday, the event started at 7 pm with a small speech by the Institute's management in the fully occupied hall in the Goethe-Institut. The first artistic part of the evening started with the clarinet piece by Reinhard Karger, interpreted excellently by Uros Rojko. After that Reinhard Karger showed a video clip of one of his music theater pieces. Finally the spectators were asked to ask questions and, fortunately, a lively question and answer situation ensued.

Then I showed excerpts from the film, Berlin: Symphony of a Big City ' (made in 2000) by documentary filmmaker Thomas Schadt, to which I had composed the music together with my colleague Helmut Oehring. The visitors were very interested in the film, probably because it shows impressive pictures of Berlin and its inhabitants, and thus gives a pretty good insight into the lifestyle of this city.



WORKSHOP ON „CURRENT ISSUES IN GLOBAL STUDIES IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT“ IN TAIWAN

GERSTL Alfred, University of Vienna
KAO Bernard, National Chung Hsing University
LIU Joyce, National Chiao Tung University
CHANG Shoou-Huey, Wenzao Ursuline University

PROJECT 43

From 5 to 19 July 2018, four academics of the University of Vienna conducted a highly successful research trip to Taiwan that included one major international conference at National Chiao Tung University (NCTU) and two workshops, namely at National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) and Wenzao Ursuline University in Kaoshiung. While one university - NCHU - is already a member of the EPU network, the colleagues from the two other universities showed a great amount of interest in the aims of EPU and may consider joining it at a later stage. Furthermore, in the second part of the project, three team members conducted field research on ethnic minorities and indigenous culture in the context of global history.

The interdisciplinary team consisted of four academics of the University of Vienna, namely:

- Dr. Alfred Gerstl (project leader), formerly a postdoc researcher and now a sessional lecturer at the Department of East Asian Studies/East Asian Economy and Society and designated Associate Professor at the EPU partner Novosibirsk State University, Department of Oriental Studies;
Associate Professor Dr. Friedrich Edelmayer (Department of History);
- Dr. Ute Wallenböck (Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies);
- And Associate Professor Dr. Agnes Schick-Chen (Department of East Asian Studies/Chinese Studies).

Initially, Prof. Li Xuetao (Department for Global Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University; and EPU partner university) was supposed to join the team. However, due to the deteriorated political relations between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan he was not able to obtain a visa in time for the research trip. This underlines the importance of unhindered academic exchange, as promoted by EPU.

While Dr. Gerstl, Prof. Edelmayer and Dr. Wallenböck attended all three academic events and conducted the above mentioned field research, Prof. Schick-Chen attended only the first and second events, as she had to travel back to Taipei due to her academic commitments as Taiwan Fellowship holder.

Dr. Gerstl, Prof. Edelmayer and Dr. Wallenböck traveled from Vienna to Taipei on 5 July 2018. While Dr. Gerstl and Prof. Edelmayer returned to Vienna on 19 July 2018, Dr. Wallenböck stayed privately in Taiwan and returned on 2 August 2018. Prof. Schick-Chen's air tickets were covered by her Taiwan Fellowship.

The first academic highlight was a major international summer school for graduate students and postdocs in Hsinchu from 9 to 13 July, organized by the 8th Flying University of Transnational Humanities (FUTH) - a consortium of Sogang University (South Korea), University of Pittsburgh (USA), Cornell University (USA), University of Tampere (Finland), University of Leipzig (Germany), National Chiao Tung University (Taiwan) -, the International Center for Cultural Studies (ICCS-NCTU) and the International Institute for Cultural Studies (IICS-UST). On their website, the organizers prominently stated: „We are happy to take this opportunity to initiate our collaboration with East Asian Economy and Society (EcoS), University of Vienna (Austria)“ (<http://iics.ust.edu.tw/2018FUTH/>).

In her initial statement during the opening ceremony, the organizer Prof. Joycee Liu thanked EPU for financing the trip of the Austrian researchers, thus facilitating the start of a fruitful cooperation with the University of Vienna. Accordingly, EPU was listed as one of the organizers. In his remarks, Dr. Gerstl outlined the aims of EPU, and he invited in formal and informal talks with academic colleagues to join the network. The Austrian team felt honored about the opportunity to present their recent research in a special Round Table on the opening day of the summer school. The event was open to the general public and featured prominently on the website and in the conference brochure. It was attended by approximately 80 people, and both students and academics engaged actively in the Q&A session with the Austrian delegates after their presentations. The Round Table was chaired by Filip Kraus, a Czech Sinologist working at Academia Sinica in Taipei. The topic was:

Round Table: „Insular Anarchy and the Tension in the South China Sea and Culture of Remembrance“

All over the world, the end of the Cold War raised hopes for a new world order, based on international law and multilateral cooperation. Notably in North and Southeast Asia globalization fostered socioeconomic development. Similar to the European Union (EU), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) simultaneously deepened and broadened its regional collaboration. ASEAN-led institutions such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) include the main regional and external actors, notably China, Japan, India, Russia, Australia and the United States.

The regional order created by ASEAN is based on international law, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs, dialogue and consensus (ASEAN Way). However, due to China's rise and the perceived decline of the US, this order faces severe challenges. Notably the strategically and economically vital South China Sea became an arena where different models of order clash. This panel addresses the question whether the claimant nations can resolve their overlapping territorial claims based on International Law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), or if might makes right. A key question is whether insular anarchy can be interpreted as a complete lack of rules or some form of predictable order, e.g. China's traditional tributary system. Another one is how ASEAN deals with the potential insular anarchy.

The second part of this panel deals with the culture of remembrance in East Asia. One dimension are World War II memories as anti-Japanese war memories and how they were abused to create a Republic of China war history (and war legacies) in Taiwan. A means to establish the Chinese mainland memory as the mainstream one were a series of films. To better understand discourses about Vietnamese politics, society and a nation the remembrance of the wars against the French and Americans will be examined.

Speakers:

- **Alfred Gerstl** (Researcher, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)
ASEAN's meditating role in the South China Sea dispute under challenge?
- **Friedrich Edelmayer** (Professor, Department of History, University of Vienna)
Insular Studies in Austria
- **Ute Wallenböck** (Researcher, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)
Museum of local history: Constructing Memory, Presenting Identity
- **Agnes Schick-Chen** (Associate Professor, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna)
Politics of Memory in Sinophone Culture

In addition to their presentations, both Prof. Edelmayer and Dr. Gerstl contributed an article to the Conference Proceedings, namely „Insular Studies in Austria“ and „ASEAN'S meditating role in the South China Sea dispute under challenge?“. In addition to the new international contacts established during the summer school, these contributions are an important outcome of the research trip.

On 11 July 2018, Dr. Bernard Kao (NCHU, College of Law and Politics, Department of Law) organized a half-day workshop for the Austrian delegation in Taichung. It was a fruitful, open exchange about the legal and security situation in the South China Sea as well as the Sino-Taiwanese relations and Taiwan's relations with Southeast Asia. The Taiwanese side was very much interested in the Austrian perspective on the ruling of the Arbitrational Tribunal on the South China Sea in 2016. Due to the informal setting, the Austrian delegates obtained insider knowledge which helps them to better understand the currently difficult political and economic situation Taiwan faces in East Asia. Moreover, as Dr. Kao's Department co-hosts the Tricontinental Master Programme in Global Studies, he was keen to learn from Prof. Edelmayer's experiences with University of Vienna's Master Programme. Their talk about cooperation possibilities will be continued via email in the upcoming months.

In Kaoshiung, the team was welcomed at Wenzao Ursuline University on 12 July. As this university has an internationally renowned language focus, the delegation met with colleagues from the language department, notably from German Studies and other European languages. The team invited Prof. Ida Chu, head of the German Department, and the Dean, Prof. Chang Shoou-Huey, to visit University of Vienna, as they regularly travel to Austria (and Germany). A prominent role in the discussion was the knowledge transfer from University of Vienna's Department of East Asian Studies to Wenzao Ursuline University, as the Taiwanese colleagues plan to establish a new center for Southeast Asian Studies. The focus should rest on international relations and domestic political and economic developments. The center would complete the Southeast Asian language programmes. In addition, Prof. Chang Shoou-Huey agreed to be interviewed by Dr. Gerstl on her fascinating research on Jewish culture and language in Vienna Leopoldstadt (Dr. Gerstl regularly writes for the Austrian Jewish magazine *David*).

At all the three universities, the Austrian team members were invited to apply for visiting professorships in order to teach about International Relations in (South-)East Asia (Dr. Gerstl), Global Studies (Prof. Edelmayer) or various aspects of the Sinophone world (Prof. Schick-Chen and Dr. Wallenböck).

In the second part of the project, Dr. Gerstl, Prof. Edelmayer and Dr. Wallenböck traveled to the East coast (Taiping and Hualien) to conduct field research on the situation of the aboriginal population. The choice for the East coast was reasonable, as the majority of the indigenous people lives there. While it was due to the academic holidays not possible to arrange meetings with colleagues, the team used the opportunity to visit various museums, specialized on history and culture of the indigenous people before the arrival of the Chinese and in particular the Chiang Kai-Shek regime in Taiwan. Back for two days in Taipei, a meeting with Dr. Filip Kraus (Academia Sinica) was organized to critically discuss the newly acquired information and impressions during the trip. We also met him before the conference in Hsin-chu in Taipei to discuss our panel, as he was our chair (with a subsequent dinner).

To sum up: This project must be regarded as highly successful, as the team of the University of Vienna was able to deepen the existing relations with one partner university and established excellent working contacts with two other universities.



WORKSHOP ON ORGANIC FARMING TECHNOLOGY

FRIEDEL Jürgen, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna
DAVAASAMBUU Undarmaa, Mongolian University of Life Sciences Ulaanbaatar

PROJECT
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On 30 June 2017, both working groups hosted a full-day workshop entitled Organic Farming Technology in Agro-ecological School at MULS, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, followed by an excursion.

Training team

Members of the training team were specialists from the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, Ulaanbaatar (MULS), and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU). BOKU team members were Assoc.Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Juergen K. Friedel and Ms. Ph.D. Nyamdavaa Tsolmon, MULS team members were Ms. Assoc.Prof. Ph.D. Davaasambuud Undarmaa, Ms. Ph.D. Naidan Tserentogtokh and Ms. Assoc.Prof. Ph.D. Janlav Oyungegel.

Agenda

The purpose of this workshop was to introduce an organic farming practices and possible approaches for Mongolian participants.

Participants

That was open to any participants (researchers, policy representatives, trainers, local farmers, consumers, students etc.) interested in learning the fundamental principles and practices of organic farming. The workshop covered various bodies: BOKU, MULS, Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Mongolia, ADRA-Mongolia, World Vision and other NGOs. During the workshop 38 participants from various agricultural fields from all over the country were trained on good practices on organic farming technology.

Presentations

The workshop- training consisted of the follow four presentations:

1. Organic farming guidelines and plant nutrition
2. Plant biological control
3. Organic certification and standards
4. Organic vegetable farming technology

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Juergen K. Friedel. He presented organic farming principles and guidelines, and principles of plant nutrition in organic farming. Participants then asked some interested questions and shared stories of past, current and upcoming initiatives in organic and sustainable agricultural farming practices from their own. Discussion at the workshop identified gap areas for organic technologies in agriculture.

Outcomes of the workshop

The participants agreed on the following recommendations for their future work:

- Priority to sustain the long-term, biologically based soil fertility on farm fields.
- To enhance the quality of agricultural products by organic production.
- To apply biological plant protection management in cereal and vegetable farming.
- Transition step by step from conventional to organic farming.
- To identify and test legume species and cultivars adapted to Mongolian climate conditions.

All participants seemed to be inspired by this.

Excursion

From 1 to 2 July 2017, MULS team members organized an excursion to a MULS experimental farm and a fertilizer production facility in the Central Agricultural Area of Mongolia, Unjin Bornuur sum, Tov province.

Visit of MULS team member, Ms. Ph.D. Naidan Tserentogtokh, to BOKU

Ms. Ph.D. Naidan Tserentogtokh visited BOKU from 18 to 31 July 2017. On 19 July, Ms. Ph.D. Naidan Tserentogtokh, Dr. Juergen K. Friedel and Ms. Ph.D. Tsolmon Nyamdavaa made an excursion to the organically managed fields of the BOKU experimental station in Groß-Enzersdorf / Raasdorf.

Acknowledgment

The training team members are grateful to OeAD for funding this workshop within the frame of the Eurasia Pacific Uninet programme.

ON FREEDOM AND IMPRISONMENT IN INNER ASIA

LANG Maria-Katharina, Austrian Academy of Sciences

BAATARNARAN Tsetsentsolmon, National University of Mongolia

LKHAGYASUREN Erdenebold, Mongolian university of Science and Technology

BADARAYEV Damdin, Buryat State University

PROJECT
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This project aimed to research the history and traces of two travelers from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Inner Asia and China: Hans Leder (1843–1921) and Erwin Lang (1885–1962). Both men came to the Asian peripheries of the Russian Empire, Siberia, the Far East or Mongolia, time-shifted and under very different circumstances reasons and destinies: Hans Leder voluntary as a free and mostly independent researcher, mainly entomologist and the artist Erwin Lang involuntary, forced as a prisoner of the First World War. In this pilot-project in cooperation with Mongolian and Buryat-Russian scientists we analysed traces of their travels and stays in Transbaikalia in their legacies and researched if they – on the other hand – left traces of their stays there. A first field research aimed at re-traveling parts of their routes made more respectively about hundred years ago. We compared and documented crucial places such as the border town Kiakhta (also known as Troitskosavsk), Ulan-Ude (former Verkhneudinsk) and Chita in their present state with the historic descriptions of both travelers. We visited local museums and local archives to look for traces of both men there, i.e. collectibles of Hans Leder in Kiakhta and art works such as paintings by Erwin Lang in Chita. The project started to fill missing links in the research on the Austrian research traveler Hans Leder and will enter new terrain concerning the documentation of the yet not at all or only little researched legacy of the Viennese painter Erwin Lang who belonged to the circle of artists of the Secession and Hagenbund in Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century.

The main activities of the project On Freedom and Imprisonment in Inner Asia were:

1. Field research in Siberia and Mongolia together with Mongolian and Siberian cooperation partners
2. Archival research in Ulan Ude State Archive and Weltmuseum Wien
3. Museum research in Ulan Ude, Chita and Kiakhta

During the field research, we retraced places visited by Hans Leder and Erwin Lang. The travels of Hans Leder in Mongolia have been analysed in previous projects, but his travels in Siberia and from Siberia to Mongolia had not been researched so far and represent a missing link. Leder stayed more than two years in Buryatia and Irkutsk, Verkhneudinsk (today Ulan-Ude) and Kiakhta became important places for his research activities. We started to investigate on collectibles left by Leder in Kiakhta Museum of Local Lore of Academician V.A. Obruchev, one of the oldest museums of Siberia and the Far East. We met the entomologist Larisa Khobraokova at the Institute of General and Experimental Biology of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Ulan Ude.

Dr. Khobraokova is one of the few Russian scientists who did research on Hans Leder and his entomological findings in Siberia and Mongolia. Future cooperation in this field was discussed and we got access to relevant Russian literature.

Team members re-travelled parts of Erwin Lang's journey as war prisoner from Ulan Ude to Chita by Siberian Railway. Due to catastrophic rain falls it was not possible to reach the village of Alexandrovsk, where Lang had stayed at a farmer family but through the support of the local scientists Alexander I. Chaschin and Vladimir I. Kosikh from Chita University we were able to get access to relevant literature and photographs. The Russian scientists became interested to follow further research in the archives of Chita on the topic. In the Kuznetsov Museum we met museum director Kolosov who stated his interest to do further cooperative research on E. Lang and his artistic works possibly left in Chita.

Archival research was pursued in the pre-revolutionary collection and photo collections at Ulan Ude State Archive. We discovered interesting materials on the political and trade relations in Inner Asia that directly or indirectly connect to our topic. Through the contacts established during research, we discussed to further follow archival research.

Results and Tentative follow-up proposals

This pilot project was very fruitful in regard of strengthening already existing and establishing new contacts with Mongolian and Buryat/Siberian researchers and institutions (such as the Institute of Mongolian Studies, Buddhology and Tibetology and the Institute of General and Experimental Biology of the Siberian branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Ulan Ude and Ulan Ude State Archive). Unfortunately drastic weather conditions made some plans impossible to be realised and they remain for future research. The interest in our topic, the history and legacies of "Austrian travelers" in Inner Asia arose great interest and the will to continue future cooperation in this field. Follow up projects and publications were discussed with various partners and scientists in Mongolia and Russia and are planned for the future.

ANMMEC - AUSTRIAN-NEPALI MUTUAL MEDICAL EDUCATION CO-OPERATION

RITTER Markus, Medical University of Graz
LANG-LOIDOLT Doris, Medical University of Graz
SHRESTHA Ram, Kathmandu University
KOJU Rajendra, Kathmandu University

PROJECT 52

Outgoing activities

From March 11th to March 17 2018 Prof. Dr. Markus Ritter, Director of the Institute for Physiology and Pathophysiology of the Paracelsus Medical University (PMU) and local Coordinator of the EPU agenda at his university, visited the Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences (KUSMS) and the Dhulikhel Hospital. This visit was within the frame of the Austrian-Nepali Mutual Medical Education Cooperation (ANMMEC). The aim of this visit was to foster the already ongoing staff exchange activities between PMU and KUSMS, to promote and deepen the current research activities in the fields Medicine and to discuss and substantiate a possible collaboration in nursing sciences. Meetings were held with all the stakeholders of this collaboration including the Vice chancellor of the KUSMS Prof. Dr. Ram Makaju Shresta, the local research coordinator Dr. Rajeev Shresta as well as the heads of several institutes and clinics.

In addition Prof. Ritter set out for a visit of the clinical outreach center at Kirnetar and gave lectures to both medical and nursing students.

From November 13th to 20th 2018 a delegation of 20 staff members of PMU including the Vice Rector and the chancellor visited KUSMS in order to promote and initiate the staff exchange activities of KUSMS and PMU/SALK clinicians and of stake holders in different fields of administration as well as quality management and also to further discuss the possibilities of further fund raising to maintain the partnership between the two universities.

From November 13th onward PMU students settled for a four week internship at different clinics and clinical wards of the Dhulikhel Hospital.

Incoming activities

From June 17th to July 6th 2018 2018 Mr. Raghu Nath Gelal, Academic Officer at KUSMS visited PMU for a special training in Quality Management in Academics.

From September 9th to December 7th 2018, Mr. Phanindra Prasad Poudel, Assistant Professor and Ph.D. research scholar at KUSMS; Ms. Rojina Shakya, Lecturer at Department of Anatomy; and Ms. Kalpana Sharma, Assistant Professor at Department of Anatomy visited the Institute of Anatomy of PMU to be exposed for Anatomy teaching-learning and research milieu in Austria as well as to prepare for their enrollments to the PMU PhD program.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN EUROPE UND ASIA

EDELMAYER Friedrich, University of Vienna

TRAPPL Richard, University of Vienna

GERSTL Alfred, University of Vienna

LI Xuetao, Beijing Foreign Studies University

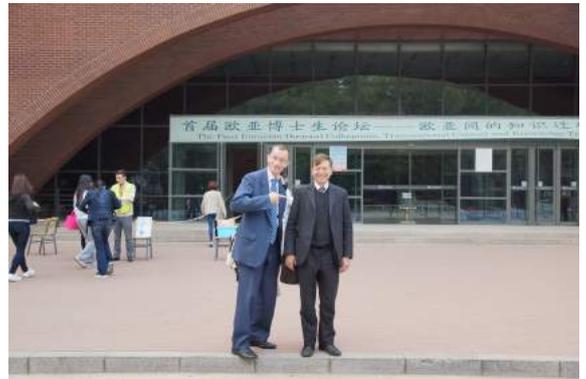
Starting out as a workshop on the knowledge transfer between Europe and Asia, the project quickly grew into larger proportions thanks to the great efforts all participants brought into the common goal and so the First Eurasian Doctoral Colloquium was set into motion. Around 50 scholars participated in the conference and presented their individual research findings, dissertation projects and challenges against the backdrop of a greater knowledge transfer between Europe and Asia. The main study areas were Global Studies, History, East Asian and European Studies.

Themes centred on knowledge transfer including, but not limited to trade along the Silk Road, ceramics, Mongolian culture, philosophy, and literature, transfer of ideas and also scholars and scholarships. Discussion also touched hot topics like the “One belt, one road” initiative and its ramifications. Alongside some promising book and dissertation projects, which were presented, future cooperation between the scholars and institutions of the participating universities were also discussed. Next to Beijing Foreign Studies University and the University of Vienna, also professors and PhD students of the University Bonn, Konkuk University, Kansai University and Hankuk University participated in the workshop.

A special asset of the activity is the exchange between researchers from various universities and feedback – also on an interdisciplinary level, thereby broadening target groups and providing new impetus for further research or critically assessing one’s own research methodology. This fruitful academic exchange is further enriched by the rich cultural background of the participants, each contributing to the success of the workshop and the individual and common research projects.

Concrete further steps are plans for a reiteration of the event and intensification of research cooperation between the individual scholars as well as the participating institutes and universities and the extension of invitations to join major conferences on the themes at the respective partner universities. A research project concerning the theme is in the process of being formulated and will be a direct cooperation between the BFSU Global History department and the University of Vienna’s History department.

In addition, the workshop gave rise to the idea of a new journal “Asia and the World” with contributions coming from the participants of the workshop and then expanding into a larger field. This journal will be available in English and Chinese language and provide a further bridge in research cooperation between the partner universities.



INTERNATIONALE VERNETZUNGSKONFERENZ FRAUEN, MENSCHENRECHTE UND GESUNDHEIT

KLETECKA-PULKER Maria, Institut für Ethik und Recht in der Medizin (MUW/Universität Wien)

MANADHER Khedar, Kathmandu University

The aim of the project was to prepare workshops for an international interdisciplinary symposium focusing on "Women, Health, Security in Asia" with the partner universities of the EPU and in cooperation with international umbrella organizations. This should also encourage cooperation and joint projects in this field between the EPU partners.

In many Asian countries, women are not only disadvantaged in the health care system, but are primarily discriminated against by various forms of violence such as civil war, domestic violence, and countries or culture-specific forms of violence such as violence. Chaupadhi (Nepal), forced marriage and human trafficking. Against this background, the long-term medical, psychiatric and psychological consequences present a hitherto insufficiently dealt with regional focus question which only seems to be interdisciplinary.

The project integrates preparatory work and a well-established partnership in an EPU pre-project, especially with universities in China, Austria, and Nepal.

In addition to a thorough review of the topic and the identification of international umbrella organizations such as UNICEF, World Psychiatric Association, World Council for Psychotherapy, extensive preparatory workshops (Travel I) and an expert meeting in Nepal with the partner university were carried out. In addition to the clarification of possible conference topics, discussions with the university management, technical aspects of the preparation (location) as well as scientific accompanying projects and "science teaching" were discussed, especially between MUW, UW and Kathmandu University. A first project (on women and menstruation) is in preparation and will be presented at the conference. The workshop also focused on the involvement of China. China and Nepal were suggested as possible venues.

As a result, further trips were made to visit universities in Taiwan and the cooperating Primary Health Care Centers as a supplement to the already good contacts in Mainland China (Beijing University, etc.). Here, discussions were held with various experts, especially in the area of public health, but also with student organizations that expressed particular interest in the health care of women and ethnic minorities (eg Paiwan). Furthermore, possible venues were visited.

Taking into account all options, a decision was made for Nepal as a conference venue, especially as the local partner university had already shown considerable commitment to long-term cooperation and flexibility in the choice of topics.

Pre-programs, Safe the date Folder, a web site, and a board of science committee were set up, visited, hosted locations and venues, and pre-planned with local organizations in the field, as well as commissioned by a professional congressional organizer. The conference was advertised at various international conferences, and created an expanded selection of conference folders.

In addition, especially at international meetings (without funding from the EPO), talks were held with the listed international organizations and partner universities in Austria and Asia, and a wide range of organizations such as WPA, EAP and Win WCP for the conference.

Accompanying publications in international journals (including Frontiers (impact 2.8), Torture Journal (ML) and the publication of an abstract volume by a German magazine) have also been agreed with them. Negotiations on a textbook have already become a good contact with Springer / Nature exists, initiated. In the course of the conference, especially partner universities from the region should be given the opportunity to receive international publications with expert support.

A new model for congresses in the region was created in collaboration with other universities. Participation fees should in this context also support the participation of members of partner universities with lower incomes (as "adopt a colleague"). Visits to primary health care centers and contacts with stakeholders were integrated into the partner university as part of the pre-conference workshop to expand the international scientific part.

Online-Registration:
www.icwvh-in-asia.org

Symposia

Proposals for symposia must be submitted in English.

The Symposium Coordinator will be free of registration fee, if at least three symposium speakers are regularly registered to the congress.

Symposium length will be 90 minutes (including discussions).

Symposium submission deadline:
 January 28, 2019.

For details/guidelines visit:
www.icwvh-in-asia.org/template-symposia



Abstracts – Oral/Poster Presentations

Abstracts must be submitted in English.

The final decision if the submission is accepted as an oral or poster presentation will be taken by the scientific committee and participants and transmitted to the presenters in due time.

Abstract submission deadline:
 February 28, 2019

For details/guidelines visit:
www.icwvh-in-asia.org/template-abstracts



Key Dates

International Conference on Women, Safety and Health in Asia
 August 29–31, 2019

Pre-Conference Workshops
 August 27–28, 2019

Symposium Proposal Deadline
 January 28, 2019

Abstract Submission Deadline
 February 28, 2019

Early Registration Deadline
 June 10, 2019

Regular Registration Deadline
 August 5, 2019

Congress Venue

Lal Durbar Convention Center attached to the Yak & Yeti Hotel (former Royal Red Palace) Kathmandu, Nepal – www.yakandyeti.com
 Pre-Conference Workshops are held at Kathmandu University Dhulikhel Hospital

Congress Secretariat & Organisation

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THE COMPLEX LANDSLIDE SYSTEM AT KHINGAR/JHARKOT (NEPAL) REVISITED - DELINEATION, RECENT DYNAMICS AND HUMAN IMPACT

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The Indo-Eurasian plate collision not only caused the uplift of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau due to compressional tectonics, but also created rift valleys through extensional tectonics and local collapses of the plateau. One major rift valley, the so-called Thakkhola half-graben, extends from the plateau in the North to the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna massifs in the South. Bounded by the steep Dangardzong fault in the West and the less pronounced Muktinath fault in the East, the half-graben is nowadays filled with up to 3 km thick Plio- and Pleistocene sediments. Underlying clay shales of the Jurassic Spiti Formation are strongly water swellable and prone to landslides.

In the Jhong Chu catchment or Muktinath Valley (92.5 km²), an eastern tributary basin of the Kali Gandaki River (Mustang, Nepal), these preconditions led to a complex and highly active landslide system with massive impacts on the local population. The full portfolio of gravitydriven processes can be observed in the area (toppling, falling, sliding, sagging, slumping, flowing), interacting in a complex manner. Water as most important driver of the system is provided by infrequent precipitation events mainly during the summer monsoon in this semiarid mountain environment (annual rainfall: ~ 350 mm) and artificial irrigation.

The local population lives in a 'symbiotic' relationship with huge parts of the landslide system using the tops of the sliding blocks as farmland and irrigating them via pipelines and open channels with water from different sources, incl. precipitation, meltwater, spring intakes (also from a neighboring catchment) and spring water originating from the landslide's active shearing planes. However, as such activities are supposed to further boost the system and even trigger new sliding processes in temporary stable areas, cause-and-effect relationships between land use and the natural environment are highly relevant. Whereas the landslide system provides a suitable "terraced" morphology, eligible pedologic conditions and the availability of water, it also poses a (largely economic) threat to the local population – particularly in recent times with increasing pressure on land use (apples as cash crops).

This study presents first results of the research project mukslide that aims i) to better understand the system (drivers and controls, cause-and-effect), ii) to identify hotspots and quantify rates of recent movement, and finally iii) to provide recommendations for mitigation strategies and techniques.

With respect to

i) we introduce a geomorphological map of the catchment, which is based on previous studies and own findings during field campaigns in 2013, 2014 and 2018. Special emphasis is placed on mass movement related forms and processes, indicators of recent landslide activity (e.g., open cracks and fissures, stretched roots, active shear planes, damaged and displaced walls/irrigation channels), hydrological characteristics and irrigation infrastructure, and the distribution of Spiti shale outcrops.

Concerning ii), we present a detailed analysis of the currently most active part of the system. Here, recent dynamics are reconstructed using multi-temporal orthophoto interpretation, an actual UAV/SfM based highresolution DEM (also enabling future monitoring), and photo comparisons. These data indicates recent rates of movement of up to 50 cm/year, a strongly enlarged area of active landsliding in the recent past and several signs pointing to a further growth in the near future.

THE COMPLEX LANDSLIDE SYSTEM AT KHINGAR/JHARKOT (NEPAL) REVISITED - DELINEATION, RECENT DYNAMICS AND HUMAN IMPACT

UNIVERSITÄT SALZBURG

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BACKGROUND

The Indo-Eurasian plate collision causes the uplift of the Himalayas and the Tibetan Plateau as a consequence of compressional tectonics, but also created rift valleys through extensional tectonics and local collapses of the plateau. One major rift valley, the Thakkhola graben (TG), extends from the plateau to the Dhaulagiri/Annapurna in the S. Bounded by the Dangardong fault in the W and the less pronounced Muktiath fault in the E, the TG has been filled with up to 3 km thick Plio- and Pleistocene sediments. Underlying Jurassic clay shales (Spiti Formation or „Saligramm Series“) are strongly swellable and prone to landslides.

In the Jhong Chu catchment (32.5 km²), an eastern tributary basin of the Kali Gandaki River, these preconditions led to a complex and in parts highly active earthflow/landslide system (c. 15 km²) with massive impacts on the local population (Figs. 1-3). Water as most important driver of the system is provided by precipitation events mainly during the summer monsoon in this semi-arid mountain environment (annual rainfall: c. 350 mm) and irrigation.

The local population lives in a 'symbiotic' relationship with huge parts of the landslide using the tops of the sliding blocks as farmland and irrigating them via pipelines and open channels with water from different sources, incl. precipitation, meltwater, spring intakes (also from a neighboring catchment) and spring water originating from the landslide's active shearing planes. However, as such activities might further boost the system and even trigger new sliding processes in temporary stable areas, cause-and-effect relationships between land use and the natural environment are highly relevant. Whereas the landslide system provides a suitable „terraced“ morphology, eligible pedologic conditions, and the availability of water, it also poses an economic threat to the locals – particularly in recent times with increasing pressure on land use (apples as cash crops).



RECENT EARTHFLOW DYNAMICS

- Reconstruction of (sub-) recent dynamics of the active landslide system is based on previous investigations (Baade et al. 1998, Baade 2000), multi-temporal orthophoto interpretation, terrestrial photo comparisons, analyses of SfM-based high-res. data (orthophoto, DEM and derivatives), field mapping and measurements, and local information (interviews).
- Recent movement rates of the active Tonga earthflow: c. 35 cm/a (stone wall displacements; Figs. 7-8).
- Recent movement rates of the highly active Tonga earthflow: up to 10 m/a (1997-98; three profiles, Baade 2000).
- The highly active Tonga earthflow increased by 0.8 ha between 2002 (1.4 ha) and 2014 (2.2 ha) (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6: Left: Recent dynamics between 2002 and 2014 (Google Earth) showing the increase of the highly active Tonga earthflow (note the retrogressive erosion). Right: Terrestrial photos of 2014 and 2018 illustrating the dynamics within this highly active part of the earthflow.

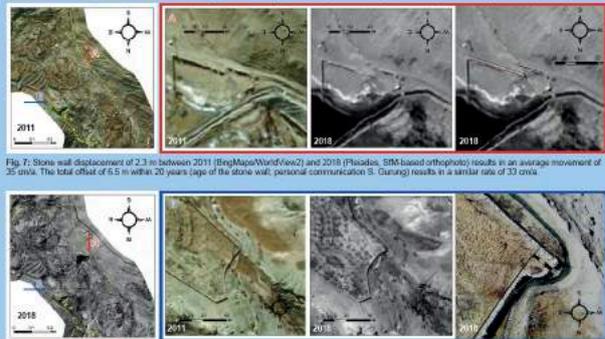


Fig. 7: Stone wall displacement (bulge) of 2.3 m between 2011 (BingMaps/WorldView2) and 2018 (Pleiades, SfM-based orthophoto) results in an average movement of 35 cm/a well agreeing with rates shown in Fig. 7.

OUTLOOK

- UAV/SfM based high resolution monitoring of the highly active Tonga earth flow (incl. small scale crack monitoring)
- Integration of high resolution spatial (annual UAV/SfM-based DEMs) and temporal data (daily webcam photos)
- Supplementary geophysical investigations will help to figure out earthflow depths, masses and volumes.
- Lab analyses of Spiti clay minerals (water-abs. cap., plasticity, shear strength) helps to better understand material properties.
- Finally, we try to better understand the system (drivers and controls, cause and effect), to quantify rates of recent movement, to identify „hotspots of (future) landsliding“, and to provide recommendations for mitigation strategies and techniques.

REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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