

Fifth All India Conference of China Studies
Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, December 15-16, 2012

REPORT

Day One: 15 December 2012

Inaugural Session

Chair: Professor Sushanta Duttagupta, Vice-Chancellor, Visva Bharati

The Inaugural Session of the Fifth All India Conference of China Studies was held in Lipika Auditorium of Visva-Bharati. The session was chaired by Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, Vice Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University. The dignitaries and participants were welcomed by Dr. Avijit Banerjee, Conference Co-convenor and Head, Cheena Bhavana, Visva-Bharati. Prof. Alka Acharya, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), and Prof. Artatrana Nayak, Principal, Bhasa Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, greeted the participants and conveyed their wishes for a successful conference.

In the Introductory Remarks, Prof. Monoranjan Mohanty, Chairperson, ICS, spoke about Tagore's philosophy of the Visva Manava or the Universal Man and underscored Tagore's vision that a holistic approach to music, science, knowledge and nature would lead the minds to a state of creative unity. He mentioned that Santiniketan was a pilgrimage to China scholars of India. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Prof. Tan Yunshan conceived and built Cheena Bhavana as a repository of India-China civilizational interaction, and it is indeed the birthplace of China Studies in modern India. He hoped that the conference will begin an interactive phase between Cheena Bhavana and ICS, that will strengthen cooperation in the areas of cultural, historical, literary and classical studies. He further

stated that today China Studies in India faces new challenges that call for deeper understanding of both history and culture. Therefore, it is appropriate that the focal theme of the conference to be held here in Visva Bharati is history, historiography and reinterpreting history, as this was the mission of Tagore and Tan Yun-shan.

In his remarks, Prof. Tan Chung recalled his strong connection with Visva-Bharati, where he came into contact with Tagore and his philosophy of life and his vision for human civilization. He reaffirmed that his soul and spirit was imbued with the ethos of Santiniketan, which was his home. He sincerely wished the conference great success and wished it to be an occasion which shall be recorded in history.

In his Presidential Remarks, Professor Sushanta Dattagupta, Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati, talked about the dream of Rabindranath Tagore that his Visva Bharati would be a place where the West will come and meet the East. He reiterated that Visva-Bharati should work hard and realise, rejuvenate and revive the dream of Tagore. Drawing upon his personal experience in China, Professor Dattagupta said that Chinese people have great affection and respect for India and therefore scholars should strive to make this a two way phenomenon.

The Keynote Address on the theme of *Reinterpreting History* was delivered by Prof. Madhvi Thampi, Honorary Fellow, ICS. She started by saying that the choice of a theme related to “reinterpreting History” for a conference on China studies in India is an indication that China Studies in this country had reached a new level of maturity. Since 1962, it was easy to forget that “rediscovery” of China by India in modern times was centred on the study of China’s history and civilization, and on the ancient links between India and China, as there emerged an almost exclusive focus on the China of the present moment and its strategic implications for India. But the way we study China’s past and the India-China relations cannot be the same today as it was before and that is another reason why the theme of this year’s Conference – *reinterpreting History* – is relevant and well-

chosen. Prof. Madhavi Thampi then went on to talk at length on two themes, the first is the reinterpretation of Chinese History, and the second is the reinterpretation of the history of India-China relations. (Full text of the Keynote Address is available on [ICS-India] Googlegroups mail of January 7, 2013)

The vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Sabaree Mitra, Conference Convenor and Honorary Fellow, ICS.

Session One: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: Foreign Policy & International Relations*

Chair: Prof. Alka Acharya, Director, ICS

Dr. P. A. Mathew: “Diaspora and soft power: Contextualizing India and China in the Globalizing World”

Dr. P. A. Mathew’s presentation made a comparative study on soft power between India and China in the era of globalisation. Joseph Nye Jr. pioneered the use of the term ‘soft power’ and made the persuasive argument that power in international relations is not simply the sum of a nation’s economic and military power but also soft power. India’s growth is largely due to the effects of globalization, growth in the software industry and the service sector. The three component of the Indian soft power are regional art films; yoga exercises, and lastly, the practice of Ayurveda. Indian and Chinese Diasporas are emerging as important constituencies in promoting their respective nations in the globalizing space.

Prof. D. S. Rajan: “Cultural Roots of China’s Current Territorial Assertiveness in the Modern Era”

Prof. D.S. Rajan’s central question was: are China’s past cultural roots an influential factor shaping the international behaviour of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) in the modern era? There is an assessment of Chinese and Western exceptionalism as

streams representing different philosophical and military traditions. Kissinger explains, Chinese exceptionalism is ‘subtle, indirect and cultural without a need to spread their traditional values to other countries’. Since 2008, China’s foreign policy in recent years have to maintain a ‘win-win’ relationship with big powers a simultaneously its non-compromising policy on national sovereignty and security. The root for China’s assertive behaviour can be analysed from its three decades of tremendous growth that has brought about a lot of confidence and as the economic centre has shifted from the West to the East, China has capitalised on this transition to showcase itself as an eminent power.

Mr. M. V. Rappai: “India – China Relations – Need for a Comprehensive Database”

Mr. M. V. Rappai emphasised that India and China are two large nations, rather civilizations, sharing a long land border in Asia. From time immemorial these two nations have interacted in various ways. As a preliminary step to study this relationship, a project has been uninitiated with the help of Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS). One of the main aims is to establish a comprehensive database on this relationship. The database would locate the resources in different institutes, universities, libraries and so on. The plan also includes collecting all relevant material available in Chinese language, including in the archives of P R China and Taiwan and UK.

Session Two: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: Regional Order and Multilateral Cooperation*

Chair: Dr. Jabin T. Jacob, Assistant Director, ICS

Dr. Sonu Trivedi: “Dynamics of India-China engagement in Myanmar”

Dr. Sonu Trivedi spoke about the opportunities and constraints that mark the course of India’s and China’s involvement with this strategically located country. The study of Myanmar remains incomplete without taking India-China dynamics under consideration.

However, China has deep penetration in Myanmar market and is one of the largest investors in Myanmar other than being its largest trade partner. So, despite concerns that Myanmar would not remain dependent on China after relaxation of US-EU sanctions over past few years, China has reasons to remain confident of securing its interests.

Dr. Imankalyan Lahiri: “Emerging China and the changing regional order- India’s Perception of China’s Rise”

Dr. Imankalyan Lahiri dealt with what can be called the ‘China lag’ in Indian policy i.e. India’s policy symbolizing a counter-action to China’s initiatives rather than setting policy vision in the first place. He said that this remains true even as India slowly emerges as a major power. India’s look east policy on the other hand has China as a major component in it. A positive China could act as a restraining influence on Islamabad and it could also help India achieve its aims in Central Asia. Undoubtedly it could result into China’s softening up on the question of India’s permanent membership in the UN Security Council. China’s policy of keeping India entangled with Pakistan and its unabated military modernization poses grave threats to Indian ambitions.

Ms. Rityusha Mani Tiwary: “China in East Asian Regionalism: A Creative Perspective on Power Structuration.”

Ms. Rityusha Tiwary’s paper revolved around the theme of East Asian regionalism and she justified her topic in the context of an arguable decline of US, end of Cold War and the rise of Asia. She explored China’s role in the East Asian Regionalism, in the context of Power Structure by examining the constructivist notion that shared ideas, beliefs and values also have a potential to evolve into structures exerting influence on political and economic actions of states and the liberal institutional argument of ramifications furthering the scope of cooperation and that the emergent mechanism of integration in East Asia is based on interdependence and thereby a scale based on the parameters of cohesiveness, centrality and inclusiveness can be constructed.

Session Three: Emerging Trends in China Studies: Internal Politics, Economic Development & Regional Disparity

Chair: D. S. Rajan

Dr. C. R. Pramod: “Role of Second-Tier Cities in the Socio-Political and Economic Transformations in the PRC”

Dr. Pramod talked about the need to document the internal dynamics of multifaceted dimensions of prosperity, inequality, leadership transition and everyday life struggles in contemporary PRC. While the current scrutiny is in terms of spatial dimensions-like centre-province or local /grass root studies or the dichotomy between coastal and interior, rural and urban-an alternative perspective could be a study on the role of the sub-province level. It is in this context that the study of second-tier cities in China becomes important. There are newer social stratification taking place in the Second-Tier cities due to the availability of qualified and cheaper human resources, which attracts capital to these areas. Specialized technicians, researchers, lawyers, teachers, employees in the media, and traders all form the core of the new social stratification.

Prof. Chandrasekhar Rao, “SEZ: A Boon or Bane”

According to Prof. Chandrasekhar Rao, under the present Globalization paradigm, maximization of economic growth has been regarded as extremely important. In this regard, establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has been regarded as the way to further augment and flourish growth. The issue of SEZs primarily focuses on land, which has also led to increasing conflicts. Herein, the state has taken up a leading role. In the PRC, people are the owners of the land; but the laws governing land relations and land use has created insecurity amongst people. While on paper, resettlement and rehabilitation existed, there was no sign of the same in practice. While the corporates have largely benefitted from the huge incentives given by the government for SEZs and rising

speculation, the land losers have often been badly compensated and the rehabilitation procedures have remained on paper.

Dr. G. Venkatraman: “Social Governance: Hu Jintao’s Contribution to Chinese Government and Politics”

One of the concepts that have greatly gained attention in the study of China in recent times is Social Governance. This concept has found resonance in all developing countries, Post Globalization. Hu Jintao, reoriented the party’s ideology and discourse, from growth-oriented development to an increase in governing capacity of the state; from a GDP oriented system (*cuguang*) to a people first approach (*yiren weiben*). Clearly, the emphasis was for the CPC to step in and not just be guided by the economic indicators. Thus, the rationale for such a People First approach was for the party to reach out to the marginalized sections (*ruoshi tuanti*). With the growing heterogenisation of the Chinese society, the party also needed a strong government (*qiang zhengfu*) for a strong society (*qiang shehui*).

Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty: “The 18th CPC Congress and Development Discourse in Contemporary China”

The Reform era in China enunciated by Deng Xiaoping has opened up tremendous transformation in China. While vigorous economic growth was the strategy adopted by Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao sought to reorient the growth process towards social equity and environmental sustainability, to balance the five imbalances- between economic and social development, rural and urban, inland and coastal, economy and ecology and domestic and international. In this context, Prof. Mohanty argued that there was no set ‘Growth Model’ in China. The present Development discourse was part of the last 100 years discourse in China. The present debate was also enmeshed in the larger question of using western parameters to define the country’s future or adopt evolving Chinese parameters. In fact, this aspect had its origins in the May 4th Movement. The idea is to understand whether the concepts of Modernity and Development were an ongoing debate in China. Prof. Mohanty was of the opinion that often, there is an ‘Intra-Party Discourse’; even, Deng Xiaoping had

at times, negated the far-right views of Zhao Ziyang and Hu Yaobang, in the aftermath of his famous Southern Tour in 1992.

Session Four: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: History, Philosophy & Religion*

Chair: Sabujkali Sen

Dr. Sanjib Kr. Das: “Evolution and Declination of Buddhism in China: A Brief Account”

Buddhism is the only religion where it got several names like Indian Buddhism, Chinese Buddhism, Tibet Buddhism, Western Buddhism, Japanese Buddhism, Gentry Buddhism, Ch’an School of Buddhism etc. So it is evident that wherever Buddhism arrived, it was named by its native followers in their own way. The issue of declination of Buddhism in China is a very important one. It is a huge debatable issue now in China among the traditional accounts, European historians and the general scholars that how the first Buddhist missions in China began and how the declination took place. It is believed that evolution of Buddhism took place in China during the Han dynasty. Some European historians say that Maurya emperor Ashoka the great sent a royal monk Kavira to Nepal, Bhutan & China to spread Buddhism around 265 BCE. Generations of scholars have debated whether Buddhist missionary schools reached Han China via the maritime of overland routes of the Silk Road, where goods were traded between China and the Roman Empire and cultures from China merged with those of India, Central Asia and Iran.

Col. Virendra Sahai Verma: “The Times of Rin Chen Zangbo and Atisha and their Role in Second Diffusion of Buddhism in Western Tibet”

Col. Verma acknowledged the declination of Buddhism and in context to Tibet he cited that while Buddhism was declining, King Tsenpo Khore of Ngari (Western Tibet) sent 21

boys to Kashmir to learn Buddhist doctrines. The great role that these two masters had in revival of Buddhism in Western Tibet and then to central Tibet adjoining regions of India famously called Indian Tibet is widely recognized by historians and chronicles. His power point presentation and the pictures of different Buddhist caves in Tibet clearly depict his extensive knowledge of Tibet in regard to Buddhism. He also put forward the point of influence or interference of Chinese in Tibetan monasteries. In his pictures the monasteries were built along the caravan routes and populated centers where the great civilizations prospered. Kharpol, Dungkar paintings in Tibet and Ladakh were the prominent examples of his presentation. The monasteries like Alchi and Tabo are not only rich in frescoes, stuccos, or wooden sculptures but also in Tibetan art.

Prof. Jayeeta Ganguly: “Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism: Their Relevance in Modern Chinese Society”

The presentation cited the confrontation of Buddhism with Confucianism and Taoism while entering into China. Confucianism being the state religion may more aptly be termed as a moral system or a way of life based on the ethical teachings of Confucius. Taoism is the name given to a tradition of Chinese thought that has been standing in opposition to Confucianism, although both have much in common. When Buddhism came into contact with them, it was unable to gain the ascendancy it had one in the Southern countries and in Tibet. Although Buddhism entered China as a foreign element, its teaching was assimilated into Chinese traditional ways of thinking. After Buddhism entered China, it has inevitably come into contact with the two indigenous religions namely Confucianism and Taoism. Confucianism is the distinct religion, more like a traditional way of Chinese thought that has been standing in front of Buddhism. With the beginning of nationalist root, there was a distinct trend for accepting modern and scientific western technology and culture for the revival of China.

Dr. Avijit Banerjee: “An Account of the Indian Scholars in China during Tang Dynasty”.

Dr. Banerjee gave a presentation on Buddhism, after entering China in the last period of Han dynasty, it reached to its peak in Tang dynasty. Its emperor presided over one of the greatest periods of Chinese art, culture and diplomacy. The Tang emperors were known for their openness to new ideas about art, religion, philosophy and music that were brought in by foreigners who flowed into China along the Silk Road trade routes. The present day Xi'an, the then Chang'an experienced the height of the Chinese imperial era as the capital of Tang dynasty. The emperors invited the monks & priests from South Asia and Western region (Xi'yu 西域: not the west but the region which was earlier called). During the Tang dynasty, 13 foreign nationality Buddhist monks came to China from middle India, East India and worked in coordination with 11 chancellors, 32 internal government officials along with scholars of Xiuwen Museum took part in the translation work of Buddhist Sutras.

Session Five: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: History and Culture*

Chair: Prof. Madhavi Thampi

Prof. A. Nayak: "State and Polity in ancient China"

In his paper, Prof A Nayak discussed the trajectory of developments of state formation in ancient China. State formation is considered to be a long and complex process in human history and civilization. Some states appeared in history but with the course of time they lost their importance, power and slowly disappeared. Before the Xia Dynasty, in the Neolithic phase the Chinese society is said to be communal society where there was no concept of any private property. During the Xia rule (21st-16th century BC) the communal society was replaced by slave society and this lead to class struggle, a struggle between the ruling class and the ruled class. With the beginning of Shang Dynasty (16th-11th century BC) the concept of Shang-Di appeared in the society and it is believed that the entire natural and human world was controlled and ruled by Shang-Di. The landmark features of

the western Zhou period are loose confederation, feudal system started, tribute system appeared in the society, concept of tian-zi (天子) tian-xia(天下), tian-ming(天明)became more established concept.

Ms. Nirmola Sharma, “Indian Associations in Wartime China”

Ms.Nirmola Shrama in her presentation mentioned about the different Indian association in china during the Second World War. The associations which played a vital role during Second World War are Indian National Association, Arya Patriotic Association, Indian Welfare Association, Indian Independent league, Joint Shikh Association, Indian Youth Association. The Indian National Association was the first avowed nationalist organization founded in British India by Surendranath Banerjee and Anand Mohan Bose in 1876. The Indian Independence League (also known as IIL) was a political organization operated from the 1920s to the 1940s to organize those living outside of India into seeking the removal of British colonial rule over India.

Prof. Kamal Sheel: “Boxer China in Travel Narratives of Thakur Gadadhar Singh and Mahendru Lal Garg”

The paper presented is a travel writing which was collected from some the local news papers of China and India. It looks into the cultural exchanges between India and china during the visits of different Indian scholars to china during Boxer rebellion. Boxer rebellion was an anti-foreign, proto-nationalist movement by the Righteous Harmony Society in China between 1898 and 1901, opposing foreign imperialism and Christianity. This paper particularly focused on the accounts given by two Indian travellers namely Thakur Gadadhar Singh and Mahendu Lal on their visit to China. Gadadhar Singh in his *Chin Me Terah Maas* (Thirteen Months in China) mentioned the crucial roles played by troops from British India in the Boxer rebellion *Chin Darpan* (Chinese Mirror) is an excellent piece by Mahendu Lal Garg. The books available on Boxer rebellions in the western countries gives a negative aspect of the Boxers fighting against the foreign establishments in Beijing but these two travel locks dwells on the positive aspects of the

Boxers and reflects the cultural and civilizational affinities between the people of two nations. These two travel locks did not show any negative features of the Boxer.

Special Lecture

Chair: Prof. Subrata Chakrabarti

Speaker: Prof. Tan Chung, “*Himalayasphere* and the Creation of Indian & Chinese Civilization States”

Prof. Tan Chung in the Special Lecture proposed his theory of “*Himalayasphere* and the creation of Indian & Chinese civilization states”. They are therefore millennial civilization spheres having been converted into modern states. Jawaharlal Nehru, Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai wanted to preserve *Himalayasphere* affinity and thus aspired to establish a new India-China relationship based on *Himalayasphere* geo-civilizational paradigm but it was sabotaged by the geopolitical paradigm. It is the greatest folly in human history and an insult to *Himalayasphere* affinity if the two countries try to survey and demarcate a boundary on these forbidden heights, and worse still, defending it and fighting wars for it. *Himalayasphere* affinity is boundary-blind and Indian and Chinese identities blurred in this conception, while modern nation-states are based on geo-politics and are boundary obsessed and boundary sensitive.

Day Two: 16 December 2012

Session Six: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: Social Development & Human Rights*

Chair: Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty, Chairperson & Honorary Fellow, ICS

Mr. Kamal Dutta: “Migrant Peasant-Workers and China’s New Challenge”

According to Mr. Kamal Dutta, there was a need to examine the integration of migrant workers, treatment meted out to them by the state and rising discontentment of the labour in the dual contexts of China’s transitional economy and growing aspirations for democracy. Many reformatory measures have been adopted by the central as well as local authorities for them. However rising inequality between migrant and urban hukou worker combined with popular labour discontent have put the authority to rethinking on the migrant worker management. In 1949, as indicated in the theory of revolution, Mao realized the importance of these labour but Chinese leaders at present are unwilling to integrate them within the system. Even though their Prime Minister recognized their contribution, on being asked if the children of these workers be allowed to join schools in the cities, he said “things are really slow in China”. The new trend of unrest in the shape of protest can be seen in two instances: Suzuki-Honda workers and LG Electronics workers in Wukan.

Mr. P. K. Anand: “Illegal Land Acquisition and Forced Evictions in China: Wukan in Perspective”

According to Mr. P. K. Anand, there is a need to analyse the rising conflicts over land in China and the responses of the state in addressing these conflicts, in terms of institutional framework of compensations and the laws governing the acquisitions of land. Here the reference point is the struggle in Wukan which leads to larger dynamics of such conflicts, along with its impact on both the government in China and the Communist Party of China. The ruling regime in China has based its rule on the twin aspects of political stability and economic prosperity; the sustained growth and economic development is also the factor of legitimacy of the party-state. Therefore, the government has to ensure that while the

growth paradigm has to be carried forward unhindered, there is also a need to address the emerging challenges, thereby providing a balance of interests.

Dr. Rajen Singh Laishram: “Reflections on Corruption in China”

According to Dr. Rajen Singh Laishram, the menace of corruption in the People’s Republic of China, as in many transition economies and developing societies appears to have pervaded the party, state, bureaucracy and society. In a country, which professedly adheres to a brand of ‘socialism with Chinese characteristics,’ there are indicative erosions in the ‘rule of the party and people’ and being supplanted by venality, greed and the ‘rule of the purse.’ Anti-corruption regimes in the legal, institutional structures and in cadre recruitment, including death penalty proves to be no circumventing factor and have failed to deter the ‘bourgeoisie behaviour’ in contemporary China. The subordination of all institutions and authority to the Communist Party of China engenders absence of civil society organisations to combat corruption in China.

Session Seven: *Emerging Trends in China Studies: Economic & Social Development*

Chair: Prof. Aparajita Mukherjee

Ms. Shachee Agnihotri: “One Child Policy and Women in China”

In her paper, Ms. Agnihotri threw light on the ambitious population policy of China, One Child Policy along with its impact on the Chinese women. She elaborated her presentation by focusing on the implementation process of One Child Policy with the evaluation of its norms, methods and practices in China. Further she talked about the instruments of population policy in China such as family planning institutions, contraceptive methods, abortions and governmental incentives & punishments and so on. Her paper posed the increasing sex-ratio imbalance and induced abortions in China as the prevalent and

apprehensive question. In conclusion, depicting the both sides of the One Child Policy-economic achievements with social damages, she stressed on the serious need to curb its negative slope.

Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti: “Higher Education Institutions in China: ‘Academic Capitalism’?”

Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti drew attention towards the new challenges in higher education brought by globalization & liberalization: economic globalization; the increasing importance of knowledge as the driver of growth and information & Communication revolution. Prof. Chakrabarti raised the issue of ‘Academic Capitalism’ in China’s education system. She projected ‘State formulated economic reform policy’ and ‘Restoration of numerous individuals from intelligentsia victimized during the Cultural Revolution’ as the two deciding factors of the Chinese education system in early post Mao era. Prof. Chakrabarti also talked about some negative upshots of these reformatory programmes, which were: the division of academic discipline into two parts: market oriented and others; generating a breed of corrupt academics; self-financed institutions have low academic standard; preference to the vocational higher education and finally, discrimination with minority area.

Prof. Sib Ranjan Misra: “FDI in India and China - A Comparative Perspective: Some Issues and Concerns”

Prof. Sib Ranjan Misra made a comparative analysis of the FDI trends in India and China. He considered China’s FDI as “adaptive efficiency” on the part of its political regime. He spoke that China had made courageous but careful choices in difficult circumstances which was the signal of radical departures from the long prevailing belief system of China. China had a distinct preference for FDI in technology-intensive and employment oriented industries. Interestingly, China has also FDI to play its positive role in the rural sector for the development of TVEs and also in the restructuring of SOEs in the second half of reform decade it is true to say that China has rightly recognized that in a globally

interdependent world, FDI shifts across the world in response comparative advantages. These advantages vary and shift from time to time and from one country to another. A country must have the agility and flexibility to work with FDI.

Session Eight: Research of Emerging Scholars

Chair: Prof. Alka Acharya, Director, ICS

Mr. Tilak Jha: “Deciphering the Tibetan Dilemma: Media perspectives (1947-65) with special reference to 1962 India-China Border Conflict”

According to Tilak Jha, Five decades after India and China fought over the border dispute, the root cause behind the clashes – Tibet – has remained a dilemma for India, China, and Tibetans indeed. And despite 50 years of segregation of Tibet from India and the rest of the world, and relentless propaganda by China’s state controlled media pushing its own agenda both inside and outside Tibet; and still the Tibetan land has erupted time and again against China’s policies in Tibet. Unlike the limitations during Yuan and Qing era rule, communist China’s control of Tibet is now backed by better rail and road connectivity, effective administrative control and fast economic development. The themes and sub-themes the paper dealt with were: the concept of modern nation state and Panchsheela, political opportunity framework and the Tibetan struggle, Tibetan autonomy, the Middle Kingdom and communist China, information and trust rhetoric inside Tibet and finally the major media debates post 1962 India-China clashes.

Mr. Panu Pazo: “Energy Diplomacy in Chinese Foreign Policy: Trend, Challenges and Opportunities”

According to Panu Pazo The Chinese leadership under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao heralded a new era of Chinese foreign policy with energy as one of the core components. This new epoch poses both challenges as well as opportunities to the global economic and energy architecture. Therefore, the study on energy diplomacy in Chinese foreign policy becomes

imperative requiring deeper understanding. Besides strengthening the existing ties with energy rich countries, China established new diplomatic relations with several resource rich countries in Africa, Latin America and Central Asia. Beijing's method of conducting its diplomacy vis-à-vis its quest for energy resources and raw materials has major implications and challenges for the international community especially in the light of spreading democracy, free market economy and human rights concerns in the developing world.

Ms. Saheli Chattaraj: “Coming Out of the Shadows: Power, Factionalism and Communist Youth League”

According to Saheli Chattaraj China is preparing for the 18th Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party. The leadership of China's next generation of leaders still waits to be unveiled. An analysis of the Central Committee (CC) membership of the previous Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) since the leadership transition during the Seventeenth National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in 2007 reveals that the Chinese Communist Youth League (CYL) (a factional group within the CCP) affiliated members have increased substantially. This accounts for a significant trend unlike the previous CC membership. So far, the prominent members in China's top leadership were mostly affiliated to the Shanghai Gang (a group associated with former General Secretary Jiang Zemin), the Qinghua Clique (graduates from Qinghua University), and the ‘*Princelings*’ (children of former high ranking officials). But between the sixteenth and the seventeenth Party Congress this statistics witnessed a complete change. The Shanghai Gang and the Qinghua Clique affiliated membership had a massive decline.

Ms. Veena Ramachandran: “Critical Examination of the Stability Discourse in China”

According to Veena R there is a need to explore the stability/harmony as a concept and locates it in the dominant political discourse of China. The concept of harmony is one of the most cherished values of Chinese politics. It provides the conceptual framework for an

understanding of China's national goals as well as strategies to achieve these goals both at the national and global levels. The idea of "preserving stability" is embedded in traditional Chinese political culture and can be traced back to the Confucian ideal of "Great Harmony". Stability is a part of the larger conceptual understanding of "Great Harmony" and hence preserving stability is the prerequisite for the creation of "Great Harmony".

Session Nine: Emerging Trends in China Studies: Literature & Culture

Chair: Prof. Huang I-shu, Emeritus Fellow, ICS

Ms. Barnali Chanda: "The Strange and the Fantastic"

Ms Barnali Chanda's paper focused on the reception of the Buddhist supernatural elements in Chinese literary tradition. These supernatural elements traversed to China via Buddhist tales. She particularly focused on the reception of such Buddhist elements in the fantastic and supernatural tales of *chuanqi* 傳奇 and discussed the tales which had received an indirect or direct influence from the Buddhist literary treasures in China and India. Medieval India also had seen the rise of narrative awareness which found its expression in the *Kathasaritsagara* by Somadevabhata. She had chosen few stories from both Chinese and Indian narrative traditions and discussed the circulation of the common Buddhist motifs and themes in them.

Mr. Atreya Bhatta: "An Observation on the Revolutionary Trends in Chinese Literary Thoughts in the 1920s"

Mr Atreya Bhatta investigated the intellectual activities that followed in the immediate aftermath of the May 30th incident of 1925 and particularly the shock which many of the intellectuals received when some of their numbers were killed along with the dissenting workers. He talked about how these incidents arguably influenced the sense of commitment of many of the Chinese intellectuals towards revolution and in what way

many of the standpoints adopted during the May 4th Movement were criticized and how the pressing need to adopt new theoretical ideas were stressed. In his paper he tried to analyse the arguments of few of these authors and stated their relevance to the then conditions of China.

Prof. Sabaree Mitra: “Contextualizing Lu Xun in the CPC Discourse on Culture: From the Left League to Yan’an Talks to Cultural Reform”

Prof. Sabaree Mitra alluded to new observations and perspectives on Lu Xun and his works. After the Left League of Writers was established in 1930, Lu Xun (and his associates) continued to maintain an independent non-doctrinaire attitude towards Marxism, literature and party organization, and, on certain issues of literary criticism, he took positions completely different from that of the Communist Party of China. Yet, Lu Xun has been held in high esteem by Mao Zedong and he remained celebrated through the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and part of 1980s. As the reform regime consolidated power, however, and contrary to logical expectation perhaps, it became clear that Lu Xun no longer enjoyed the iconic status in the official discourse on culture. She tried to analyse the factors that contributed to the changing evaluation of Lu Xun in the official discourse of CPC over the decades since the Yan’an Talks delivered by Mao Zedong in 1942.

Concluding Session: *Institutional Research & Future Plans*

Chair: Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti

The Valedictory Address was delivered by Prof. Alka Acharya, Director, ICS. She started by appreciating the efforts made by the organisers and participants towards a successful conference. She said that it was evident from the serious questions that the keynote posed to the explorations of diverse issues, there is much that has been put on the table to reflect upon, pursue, probe, question and explore; it was equally clear from the carefully selected paper presentations and the discussions that followed, that this conference will generate many new ventures. She went on to state that the Fifth All

India Conference of China Studies has clearly indicated that the younger scholars are turning to China with a new fascination; moreover, an entirely new set of factors have now come into play, pushing, promoting and guiding the research interests, assisted by increased access to resources and new materials and most importantly, proliferation of opportunities for fieldwork and travel to China. Finally, Prof. Acharya underscored the role played by ICS in promoting and strengthening these synergies and creating a national network of China scholars.