

CONCEPT NOTE

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PROGRAMME

Workshop on

“Assessing recent initiatives to promote China studies in India”

India International Centre, New Delhi,

Thursday, 23 January, 2020

Conference Room 2, India International Centre, New Delhi

Concept Note

It is well understood that India needs to greatly strengthen its knowledge and understanding of China, particularly in the context of today’s world, through systematic encouragement of China studies in India. However, various assessments conducted of the state of China studies in India agree that we are still greatly lagging behind in this respect. This is in spite of the fact that different stakeholders have undertaken initiatives, particularly in the last 10 to 15 years, to promote or support China studies in India in a variety of ways.

The Institute of Chinese Studies is engaged in conducting a detailed examination of these recent initiatives. In this connection, it has been in contact with a number of the stakeholders, including government agencies, public and private universities, think tanks, concerned foundations and trusts, as well as institutions abroad. The idea is to come up with an assessment of the problems and shortcomings of China studies in India, and recommendations based on this, that do not merely repeat earlier critiques or confine themselves to generalizations, but that can provide an up-to-date picture of the situation based on the experience of the last few years.

As an integral part of this exercise, the ICS is organizing a one-day workshop in New Delhi on 23 January, 2020. The objective is to enable individuals and representatives of institutions who have been engaged in trying to promote Chinese studies in India to share their experience and their views on what has been achieved so far, what are the challenges that they are facing, and what remains to be done. A direct and

frank discussion among the different stakeholders will be of great importance in coming up with a comprehensive and objective assessment of the state of China studies in India at this juncture and recommendations on how to take it forward.

To facilitate maximum discussion, the plan is to have theme-based sessions, in which 4-5 panelists with a moderator will be asked to present their views and in which adequate time will be reserved for interventions from other participants in the workshop. The themes have been chosen based on the inputs received so far from our respondents, and reflect issues of common concern.

Programme

0930 – 1000 Hours: Registration and Tea/Coffee

1000 – 1045 Hours: Inaugural Session

Chair: Amb. Ashok K. Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies

Prof. Patricia Uberoi: Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies

Prof. Madhavi Thampi: Workshop Convener and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies

1045 – 1300 Hours: Session 1 – Scaling Up, Ensuring Quality

This session will address issues related to expanding the presence of China studies across India and attracting more students and scholars to study China, while at the same time paying attention to the quality of training and of research output.

Moderator: Prof. Sreemati Chakrabarti, Vice-Chairperson, Institute of Chinese Studies

Prof. Tansen Sen: Director, Center for Global Asia, NYU-Shanghai

Prof. Elizabeth Perry: Director, Harvard-Yenching Institute

Mr. Ashish Dhawan: Founder, China India Foundation

Prof. Mark Frazier : Co-Director, India China Institute, The New School

1300 – 1345 Hours: Lunch

1345 – 1515 Hours: Session 2 - Bridging the Gaps

This session will focus on how to overcome the gaps in the existing knowledge system – between Chinese language and Chinese studies, Chinese studies and other academic disciplines, and between policy-related research, popular writing and academic work in this field.

Moderator: Prof. BR Deepak, Centre of Chinese and Southeast Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dr. Jagannath Panda: Coordinator, East Asia Centre, Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses

Prof. Alka Acharya: Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Honorary Fellow, Institute of Chinese Studies

Ms. Sowmiya Ashok: Assistant Editor, The Indian Express

1515 – 1530 Hours: Tea/Coffee Break

1530 – 1730 Hours: Session 3 – Major Challenges

This session will examine problems such as inadequate human and material resources, policy and other restrictions; lack of employment opportunities in academia, the difficulty of making China studies a priority for universities and other organisations, etc.

Moderator: Ms. Anita Sharma, Pro-Vice Chancellor, KR Mangalam University

Dr. Sonika Gupta: Associate Professor, IIT Madras China Studies Centre

Dr. G Venkatraman: Associate Professor, IIM Indore

Dr. C. Vinodan: Hon. Director, Institute for Contemporary Chinese Studies, MG University, Kottayam

Mr. Prashant Kaushik: Assistant Professor, Centre for Chinese Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar
