

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Department of Geography and Resource Management

will present a seminar

by

Dr. Alex English

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Victoria University, Australia

Finding Harmony: The Role of Sustainability and Climate Change in China's Evolving Pattern of Development

Abstract:

There is growing debate about the extent of reforms needed to rebalance China's pattern of development. Much of the discussions emphasise the nation's 'capital-intensive, industry-led' mode of development and the weak presence of domestic consumption, service industries and social welfare. However, it is clear that the rebalancing of China's development requires deeper reforms beyond structural economic adjustments and instead extends to reviewing the concept of development itself. Vague terms such as 'harmonious society', 'scientific mode of development', a 'low carbon and circular economy' and 'new energy revolution' have entered the official discourse to highlight the commitment of the State to the need for change. Yet the key ingredients to China's industrial-led development remain the provision of easy access to credit and the under pricing of inputs, including resources, capital, land and the environment. Moreover, the impact of the crisis and the Government's stimulus package are more likely to result in the reinvigoration of the tried and true mode of economic development: high investment in infrastructure, heavy industry and manufacturing. The question remains, however: is this sustainable: economically, socially and environmentally? Can the Chinese State resolve this apparent dichotomy? This presentation tries to tackle these difficult questions by reviewing the significance and implication of China's recent attempts to evolve and 'rebalance' its mode of development through its response to the challenge of climate change and raises the possibility of finding 'harmony'.

About the Speaker:

Alex is a research fellow at the Centre for Strategic Economic Studies currently examining the political, institutional and firm-level processes driving - and impeding - the implementation of low carbon strategies in China and Australia. His research interests include Chinese environmental governance, conservation management, climate change policies, globalisation and sustainable development.

Language: English
Date: 22 October 2009 (Thursday)
Time: 4:30pm ~ 6:00pm
Venue: Room 233
Wong Foo Yuan Building
Chung Chi College

~All are Welcome~

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