

Final Report: Senior Research Stay at Freie Universität Berlin

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1. On Monday, August 15, Meeting Andreas Wanke, Head of the Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management; Katrin Risch, Program Manager University Alliance for Sustainability. Our delegation listens carefully to the Introduction to Sustainability Management at FUB and the green campus. The University's Unit for Sustainability and Energy Management is responsible for the integration of sustainability practices in all areas and entities of Freie Universität. The Unit is assigned directly to the Executive Board. Actually, the University Alliance for Sustainability follows a holistic approach and one of the key areas identified is sustainable campus management. Later in the afternoon, Tour of the FUB campus with a sustainability focus, short as it is, it has impressed everyone very much with the energy saving, green plants and photovoltaic power generation on the roof on the campus.





2. Meeting with Vice President Prof. Brigitta Schütt; Board Member of the University Alliance for Sustainability. We had a very constructive discussion about sustainability management at FUB and potential cooperation in Green Campus. Also, we both think that to development joint seminar for scholars and double degree for graduate students are very promising work in the nearly future.



We all believe that for research on sustainability or research that aims to grasp the global situation, it is essential to gather researchers from diverse fields. I think that there is a potential to promote ties among diverse fields by means of the establishment of such research themes. For research on sustainability or research that aims to grasp the global and regional environmental situation as well as governance, it is essential to gather researchers from diverse fields. I think that there is a potential to promote ties among diverse fields by means of the establishment of such research themes. We invited Prof. Brigitta Schütt to attend the PKU-FUB Joint Seminar on Urban and Regional Sustainability at Peking University we organize to promote academic exchange. She accepted the invitation with pleasure.

3. Meeting Prof. Sodoudi (Arbeitsbereich Stadtklima, Institut für Meteorologie, Freie Universität Berlin). Prof. Sodoudi invited our delegation to her working group on Tuesday. She suggests that all participants introduce their research projects or field of interests in short presentations. She and her colleagues also gave short presentations. Prof. Li, Prof. Xue and Sun also introduced their own research progress and focus field.

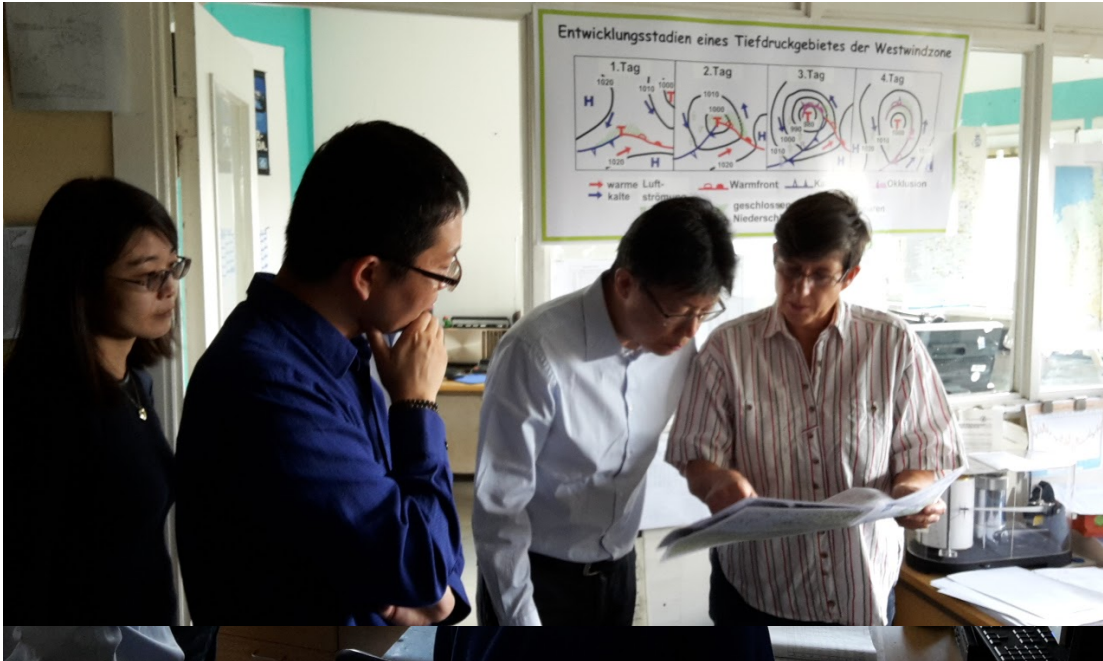
Prof. Xue Ling: Introduction of team, the school of government and related disciplines at PKU. Presentation on "Spatial complexity: the evolution of urban and regional system and its sustainability"

Prof. Sun Tieshan: "Urban expansion, suburbanization and spatial transformation of Chinese mega cities – a case study of Beijing metropolitan area"

Then, subsequently opportunities for joint research projects was discussed. Also, we visited Labs and facilities in the institute. After the workshop and visit, both side thinks it is very necessary to team up with each other, particularly in the area such as Impact of Global Climate Change on Urban Immigration and Industrial Transformation. We are now begin to discuss our cooperation in urban climate and industrial transformation focusing on Beijing and Shanghai. Our another cooperative

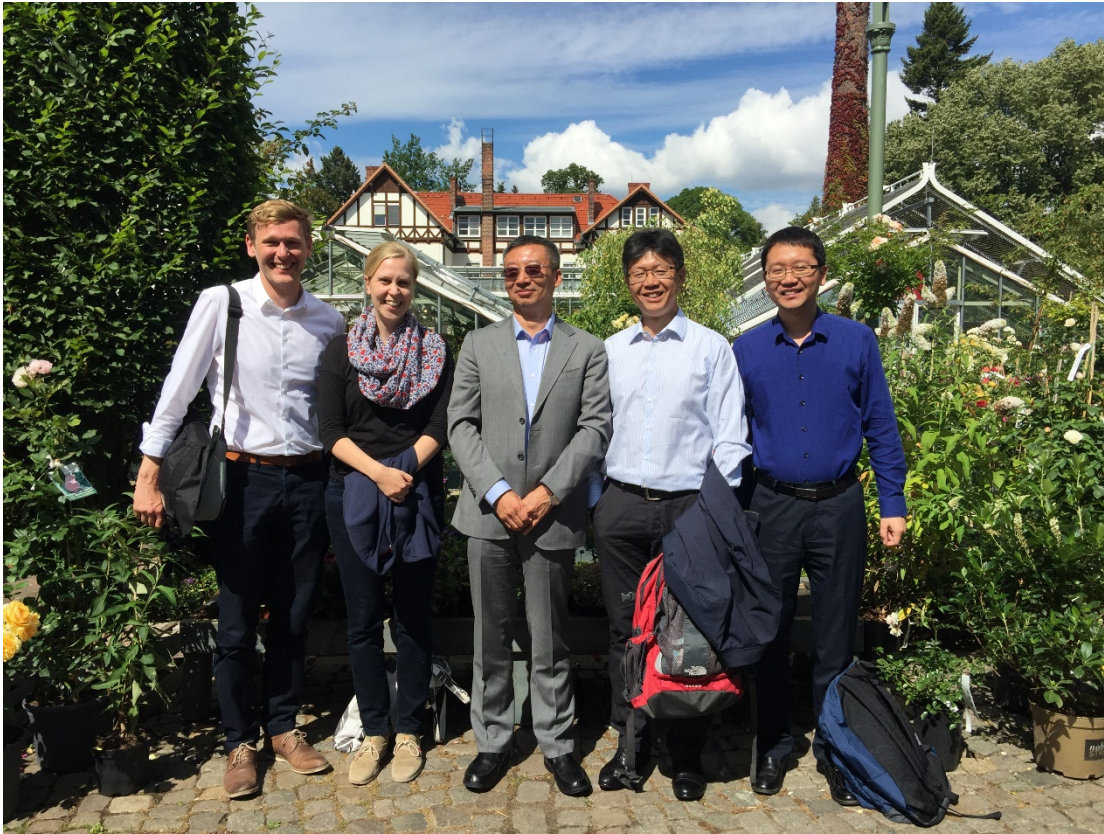
partner is from Fudan University. We also talked about dynamic simulation for people's leisure behavior in green belt and park to detect their adaptation to the climate change in different scenario and urban planning by using agent-based modeling earlier this month before I came back to China. It's good for us to focus on the relationship between urban leisure and capacity of green area in Shanghai including adaptation of urban climate and environment change. We all believe that by establishing defined integrated research themes we can enhance interdisciplinary ties. Some aspects of the effort to link researchers in diverse fields may be more successful than others. I am focusing on urban and regional economics and Sahar is focusing on urban climate. As such, I believe that the establishment of integrated research themes is of importance for us in its capacity as a research network. By the way, Fudan University is Freie Universität Berlin's partner university too.







4. Meeting Matthias Kuder, Deputy Head of the Center for International Cooperation. We exchanged of ideas and research experience in the field of Sustainable Development between the scholars of PKU and FUB. Also, we all agree that it's good to establish a formal collaboration relationship between PKU and FUB in some School and Department, such as school of government. It is very essential to create a network between faculties, staffs and students in the Field of Sustainable Development. A joint workshop is a good way to promote interaction between researchers and Staffs of PKU and FUB. What's more, we all think that Interdisciplinary research will also become an increasing necessity between PKU and FUB. There is a growing tendency for PhD students and other students in environmental studies to be trained by educators from a variety of fields.



5. Meeting Dr. Sibyl Steuwer, Environmental Policy Research Center. Dr. Sibyl Steuwer gave us a brief introduction about the the center’s work and main projects. Prof. presented an overview of Germany’s Energy Transition. Prof. Dr. Miranda Schreurs is the director of the Environmental Policy Research Centre and Professor of Comparative Politics at the Freie Universität Berlin. Schreurs’ work focuses on comparative environmental politics and policy in Europe, the US, and East Asia. We exchanged of research interests in environmental governance, climate change policy and politics, energy policy, German, EU, US and East Asian environmental policy. what struck me most was that Environmental Policy Research Center at Freie Universität Berlin may be unique among institutes engaged in environmental research even on a worldwide scale in terms of the diverse range of fields in which it conducts research. At least in Germany, while there are a number of institutes, which focus largely on designated fields, there are no institutes which cover this many environmental research fields. This particular unique and defining characteristic of Environmental Policy Research Center is one which should be widely conveyed to the world. Also, with the influence of an increasing number of think-tanks in China there is a gradual shift towards a more interdisciplinary structure for research.



6. Meeting Prof. Martin Voss and his research group. Prof. Martin Voss is head of Disaster Research Unit in FUB. We discussed current research projects as well as options for cooperation on Monday, September 5. Prof. Martin Voss has been in close contact with the German “Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit” (German International Cooperation Agency, GiZ) regarding potential cooperative research on civil protection in China. The GiZ has a variety of close partners: specifically, relevant are the “Chinese Academy of Governance” and the National Institute of Emergency Management (NIEM). The background hereto Martin mentioned is the so-called “Global Initiative for Disaster Risk Management GiDRM” whose goal is to take innovative solutions for strengthening civil protection which have been developed in Germany and then propagating them internationally and therewith engage opportunities for strategic cooperation worldwide. Both of the institutions headed by Prof. Martin Voss – the “Disaster Research Unit (DRU)” at the Freie Universität Berlin as well as the private non-profit “Academy of the Disaster Research Unit (ADRU)” which is still in its nascent stages – seek to play a role in research activities (DRU) as well as in a consulting, training, and educational / educational concept development capacity (ADRU) for the aforementioned endeavour. In the mid- to long-term, the GiZ and the DRU/ADRU strive to create long-term cooperative relationships with scientific as well as non-scientific and/or private enterprise institutions in China.



7. Meeting Dr. Berthold Kuhn, Adjunct Professor at the Freie Universität Berlin's Otto Suhr Institute of Political Science. We had a very glad talk about the implementation of basic research and has an important role in the development of basic sciences. Also, We agree that it is important to convey easily-understandable information on research outcomes to the general public, policy-makers and mass media. The government-appointed Environment Council fulfills this role in Germany. At this council, experts taken from a variety of fields assemble and discuss on issues which have been raised in the course of research, risk, and those research areas which are likely to be of future importance. The results of these discussions are summarized in a report which is submitted to the government once every four years, and which the media then takes up. I think that our urban and regional government should learn this way to convey of easily-understandable information to the general public. It might also be a good idea for a council which fulfills a similar role to be set up in China. Sometimes, I have feeling that Chinese people do not believe the ministry of environment protection and local unit of environment protection. To build up trust between government and people is the most important thing for sustainable development. Sustainability is an arduous job that all social stakeholder should be engaged in that. It's not just a task for government.



8. Meeting Prof. Philipp Lepenies. Prof. Lepenies also spoke during the Spring Campus and will be the interim successor of Miranda Schreurs. We had a good talk with very broad topics. Philipp is familiar with the situation, status and problems in developing countries. He has a very rich work experience in different places worldwide. He also has good relationships with governments and banks in many countries and regions. It is very much helpful for PKU and FUB in terms of sustainable development. We both think that besides economic and financial research in sustainability, it is also important to continue to convey the importance of the humanities and social sciences as a research community.

9. Meeting Andreas Wanke and Katrin in earlier September to discuss the arrangement of "THE FIRST PKU-FUB JOINT SEMINAR ON URBAN and REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY" on Oct. 10 in detail. The College of Urban and Environmental Sciences at Peking University and the Department of Urban and Regional Department, School of Government in Peking University are delighted to host the first PKU-FUB Joint Seminar on Urban and Regional Sustainability. The joint seminar shall serve as a platform to share experiences between PKU and FUB by offering insights into state-of-the-art research in two

or three parallel running research sessions. Participants in the field of sustainable development are invited to discuss research and share their findings. The seminar offers the opportunity for exchange and discussion of good practice examples. Networking will be facilitated within the network and beyond.