

Final Report: Student Research Stay at Freie Universität Berlin

Yixuan Ouyang

School of Government at Peking University

Senior Student, Major in Public Administration

The effectiveness of Chinese foreign aid to Africa for sustainable health
development: present situation, obstacles and future prospects

October to November 2016

My experience at Freie Universität Berlin was composed mainly of two parts: my research project and the report of student participation for sustainability in the campus. Even though one-month stay was indeed too short to achieve all the research goals of my project, I benefited immensely from this experience and felt genuinely lucky to be a UAS fellow. First of all, I want to thank Ms. Beate Rogler (Head of FUB's representative office in Beijing) for helping me contact my advisor, Professor Michael Bolle (Director of Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence), who was a really respectable, knowledgeable and helpful person, who gave my massive help on my research project and guided me on my future study areas.

Sustainable development is actually a very broad subject and it usually includes many specific goals including poverty reduction, good health and well-being, responsible consumption and production, energy saving and environmental protection, etc. As a public administration student, I've always very concerned about public and international affairs, particularly about how public policy is shaped and global collective action. So I chose an international policy-related topic and focused on the sustainable health development. I will elaborate more about my research content in the following paragraphs.

There is a growing awareness, within the international community, of the inseparability of sustainable development issues. Since 1940s, international health agencies, in cooperation with national governments, have achieved some remarkable successes in developing hospital-based health services and in attacking communicable diseases. However, with the changes of world economic and political conditions, the priorities of international funding agencies also shifted frequently. Despite the good intentions and dedication of many planners and administrators, I noticed that internationally assisted health programs often resulted in services that were

inappropriate to the local needs and resources, and consequently less than fully successful.

Specifically, my research focuses primarily on Chinese foreign aid to Africa and deals with the following issues:

- Tracked the history of Chinese foreign aid to Africa and evaluated the outcome of aid programs.
- Examined Chinese governance structure and decision making processes and their implications on Chinese foreign aid to Africa.
- Applied game theory to interpret the processes of engagement and interaction between China and the recipient country, analyzed the potential political risks of Chinese foreign aid to Africa.

During my research stay in Berlin, I received lots of generous help from others. I was deeply grateful to Professor Bolle and other Jean Monet Center fellows who were really welcoming and open-minded. During our meetings, we dealt with relevant issues of scientific work in the light of logical discourse and the theory of science. Other subjects dealt with significant problems of foreign politics like international cooperation and the impact of domestic policy-making. Except for the research work, I also took part in professor Bolle's seminar on Modern Political Economics, which gave me the privilege to experience a new teaching style and an approach that is different from my home university to understanding political science theory.

Another part of my stay at FUB was the investigation of student participation of sustainability in the campus. I am very grateful to Ms Katrin Risch (UAS-Program Manager), who gave me much support upon my arrival in Berlin and introduced the UAS Green Paper to me. To proceed my investigation about student participation of sustainability in the campus, I firstly did some desktop search on relevant regulations, policies, programs and initiatives regarding with university's energy saving, environmental and climate protection. I found that the university has made a lot of effort to build a sustainable university, and there are many effective programs and student-led initiatives in the campus, such as GREEN IT and SUSTAIN IT!, that are designated to call for people's attention for sustainability. And there is a special Energy and Environment Unit that is dedicated to establishing an occupational health and safety management system. Also, I got the chance to talk to administrators working at unit for sustainability and energy management to get more information about the university's management and policies and interviewed several FUB students about their experience and opinions on sustainability in the campus.

This exchange program is not only about heavy research work for me. I also visited many great

museums in Berlin, went to the concert, travelled to some neighboring cities and attended professor Bolle's big birthday party, where I met many interesting people and was introduced to German culture. All in all, this was a very fruitful exchange program for me and it really helped me enriched myself.