



**CHINA SOCIAL  
INSURANCE  
ASSOCIATION**



**Symposium on  
State-based Welfare –  
Prospects of Social Security and Harmony in Asia and Europe**

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2008  
Beijing, P.R. of China**

(English-Chinese Simultaneous translation)

Since the beginning of the ASEM dialogue, there is an increasing interest in Asia and Europe to add a social dimension to the rather economically dominated discourse. In this sense the establishment of the ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference in 2006 was a big step forward. It was established due to the insight that the benefits of economic globalization may only reach their full potential by strengthening their social dimension. Furthermore, possible negative impacts of globalization may only be offset by strong social support systems. In this context, the first ASEM Labour and Employment Ministers' Conference stated that productive work, regular employment, employee rights, and social cohesiveness are necessary conditions of socio-economic development. Furthermore, the ASEM summit issued a mandate to include social partners in future dialogues and co-operations. Therefore as a next step, it is essential to establish a consistent dialogue on social issues.

In October 2008, the seventh ASEM summit will be held in Beijing. Against this background, the conference organized by Renmin University of China, the Chinese Social Insurances Association and FES is supposed to provide a platform for a dialogue on visions of Asian and European state-based welfare to further the understanding on social security in general and social insurance systems in particular.

European societies have a long tradition of state-based welfare and their social security systems are among the most visible achievements of this historical process. Even though member countries' visions of social welfare systems differ significantly on the national level there seem to be a number of common future trends. Especially the need to reform social security systems in response to new challenges posed by socio-economic changes. Again, motivations for this kind of reforms as well as their extent and (anticipated) success differ considerably between the individual member states. Nevertheless European citizens as a whole share a rather similar expectation concerning the future of social security. As the latest Financial Times/Harris poll reveals, despite their countries' different attitudes and approaches to free-markets and social security systems European citizens generally oppose the US neo-liberal concept of capitalism to serve as a future role model for Europe.

East Asia's approach to state-based welfare seems to be even more diverse than Europe's. As a consequence, the coverage of countries' social security systems also differs widely. Southeast Asian nations such as Singapore follow a rather neo-liberal approach to social security. They only offer basic social security while holding their citizens largely responsible for their individual social insurance needs. The North East Asian societies of Japan and South Korea are quite the opposite, with social security systems almost comparable to Europe's. Yet quite like Europe they are also under pressure to adapt to socio-economic changes. Especially Japan's rapidly aging society along with major changes in the country's employment style have led to rising social security expenditures now posing massive macro-economic challenges. Hence, for some time Japan is undergoing a social reform process, aiming to create a humane and sustainable social security system. China on the other hand, already initiated a reform process of its social security system 30 years ago, along with the opening of the economy and the liberalisation of its markets. Since then China has been constantly amending and adapting its social security system to complement the economic changes and challenges.

### **Objectives of the Dialogue**

Provide a platform for academic discussion on the current state of reforms of the social security systems in both Asia and Europe. Facilitate the exchange of views and experiences to learn from each others (best) practices.

#### **VENUE:**

**Yifu Conference Center**  
**Renmin University of China**  
**Entrance East Gate**  
**59 Zhongguancun Street**  
**Haidian District, Beijing 100872**  
**Tel.: 0086-13520941940**

#### **ACCOMMODATION:**

**Beijing Friendship Hotel**  
**Building 4**  
**1 Zhongguancun Nandajie**  
**Haidian District, Beijing 100873**  
**Tel.: 0086 (0) 10-68498888**  
**Fax: 0086 (0) 10-68498866**  
**[www.bjfriendshiphotel.com/en](http://www.bjfriendshiphotel.com/en)**

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

as of 23.05.2008

### Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2008

Arrival of external participants

18:00 Welcome Dinner at the Hotel's Ju Xiang Yuan Restaurant, Friendship Palace, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

### Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008

08:15 Departure of bus from Hotel, Building 4, to Yifu Conference Center at Renmin-University

08:30 Registration

#### Opening Session

Chair: Prof. Zheng Gongcheng, Chair Professor of Social Security, Vice Chairman of the University Council, Commissioner of the Academic Committee, Renmin University of China, P.R. of China

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome by Ms. Wang Jianlun, President of the China Social Insurance Association (CSIA), former Minister of Labour and Social Security

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome by Mr. Roland Feicht, Resident Representative for China and Mongolia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Beijing

09:30 – 12:00 **Session 1: The Asian Welfare System - Historical Development and Current State of Reform**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Donald Sassoon (*confirmed*)  
Professor of Comparative European History, Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom

Speakers: P.D. Dr. Eun-Jeung Lee (*confirmed*) (20')  
Associate Professor in the Institute for Political Science, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Prof. Zheng Gongcheng (*confirmed*) (20')  
Chair Professor of Social Security, Vice Chairman of the University Council, Commissioner of the Academic

Committee, Renmin University of China, Beijing, P.R. of China

Prof. Dr. Mukul Asher (*confirmed*) (20')  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore

10:30 – 11:00 **Group photo**, Coffee / Tea break

### **Floor discussion**

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

### **13:30 – 15:30 Session 2: China's Welfare System – Past, Present and Future**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Thomas Meyer (*confirmed*)  
Chairman of the Department of Political Science, Dortmund University, Germany and Academic Director of the Department for Political Education, FES, Germany

Speakers: Prof. Wang Jian'gang (*confirmed*)  
China Youth University for Political Sciences, P.R. of China (Old-age insurance)

Han Feng (*confirmed*)  
President, The Social Health Insurance Association of China, P.R. of China (Medical insurance)

Prof. Hong Dayong (*confirmed*)  
School of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University of China, P.R. of China (Social rescue)

Associate Prof. Xiong Yue'gen (*confirmed*)  
School of Sociology Studies, Peking University, P.R. of China (Social welfare)

### **Floor discussion**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee / Tea break

### **16:00 – 18:00 Session 3: The European Welfare System - Historical Development and Current State of Reform**

Chair: Mr. Tian Xiaobao, Director of Chinese Academy for Labor Sciences, P.R. of China

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Donald Sassoon (*confirmed*) (20')  
Professor of Comparative European History, Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom

Prof. Dr. Thomas Meyer (*confirmed*) (20')

Chairman of the Department of Political Science,  
Dortmund University, Germany and Academic Director  
of the Department for Political Education, FES, Germany

Dr. Christian Kellermann (*confirmed*) (20')  
International Policy Analysis Unit, FES, Germany

### **Floor discussion**

- 18:00 Walk to Yawang Restaurant (Peking-duck) , *Haidiannanlu Street 28  
Haidian District, Beijing 100081  
Tel: 62536869*
- 18:30 Dinner
- 20:00 Bus shuttle to Hotel

## **Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008**

- 09:10 Departure of bus from Hotel, Building 4, to Yifu Conference Center at  
Renmin-University

### **09:30 – 12:00 Session 4: The Asian Welfare System – Country Studies**

Chair: Mr. Leif Pagrotsky (*confirmed*)  
Member of Parliament and Deputy Member of Committee  
on European Union Affairs, Sweden

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Yoshinori Hiroi (*confirmed*) (15')  
Professor of Public Policy, Faculty of Law and  
Economics, Chiba University, Japan

Prof. Dr. Kyo-Seong Kim (*confirmed*) (15')  
Department of Social Welfare, Chung Ang University,  
Republic of Korea

Prof. Dr. M. Ramesh (*confirmed*) (15')  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National  
University of Singapore, Singapore

Mr. Dang Kim Chung (*confirmed*) (15')  
Deputy Director, Institute of Labour Science and Social  
Affairs (ILSSA), Vietnam

- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee / Tea break

### **Floor discussion**

- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

### **13:30 – 15:30 Session 5: The European Welfare System – Country Studies**

- Chair: Prof. Wang Yanzhong ,Vice Director of the Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences  
P.R. of China
- Speaker: Mr. Leif Pagrotsky (*confirmed*) (15')  
Member of Parliament and Deputy Member of Committee on European Union Affairs, Sweden
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Schröder (*confirmed*) (15')  
Professor for Social Sciences (Politisches System der BRD - Staatlichkeit im Wandel), Kassel University, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Stanisława Golinowska (*confirmed*) (15')  
Institute for Public Health, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland
- Prof. Dr. Pál Tamás (*confirmed*) (15')  
Director of the Sociology Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

#### **Floor discussion**

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee / Tea break

#### **16:00 – 17:00 Session 6: General Discussion - Future paths for Asia and Europe**

- Chair: Prof. Zheng Gongcheng, Chair Professor of Social Security, Vice Chairman of the University Council, Commissioner of the Academic Committee, Renmin University of China, Beijing *P.R. of China*

#### **17:00 Closure**

Prof. Zheng Gongcheng, Chair Professor of Social Security, Vice Chairman of the University Council, Commissioner of the Academic Committee, Renmin University of China, Beijing *P.R. of China*

Mr. Axel Schmidt  
Head of Office for Regional Co-operation  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Singapore

17:30 Walk to Farewell Dinner

18:00 Farewell Dinner

Tianshishifu Restaurant, *Suzhoujie street, west entrance of Renmin University, Haidian District, Beijing 100080, Tel: 8399 3666*

20:00 Bus shuttle to Hotel

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

Departure of external participants