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Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Program on the People's Republic of China

2006 Program Summary

Winter & Spring, 2006

Training on Property Taxation and Local Public Finance for Ningxia Officials

March 1–7, 2006, Cambridge, MA & College Park, MD

Ningxia is one of six provinces to conduct pilot studies on property tax implementation. Twenty-four officials from the Ningxia Provincial Tax Administration and Ministry of Finance attended six days of timely and dynamic training on local public finance and property taxation. In addition, the delegation attended three days of lecture at the Lincoln Institute and two days of lecture at the University of Maryland, followed by a day touring the Montgomery County Assessment Office in Maryland.

Mr. Xiwen Chen's Visit to the Lincoln Institute

March 9–10, 2006, College Park, MD & Cambridge, MA



The Lincoln Institute had the honor of hosting Dr. Xiwen Chen (right) of the Leading Group on Economic and Financial Affairs and five other high level central government advisors. Recommended to Mr. Chen by the World Bank, Lincoln's China Program hosted the delegation in Cambridge, MA, and the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Mr. Chen and his colleagues attended lectures and discussions on land management and planning, legal framework for land development, smart growth, public finance and property taxation. The group also visited the city of Newton's assessment office where they discussed with local officials assessment technology, administrative challenges, and taxpayer education.

Important Issues in an Era of Rapid Urbanization in China

May 21, 2006, Cambridge, MA

This one-day conference brought together leading scholars from different disciplines to examine land related issues in China. Twelve papers were given and lively discussion followed, as this international group of economists, planners, public policy scholars presented their latest research on China's fiscal reform, land use policies, urban housing dilemma, urban planning, and farmland conservation. Annually organized by Dr. Yan Song of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Dr. Chengri Ding of the University of Maryland, Lincoln will again sponsor a conference on critical issues in China's period of rapid urbanization on May 4, 2007.





Transit-Oriented Development: International Experiences and Opportunities for China

May 26–28, 2006, Shanghai

With “TOD” becoming an increasingly important component of urban planning in China, Lincoln was happy to cosponsor this event with the China Executive Leadership Academy, Pudong. Over 60 mayors, planners, and other officials from across China attended this three-day event held at the Party’s Leading School in Shanghai. The seminar focused on theoretical knowledge, international experience, and transit-oriented development (TOD) in the Chinese context. Ten scholars and leading practitioners from North America and the Asia-Pacific region discussed TOD and its applicability in China.

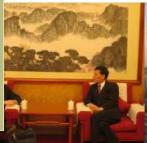


Second Annual Conference on Property Taxation: International Experience and China’s Reform

May 29, 2006, Beijing

In collaboration with the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC), a pilot study addressing property tax reform and its application in China was conducted. This research was discussed by domestic and international scholars at the *Second Annual Conference on China Property Tax* in Beijing. Vice-Minister Fuzhan Xie, Dr. Guoqiang Long, Jiabin Lin, Xiaoming Wang, and Hongri Ni of the DRC, Deputy Director Xingyu Zhao of the State Administration of Taxation, Dr. Jia Kang of the Ministry of Finance Research Institute of Fiscal Science provided an overview of their work. Lincoln’s guest experts, Dr. William Fox of the University of Tennessee, Dr. Andy Anstett of the International Property Taxation Institute, Kenneth Pang and Kevin Siu of the Hong Kong SAR Department of Valuation, and Laura Faussekis of the Montgomery County Assessment Office, Maryland, provided commentary on the study’s report. The report has since been published as the second volume in a three part series on property tax reform in China and can be found in English and Chinese on the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy publication website.





Third Annual China Fellowship Program

May 31–June 9, 2006, Weihai, Shandong

For a third year, the China Fellowship Program supported scholars and graduate students from Chinese academic institutions by awarding fifteen new fellowships. Applicants presented their research proposals over the course of two days to a panel of international and domestic scholars, followed by three days of intensive training on research methodology. Selection of new scholars took place at the end of the program.

Included in this ten-day event were presentations by 2005 awardees on research outcomes and a one-day conference on *Smart Growth, Land Use Policy, and Planning in China*. Scholars serving on the fellowship panel presented papers, and a number of papers are expected to be published.



Legal and Institutional Framework for Land Use and Land Development

June 10–11, 2006, Beijing

Professors Randall Crane of UCLA and James Cohen and Chengri Ding of the University of Maryland gave two days of lecture on legal and institutional structuring around land use and land development in the United States. Over 40 doctoral students, developers, and local officials from the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Land and Resources engaged in discussions about the development of such framework, legal and institutional reform in China, and the legal framework surrounding land use and development in China.

Forum on Property Taxation Reform and Development in China

June 19–24, 2006, Cambridge, MA

Following the Second Annual Conference on Property Taxation in Beijing, this forum featured a delegation of 15 high-level central government officials from the Development Research Center of the State Council, Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation, Ministry of Construction, and State Council Legal Department. In addition, leading international academics from six different countries were invited to discuss China's reform and encourage officials from different ministries to openly discuss implications of implementing a property tax in China. International experts provided guidance in terms of theoretical knowledge and international experience. The forum was widely successful, as no other venue of this kind had been offered in China in recent years.





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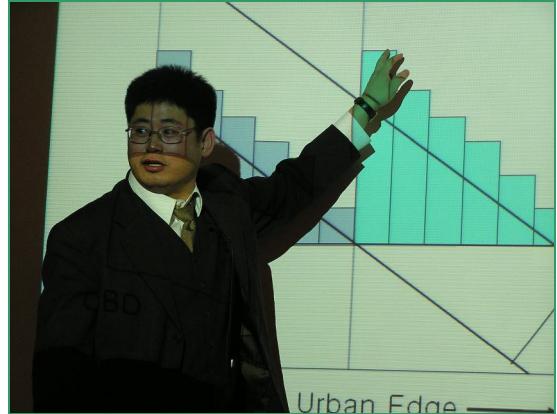


Summer & Fall, 2006

Training the Trainers: Urban Economics, Policy, and Planning

July 10–25, 2006, Huangshan, Anhui

The summer kicked off with the fourth year of *Training the Trainers: Urban Economics, Policy, and Planning*, presented by Lincoln's China Program. This two-week course does exactly what its name proclaims; trains trainers. Forty participants from urban economics, urban planning, and public policy institutions from across China were selected from over 150 applicants to attend this specialized training. The training was conducted by Dr. Yves Zenou of the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Stockholm, Dr. Chengri Ding and Dr. Gerrit Knaap of the University of Maryland, College Park, and Dr. Yan Song or the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Fundamental urban economics, advanced macro and microeconomics, planning as an instrument of policy, and applied urban planning were primary focuses of the training. Aside from lectures, participants took part in large group simulations and discussion sessions. Evaluations from both students and faculty indicated the Huangshan training was a great success.



Training the Trainers: Public Finance and Property Taxation

July 31–August 11, 2006, Beijing

Lincoln invited Dr. Sally Wallace of Georgia State University, Dr. Steve Tsui of National Chengchi University in Taipei, Dr. Riel Franzsen of the University of South Africa, and Dr. William McCluskey of the University of Ulster to conduct this two-week training. After reviewing the theoretical framework surrounding fiscal policy, the training offered comparisons of various international fiscal framework and property tax systems. The theories behind property taxation, property assessment, and required technology were also issues addressed. Evaluations from students and faculty showed the timeliness and value in the training's comprehensive approach and accomplished faculty.

Trainings like Lincoln's Training the Trainers series are in high demand in China; over 150 applicants per training. The program has become an established and important component of Lincoln's work in China. For information about upcoming 2007 trainings, log on to Lincoln's China program webpage:

www.lincolninst.edu/aboutlincoln/prc.asp





Fundamentals of Local Public Finance

August 16–18, 2006, Beijing

In August Lincoln sponsored a three-day training with the Ministry of Finance on the *Fundamentals of Local Public Finance*. Public finance and tax officials from Beijing and other municipalities from across China attended the training. Participating faculty for the training were the International Property Tax Institute's (IPTI) Bob Brown and John Glen, and the China Program's Dr. Chengri Ding.

Legal Institutions Surrounding Land Use Governance

September 12–20, 2006, Cambridge, MA



Lincoln hosted a group of twenty-six delegates from the central and local offices of the Ministry of Land & Resources (MLR). To address legal institutions surrounding land use governance, the MLR group attended lectures and held mock debates on issues pertinent to China. Anthony Flint, Lincoln's public affairs manager, provided a tour of Boston development sites and transit-orient development in the city. Eight expert faculty gave lectures over the course of the training. The group spent four days at the Lincoln Institute in Cambridge, MA, and also attended lectures at the University of Maryland's National Center for Smart Growth.

Lincoln President Gregory K. Ingram's Visit to China

September 21–29, 2006, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Haikou, Beijing

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy President Gregory K. Ingram, along with Special Assistant to the President for the China Program Dr. Chengri Ding, made visits to collaborating organizations throughout China in late September. President Ingram met with Vice Minister Jiwei Lou of the Ministry of Finance, officials from the DRC, Peking University Provost Lin Jianhua, Zhejiang University Dean Cifang Wu, and President of the China Institute for Reform and Development, Dr. Fulin Chi.





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Urbanization and Smart Growth

October 10–12, 2006, Haikou, Hainan

Cosponsored by the China Institute of Research and Development in Haikou, Hainan, officials and practitioners from around southern China were invited to discuss *Urbanization and Smart Growth* in China. The mayor of Haikou, Mr. Ci Chen, was in attendance, along with other high-ranking officials from the Haikou Municipal Government. Professors Chengri Ding and Marie Howland of the University of Maryland, and Dr. Yan Song of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, led the workshop with lectures and discussion sessions on smart growth in the Chinese context.



Planning in the Context of Market Forces

October 13–15, 2006, Taiyuan, Shanxi

Co-sponsored by the Shanxi Planning Institute in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, *Planning in the Context of Market Forces* drew a crowd of over 140 city planners, doctorate students, and city officials. This training addressed the concept of urban planning within a market economy, which is becoming a reality for Chinese planners. Along with Dr. Chengri Ding and Dr. Yan Song, Larry Gordon of the law firm Schulman, Rogers, Gandall, Porty & Ecker brought to the training real world experience working with city planning officials, private developers, and lawmakers.

Second Annual International Symposium on Urban Development and Land Policy

October 19–21, 2006, Shenzhen, Guangdong

In partnership with the Shenzhen Graduate School of Peking University, Lincoln organized its second annual symposium in Shenzhen, inviting over 100 international scholars and Chinese scholars to present papers and research projects. Also in attendance were 27 Lincoln Institute China Fellows, who gave final and intermediate reports on their Lincoln-funded research. The themes of the conference were urbanization and urban development, land policy, public finance, housing, employment, and planning. The symposium drew local media attention as well, and was attended by numerous Shenzhen city and local ministry officials. Lincoln's China Program staff has already begun planning the third annual symposium to take place in the fall of 2007.



To learn more about the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, visit the Institute's website @ www.lincolninst.edu