Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) China Programme

10 years of Sino-Norwegian academic cooperation
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The Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) is an interdisciplinary focal point for international human rights, with a staff of about 60 persons. As a unit of the University of Oslo, research and teaching are basic activities. Additionally, the Centre is accredited as the National institution for human rights in Norway according to the United Nations Paris principles. Its uniqueness is ensured by also including extensive international programmes in selected thematic areas and countries, with the China Programme being the largest of these programmes.

While the Norwegian Centre in 2007 celebrates its 20th anniversary, we are also proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the China Programme. The China Programme is an academic complement to the human rights dialogue between Norway and China. It is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming at the realisation of human rights and the building of valuable competence and cooperation between Norway and China. I have personally had the pleasure of visiting our Chinese partners and lecturing at Chinese academic institutions, and have experienced the cooperative spirit and engagement inspiring the activities.

It is with great satisfaction that I conclude that our China Programme is a prime example of this beneficial international engagement, and has been so for 10 great years!

I congratulate the China Programme on its first decade of work!
Ten years of academic exchange

Cecilie Figsenschou Bakke
Programme Director
China Programme

Based at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR) at the University of Oslo, the China Programme, originally titled ”China Rule of Law Programme”, has a solid platform for entering into academic exchange and dialogue on human rights.

The Programme is based on a multi-disciplinary commitment and supports activities which promote the development, understanding and application of international human rights standards. Long-term involvement and close collaboration with Chinese academic partners is the cornerstone of our work in China.

A key priority since the start in 1997 has been to promote human rights education. There is an expressed need for competence building from the Chinese side, and we are seeing that our educational activities, of which many are organised jointly with Chinese and Nordic partners, are slowly but steadily giving results. New courses on international human rights law are being opened up at Chinese universities, and there is a growing body of highly qualified human rights scholars.

Another focal area for the Programme has been to collaborate with Chinese partners on human rights themes of common interest. Chinese expert advice has led us to develop and support research projects highly relevant to ongoing reforms in China. We are proud to present some of these projects in this brochure.

Finally, a third key aim has been to improve Norwegian competence on legal reforms and human rights in China. Through academic seminars, lectures and briefings we have spread knowledge about China and hopefully contributed to a more informed Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue.

In 2007 the China Programme celebrates its 10th anniversary. We see this as only the beginning of our work, and look forward to continued and expanded cooperation.

Cecilie F. Bakke joined the China Programme in 2002, and was assigned as Acting Programme Director in January 2006.
China Programme has experienced an exceptional decade since 1997. We began when China’s “opening to the outside world” was still a term in use. Private passports were difficult to obtain. The term “NGO”, having been introduced by preparations for the 4th UN Conference on Women in 1995, was still new. China had yet to sign the UN Conventions on Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, or to join the WTO. It was a time when “human rights” was a term too sensitive to put on name cards; a term that raised the spectre of oppositional politics, rather than global efforts to build workable institutions protecting agreed upon rights.

Today, the Programme operates in a wholly new environment. The embrace of human rights terminology in China now stretches from the constitution to elementary school text books. China sits in the new Human Rights Council, special rapporteurs have visited, a wide swath of Chinese civil society participates in research, debate and advocacy around reforms that impact the human rights situation in China.

The working context in Norway has also changed dramatically. In 1997 the China Programme was one of very few Norwegian organizations with projects in China. The country had only a handful of Chinese language students each year. Travel to China, and immigration from China, was limited.

Today, China is no longer unapproachably exotic and far away to Norwegians. Chinese student numbers in Norway increase annually. It is difficult to accommodate all the Norwegian students wanting to study Chinese. Norwegian-Chinese cooperation projects in many fields proliferate.

How has the work of the China Programme been affected by this decade of dramatic change? We hope readers will note in the following pages that we have come to rely more
on Chinese expertise in training programs, and on the advice of Chinese colleagues in project development. We look harder for collaboration topics on which a small organization from a small country can provide impetus for new work. We are increasingly committed to programming that reflects the equal importance of economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights in international human rights law.

Is the China Programme still relevant? Yes. The institutions and mechanisms of international human rights law are still immature. Full implementation of the system remains a challenge. In this setting political dialogue between countries is a sine qua non to achieve effective tools for rights-based global development. The Sino-Norwegian human rights dialogue is one such effort. Such dialogues, especially in times of rapid change, benefit from objective research, mutually informed professionals, and improved information flows. International collaboration among academics and civil society helps to provide these resources. This is the mission of the China Programme. We hope readers of this document will agree that this mission remains valid.

Lisa R. Stearns has been Director of the China Programme since the start in 1997. She currently lives in Cuba and is on leave from the Programme in 2006-2008.

We would like to extend thanks to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and its Embassy in Beijing not only for its financial support but for their unfailing respect for our independent, academic role. Our gratitude also goes to the generous support of the several Centre Directors who have inherited our work during their terms at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. Nordic partners in Sweden and Denmark deserve special thanks as well. In crucial programming aspects, we have been able to practice the principles of collective endeavour that are consistent with the humane international cooperation to which we all aspire. Deepest gratitude is saved for the committed and inspiring Chinese colleagues with whom we have grown over the decade. We would also like to express warm thanks to the creative group of young professionals who have made up the ranks of China Programme staff over the years. It has been a privilege and joy to work with you.

China Programme Directors
In 1998, the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL) and the Chinese Foreign Affairs College (FAC) embarked on a cooperative effort that would be crowned in 2002 with the publication of the very first Chinese language textbook on International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

The idea for the IHRL Textbook was conceived at a time when international human rights law teaching in mainland China was in a very preliminary stage and Chinese-language teaching material had not been updated for a long time. It was hoped that a new IHRL textbook for use in Chinese law schools would help improve this situation. The NCHR China Programme in cooperation with CUPL and FAC therefore decided to develop a book that could be used to teach such a course and which would include readings, teaching outlines, and suggestions for active teaching methods.

A working group consisting of 9 Chinese and 10 Nordic scholars was established to compile the texts for the book. This was China’s first multinational editorial group for a human rights textbook, and agreeing on common ground was challenging but deeply instructional to all participants. Translating the English language texts also proved instructive, *inter alia* because a standard Chinese human rights terminology was not yet in place. There-
fore, the IHRL textbook is not only ground-breaking within Chinese IHRL curriculum, but also a pioneer work within the establishment of a standardised Chinese IHRL vocabulary.

The textbook, simply entitled the International Human Rights Law Textbook or Guoji Renquan Fa Jiaocheng in Chinese, also introduces a new and pioneering pedagogical method for the teaching of human rights. Of the two volumes, one contains readings whereas the other supplies major conventions and other documents not easily found elsewhere in Chinese translation.

The Textbook was published in the immediate aftermath of the Chinese Ministry of Education’s 2001 approval of Human Rights Law as an elective course in Chinese universities, thus supplying a timely teaching resource for teachers and law faculties who wanted to start courses in the subject. The book was formally launched in Beijing in November 2002 in the presence of CUPL President Xu Xianming and the Norwegian ambassador to China, H.E. Mr. Haakon B. Hjelde. There was also a launch ceremony in Oslo in 2003 where members of the working group, CUPL President Xu Xianming, University of Oslo Pro-Rector Anne-Brit Kolstø, Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Secretary Vidar Helgesen, and the Chinese Ambassador to Norway H.E. Mrs. Chen Naiqing participated. The NCHR Director also presented the IHRL Textbook to the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights in December 2002.

After its publication, the completed Textbook was used and distributed for example at teacher trainings arranged in China by the China Programme. A total number of 3000 copies of the IHRL Textbook were printed, most of which were distributed, as class sets or library donations, to universities that had started or were starting IHRL courses. Today, the Textbook is still in use at universities in China.

翻译重点的人权出版物
Translation of key human rights literature

When the China Programme was initiated in 1997, hardly any foreign literature on human rights and international human rights law had been translated into Chinese. In order to promote and increase the availability of human rights research material, the Programme therefore – alone or with Nordic partners – cooperated with the China Society for Human Rights on translation projects. Some years later this portfolio was expanded, and today the NCHR and RWI have a standing agreement with the CASS Institute of Law regarding translation of human rights material.
A landmark publication in China

By Dr. Prof. Xu Xianming
President, China University of Political Science and Law
President, China Society for Legal Philosophy

The International Human Rights Law Textbook is worth celebrating. At the time of its publication, Chinese scholars had been doing research on human rights related issues for more than 20 years and the first courses had been established. Until that golden autumn day in 2002, however, China did not have a formal IHRL textbook. Its publication was therefore timely, and will constitute a landmark in the history of human rights teaching in China.

The development of human rights is like a mighty tree. Its roots extend to all the world’s ancient cultures, its flowers first blossomed in the contemporary Western world, and its fruits grow today in all the corners of the world. For 4 years, scholars from China and the Nordic countries meticulously nurtured the particular fruit that is this textbook. The contributing experts came from different cultural backgrounds and had different views of many human rights questions. They nevertheless reached a consensus, and their respectful and cooperative attitudes testify to the spirit of the human rights themselves.

China has a long humanitarian tradition of respect for the value and dignity of human life. However, through this long history, China’s systems and regulations have not been adequate to protect this value and dignity. No doubt China can contribute greatly to universal promotion of human rights and basic freedoms, but we should also draw on the experiences of others to improve our mechanisms. The international cooperation in connection with the textbook was such an exercise, where the ancient was drawn on to perfect the modern.

China’s human rights structures and indeed our entire legal system have made great progress in recent decades. We may today say that we are headed towards a new age of rights. But to realise this new era, we must strengthen the education and research on human rights issues. The textbook has contributed greatly to such education and research, as well as to system building, and I hope that it will continue to inspire exchange and cooperation across the borders and foster even greater results.
As the International Human Rights Law Textbook was taking shape, the China Programme was also working on the development and organisation of IHRL training courses for Chinese university teachers in cooperation with Chinese and Nordic partners. The first training programme was held in October 1999 and assembled teachers from 12 law faculties throughout China. The training aimed at encouraging these universities to use the forthcoming IHRL textbook and the preliminary draft was used in the instruction to extract participants’ comments and suggestions for the final version.

This first seminar in 1999 lasted for 3 days. In the summer of 2001, a much more comprehensive training programme was arranged at Jilin University in the north-eastern city of Changchun. For 3 weeks 25 law teachers from 21 Chinese universities in 14 provinces met to study the fundamentals of international human rights law. The participants were chosen on a competitive basis from among 45 applicants with a special view to their potential for future teaching in the field.

Also at this training programme, the Textbook – at the time in the form of a partially translated print-out manuscript in a ring binder – was put to the test in practice, thus securing valuable last minute input from likely future users. The workshop was also a pilot case for the China Programme’s teacher training component. Therefore, not only the substance of IHRL was discussed, but also different teaching methods and learning processes.

The workshop was arranged in cooperation with Nordic partners and the Jilin University Centre of Jurisprudence Research.

It was facilitated by one of the Jilin professors who had attended the 1999 training in Shanghai and had opened one of China’s very first IHRL courses in Jilin in 2000. For most participants this was their first exposure to IHRL. For all, it was the first opportunity for an in-depth look at the subject as it is taught in Western countries. At the end of the course, a typical comment was: “I didn’t realise before that IHRL was more than just political rhetoric. Now I see that the system uses the same analytic tools I’m familiar with from domestic law and other areas of international law”.

After the initial training programme in Jilin, the China Programme and Nordic partners have funded 1-2 training programmes for human rights teachers annually, all with participation from top international and Chinese experts. The courses have been held on both basic and advanced levels, in English or Chinese, depending on the target group.

Since 2001, more than 200 teachers have been trained through these basic and advanced courses, and many of them have subsequently started up human rights courses in their home institutions.
### Sino-Nordic teacher trainings 2001-2007*

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Chinese Partner</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Experts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Beijing University</td>
<td>Human Rights teaching methodology</td>
<td>Wolfgang Benedek, University of Graz; Gong Renren, Peking University; Tuti Harkrisnowo, Universitas Indonesia; Wouter Vandenhole, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; Wu Qing, Beijing Foreign Studies University; Yue Liling, CUPL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Guangzhou University</td>
<td>General introduction to IHRL, UN minimum rules on administration of justice, Non-admissibility of evidence, Human rights in Chinese criminal procedure law reform, Juvenile justice. Moot court exercise.</td>
<td>Bian Jianlin, CUPL; Graham Dossett, Independent consultant; Rasmus Kieffer-Kristensen, Danish Ministry of Justice; Rhona Smith, Northumbria University; Tong Lihua, ACLA; Qu Xuewu and Wang Mingyuan, CASS; Mitchell Woolf, University of London</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Shanghai Jiaotong University</td>
<td>Freedom from torture; The right to life and the death penalty; Right to counsel; Deprivation of liberty – detention in Criminal Procedure Law</td>
<td>Chen Weidong, Renmin University; Chen Zexian, CASS; Fu Hualing, University of Hong Kong; Kenneth Lewis, Lawyers Without Borders; William Schabas, Irish Centre for Human Rights; Eric Svanidze, European Committee on Prevention of Torture; Wang Guangxian and Zhou Wei, Shanghai Jiaotong University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Chinese University of Political Science and Law</td>
<td>Business and human rights; State reporting; Limitations and restrictions on human rights; Globalisation and human rights; Non-discrimination</td>
<td>Chen Peijie, Chinese MFA; Yash Ghai, Hong Kong University; Aart Hendriks; Dutch Equal Treatment Commission; Vitit Muntarbhorn, Chula-longkorn University; Sir Nigel Rodley, Essex University; Xu Xianming and Ban Wenzhen, CUPL</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Chinese Academy of Social Sciences</td>
<td>Economic, social and cultural rights and their links to other convention obligations; Teaching methodology</td>
<td>Michelou Hansungule, University of Pretoria; Charlotte McClain, South African Human Rights Commission; David McQuoid-Mason, University of Natal; Lee Swepton, Equality and Employment Branch, ILO; Felisa Tibbits, Human Rights Education Associates</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Chinese University of Political Science and Law</td>
<td>Advanced Course. Cultural relativism; Business and human rights; Human rights strategies; The role of civil society and national human rights institutions; Article 2 of ICCPR and ICESCR</td>
<td>Guðmundur Alfredsson, RWI; Michael Davis, Chinese University of Hong Kong; Morten Kjærnum, DIHR</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Hunan University</td>
<td>Basic Course. Human rights debates in China, IHRL, Domestic protection of human rights, Substantive rights</td>
<td>Chen Mingxia and Sun Xiaoqing, CASS; Guo Daohui, Peking University; Li Buyun, Hunan University; Qiu Xinglong, Xiangtan University; Wang Quanqing, Hunan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Jilin University</td>
<td>Substantive rights under ICCPR and ICESCR, Supervision and implementation mechanisms, Discrimination and special categories, etc.</td>
<td>Bai Guimei, Peking University; Alfred Chanda, Foundation for Democratic Process; Dennis Driscoll, National University of Ireland; Asbjørn Eide, NCHR; Cees Flinterman, Netherlands Institute of Human Rights; Isi Foighel, Former Judge, ECHR; Li Zhaojie, Tsinghua University; Peng Xihua, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law; Sun Shiyan, Jilin University; Xin Chunying, CASS; Yao Jianzong, Jilin University; Zheng Yongliu, CUPL</td>
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* For technical reasons, all experts are mentioned only in connection with their first participation, even though some of them have contributed on several occasions.
The importance of human rights education

By Professor Li Buyun
Honorary Member, Academic Committee, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Senior Professor, Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

China’s human rights situation has experienced great progress since the establishment of the People’s Republic in 1949, but there have also been setbacks. After one of these – the Cultural Revolution, when the whole academic field of law was deactivated – China redirected its course towards a healthy human rights development. But from 1983 to 1990, China’s concept of human rights fell out of step with the mainstream international understanding, the official view was that human rights were a Western slogan and that China should not adopt it. The definite turning point for human rights thinking and protection came in 1991 when the State Council published a white paper on human rights in China. This white paper indicated a fundamental change in the government’s attitude towards human rights, partly brought about through economic reform and involvement on the international arena, but also through efforts from China’s academic circles.

Following the 1999 constitutional amendment that prescribed “governing the state with rule of law and building a socialist state with rule of law”, and the adoption of “human rights respect and protection” as a guiding principle for the Communist Party in 2002, the clause that “the state respects and protects human rights” was included in the Constitution in 2004. This was a landmark constitutional development in modern China. This last decade, China has placed a growing importance on generating consistency between domestic law and international standards, and domestic legislation on human rights protection has been further strengthened.

For legal reform as well as for public understanding of the importance of human rights, high-quality human rights education is essential. Ten years ago, very few Chinese universities offered human rights law courses. There were no Chinese human rights textbooks. Now, this situation has changed. The China Programme sponsored IHRL Textbook came out in 2002, and after the inclusion of human rights law as an approved course in Chinese law schools, I was given the task of editing the official Chinese textbook on Human Rights. During this work, some 10 workshops and teachers’ trainings were organized in Sino-Nordic cooperation. I have had the pleasure to act as partner and lecturer in several of these courses.

Human rights law education in China has seen rapid progress in recent years. But this is only the beginning. It is, however, a good beginning, set about through the hard work of devoted Chinese scholars and with the invaluable support of friends like the NCHR China Programme. The programme’s work has contributed a lot to the promotion of human rights studies in China, and I take this opportunity to present my best wishes for the Programme also in the future. A positive trend has been started and the future of human rights education in China looks very promising.
At the 2001 Teachers Training programme in Jilin two stipends were introduced to discover and nurture ambitious scholars and provide them with individually tailored competence building. The stipends are granted jointly by the RWI and the NCHR and are awarded on a competitive basis. Since 2001 the stipends have been awarded to 2-4 scholars every year. They have been tailored to the particular needs of the recipients, and consist of fully financed research stays at the NCHR, RWI and the Asian Legal Resources Centre in Hong Kong. This combination makes materials and resources located in Scandinavia easily available and provides access to the Hong Kong NGO community as well as to specialists and research resources based there.

The stipends have proven a successful means of energizing early and mid-career scholars. Between 2001 and 2007, 16 scholars from 13 universities around China received stipends. All of them have continued working with human rights related issues, either teaching and/or researching. The two first stipend recipients portrayed here provide excellent examples.

The two first stipend recipients:
When the very first stipends were announced at the Teacher Training programme in Jilin in 2001, nine participants submitted well-qualified applications. The two successful applicants, Dr. Liu Huawen and Prof. Li Weiwei have remained in the field of human rights and have later participated in several China Programme activities.

Liu Huawen 柳华文:
Obtained his PhD from Beijing University in 2003 while he was simultaneously lecturing at the CASS Institute of Law (IoL). His thesis, *On Dissymmetry of States’ Substantial and Procedural Obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, was published in 2005 and reprinted in 2007. Dr. Liu is now director of the CASS IoL Department of Research Administration and International Cooperation, and Vice-Secretary General of CASS IoL Centre for Gender and Law Studies. One of Dr. Liu’s long standing interests has been the Rights of the Child. A paper mainly produced during his stay at NCHR entitled "The Child’s Right to Birth Registration – International and Chinese Perspectives" is recognised as the first paper studying birth registration in China from a human rights perspective. Dr. Liu has also served as a legal consultant for UNICEF China and the All-China Women’s Federation on the revision of the Chinese Law on Protection of Minors. His newest pursuits include heading an EU sponsored project on protection of disadvantaged children in China.

Li Weiwei 李薇薇:
Opened the first IHRL course in her home institution of North-West University of Political Science and Law in 2002 and also set up a new course for graduate students at the Law Faculty of Shenzhen University (SU) after she moved there in 2005. Today she tutors the university’s postgraduate students of human rights law. Professor Li co-edited the NCHR-funded textbook on Employment Discrimination from 2006 (see p. 22). She also contributed two chapters to the book, respectively on ”UN Human Rights Treaties and Non-discrimination in Employment” and “An Introduction to the Canadian Anti-discrimination Law and its Enforcement”. Professor Li has also been in the China Programme’s advisory group ERG (see p. 16) for two years, and she participated as an expert at the 2006 IHRL training for university teachers in western China.
In its Go West campaign, the Chinese government is encouraging economic and technological development of the western areas of the country. People here have not benefited from the same rapid growth as have the inhabitants of the economic hub along the eastern coast, and compared to the relatively well-equipped coastal universities, educational institutions in western China labour under a shortage of educational materials, economic resources and teachers with IHRL experience.

Nevertheless, until 2005 no human rights courses specifically targeted teachers and academics in western China. With this in mind China Programme staff and representatives of the Human Rights Institute at CUPL in 2005 undertook a pilot trip visiting ten academic institutions in six western provinces and autonomous regions. The trip assessed the possibilities for project development in this region and for localising suitable project partners. In October that same year, the first Workshop on International Human Rights Law for university teachers from western China was arranged in cooperation with Sichuan University in Chengdu.

At the workshop, 30 participants from 11 provinces and autonomous regions were selected from more than 100 applicants. Ethnic minorities such as the Tujia, Mongolians, Dong, Miao, Hui, Yi, Uighurs and Tibetans were represented among the participants. The 10 days of instruction were held in Chinese by top Chinese researchers in the field. NCHR Director Geir Ulfstein also gave a lecture on indigenous people’s land rights under international law.

The demand for and success of the workshop proved that this adjustment in geographic centre of gravity had been fortunate. It was further decided to shift the location of the workshop from year to year since co-arranging such an activity enhances the profile of human rights studies at the partner institution and hopefully inspires them to open courses of their own. In 2006, therefore, the partner was the South-West University of Political Science and Law and in 2007, the course will be held at the University of Inner Mongolia.
A basic guideline for the China Programme has always been to stake out the course of its work under the guidance of Chinese colleagues. This is a principle we share with our Nordic partners and many of the arrangements undertaken to obtain such advice have been organised through Nordic cooperation.

The first regular forum established for this purpose was the Academic Meetings, which were first arranged in Shanghai in 1999. These Meetings gathered legal scholars and law students with an established or newfound interest in human rights, and aimed at creating among them a network for input on programme planning. As for competence building, the Meetings included lectures by renowned Chinese and international experts. Academic Meetings were held 1-2 times a year.

In 2002, the Nordic-China Human Rights Education Resource Group (ERG) was established. In this semi-annual and comparatively smaller forum, four leading Chinese legal scholars provided Nordic programme staff with up-to-date information on the Chinese teaching and research situation in selected fields, and offered input on possible programming initiatives. For the benefit of all participants, international experts were also invited to make presentations on a cutting edge human rights issue.

Expanding beyond the discipline of law

Until 2006, participants in the ERG and Academic Meetings had all belonged to the legal sphere. However, the complex social processes involved in human rights related issues call for a multidisciplinary discussion on research focus and methodology. From 2006, therefore, scholars from fields other than law were invited to the ERG meetings, and 28 Chinese, Nordic and American scholars from disciplines including political science, sociology, anthropology and philosophy participated in the first multidisciplinary ERG meeting.

This multidisciplinary emphasis of the ERG synchronises well with the multidisciplinary commitment of the NCHR as a whole and is reflected in several programming initiatives from the China Programme. The Programme’s Master’s stipends are open to students from all academic disciplines, its Non-discrimination in Employment portfolio creates networks among researchers both from the humanities and the social sciences, and parts of the teacher training programmes are taught by a multidisciplinary force of lecturers.
### ERG MEETINGS*

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
<th>Experts</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007 autumn</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary human rights research methods</td>
<td>Bård Anders Andreassen, NCHR; Basak Cali, University College London;</td>
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<td>Todd Landman, University of Essex; Mao Yushi, Unirule Institute of</td>
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<td>Economics etc.</td>
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<td>2006 autumn</td>
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<td>Stephen Angle, Wesleyan University; Andreas Føllesdal, NCHR; Hurst</td>
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<td>Hannum, University of Hong Kong; Li Buyun, Wei Zhong and Yu Jianrong,</td>
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<td>CASS; Li Dun, Tsinghua University; Randall Peerenboom, UCLA; Cai</td>
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<td>Dingjian, CUPL</td>
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<td>2005 autumn</td>
<td>Oslo</td>
<td>Introduction to work of special rapporteur, Human</td>
<td>Manfred Nowak, UN Special rapporteur on torture</td>
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<td>rights approaches to poverty reduction.</td>
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<td>2005 spring</td>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>Implementation and enforcement of international</td>
<td>Henry Steiner, Harvard Law School</td>
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<td>ICJ and proliferation of international venues for</td>
<td>Thomas Buergenthal, International Court of Justice</td>
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<td>human rights protection; domestic implementation</td>
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<td>2004 spring</td>
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<td>Huang Lie, CASS; Li Weiwei, Shenzhen University; Goran Melander, RWI;</td>
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<td>Peng Xiahua, Southcentral University of Finance and Law; Wang</td>
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<td>Guanxian, Shanghai Jiaotong University; Yang Songcai, Hunan University</td>
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<td>University of California and University at Buffalo; Sun Shiyian, Jilin University</td>
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### ACADEMIC MEETINGS*

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<th>Subjects</th>
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<tr>
<td>AM VI, 2002</td>
<td>Wuhan</td>
<td>Business and human rights, International labour</td>
<td>Dong Baohua, East China University of Politics and Law; Lee</td>
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<td>standards and Workers’ rights</td>
<td>Sweepton, ILO; Liu Kaiming, ICO</td>
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<td>AM V, 2001</td>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>Right to education, Prevention of torture</td>
<td>Lai Xiang and Xiong Qingnian, Fudan University; Li Xiaojun, China</td>
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<td>Society for Human Rights; Bent Sørensen, International Rehabilitation</td>
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<td>Council for Torture Victims; Wang Yanbing and Wang Guanxian, Hunan</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>University; Zhou Yong, CASS;</td>
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<td>AM IV, 2001</td>
<td>Xiamen</td>
<td>Right to food, Right to development</td>
<td>Cheng Jie, Tsinghua University; Asbjørn Eide, NCHR; Liu Hongzhen, Jilin</td>
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<td>University; Liu Huawen and Mo Jihong, CASS; Katarina Tomaevski, Lund</td>
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<td>University; Zhang Qianfan, Nanjing University; Zhang Xisheng, Yunnan</td>
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<td>University</td>
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<td>AM III, 2000</td>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>International Law: Intellectual property rights,</td>
<td>Gudmundur Alfredsson, Jonas Grimheden and Jakob Möller, RWI; Dennis</td>
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<td>International vs. domestic law, Obligations under</td>
<td>Driscoll, National University of Ireland; Lu Guoqing, Shanghai Higher</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>human rights conventions</td>
<td>Peoples’ Court IP Tribunal; Li Fei, Fudan Patent Office; Mpazi</td>
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<td>Sirjela, WIPO Academy; Qian Yongmin, Shanghai Intellectual Property</td>
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<td>Office; Qin Yilong, United Genetic Engineering Co.; Zhang Naigen, Fudan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University; Zhao Jin, Shanghai Copyright Office</td>
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<td>AM II, 2000</td>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Human rights teaching in China</td>
<td>International, Nordic and Chinese experts</td>
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<tr>
<td>AM I, 1999</td>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>Human rights teaching in China</td>
<td>International, Nordic and Chinese experts</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* For technical reasons, all experts are mentioned only in connection with their first participation, even though some of them have contributed on several occasions.
A second pillar for the China Programme’s work can be summarised under the heading of Research Cooperation. Quality, up-to-date research is needed to ensure the development of laws and policies that contribute to ensuring the human rights of the citizens of a country. To promote and support such research in China, the China Programme supports independent Chinese initiatives, engages in cooperative projects and nurtures Chinese scholars from a range of disciplines to undertake research on human rights related issues, for instance through visiting scholar stays at the NCHR.

On 17 January 2007, the People’s Republic of China’s first and long-awaited “Regulations on Publicizing Government Information” (Zhengfu Xinxi Gongkai Tiaolie), also known as the “Freedom of Information Act” was passed by China’s State Council.

A key figure in this policy reform has been Dr. Zhou Hanhua from CASS Institute of Law, former visiting scholar and lecturer at NCHR and one of China’s leading authorities on freedom of information (FoI) issues. From 2000 to 2003 the China Programme supported a research project on Open Government in China led by Dr. Zhou.

Dr. Zhou’s research group was the first to do research on freedom of information related issues in China and their project became the first Chinese initiative to call publicly for a Right to Know, thereby introducing the concept to Chinese public debate. The group did international comparative research on freedom of information laws and they investigated practices regarding the treatment of official information in selected Chinese government agencies. The project drafted the regulations that were passed by the State Council in the spring of 2007. A series of three books has also been published (see list pp. 35–37).

Part of the China Programme’s backing for this project consisted of support for the 2002 Bangkok “Conference on Freedom of Information Laws” that the Asian Legal Resource Centre in Hong Kong organized for the Chinese FoI research group. The aim of the conference was to meet the group’s need for input through gathering international experts on FoI legislation and resource people from other developing countries working to draft Freedom of Information laws in conditions of economic and political transition. The conference gathered 22 participants from 10 different Asian and Western countries, including Norway, and was the first such conference focusing on China and FoI reform efforts.

“The support that the project received from the NCHR was instrumental to our work with the Freedom of Information regulations,” says Dr. Zhou Hanhua. “As pioneers in the field, our group also laid the foundations for future research on issues relating to freedom of information and open government in China, and most of the researchers from the original group, including myself, are still working in the field," he says. Dr. Zhou now leads a team that works on a draft for an e-government law.
The visiting scholar programme

In the course of these 10 years, the NCHR and the China Programme have hosted numerous visiting scholars from China. The portfolio aims at making accessible to Chinese researchers resources beyond those obtainable in China. This was especially true in the earliest years, when the Internet was not as useful a tool as it is today. Nevertheless such research stays abroad are still useful and allow scholars to focus exclusively on a subject for a period of time and also enables them to meet with Scandinavia-based experts in their field of research.

Moreover, the portfolio is an important channel for the NCHR to keep abreast of the latest developments in China. Visiting scholars have provided input through lectures, seminar participation, production of working papers and programming advice, and they have remained important contributors both to the Programme and their fields of expertise after their return to China. Visiting scholars have come to the NCHR for longer or shorter stays; below is a list of those who have stayed for a month or more, and more detailed presentations of two of them.

Mo Jihong 莫纪宏:
Dr. Mo Jihong came to NCHR for a 6 month research stay in March 1998. He is a doctor of constitutional and administrative law, and the focus of his stay was constitutional human rights protection. Dr. Mo focused in particular on freedom of expression through a study of the proceedings of the "Kjuus case" in the Norwegian Supreme Court. Upon his return to China, Dr. Mo published two books. One, "Summarization on Constitutional Justice Systems", is a collection of western case law, translated into Chinese. The other is a book on freedom of expression based partly on his analysis of the Kjuus case. Mo Jihong is now a researcher at the CASS Institute of Law, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law and he is Vice-President of the China Law Society’s Constitutionalism Research Association. He is also a member of the Board of the Network Against Domestic Violence (see pp. 26–27) and he has remained a close supporter of the China Programme.

Cheng Jie 程洁:
Dr. Cheng Jie is the China Programme’s youngest visiting scholar through these ten years. Born in 1973, Dr. Cheng obtained her PhD in Constitutional Law from Beijing University in 1999. In 2001, she came to NCHR from Tsinghua University for 3 months to do research on Norwegian constitutional arrangements to prevent governmental abuse of power. Dr. Cheng has long been researching freedom of information related issues and has published extensively on the subject, including a 2002 book titled “Open Government under Rule of Law — A Constitutionalist Perspective”. Also in 2002, she published an NCHR Working Paper called "Lawmaking and Law Enforcement in China" and a translated book on the Swedish Parliamentary Ombudsman. Today, Dr. Cheng continues to work at Tsinghua University School of Law, focusing mainly on constitutional and administrative law and issues relating to Hong Kong’s Basic Law. She also holds an advisory position with the National People’s Congress Standing Committee on Hong Kong and Macau Basic Laws.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Meng Qinguo</td>
<td>Guangxi University Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Human rights protection and land rights in western China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Zhang Hongwei</td>
<td>Guangxi University Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Human rights protection and land rights in western China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Huang Ying</td>
<td>Guangxi University Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Human rights protection and land rights in western China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Zhou Wei</td>
<td>Sichuan University and Shanghai Jiaotong University</td>
<td>Anti-discrimination measures and cases in Norwegian employment</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Liu Zhaohui</td>
<td>Xiamen University Department of Anthropology</td>
<td>International standards on discrimination in Norwegian and European context</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Zhou Changzhen</td>
<td>Nanjing University Faculty of Law</td>
<td>European legal institutions on employment discrimination</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Zou Xing</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>EU law on freedom of movement</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Wang Guangxian</td>
<td>Shanghai Jiaotong University</td>
<td>Corporate social responsibility</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Yin Manxue</td>
<td>Ministry of Labour and Social Security Institute of Labour Studies</td>
<td>Collective bargaining</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Xue Ninglan</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>Legal reform and practice on domestic violence against women</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Sun Shiyan</td>
<td>Jilin University School of Law</td>
<td>International Human Rights Law – Chinese terminology</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Cheng Jie</td>
<td>Tsinghua University</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Xiong Qihong</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>The Right to a fair trial</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Zhou Yong</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Nationalities Studies</td>
<td>International minority rights, Autonomy arrangements in China</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Zhang Zhimin</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>Jurisprudential interpretation in the European Human Rights Court</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Zhou Yong</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Nationalities</td>
<td>International Minority Rights, Autonomy arrangements in China</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Mo Jihong</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>Freedom of expression, Constitutionalism</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Zhou Hanhua</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>Realism and reforms in Chinese judiciary &amp; legal education</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Liu Junhui</td>
<td>CASS Institute of Law</td>
<td>Role of worker representatives on corporate boards of directors and worker councils in Europe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* For technical reasons, only researchers who have stayed at the NCHR for one month or more have been included in this list.
Translation of children’s encyclopaedia

Normally, the Chinese language is used in texts introducing science and technology to young Tibetan students. However, in 2000 the China Programme joined a project headed by University of Oslo Dr. Mette H. Hansen and Sichuan Normal University Professor Badeng Nima to translate into Tibetan the British children’s encyclopaedia Windows on the World. This colourful, 8-volume series covers the history of the Earth and its flora and fauna.

The translation work was not uncomplicated, as the books cover several life forms for which there were no official Tibetan terms. A special workshop gathering the entire translation group was arranged to arrive at and agree on appropriate terms. Later, training courses were organised for teachers who would later use the books as the 5000 copies were distributed to 1,100 Tibetan schools in Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, and Tibet. Such training and distribution ensures the use of the books, which will contribute not only to Tibetan children’s education, but also to the conservation and development of the Tibetan language.

Research cooperation on state administration of minority religions

As part of the China Programme’s new focus on western China (see p. 15), the Programme researcher initiated a new research project on state administration of religion in western China in 2007. The project will focus on the local implementation of laws, regulations and policies relevant to the practise of freedom of religion or belief as guaranteed by the Chinese constitution. Since most of China’s ethnic minorities live in the western part of the country, the project will also concentrate on the conditions surrounding ethnic minorities’ practice of their traditional religions, as part of their right to uphold their own separate cultures. A special focus will be on some of the less well-documented minorities.

Minority rights is an area also covered in other China Programme portfolios, such as those on Land Rights (see p. 24) and Labour Rights and Non-discrimination (pp. 22–23).

The China Autonomy Law Programme at NCHR

In the area of minority rights the China Programme cooperates and coordinates activities with the China Autonomy Law Programme (CAP) also based at the NCHR. The CAP is a research oriented Programme which has institutional cooperation with policy research institutions and minority universities in China.
In January 2006 China ratified the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Core Convention 111 on the Elimination of Discrimination in Employment and Occupation. In anticipation of this ratification, and triggered by Chinese interest, the China Programme in 2002 undertook a feasibility study to explore the potential for projects on labour relations aiming to support Chinese academic interest in this new and important field. A very successful Sino-Norwegian seminar on international labour standards, pinpointing constructive programming areas, was arranged in cooperation with the Beijing Jiaotong University the following year, and from 2004 non-discrimination in employment became a thematic portfolio within the China Programme. It was introduced on the background of a renewed interest in employment discrimination policy in both China and Norway, and at the same time as a new working group on labour rights was set up under the Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue.

In the period 2004-2005 the Programme supported 6 Chinese research groups, led by scholars well respected in their fields. In total more than 30 researchers and students were involved. The research groups met periodically to exchange preliminary results and consult with invited scholars and practitioners. Also, 3 large workshops with participation from Hong Kong, Norway, the Netherlands and Australia were arranged in Beijing to debate international standards on human rights and non-discrimination, conceptual and institutional developments in other countries, and the Chinese situation.

Then, in August 2006, nearly three years of research and hard work culminated in the publication of the Chinese book “Employment Discrimination: International Standards and National Practice” [Jinzhi Jiuye Qishi : Guoji Biaozhun he Guonei Shijian], edited by Lisa Stearns (NCHR) and Li Weiwei (Shenzhen University), financed by the China Programme and launched in cooperation with the Peking University Law School. In addition to the results from the NCHR-supported research teams, chapters on international standards and comparative perspectives were contributed by the editors and other Chinese, Norwegian and international scholars. This book is the first of its kind in China, and when the UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women reviewed the last Chinese State Report on CEDAW implementation, the book was cited by the All-China Women’s Federation during discussions with the Chinese government delegation on how to define employment discrimination. Demand for the book has also proved great. Half of the 3000 first edition copies were distributed by the Programme to ministries, NGOs and academic communities, and a second printing of 3000 more copies was ordered for distribution in 2007.

Book launch at Peking University

At the book launch in August 2006 representatives from relevant ministries, mass organisations, academia, NGOs and the media were present. The seminar was opened by the Vice-President of Peking University and had keynote speakers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the Royal Norwegian Embassy in China as well as the director of the NCHR. In the picture Ms. Constance Thomas, Director of the ILO Office for China and Mongolia, makes her opening address.
Two contributors to the book on Employment Discrimination

Ye Jingyi
Professor Ye Jingyi is Vice-Director of the Peking University Institute of Labour Law and Social Security Law, and Board Member of the Women’s Law Studies & Legal Aid Centre at the university, one of the very first such non-profit and non-governmental centres in China. She also serves as a legal consultant to the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

Professor Ye was head of the research group from Peking University under the textbook project on Employment Discrimination [see above]. She was also coordinator for the book launch in China. Her group looked at employment discrimination of Hepatitis B carriers in several Chinese cities. Their research results are rendered in a chapter in the book analysing the Chinese Employment Discrimination Law through selected cases of these HBV carriers. 10% of China’s population are HBV carriers but more than 80% of these never develop any disabling symptoms. However, they are often discriminated against when it comes to both acquiring and remaining at work. Legal and political measures have been taken to address this injustice, and continued research is a precondition for well-informed policy making. Professor Ye has worked with labour law and discrimination in employment on grounds of gender, hukou (residence permit) and especially health for almost a decade and her PhD degree is also in this field.

Zhou Wei
One of the contributors to the 2006 book on Employment Discrimination was Dr. Zhou Wei, who holds joint professorships in the law schools at the Sichuan and Shanghai Jiaotong Universities. Professor Zhou is a constitutional law expert whose work in recent years has focused on anti-discrimination in employment. After receiving research and visiting scholar grants from the China Programme and subsequently contributing to the book, Zhou has gone on to direct large academic studies of discrimination in employment in order to analyse the overall situation and come up with remedies, and he has provided legal aid in several discrimination cases in order to improve the protection of specific rights in China. Several of his cases have been groundbreaking in their respective spheres and have received extensive media coverage both in China and abroad. One example is Zhang Xianzhu vs. Wuhu City Personnel Bureau. This was the first administrative lawsuit on Hepatitis B discrimination in employment procedures in China. When Zhang won the case it was assessed as one of China’s top ten constitutional events in 2003 by the Constitution and Civil Rights Centre at Tsinghua University and it was listed among the top ten new civil rights movements by China News Weekly. This case set legal precedence and also led to changes in employment policies at higher levels. Professor Zhou has worked with discrimination cases based on appearance, disability, age, ethnicity and gender, and he has participated in several activities organised under the China Programme’s labour and employment discrimination portfolio.
In the pilot trip that introduced western China as a new focus area for the China Programme (see p. 15), many of the human rights issues that researchers raised at the institutions visited were related to land use and rights based development and could as such be summed up under the broad label of “Land Rights”. Although there is no specific Right to Land, this general topic has links to many other basic human rights. Based on this insight, the researcher affiliated with the China Programme, holding a doctoral degree and specialised in issues relating to ethnic minorities and rural development in western China, in 2006 launched a research project focusing on Land Rights as Human Rights. On the basis of project proposals, Guangxi University (GU) School of Law was chosen as Chinese project partner. The project aimed at supporting research on land use in rural areas of China. Data was produced through a quantitative survey of some 300 households in nine Guangxi villages carried out by Chinese researchers and graduate students and more in-depth fieldwork in one village by the China Programme researcher. Additionally, NCHR research stays were offered to six Chinese scholars, and a 2-day workshop with international participation was arranged at the NCHR.

Training of practitioners

The China Programme has cooperated with a network of legal aid practitioners in China since 2003. Included in the network are pro-bono advocates, legal aid organisations, and staff of legal clinics affiliated with universities. While the early workshops debated a broad range of economic, social and cultural rights, the workshops in 2005 and 2006 focused on non-discrimination in employment. In 2006 representatives from Juss-Buss (a Law Students’ Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Oslo) were also invited to participate in order to study labour relations in China and explore the potential for academic exchange within the field of legal aid.
The impact of the project and its research results was ensured through the active participation of the GU Law School and close consultations with the Provincial Research Department of the Bureau of Agricultural Affairs. An extensive research report provided the provincial government with much needed input for the development of regional policies and legislation, and many of the project participants were important resource people in education and local administration. The project demonstrated how close collaboration between the social sciences, legal profession and policy makers and implementers can produce valuable results, even for a relatively small-scale and localised project.

Sightseeing at Bygdøy in Oslo summer 2006. Visiting scholars under the Land Rights project Zhao Xudong and Li Xiaoyun, China Agricultural University; Zhu Keliang, Rural Development Institute; Meng Qinguo, Zhang Hongwei and Huang Ying, Guangxi University with China Programme staff and NCHR Master’s students.

Fieldwork in a Guangxi village
As is the case in many other countries, domestic violence in China is widespread, but under-researched and under-communicated. Until the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, most Chinese were unaware of the problem or regarded it as a private matter restricted to poor rural families. The UN conference changed this situation and Chinese women started debating possible measures to combat this problem.

For the China Programme, women’s rights have formed an important component since 1999, when the Programme co-sponsored the participation of three Chinese panels for the 7th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women’s rights hosted by Tromsø University. The following year, many of the women who took part in this panel joined in establishing what would become a ground-breaking network of independent initiatives to oppose domestic violence in China – the Network/Research Centre for Combating Domestic Violence of the China Law Society or Network Against Domestic Violence (DVN) for short. The organisation was the first of its kind in China and was established with economic support from the China Programme and a larger international funding consortium including Novib, SIDA and the Ford Foundation.

The DVN is a non-governmental, democratic and transparent umbrella structure encompassing some 15 sub-projects in Beijing and three other provinces. The network also coordinates 47 member organisations around the country. It works to combat domestic violence and to empower Chinese women and their small-scale organisations through four main avenues: Research, information, training, and legislation.

**Research**

One of the DVN’s first major projects was to conduct a survey of several thousand citizens and officials working in fields where they might come into contact with either victims or perpetrators of domestic violence. The results of the survey, which were subsequently published and circulated, disclosed to the Chinese population and authorities that the taboo phenomenon of domestic violence not only exists in China but that it is a sizable problem as well. As part of the DVN research activities one of the group members, Professor Xue Ninglan, spent 6 months with the China Programme as a visiting scholar. While in Norway she published a Working Paper on the “Revision of the Chinese Marriage Law in 2001”, a legislative process in which members of the DVN have been deeply involved.
Information
One of the measures that the DVN has implemented to combat domestic violence has been billboard information campaigns where Chinese celebrities say no to domestic violence (see picture previous page). These billboards proved an efficient means of getting the message across in a memorable fashion.

With campaigns run on CCTV, China’s nationwide TV network, information has also been spread to all of the country’s hundreds of millions of TV watchers. The group continues to use all types of media actively, and they also publish a newsletter, run a documentation centre in Beijing, and keep a website which can be found at www.stopdv.org.cn.

Training
Through its network, the DVN carries out trainings and intervention projects for and with women’s organisations, legislators, police, courts and medical personnel around China. Training of trainers and empowerment of local women’s groups is another highly important measure in ensuring that the initiatives have a lasting effect.

In connection with the police training programmes, Professor Rong Weiyi of the Beijing Police Academy in February 2002 headed a delegation of 8 from the academy, the police, and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security to Oslo. During their visit, the China Programme arranged a widely attended one-day seminar on “Domestic Violence – Chinese and Norwegian Perspectives”. The delegation also visited police stations, the Norwegian Police Academy, the Ministry of Justice, Oslo City Council, The Ombudsman for Gender Equality and several local women’s shelters.

Changing legislation in China
DVN members have been active in changing a legislative body that earlier recognised neither the existence nor the criminal liability of domestic violence. One example is the draft for a Chinese anti-domestic violence regulation, written by DVN lawyers. Another example is the 2001 amendment of the Chinese Marriage Law, which also drew heavily on advice from Network members. During the last few years the Network has also been actively engaged in bringing the concept of sexual harassment into Chinese legislation. Upcoming legislative challenges for the network include the Chinese Criminal Law which still has no mention of domestic violence related issues.

The Network Against Domestic Violence is a pioneer of its kind, and an independent evaluation from 2006 comments on the Network’s “remarkable interventions against violence against women” which “have elicited positive social response”, and it also emphasises that the DVN’s “practice and exploration has contributed to the development of the NGO-sector in China”. This is the second such evaluation of the network, both of which have praised the organisation for its transparency, innovation and efficiency.
A core goal and third pillar for the China Programme is to improve Norwegian competence on China and Chinese human rights related issues. An up-to-date understanding of developments in China is important to secure a well-informed debate in Norway and to build up the ability of Norwegian groups to enter into dialogue and cooperation with Chinese partners. The Programme competence building efforts include awarding stipends to Master’s Degree students in Norway, arranging seminars, giving briefings and participating in the Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue.

Competence building in Norway

硕士学位研究生

MA students

Since 2003, the China Programme has supported Master’s students from different disciplines writing about China and human rights related issues. The stipends include a working space at the NCHR, thus including the students in the dynamic research community there – a measure of inspiration to students and researchers alike. The stipends have also nurtured a lasting interest in the field: Of those stipend holders who have already finished their theses, all have continued to work with China or have gone on to pursue PhD degrees following their stipend period at the NCHR. Below is a list of theses produced since the introduction of the stipends and a presentation of two representative recipients.

› 2007
› **Gåsemyr, Hans Jørgen:** “NGOs in China: Strategies for Negotiating Working Space and Influence” (working title)
Department of Political Science, Norwegian University of Technology and Science (NTNU)

› **Fürst, Kathinka:** “A human rights approach to environmental protection in China” (working title), Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), University of Oslo

› **Vinje, Truls:** “PRC state and nation-building strategies toward the indigenous Uighurs in Xinjiang” (working title)
Department of Political Science, University of Oslo

› 2006
› **Qiu, Yang:** “Land Rental Rights and Rural Development”
Department of Economics, University of Oslo

› 2005
› **Aarvik, Tone Helene:** “Development in a Chinese perspective: an analysis of the implementation of the development of the west in a minority area”
Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo
Marte Kjær Galtung submitted her MA thesis in 2005. As a student she worked at the Network for Asian Studies, and as an NCHR stipend holder she presented her research at the Nordic Association for China Studies Conference in Helsinki in 2005. After graduation, Galtung obtained a post as trainee and later acting cultural attaché at the Norwegian embassy in China; upon her return to Norway she started working at the Asia Department of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Tashi Nyima obtained his Master’s degree in the spring of 2005. Nyima also contributed an article on ethnicity and employment discrimination in northwest Yunnan to the 2006 China Programme publication “Employment Discrimination: International Standards and National Practice”. He is now a PhD candidate at the University of Oslo, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages. The working title of his thesis is "‘Socialist paradise’ in Tibetan: Development discourses in contemporary Tibet".

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〉 2004

- **Galtung, Marte Kjær**: "Integration among Barbarians and Tyrants: an analysis of the relationship between the locals and the migrants of a Chinese industrialised village and the different ways children and adults adjust to life in a new place"
  Department of Social Anthropology, University of Oslo

- **Zhang, Huafeng**: "Discrimination against migrant workers in Chinese cities: a case study of Beijing and Zhuhai"
  Department of Economics, University of Oslo

〉 2003

- **Breimo, Janne**: “Enforcing occupational safety laws in China: bureaucratic problems and administrative reform”
  Department of Political Science, University of Oslo

- **Nyima, Tashi**: "Ethnicity and employment: a Tibetan case"
  Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages, University of Oslo
Between 2000 and 2003, the China Programme arranged annual short courses in Chinese law and law reform at the NCHR. These free and open courses, varying in duration from 2 to 5 full days, drew 15-25 participants including Norwegian and foreign students, researchers and government officials. Lecturers were leading Chinese experts from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences recruited from the China Programme’s network, and topics varied every year, ranging from a thorough presentation of the Chinese legal system and law reforms in general, via ethnic perspectives on constitutionalism in China and internationalisation of China’s legal system, to introductions to specific laws, including administrative law, labour law, social security law and freedom of information law.

The short courses were a rare opportunity for members of the Norwegian public, politics and academia to learn about cutting-edge law reform in China and thereby gain a better platform for understanding Chinese society today.
For many years, the China Programme has arranged shorter, one-day public seminars with international as well as Chinese speakers invited to Oslo for this purpose. Lecturers have included law experts and other academics as well as NGO activists, and subjects have ranged from corporate social responsibility and human rights in business, to combating HIV/Aids and promoting human rights through competence building and training. The two latter seminars were arranged in cooperation with the other NCHR international programmes working with South Africa and Indonesia respectively, in a bid for synergy effects in areas where programming initiatives overlap. The seminar on human rights promotion through training, for example, brought in academics, law enforcement personnel and activists from Norway, China, Indonesia and the USA and experiences were shared regarding training of the academic sector, police, military and staff in non-governmental organisations. This seminar gathered some 35 participants.

The China Programme has also arranged panels at international conferences in Norway, like the Norasia biannual conferences in 2002 and 2006, and Programme visiting scholars have participated at conferences in their fields, such as the 11th International Society of Family Law World Conference in Oslo in 2002 where two visiting scholars presented papers.

In 2002 Senior Research Fellow Anita Chan from the Australian National University visited the China Programme. She was keynote speaker at the panel on workers’ rights at the Norasia Conference and also gave an open lecture at the University of Oslo, jointly arranged with the Asia Network.
Every year the China Programme receives many Chinese and international visiting experts and delegations who have either been specially invited or who call on the NCHR while in Oslo on other business. When such visitors come to the NCHR, they update the China Programme on the Chinese situation in their field and many have also given open lectures and seminars at the NCHR. Below follows a presentation of three such visits.

The China Society for Human Rights
One of the first human rights delegations welcomed and facilitated by the China Programme was a group from the China Society for Human Rights (CSHR) in June 1997. Their visit to Oslo was part of a larger trip to Europe. This important delegation, led by CSHR President Zhu Muzhi, had meetings with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, the NCHR leadership and Norwegian NGOs. President Zhu also gave an open lecture at the Norwegian Nobel Institute. After the stay in Oslo the group also visited Finnmark in Northern Norway and the Sami Parliament. Following the trip to Europe, President Zhu was cited in the Chinese press saying that this was the first time for a Chinese NGO to discuss human rights with foreign countries.

The Chinese Supreme People’s Court
In 2004, a delegation from the Chinese Supreme People’s Court and provincial high courts came to Norway for a 3-day visit to the NCHR and the Norwegian Supreme Court. The delegation was led by Justice Wan Exiang, deputy president of the Supreme People’s Court. Justice Wan is former director of the International Law Research Institute at Wuhan University and founder of the Centre for Protection of Rights of Disadvantaged Citizens – the first independent legal aid organisation in China. Justice Wan was also a key figure behind the groundbreaking 2002 Supreme Court decision to directly apply the Chinese constitutional provision on the right to education. While in Oslo, Justice Wan and other delegates gave a seminar at the NCHR on judicial reform in China.

The Duihua Foundation
The Duihua (Dialogue) Foundation is a non-profit organization working to improve human rights through well-informed dialogue between China and the United States. John Kamm, founder and chairman of the organisation, has visited Oslo and the NCHR several times. On these occasions, he has presented the Foundation’s work and new results at China Programme organised seminars at the NCHR or elsewhere, like on his last visit to Oslo in 2007 when he gave a presentation on “China and the Olympic Games: Implications for Human Dignity”.

The China Law Society
In June 2007, the China Law Society (CLS) undertook its first delegation trip to Northern Europe. The CLS is the official organisation for the Chinese legal academic profession and organises some 70 organisations and 110,000 individual members all over China. In Oslo the CLS delegation was hosted by the NCHR and the Norwegian Bar Association. Two seminars were held where the delegation from this influential body of legal science met with the Supreme Court of Norway as well as the two host institutions.
In 2004, the delegation from the Chinese Supreme People’s Court took time to enjoy some vintage Norwegian surroundings at the Norwegian Museum of Cultural History. Delegation leader Justice Wan Exiang is pictured together with Chinese colleagues from provincial high courts, Norwegian judges, lawyers and ministry officials as well as MFA staff and representatives from the NCHR.

The China Law Society delegation, led by Vice-President Liu Fahe, meets with NCHR Director Geir Ulfstein and fellow NCHR and China Programme staff (June 2007).
When called upon, the China Programme provides advice and consultation to organisations and government bodies engaging in cooperation with Chinese counterparts.

**Briefings for delegations going to China**
The China Programme frequently briefs various Norwegian groups prior to their China trip. This has included delegations from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and also the Parliament Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs prior to the latter’s study trip to China in the autumn of 2006. Briefings also include smaller media delegations, students and researchers going to China.

**Seminars for Dialogue participants**
It is important for the participants in the roundtables and working groups under the Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue to stay abreast of the latest developments in China. This ensures an informed and constructive dialogue. When asked, the China Programme sets up briefings at the NCHR for participants in the Dialogue prior to the annual roundtable meetings. Briefings have covered legal and social developments in the areas covered by the Dialogue and have been led by international experts like Sarah Biddulph (Melbourne University), Børge Bakken (Australian National University) and Randall Peerenboom (UCLA).

**Advice for cooperation under the Dialogue**
A fundamental idea behind the Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue is that the roundtables should function not only as a forum for discussion, but also as a platform and stepping stone for project development in areas where participants see that cooperative projects might facilitate resolving some of the challenges under discussion. The advisory function of the China Programme was further expanded in 2006 with the establishment of a new position to advise on new project ideas under the Dialogue, primarily in the field of Criminal Justice. The China Programme provides facts and feasibility advice to professional groups under the Dialogue who plan to develop cooperation projects with Chinese partners. The Programme also facilitates contact and meetings in China and assists in the planning of seminars etc. Since April 2005, the Programme has had 1-2 staff members present in Beijing throughout the year, which has strengthened and increased the efficiency of this function.

**Dialogue participation**
China Programme staff has participated in the annual roundtable meetings under the Sino-Norwegian Human Rights Dialogue every year since 1997. Upon request and when needed, the Programme prepares background papers for the roundtable meetings.

**Teaching**
China Programme staff lectures at introductory and advanced levels in academic institutions both in China and Norway. The Programme has lectured on human rights and human rights programming work for Nordic and Chinese students through the Nordic Centre at Fudan University, for students at CUPL and staff at the CASS Institute of Law. The China Programme researcher – a specialist in Chinese religions and ethnic minorities and holding a doctoral degree in the humanities – has taught Master’s Degree courses in Chinese anthropology, sociology and religious studies at the University of Oslo. He has also held an annual seminar on Human Rights and Religious Policy in China at the same university.
Selected publications

Books and Articles:

2006


2005


2004


2003


2002


2000
Also published in Chinese as:


- **1999**


- **1998**

- **1997**

**Translations:**


### List of abbreviations

- **ACLA**  All-China Lawyers’ Association
- **ACWF**  All-China Women’s Federation
- **CAP**  China Autonomy Law Programme (NCHR)
- **CASS**  Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
- **CEDAW**  Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- **CLS**  China Law Society
- **CSHR**  China Society for Human Rights
- **CUPL**  China University of Political Science and Law
- **DIHR**  Danish Institute for Human Rights
- **DVN**  Network Against Domestic Violence (full name: Network/ Research Centre for Combating Domestic Violence of China Law Society)
- **ECHR**  European Court of Human Rights
- **ERG**  Nordic-China Human Rights Education Resource Group
- **FAC**  Foreign Affairs College
- **FoI**  Freedom of Information
- **HBV**  Hepatitis B Virus
- **ICCPR**  International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- **ICESCR**  International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- **ICJ**  International Court of Justice
- **IHRL**  International Human Rights Law
- **ILO**  International Labour Organisation
- **MFA**  Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **NCHR**  Norwegian Centre for Human Rights
- **NGO**  Non-governmental organisation
- **NIHR**  Norwegian Institute of Human Rights (former name of NCHR)
- **Novib**  Oxfam Novib (Nederlandse Organisatie Voor Internationale Bijstand)
- **PRC**  People’s Republic of China
- **RWI**  Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- **SIDA**  Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- **SMED**  Senter mot Etnisk Diskriminering (Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination)
- **UCLA**  University of California, Los Angeles
- **UN**  United Nations