

IDS

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Rising Powers in International Development

Centre for Rising Powers and Global
Development: Learning Events 2015

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CENTRE FOR RISING POWERS AND GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT: LEARNING EVENTS 2015

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1 Learning Event One: How Can the UK and China Work Together to Tackle Global Challenges?

21 October 2015, House of Commons

Objective

As the State Visit by the President of the People's Republic of China commenced, and ahead of China taking over the G20 leadership in 2016, the Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD) hosted a high-level panel at the Houses of Parliament to discuss China's role in global development. The event was well attended by Members of Parliament (MPs) and members of the House of Lords, together with representatives from the Department for International Development (DFID) and international development non-governmental organisations. The panel was hosted and chaired by Stephen Twigg MP, chair of the International Development Committee.

Speakers

Justin Lin, Honorary Dean and Professor at Peking University National School of Development, and former World Bank Chief Economist

Xiaoyun Li, Chair of China International Development Research Network

Jing Gu, Director of Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development

Discussion

Justin Lin discussed the significant progress made by China in reducing domestic poverty, and what can be learned from China as countries around the world begin to get to grips with the new Sustainable Development Goals. Professor Lin highlighted what can be learned from China around growth in particular, calling for China–UK–Africa triangulation, combining the UK's market potential together with China's technology and Africa's labour force to help unlock potential growth opportunities and reduce poverty. He also explained that the UK's reputation on the world stage should be used to build further connections and shared learning between China and developing countries.

Xiaoyun Li discussed the importance of forging cooperation between rising powers and how the success of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to reduce poverty and inequality would rely on countries from the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) group, such as China and India.

Jing Gu raised some critical questions about the future of international development. What does the future of development cooperation look like with the growing role of emerging powers? What are the implications for international development as we move beyond aid and promote the role of business in development? What does the 'golden era' for UK and Chinese cooperation mean? Over the last five years, the global development landscape has changed rapidly, leading governments, practitioners and academics alike to ask whether it is indeed time to move development policy and practice 'beyond aid'.

2 Learning Event Two: China's and India's Development Policies in Evolution

1 December 2015, DFID offices, Whitehall

Objective

Members of the Advisory Council for the Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD) and CRPD Director, Jing Gu, discussed the evolving development policies of China and India. The objective of the learning event was to generate awareness, understanding and knowledge among DFID staff of the changing development landscape in China and India and implications for key forthcoming international meetings. The seminar was held at DFID offices and was widely promoted to all DFID staff, including country offices who connected via video and telephone conference.

Speakers

Richard Manning, Chair, CRPD Advisory Council
Richard Carey, CRPD Advisory Council
Rajesh Tandon, CRPD Advisory Council
Merle Lipton, CRPD Advisory Council
Jing Gu, Director, CRPD

Discussion

Richard Carey, former Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and Chair of the International Advisory Committee of the China International Development Research Network discussed China's emergence as an architect in the global development finance system. He focused on the application of China's own public entrepreneurship model of financing transformational growth, the emerging deal on International Monetary Fund voting rights and new and traditional Multilateral Development Banks, and the scope and cooperation modalities of the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative. He also explored China's current contributions in the context of the latest 2015 forums, including G20, OECD, and the United Nations/United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the forthcoming Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) meeting.

Rajesh Tandon, founder and President of Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) gave an overview of evolving development thinking in India, and implications for the forthcoming BRICS Summit, which takes place in New Delhi in 2016.

Merle Lipton, Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London, commented on the significance of cooperation by the BRICS, and how South Africa perceives this forum.

Richard Manning, Senior Research Fellow at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford, assessed the contribution of China and India, and other rising powers, to the international system, and the tension between their relatively low representation and rising expectations of their contributions.

Jing Gu, Director of the Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development at IDS discussed China's increasing role as a provider of foreign aid. She gave an overview of China's foreign aid and investment activities, and its distinctiveness in comparison to Western conceptions of aid. She also discussed the role of businesses in China's engagement in Africa and Asia, and domestic media and discourse surrounding China as a development actor in post-2015.



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