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News and Events

The University of Birmingham will be organising a series of Lectures, Seminars and other events to help promote our engagement with China.

You can find updates and news on these events below.

News and events

Open all sections

From Lancashire to China: a Weaver's Tale - Tuesday 1st July - Thursday 16th October 2014

Follow the story of Lucy Mellodey (1870-1930), a cotton weaver from Blackburn in Lancashire who swapped mill work for nearly 30 years in the interior of China as a missionary. When she set sail for the first time in 1899, Lucy embarked on a life of travel and experiences which few working class women of the time had opportunity to pursue. The exhibition tells her story through original documents, photographs and artefacts.

Read the full story (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/exhibitions/from-lancashire-to-china-a-weavers-tale.aspx)

Global impact in Engineering and Physical Sciences: Leading the way in computer science and electrical engineering- July

Information science research is transforming the future landscape of our world at a rapid pace. Thanks to technology being developed by the University in collaboration with Chinese scientists, Birmingham is leading the way, from tracking consumer behaviour and pioneering smartphone capability to mapping underground energy systems and healthcare technology. The University of Birmingham has partnered the University of Science and Technology China (USTC), the country's leading institution for science and technology, for more than a decade and has seen growing scholarly exchange and knowledge transfer.

Building on the success of a dedicated research laboratory for Nature Inspired Computation and Its Applications, set up in 2003, the institutions established a formal research institute, The USTC-Birmingham Joint Research Institute in Intelligent Computation and Its Applications, in 2010. Professor Xin Yao, Professor of Computer Science and Director of the joint USTC-Birmingham Research Institute, and Professor Ian McLoughlin, Professor in Electronic Engineering and Information Science at USTC and Birmingham alumnus, have embraced travel in their research endeavours and understand first-hand the significance of international collaboration.

Professor Xin Yao, who received his PhD from USTC, leads the USTC-Birmingham Joint Research Institute in Intelligent Computation and Its Applications.

'The Research Institute focuses on two main areas: adaptive optimisation and advanced data analysis and mining.'

By working closely with engineers and technicians, the Institute develops applied operations research using nature-inspired approaches. Such cross-disciplinary approaches provide solutions to everyday concerns such as vehicle routing challenges. The Institute's other focus, data analysis and mining, is an important challenge of the digital age. The research is of significant commercial value with internet companies competing to understand consumer behaviours. Xin's team is able to analyse data collected from users to map trends and are engaged with Baidu (China's Google) to take this information one step further and consider predictions connected to browser pathways.

Professor Ian McLoughlin's 22-year career, including work across three continents for multinationals, big and small industries, charities, consultancies and academia, began at the University's School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he received his undergraduate degree. He returned to the University for his PhD. He joined USTC as Professor in the Department of Electronic Engineering and Information Science in 2012.

'Working in China was a long-term ambition for me and I was delighted to make the move two years ago. USTC seems to have recently begun a significant drive to increase the number of international professors working in the University, and the number of international students studying there. This coincided with the setting up of a National Engineering Laboratory relating to speech – which is my main research area.'

Ian's research in speech processing looks at the conversion of whispers to speech aided by computer technology.

'This research has extremely important applications: for some classes of patients who have lost their voice, perhaps due to disease, or as a result of a surgical procedure, the technology can be life-changing.'

Ian's projects have commercial value. While whisper conversion was initially envisaged as a technique applicable to voice loss, it is becoming more viable as a technology for mainstream users who wish to talk to (and whisper to) their intelligent devices. Ian is working with international mobile phone manufacturers.

'International collaboration is a win-win situation for the institutions and researchers. It can play to the strengths of both teams, avoiding local weaknesses and leveraging on special talents present in both teams.'

The collaboration enables Xin to map research focuses and demands onto expertise among colleagues in both Birmingham and USTC to ensure a critical mass that can pioneer developments. He said:

'There is a good match between expertise at Birmingham and USTC and the Institute brings together a range of skills and approaches as well as local and international knowledge. Ian added: *'International collaboration is a win-win situation for the institutions and researchers. It can play to the strengths of both teams, avoiding local weaknesses and leveraging on special talents present in both teams.'*

The full article is available in **Buzz issue 150 June/July 2014 (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/buzz/editions/index.aspx)**

Students welcome first direct flight from China at Birmingham Airport - July

The China Southern A330-200 aircraft arrived into Birmingham Airport fully laden with 248 tourists visiting the UK on organised package tours. These charter flights to Birmingham are the first to operate from China and the sell-out tours demonstrate there is a demand for more flights between the two countries.

Read the full story. (/International/news/items/Birmingham-Airport-China.aspx)

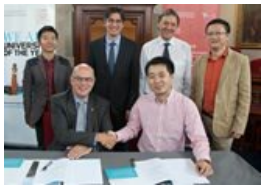
University hosts Chinese champions of the Formula Student competition - July

Mechanical Engineering hosted the Chinese champions of the Formula Student competition as part of an exchange programme sponsored by iMechE. The team worked alongside UBRacing in preparing for and competing in the UK Formula Student earlier this month.

UoB student won U21 Research Conference Prize in Shanghai

Phyo Khiang, one of our Medical students, has won the best poster prize at the recent Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Prominent Chinese genomics institute announces world-leading research centre with the University of Birmingham - July



BGI, the world's largest genome research institute, has signed a ground-breaking agreement with the University of Birmingham that will create the Joint Centre for Environmental Omics (JCEO) between the two institutions. The JCEO will seek to protect environment, health and global biodiversity by analysing the toxicity of compounds more efficiently than has been achieved before.

Located on the University's Edgbaston campus, the JCEO will specialise in automated ultra-high-throughput sample processing in a facility jointly operated with the BGI China National GeneBank (CNGB). The Centre's work will provide comprehensive and timely data on the effects of thousands of high priority chemicals, advanced materials and their mixtures on biological systems.

BGI, based in Shenzhen, has more than 5,000 employees including over more than 1,000 bioinformatics specialists who are working on solving the globe's most pressing research questions and societal challenges.

Over 60,000 synthetic compounds are used by industry and found in domestic products across the world, for which there is a paucity of information on their potential environmental and health effects. The knowledge gap can be addressed by applying the rapid technological improvements in DNA sequencing and computing power that are transforming the possibilities for regulatory toxicology. These scientific advancements will be crucial to the work of the JCEO, which aims to reduce the uncertainty about compound health risks and help industry fulfil the requirements of European legislation such as REACH and the Water Framework Directive.

John Colbourne, Professor of Environmental Genomics, University of Birmingham and Co-Director, JCEO, said: "Together, REACH and the Water Framework Directive can positively transform environment and human health protection, as long as science can provide robust and cost-effective toxicity tests to be used by industry, policy makers and regulators".

Xin Zhou, Deputy Director, CNGB and Co-Director, JCEO added: "In collaboration with industry and government scientists, the JCEO will allow the European Union and beyond to 'industrialise' knowledge for advancing regulatory science and its applications that will, in turn, lead to a unique mass-scale predictive, quick and relatively inexpensive diagnoses of environmental health concerns".

BGI will staff the JCEO with laboratory technicians and bioinformaticians, who will collaborate with scientists at the University of Birmingham and international partners on a variety of projects.

Dr Yong Zhang, Assistant President, BGI said: "Considering the scale of current environmental health problems, and realistic future projections, we are calling-out to researchers all over Europe and the UK to collaborate with the JCEO in response to international research challenges, so as to maximize the growth of this shared knowledge".

The signing took place between Professor Sir David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham and Dr Yong Zhang, Assistant President, BGI in front of a gathered audience in the University's Senate Chamber on Thursday 3 July.

Birmingham renews China PhD scholarship scheme with China Scholarship Council - June

The three-day UK visit by the Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang was marked at the University of Birmingham on Monday 16 June 2014 with a renewal of its China doctoral scholarship scheme, run in conjunction with the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

The University of Birmingham has hosted Li Siguang Scholars since 2011, with 18 students currently undertaking PhDs in subjects as diverse as Biology, Mechanical Engineering and Public Administration. The scheme is open to all fields and named in honour of Li Siguang, one of Birmingham's most famous Chinese graduates. The University is currently offering four PhD scholarships for students for 2014 entry, which are awarded, on a competitive basis, for three years of study and include tuition fees and living costs.

CSC is the Chinese Ministry of Education's non-profit organisation that provides student financial aid to Chinese citizens and foreigners to study abroad or to study in China respectively. The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions was signed by Dr Liu Jinghui, Secretary-General at CSC and Professor Malcolm Press, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer at the University of Birmingham. Also present was Li Hong, Director of European Affairs at the China Scholarship

Council.

You can read the CSC report on the **China Scholarship Council website (http://www.csc.edu.cn/News/94d862b78eba4b149dff818cb32e04ce.shtml)** .

In addition to the scholarship, the University has also announced the Li Siguang Publication Prize in the scientist's honour. The annual award is given to the best jointly published paper between the University of Birmingham and Chinese collaborative partners and aims to encourage deeper and wider collaborations with China.

Li Siguang is one of the best-known scientists in China, with a record of important discoveries as an academic. In geological circles, J S Lee (as he was known in publications) was one of the scholars whose work inspired the theory of plate dynamics and a fuller understanding of how the continents and oceans move around the planet.

In terms of his contribution to his country, he was behind the discovery of much of China's oil and gas reserves. He was a pioneer in predicting earthquakes, a trailblazer in establishing the geological history of China and an acute discoverer of new resources.

Born in Huanggang, Hubei Province in 1889 Li Siguang arrived in Birmingham in 1914 to study in the University of Birmingham's School of Mining. Li Siguang received his BSc in 1917 and his MSc in 1918. Having then spent several years researching geology in China, Li Siguang returned to the University of Birmingham for his doctorate, which was awarded in 1931. Subsequently his daughter studied for an MSc in Metallurgy Physics, graduating in 1948.

Li Siguang went on to become Professor at Peking University. He then progressed to become an academician, a lifetime highest honour for Chinese scholars, and Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, along with other prestigious positions such as Minister for Geology and President of the Chinese Society for Science and Technology. He died in 1971, but his achievements are still being recognised today, with the Chinese Academy of Sciences acknowledging its debt to his work by arranging in 2009 for a minor planet to be named Li Siguang in his honour.

- There are currently more than one hundred PhD students from China studying at Birmingham in a wide variety of fields including:

  Accounting and Finance, Biomaterials, Biosciences, Cancer Studies, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Drama, Economics, Education, Electrical, Electronic & Computer Engineering, English, Environmental Health Risk Management, Geography & Environmental Sciences, Immunity & Infection, Management, Manufacturing Engineering, Marketing, Mathematics, Metallurgy & Materials, Physics & Astronomy, Psychology, Public Health & Epidemiology, Sociology, Sustainable Energy and Theology & Religion.
- Application to the Li Siguang Scholarship is available through CSC from 20 March to 5 April. Please note, CSC will only consider applicants who are holding an offer from and recommended by the University of Birmingham. All recommended candidates have been notified.
- In order to apply to CSC, students must complete an application form and employer reference form. For further details, including the full amount of the award, the application procedure and deadlines, please visit the **China Scholarship Council website (http://www.csc.edu.cn)** .

Economics of Growth in China - Presentation by Professor Alessandra Guariglia - June

Date: Tuesday 10 June 2014

Time:17.30

Venue: IBR Seminar Room

Dr Una Martin would like to invite you to a fascinating talk on the economics of growth in China given by her friend and colleague Professor Alessandra Guariglia. Una attended Alex's inaugural talk last year expecting to understand very little but found the subject intriguing and surprisingly accessible. Anyone who watches the world economy with bemusement will really enjoy this insight from one of our local experts.

Alessandra Guariglia received her PhD from Boston University. She is currently a Professor of Financial Economics and Head of the Departments of Economics at the University of Birmingham. Prior to that, she has worked at the Universities of Essex, Kent, Nottingham, and Durham. She is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Banking and Finance and the European Journal of Finance. Her research interests are in the areas of financial economics and macroeconomics. Specifically, the focus of her research is on the links between macroeconomic activity and finance; firm behaviour under imperfect capital markets; the economics of transition in China; and household saving and consumption decisions.
All welcome to please come and support Alex - you are certain to enjoy her talk!

The presentation will be followed by cheese and wine, an opportunity to informally discuss any issues following the talk and to network with colleagues.

If you would like to book, for catering purposes please email **Sarah Magson (mailto:s.j.magson@bham.ac.uk)** .

U21 partner Shanghai Jiaotong University offers scholarships for summer school – 30 Jun – 18 Jul 2014

Shanghai Jiao Tong University is running its 2014 Antai Global Summer School program, which is scheduled on June 30 - July 18, 2014 in Shanghai. The challenging yet rewarding Antai Global Summer Program is a great opportunity to learn more about the business and culture in China. Students from partner schools of Shanghai Jiao Tong University have opportunities to receive scholarships up to USD1700. They are accepting applications for the final round.

Participants will gain a deep understanding of the Chinese economy and culture with in-class coursework, company visits, social events and tours. In addition to having world-class faculty who teach in our International MBA program, the summer program features guest speakers including senior knowledge expert of Boston Consulting Group, founder of successful Chinese enterprises, strategy department head of MNCs and so on. The cultural immersion activities is another feature that distinguish the program from the crowd. In summary, we aim to provide unparalleled academic and cultural experience to international students.

Highlights:

- 3 SJTU Credits
- 86% Non-Chinese Participants
- 18 Countries and Regions Represented
- 100% Participant Recommendation

For more information, please visit the **Shanghai Jiaotong University (http://www.summerschool.sjtu.edu.cn)** .

China-UK Connection through Culture Development Fund

British Council China launches the 17th round of the China-UK Connections Development Grant.

It is an initiative that builds long lasting relationships and develops exciting cultural collaborations between organisations in the two countries.
The initiative offers support, information, advice, networking opportunities and development grants to cultural organisations in China and the UK.
China and the UK both have a rich cultural heritage. Cultural organisations in both countries can benefit from the inspiration gained from exchanging ideas and sharing their cultural history.

Application Open: Monday 28 April 2014
Application deadline: Sunday 8 June 2014
Results out: Friday: 11 July 2014

For more details please visit the **British Council website (http://www.britishcouncil.cn/en/programmes/arts/connections-culture)** .

Guangdong General Research Institute of Industrial Technology (GRIIT) delegation visits Birmingham – 19 May 2014

GRIIT is one our UoB's research partners in Guangzhou. A delegation led by Prof Zhou, Head of GRIIT and a fellow of Chinese Academy of Science, visited Birmingham to progress discussion on further collaboration in the areas of Materials Engineering.

China SIP Internship – September 2014

British Council China is offering an exciting opportunity for highly motivated students to work as interns within Suzhou Industrial Park in China for up to 1 year starting September 2014. Enhance your employability with this unique opportunity to do an internship in China that could last from 6 to 12 months, starting this coming September.

For more details please visit the **British Council website. (http://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-create/internships/china-sip-internships)**

Sino-Indian Relations in the 21st Century: Regional Economic and Security Implications and Responses

This conference brings together leading scholars from China, India and the UK to address the following questions: what are the key drivers of Sino-Indian relations, particularly their economic and security relations? What are the cooperative and competitive elements in their economic and security strategies towards their Asian neighbours and beyond? What kind of regional and extra-regional responses are provoked by the increasing capabilities and expanding ambitions and activities of these rising powers?

This workshop is a collaboration between POLSIS and the China Institute, University of Birmingham India Travel Fund, and the College of Social Sciences Matched India Travel Fund.

For full programme details and to register visit the **event website (http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sino-indian-relations-in-the-21st-century-economic-and-security-implications-tickets-11572962041?utm_campaign=new_eventv2&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eb_email&utm_term=eventname_text)** .

Sun Yat-sen University offers 2 free places on Summer School for UoB students

Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) is UoB's partner institution in Guangzhou China. SYSU is offering 2 tuition free places on its International Summer Programme (ISP) to UoB students. The ISP runs from June30-July 18.

For more information please visit the **SYSU website (http://summerprogram.sysu.edu.cn/)** .

Birmingham student joined BC's UK-China Study Forum and China's CCTV programme – April 2014

Sarah Al-Hussaini, BSc Economics student represented the University of Birmingham at the British Council China's recent UK-China Study Forum event (more information here) to discuss issues affecting youth. Sarah also appeared on CCTV International's Dialogue programme, one of the most influential programmes on the channel.

View the episodes (http://english.cntv.cn/2014/04/23/VIDE1398201962164815.shtml)

UoB student joined Study China programme Easter 2014

Katie Rogers, UoB's Business School undergraduate student, joined the Study China programme in Shandong Province in April 2014. Katie thoroughly enjoyed her experience in China.

Visit her blog (http://katieinchina.jigsy.com/) to view fascinating images and read more about her journey to China.

British Chinese Heritage – Chinese lives in Birmingham Exhibition - 17 May – 18 Jun 2014

Venue: Barber Institute of Fine Arts

A photo gallery by the Birmingham Chinese Community Centre that captures the history of Chinese living in Birmingham.

Please note that this is not a China Institute sponsored event.

For more information visit the project at its **blog (http://chineselivesinbirmingham.wordpress.com/)** .

Previous events

University of Birmingham hosts 2014 China Leadership Forum

The University is hosting the China Leadership Forum 2014 at Birmingham on 28th March 2014, organized by the Great Britain China Centre and Foreign Affairs Office. This high profile forum is held alternatively in Beijing and the UK each year. The Shadow Minister for Higher Education and MP Rt. Hon. Liam Byme and his peers attended from the UK side, and Chinese delegates were officials from different offices of China State Council. This year's theme is "UK-China 2010: Partnership for Growth, Prosperity and Progress", which resonates well with the ministerial ties after the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing three months ago.

Ruinscape and Slumscape: Picturing History and Violence in Global East Asia - Dr.Tong Lam

Date: Monday 12 May 2014,

Time:14.30,

Venue: Hospitality Suite, Muirhead Tower

This talk analyzes the politics and aesthetics of dystopian imagery in the age of global capitalism. The two cases under examination are Xiancun, an urban village facing forced demolition in Guangzhou, China and Hashima, an industrial wasteland in Nagasaki prefecture, Japan. In spite of their apparent differences, the slumscape of Xiancun and the ruinscape of Hashima are useful sites to reflect on the spectacle of history and violence in the conventional and new media, as well as to think about the possibilities of practicing critical history in today's new visual economy.

Download the **event poster (/Documents/international/Global-engagement/Tong-Lam-Poster.pdf)** for further information.

Guest Lecture: The GIBH Drug Pipeline by Professor Micky Tortorella - Thursday 8 May 2014

Time: 13.00pm

Venue: IBR Seminar Room N143, College of Medical and Dental Sciences

The GIBH Drug Pipeline, by Professor Micky Tortorella, Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health (GIBH), Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Download the event poster.

The Li Siguang Publication Prize for Joint UK-Sino Publication

The Li Siguang Publication Prize will be an annual award bestowed under the auspices of the China Institute, University of Birmingham, for the best jointly published paper between the University of Birmingham and a Chinese Partner Institute. To provide clarity to the award, a theme for the papers will be chosen each year. The successful paper will represent outstanding academic work that is improving or advancing intellectual, economic or social impact.

Submission of a recent paper (published in the last 24 months) that have demonstrated the highest level of scholarship and/or innovation based on partnership research are invited to be sent to **CI@contacts.bham.ac.uk (mailto:CI@contacts.bham.ac.uk)**

Library of Birmingham Digital Exhibition of Images of China - February to April 2014

From the Library's extensive photographic collection, a digital exhibition of images of China over the last 150 years. Includes pictures from the earliest days of photography, hand coloured photographic postcards sent home by visitors to China, and a stunning series of images documenting the Chinese New Year festival by contemporary photographer Zhang Xiao.

Download the **event flyer (/Documents/international/LoBCulturesBrochure.pdf)** for further information

Inaugural lecture by Prof Yulong Ding, School of Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences - 1 May 2014

The University of Birmingham is part of the Centre for Low Carbon Futures (CLCF). The CLCF energy storage programme covers technology development, demonstration activities, and policy/market analysis. Professor Yulong Ding, a world expert in thermal energy storage, was appointed to the prestigious Chamberlain Chair of Energy Storage Research at the University of Birmingham. He took up the position as Director of the new Centre in October 2013

Join the debate - British Council 2014 UK-China Student Forum

The British Council are offering eight lucky students from the UK a free trip to Beijing, China from **19 – 24 April 2014**to participate in the**British Council 2014 UK-China Student Forum**. For a chance to participate, please follow the instructions below.

The Forum

The Forum is looking for UK students with a global outlook to join Chinese students in Beijing to voice opinions on issues related to education, employment and global citizenship. Through group discussions, workshops, keynote presentations and wrap-around activities, participants will exchange views with eight Chinese student counterparts and will conclude with a live discussion on 22 April 2014 at a university location in Beijing.

How to apply

For a chance to participate, simply answer the question: How can our education better prepare us to compete in an increasingly globalised world? in no more than 500 words.

- Email your response to: **gen.uk@britishcouncil.org.cn (mailto:gen.uk@britishcouncil.org.cn)** with **'UK-China Student Forum**' in the subject line.
- Please include your: full name, email address, university and degree course.
- Please attach a copy of your CV
- Deadline: **23 March 2014**

Applicants must be

- UK university students (British passport holders only, including Irish passport holders for Northern Ireland domiciled);
- age 18 and above
- able to travel to China during 19 – 24 April

The British Council will cover all costs related to the trip, including return flights and accommodation.

PhD Workshop: Financial Constraints and Global Engagement: are Chinese listed firms different? Marco Giansoldati - 27 March 2014

Marco Giansoldati is a PhD Student and Teaching Assistant in Monetary Economics at the University of Birmingham. Marco's research interest is in micro-econometric studies on the linkage between trade and finance for Chinese firms.

Delegation from Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office and People's Congress visited the University of Birmingham Guangzhou Centre

A delegation from Guangzhou Municipal Government (GMG) Foreign Affairs Office and the GZ People's Congress visited the University's GZ Centre recently. GMG was highly complementary of the in-depth collaborations between UoB and Guangzhou, and UoB's contribution of social and economic benefits for GZ by working jointly with partners institutions in the area of public health, biomedicine, advanced manufacturing, railway transportation and service industry.

Read the full story on the **Guangzhou Government website (http://www.gzfao.gov.cn/Item/6833.aspx)**

China Finance Internal Workshop - 12 March 2014

Event: China Finance Internal Workshop

Time:10:00

Venue: Room 112, Muirhead Tower

The University is committed to developing our international engagement. A key element of this has been our developing activities in China in which many of us have been involved over a number of years. As a result we now have over numerous ongoing research projects in China and plans are in place to develop more educational programmes with Chinese Universities. As we have discovered, doing business in China is complicated due to a number of factors, which include:

- Distance from the UK
- Complexity of Chinese legislation
- Different cultural approaches

This series of workshop organised by our Finance Office will help address these issues. Also colleagues from the International Relations and DABE will cover the

following.

- UoB structures around China engagement
- Examples of how activity has been set up already by UoB
- Operational matters to consider
- Contractual and financial considerations

Please note that these internal workshops are for University of Birmingham staff only.

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Shuang Zhang - 27 February 2014

The inaugural lecture by Professor Shuang Zhang entitled **Metamaterial - Rewriting the Rules for Optics** will take place on the 27th February 2014

Time:17.15,

Venue: Lecture theatre 117, Physics West Building, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

For more information and to register for this lecture, please visit the college events page.

Chinese New Year Networking Lunch - 31 January 2014

Date: Friday 31st January 2014 - 12:15 - 14:00

Location: Bramall Music Building - Rotunda

Friday 31 January 2014 was the Chinese New Year Eve. The China Institute hosted a networking event attended by university staff, academics, students and external companies with an interest in China.

The event was attended by nearly 100 guests and started with a speech and presentation by Peter Clack, the Director of International Relations.

The presentation covered aspects of our engagement with China including information on the value of our major research projects.

The total research value for the major joint research projects in health and medicine and service industry is approximately £3.4 million.

The total research value for major joint research projects in railway, energy, smart grid, intelligence computing and its applications, advance manufacturing, is £4.14 million.

The total research value for joint projects awaiting for grant approval in energy and intelligence computation and its applications, is £3.8 million

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Hanshan Dong - 21 January 2014

The inaugural lecture by Professor Hanshan Dong, Professor of Surface Engineering in the School of Metallurgy & Materials will be taking place on the 21st January 2014.

Time:17:15 - 19:00 followed by a reception

Location:G33 Mechanical/Civil Engineering Building (reception in the Shell Lounge)

For more details about this lecture and to register for this event, **please visit the college events page (/university/colleges/eps/events/inaugural-lecture/lectures-archive/Hanshan-Dong-21-01-14.aspx)** .

Economic success and financial inadequacy: The Chinese puzzle

An inaugural lecture by by Professor Alessandra Guariglia

Date: Wednesday 4th December at 16.30-17.30 - followed by a drinks
Location: G15, Main Lecture Theatre, Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham (R21 on the campus map)

Professor Guariglia will discuss how China has been growing at phenomenal rates over the last two decades. Yet, its financial system is relatively underdeveloped. This constitutes a puzzle: looking at countries world-wide, it is observed that those with the fastest growth rates are also those with the best functioning financial systems. Professor Guariglia will propose a number of explanations to this puzzle, ranging from firms' ability to generate large profits that they can re-invest facilitating growth, to their tendency to team up with foreign firms in order to indirectly acquire external equity.

Alessandra Guariglia received her PhD from Boston University. She is currently a Professor of Financial Economics and Head of the Departments of Economics at the University of Birmingham. Prior to that, she has worked at the Universities of Essex, Kent, Nottingham, and Durham. She is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Banking and Finance and the European Journal of Finance. Her research interests are in the areas of financial economics and macroeconomics. Specifically, the focus of her research is on the links between macroeconomic activity and finance and on the economics of transition in China. She has published a range of papers including articles in the Journal of Development Economics; Journal of International Economics; Journal of Banking and Finance; Journal of Comparative Economics; Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice; Economics Letters; Economica; Oxford Economic Papers; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; and Econometrics Journal.

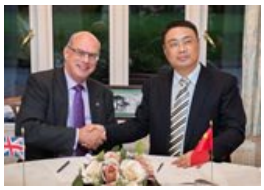
Places are limited so registration is necessary. To reserve your place or for further details visit the **events page (/schools/business/departments/economics/events/2013/december/alessandra-guariglia-registration.aspx)**

If you have difficulty in using this link, please use this address:
http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/departments/economics/events/2013/december/alessandra-guariglia-inaugural-lecture.aspx (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/business/departments/economics/events/2013/december/alessandra-guariglia-inaugural-lecture.aspx)

MBA taster lecture at Jinan University supported by the European Chamber of Commerce China, 13 Nov 2013

Jinan University (JNU) in Guangzhou is one of UoB's key strategic partner institutions. UoB launched the new Birmingham-Jinan MBA programme in July this year, and Prof Simon Collinson, Head of Birmingham Business School, and Prof Derek Condon, Director of MBA, gave a taster lecture at students at JNU on 13 November. The event was jointly supported by the European Chamber of Commerce in China, JNU, and UoB Guangzhou Centre. For more details of the event please visit the **European Chamber website (http://mailings.europeanchamber.com.cn/form.do?agnCI=1&agnFN=fullview&agnUID=1.v3.izq.kzt.8n4vrki3q1)** .

Guangzhou Municipal Government Visit enhanced University's key strategic partnership with Guangzhou, 23 Oct 2013



Two years after the launch of the University of Birmingham's collaborative centre in Guangzhou, Vice- Mayor Wang Dong led a delegation of senior government officials and industry representatives visited UoB on 23 October to expand the strategic partnership between the City and the University.
The Vice-Mayor met Vice-Chancellor Professor David Eastwood signed an agreement to deepen and widen collaboration between the two partners. To date, the strategic partnership has supported the development of four significant joint research projects in Guangzhou in the areas of health and life sciences. Five further research projects focused on advanced engineering and manufacturing will commence in January 2014. For more details please **visit our news page (/news/latest/2013/10/21Oct-Visit-enhances-Universitys-key-strategic-partnership-with-Guangzhou.aspx)** .

Inaugural Lecture - Is China too big to fail? - 23 October 2013

'Is China too big to fail? An economic and environmental perspective'

Speaker: Professor Rob Elliot - Department of Economics

Time: Wednesday 23rd October at 16.30-17.30 followed by a drinks reception

Location: G15, Main Lecture Theatre, Muirhead Tower, University of Birmingham

Places are limited so registration is necessary.

To reserve your place or for further details visit **Professor Rob Elliott inaugural lecture (/schools/business/departments/economics/events/2013/october/professor-rob-elliott-inaugural-registration.aspx)**

Professor Rob Elliott joined the Department of Economics at the University of Birmingham in September 2003. Having obtained a BA (Economics) and MA (Economics) at the Universities of Leicester and Essex, he studied for a PhD with Professor David Greenaway, Dr. Peter Wright and Robert Hine at the University of Nottingham.

Professor Elliot is currently Head of Department and Programme Director for BSc Money Banking and Finance (MBF); Prof. Elliott's main research covers empirical international trade, environmental, development and labour economics under the broad umbrella of 'the Economics of Globalisation'

UoB joined UK Government Delegation to China to Boost Research and Development, 16-17 Oct 2013

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Edward Peck joined a UK government delegation led by Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts, on a high profile trade visit to Shenzhen and Guangzhou in middle of October. The two-day trip enhanced UoB's engagement with research and businesses partners and showcased its research excellence. During the visit David Willetts visited one of UoB's major research projects in Guangzhou, the Born in Guangzhou Cohort Study with local partner Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Centre. For more details please**visit the University news page (/news/latest/2013/10/15-10-13University-of-Birmingham-joins-UK-government-delegation-in-China-to-boost-research-and-development.aspx)** .

Guest Lecture by Professor Robert Bickers - Wednesday 2nd October

China Institute Associated Event

'World in motion: Professional circuits through 19th-century China'

Venue: Rodney Hilton library (3rd floor, Arts building)

Time:16:15

Robert Bickers, professor of history at Bristol and director of the British Inter-University China Centre will be delivering a guest lecture at the University of Birmingham on Wednesday 2nd October.

Professor Bickers specialises in modern China, and the history of colonialism, and in particular of the British empire and its relations with China and the history of Shanghai (1843-1950s). Work in this field includes the books Britain in China (1999), and Empire Made Me: An Englishman adrift in Shanghai (2003), and The Scramble for China: Foreign Devils in the Qing Empire, 1832-1914 (2011). His interest in the world of British colonialism more broadly underpins the new volume in the Oxford History of the British Empire companion series that he has edited on British communities across the worlds of formal and informal empire. He is also interested in cemeteries and photographs and their post-colonial lives, clipper ships, lighthouses and meteorology in China.

He is Director of the British Inter-university China Centre, has been a Co-Director of the AHRC-funded REACT Knowledge Exchange Hub, and led an ESRC-funded project, 'Colonialism in comparative perspective: Tianjin under nine flags' (2008-11). He directs the 'Visualising China' initiative, and its underlying Historical Photographs of China digitisation programme. He also formely ran an AHRC-funded project on the history of the Chinese Maritime Customs Service.

For further information please **contact Ben White (mailto:b.t.white@bham.ac.uk)**

Generation UK scholarships Workshop – 30th October 2013

The Generation UK campaign aims to see at least 15,000 UK students going to China between 2013 and 2016, supported by the British Council and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). The campaign supports the UK Government's agenda by promoting outward student mobility to foster the competitiveness of the UK and to develop a new generation of globally mobile, culturally agile young people who can succeed and compete in an increasingly borderless marketplaceGeneration UK also offers funded internship placements and scholarships for academic study for UK students to gain international experience in China, supported by the Department for Education and Learning, Northern Ireland. This year three Birmingham students have been awarded Generation UK scholarships to study in China from September 2013. There will be a Generation UK workshop on campus, jointly organised by the China Institute and the British Council, China, on 30 October 2013.

Guest Lecture – Hepatitis Research in China, 19th September 2013

Hepatitis B and C viruses are a major global health problem resulting in progressive liver disease, including cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). HCC is the most common liver malignancy, with an estimated 750,000 new cases and 695,000 deaths per year, rating third in incidence and mortality in the world. Whilst incidence and mortality for other common cancers are declining, this tumour represents an increasing significant public health problem. Despite advances in HCC treatment, most patients die within one year of diagnosis, largely due to recurrence and metastases. In China, there is big population of Hepatitis B and C patients (HPB&HPC). Professor Huang and Professor Peng are experts in the anti-viral research and will talk about their on-going advanced finding in these fields and potential collaboration with our excellent liver research group in our university. All the PIs, senior researcher, post-docs and PhD students from virology research areas will benefit from this seminar and could identify common research interest.

University of Birmingham launches new railway research institute in China

The University of Birmingham has formed a new joint research institute with Anhui province in East China to support the development of railway infrastructure.

For full details, please visit the Universities news pages (/news/latest/2013/09/16-Sep-University-of-Birmingham-launches-new-railway-research-institute-in-China.aspx) .

2013 UK-China Strategic Workshop on Smart Grids at Birmingham - 18th July

Shaping the New Energy Industrial Revolution

Leading figures across industry, science and government gathered in the 2013 UK-China strategic workshop on smart grids at the University of Birmingham between 17th and 18th July to further UK-China partnerships in sustainable energy and smart grid technologies.
The workshop was organised by the University of Birmingham, UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) and the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering, and sponsored by the University of Birmingham China Institute and UK Energy Research Centre. The workshop builds upon the success of the 2010 meeting which led to three significant joint UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSPRC) and National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) research calls.
Smart grids have emerged as an important platform for China to realise its demanding energy targets, and research and development in this area is a national priority. China's 12th five-year plan expresses its aim to invest $45 billion dollars in smart grids over five years as part of the wider $250 billion dollar investment in its power grid. The University of Birmingham has established strong research links with Chinese partners for developments between the UK and China in driving the low carbon transition. The VC of the University, Professor David Eastwood gave the opening speech. He pointed out: "with the rapid global growth in demand for energy, the global cooperation in low-carbon economy is facing unprecedented opportunities to deal with the challenges." He said: "the Workshop held at the University of Birmingham is very timely to lay a good foundation for long-term cooperation between the UK and China in developing sustainable energy and smart grid construction."

The workshop co-chairs are Professor Richard Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University of Birmingham, and Mr Feng Chen, Vice President of State Grid Corporation of China and Executive Vice President of Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering. The Workshop co-chair Professor Richard Williams, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University of Birmingham, he said: "As global demand for power continues to soar, the need for international collaboration to pave the way for the low carbon economy has never been greater. Research expertise at Birmingham complements China's robust commitment to developing its smart grid capacity. This influential workshop will, unquestionably, deliver meaningful UK-China partnerships in sustainable energy and smart grids to address the energy challenges of the future, and we are proud to play a leading role."
The workshop covers topics from smart grids, wind energy generation and energy storage to energy markets and smart information systems, etc. Speakers include Honorary President of State Grid China Electric Power Research Institute (China EPRI, SGCC) Professor Xiao-Xin Zhou and Honorary President of State Grid Electric Power Research Institute (SGEPRI, SGCC) Professor Yusheng Xue, Chair of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Professor Sir Michael Sterling, and Executive Director of UKERC Professor John Loughhead, as well as senior figures from Alstom, E.ON UK, Chiltern Power and the National Grid.

Three UoB students awarded China Government Scholarships – 19 July 2013

We are delighted that three students from the University of Birmingham have been awarded the China Government Scholarships to study in Nanjing University, Sun Yat-sen University and Shanghai Jiaotong University for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the areas of Archaeology, Ancient History, and Chemical Engineering. A celebration reception was held in the Chinese Embassy London on 19th July and Ms Angela Turton, Head of International Mobility gave a speech at the event on behalf of the University.

Sun Yat-sen University's visit to University of Birmingham – 15 Jul 2013

A delegation from Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) led by SYSU's President Prof XU Ningsheng visited the University of 15 July 2013. SYSU is one of UoB's strategic partners in Guangzhou. A agreement has been signed to deepen collaborations in areas of medical sciences.

2013 UK-China Strategic Workshop on Smart Grids – 17-18 July 2013

The University of Birmingham recently hosted the 2013 UK-China Strategic Workshop on Smart Grids which was organised by the University of Birmingham, UKERC and

Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering (CSEE)
Sponsored by the University of Birmingham China Institute and UKERC.

Built upon the success of the 2010 UK-China Strategic Workshop on Smart Grids, the main objectives of the 2013 UK-China Strategic Workshop on Smart Grids are to:

- identify the energy areas of research priorities for the collaborations between the UK and China
- facilitate partnerships between the UK and Chinese scientific and research and development communities leading to actual collaboration projects
- explore new and innovative ways of promoting sustainable long term collaboration in smart grids and sustainable energy between the UK and China

Collaboration agreement with Wuhan University of Technology – 13 June 2013

A delegation led by Professor Liu Wei, Chairman of Wuhan University of Technology (WUT), visited Birmingham on 13 Jun 2013 and signed a teaching collaboration agreement with the College of Engineering, whereby students from WUT shall be considered for entry, with advanced standing to Year Two in a number of Engineering undergraduate programmes at UoB. This is the first formal agreement signed between the two institutions.

Inaugural Lecture by Professor Naomi Standen - 18 June 2013

(/staff/profiles/history/standen-naomi.aspx) Professor Naomi Standen (/staff/profiles/history/standen-naomi.aspx) , Professor of Medieval History in the College of Arts & Law will be delivering her inaugural lecture on "Ecology and Politics in Pre-modern Eastern Eurasia" on the **18th June 2013**as part of the China Institute Lecture Series.

University of Birmingham is awarded two Chinese government scholarships.

These awards will cover the Registration, Tuition, Comprehensive Medical Insurance and Accomodation fees of students wishing to study in China.

Students without Chinese Language skills will be required to take 1 year of intensive Chinese Language studies before beginning their studies, making this a 2 year commitment for most students.

For further information please visit the **China Scholarship Council (CSC) website (http://en.csc.edu.cn/laihua/scholarshipdetailen.aspx?cid=97&id=2052)**

If you require further information, please contact **Peter Jordan (mailto:p.jordan@bham.ac.uk)** in the International Office.

Visit from Sun Yat-sen University, the First Affiliated hospital –15 March

Between 11th and 13th March, our college successfully welcomed a delegation from the first Affiliate hospital, which is attached to Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU) in China. The visit was led by the President, Professor Shenming Wang - and other three Vice-Presidents of the organisation too. Following the preliminary relations established in our first reciprocal visit with SYSU, Eric Jenkinson (Head of College), Professors Jon Frampton (College Director of R&KT), and Pamela Kearns (Director of the Birmingham CRCTU) hosted the deputation this time.

The itinerary included in-depth and detailed discussions with our leading researchers, to establish a joint Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) located in Guangzhou, and progress other mutual collaborations in the field of translational research. Staff working in all our CTUs (CRCTU, BCTU and PCCTU) presented their work and demonstrated our resources and extensive expertise to counterparts. The delegates were very impressed by our enormous experience and achievements in clinical trials. A provisional agreement has been reached to develop a joint CTU in the largest hospital of Guangzhou, and we hope this Unit will constitute a platform for more potential research collaborations with the University of Birmingham in the future. Accordingly we are currently forming a College working group for the strategic management of the partnership, and to ensure the delivery of real benefits to all participants.

You can see the full story on the Universities **News Page (/news/latest/2013/03/15Mar-Prospective-joint-clinical-trials-centre-tops-agenda-for-latest-Sun-Yat-Sen-visit.aspx)**
.

For more information about our work with SYSU please contact our International Project Officer **Junying Jia (mailto:j.jia@bham.ac.uk)** .

Chinese Buddhism and Intercultural Studies Symposium – 24 April 2013

Co-hosted by the Department of Theology and Religion and the China Institute in the University of Birmingham, the “Chinese Buddhism and Intercultural Studies Symposium” aims to establish dialogues between those who concern intercultural issues or textual studies related to Chinese religions. The discussion will be opened by Dr Kuan Guang from the Department of the Study of Religions, SOAS, University of London. Guang’s principle research interests lie in the field of history of Chinese Buddhism. In his earlier publication, he has reconstructed the history about the life of Sahajasrī, an Indian Buddhist missionary in Ming Dynasty whose influences are often overlooked. At the symposium, Guang will share his viewpoints on the necessity, difficulty and other issues involved in the translations of Chinese Buddhist texts, especially those belong to Wutai Shan Buddhism. In additional to the methodological concerns, he will also try to explain how this particular Buddhist sect may have shaped the practices of some Buddhist traditions in East Asia.

Other speakers at the symposium included:

Prof Jianda Wang (Zhejiang University): “What the Early Victorian Christian Socialists Can Say to China Today?”

Selena Su (University of Birmingham): “Missionaries and ‘Imperialism’: An Exploration of the Complexity of Missionary Roles in the Opium Wars in China”

Dr Wai Yip Wong (University of Birmingham): “On the Phenomenon of Multiple Religious Belonging in China”
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China Institute Guest Lectures – Monday 18th March 2013

As part of the China Institute Series of Lectures, the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering hosted 2 guest speakers to deliver a lecture on

“Power Engineering Research in Huazhong University of Science and Technology: smart grid and pulsed electromagnetics”
The lectures were held in the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering on Monday 18th March 2013.

Bio of Guest Speaker - Professor Shijie Cheng（程时杰院士）Shijie Cheng, IEEE Fellow, Fellow of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor in Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. He received B.Eng. degree from Xi’an Jiaotong University in 1967, M.Eng. degree from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in 1981, and Ph.D. degree from University of Calgary, Canada in 1986. His research interests include smart grid, power system control, and stability analysis of power system.

Bio of Guest Speaker - Professor Xiaoming Yuan（千人计划专家袁小明教授）
Xiaoming Yuan, IEEE Senior member, Professor at Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China. "Thousand-Talent" Chair Professor & "National Distinguished Expert"; Chief Scientist 973 National Key Basic Research Program on Renewables Integrations; Member of Expert Board 863 National High-Tech R&D Program for Advanced Energy. He received B.Eng. degree from Shangdong University, China in 1986, M.Eng. degree from Zhejiang University, China in 1993, and Ph.D. degree from Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil in 1998.

He was with Qilu Petrochemical Corporation from 1986 to 1990, where he was involved in the commissioning and testing of relaying and automation devices in power systems, adjustable speed drives, and high-power UPS systems. From 1998 to 2001, he was a Project Engineer at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Switzerland, where he worked on flexible-ac-transmission-systems and power quality. From 2001, he was with GE Cooperate R&D and was Manager of the Low Power Electronics Laboratory based in Shanghai. In 2009, he was promoted to be the chief Engineer of GE Global R&D Center. In 2010, he joined Huazhong University of Science & Technology. Prof. Yuan published over 35 papers including 10 in IEEE Transaction and the one winning the first prize paper award from the Industrial Power Converter Committee of the IEEE Industry Applications Society in 1999. He also owned 25 US Patents, and several of them have been widely used in GE products. He researches on renewable power generation, Smart Grid and high power electronic conversion.

University of Birmingham in Guangzhou to develop next steps for strategic partnership

Senior representatives from the University of Birmingham are visited Guangzhou to enhance the institution’s extensive links with partners in the region.

Pro-Vice-Chancellors Professor Edward Peck and Professor Richard Williams met Mr Ma Zhengyong, Deputy Secretary General of the Guangzhou Municipal Government (GMG), affirming the long-term strategic partnership between the City and the University.

During the visit, discussions took place with GMG on the development of future research projects, for the next three years, in the fields of advanced engineering, new materials, railways and energy.

Since it commenced in 2011, the University of Birmingham-Guangzhou partnership has seen the launch of five significant joint research projects with work well underway.

The projects are:

The Born in Guangzhou Cohort Study in partnership with the Guangzhou Women and Children Medical Centre
The Guangzhou Biobank Cohort Study in partnership with Guangzhou No. 12 Hospital
The Birmingham-Guangzhou Brain Cognition Centre in partnership with Guangzhou No. 1 Hospital
Stem Cell Research on Liver Diseases in partnership with Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health (GIBH)
Service Industry Study in partnership with Guangzhou University
Together with meetings with local partners relating to the five existing research projects, the University of Birmingham delegation will meet with representatives from South China University of Technologies (SCUT), Jinan University, Guangdong Department of Science and Technology, and the China Electrical Science Research Institute (CEI).

Professor Edward Peck, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham, said: “This latest visit demonstrates the University’s ongoing commitment to advancing our partnerships with Guangzhou and across the Pearl River Delta region. While working on the existing research projects, we are delighted to share further exciting research ideas. These would help Guangzhou to become a centre of research excellence in smart grids, clinical trials and regenerative medicine. In addition, an exchange between student Formula One-style racing teams from the two cities will begin."

Birmingham Professor awarded Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou award

Professor KK Cheng (/staff/profiles/haps/PublicHealthEpidemiologyBiostatistics/cheng-kk.aspx), Professor of Public Health and Primary Care, was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou by the Guangzhou Municipal Government in recognition of his contribution to the City of Guangzhou in November 2012.

College of MDS visits Sun Yat-sen University

A delegation from the college of Medical and Dental Science visited Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) in Guangzhou in the week of 19th November, 2012. It was a successful visit with many interesting and potential collaborations in many fields from education to researches. The delegation also visited the SYSU Medical School and its key state labs, 1st and 2nd affiliated hospitals, and our partner institution Guangzhou Institute of Biomedicine and Health (GIBH).

Birminghams and Jiatong University collaboration awarded three-year grant.

The University of Birmingham’s joint application with Beijing Jiaotong University for the Sino-UK Higher Education Research Partnership for PhD studies has been successful with a 3-year grant from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills of the British Government (BIS).

University of Birmingham launches new China Institute

The University of Birmingham's China Institute celebrated its official opening this week (Thursday 13 December) in the presence of His Excellency Mr Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the UK.

The creation of the China Institute on the University's Edgbaston campus reflects and facilitates its extensive links with China. The history of collaboration between China and the University spans over 100 years and last year it opened its most significant engagement in the country to date - the University of Birmingham Guangzhou Centre.

Following the opening ceremony, Professor Frank Zhao (Zhao Fuquan), the Vice President of Geely Holdings China presented the inaugural China Institute guest lecture on 'The China Automotive Industry – Today and Tomorrow'. The lecture will give an insight into the rapidly growing Chinese automotive sector and the opportunities and challenges it faces.

The China Institute will provide an umbrella structure for the numerous China interests on the Edgbaston campus. Its activities will include coordinating an annual lecture series to promote a greater understanding of China and its place in the world, hosting incoming visits from Chinese partners, providing a central source for information on the University's engagement with China, and encouraging inter-disciplinary research across campus that focuses on China.

Professor David Eastwood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, said: "Our China Institute marks an important milestone in our longstanding relationship with China. Last year we opened our landmark centre in Guangzhou. This year in creating the China Institute we are reaffirming Birmingham's deep and robust commitment to engagement with the country."
Professor Edward Peck, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the College of Social Sciences has been appointed as Chair of the China Institute.

Professor Peck added: "Every College of the University is engaging in meaningful collaborations with Chinese partners. The China Institute will bring together this broad spectrum of research, providing a central hub for the numerous, and growing, China interests across the Edgbaston campus. We are delighted to welcome both the Chinese Ambassador and Professor Zhao to celebrate the official launch."

13th December 2012 – China Institute Launch Event

The China Institute launch event will take place on the 13th December 2012.

It is our great honour that His Excellency Mr LIU Xiaoming, the Ambassador of the Chinese Embassy of London, will attend the event and launch the China Institute together with Professor David Eastwood, Vice Chancellor of the University of Birmingham.

We are delighted to confirm that the first guest lecture will be delivered by Professor Frank Zhao, the Vice President of Geely Holdings China on "The China Automotive Industry – Today and Tomorrow".

See below for a summary of Professor Zhao's lecture and biography.

Professor Frank Zhao: The China Automotive Industry – Today and Tomorrow

During the last ten years, the Chinese automotive industry has experienced rapid growth. Domestic market sales are expected to reach 20 million units this year. Almost all the key players worldwide are fighting in this exciting market to gain a large piece of the pie. Where will this market go in the future? Will it continue to grow as in the past? How can the Chinese local brands compete with those foreign giants? Will Chinese-built vehicles be exported to developed markets as is the case for developing countries? How do Chinese consumer preferences compare with those of Western customers? How can the Chinese automotive industry cope with the increasing pressure of energy shortages? What is the status of technological development in car electrification? What are the key technologies that attract most of the Chinese customers? How do suppliers do business in China? This lecture will address many of the issues that the western automotive industry is curious to learn about from a Chinese auto executive perspective!

Professor Zhao Fuquan joined the Geely Group on 17 November 2006 as an Executive Director. Dr. Zhao is also a Vice President of Geely Holding, Head of Zhejiang Geely Technology Centre, President of Zhejiang Geely Automobile Research Institute Limited and President of Zhejiang Automotive Engineering Institute. Dr. Zhao was granted a Doctorate in Engineering Science from Hiroshima University in Japan and had years of on-the-job working experience in Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Prior to joining Geely Holding, Dr. Zhao was the research executive of technical affairs of Daimler Chrysler and Vice President of Shenyang Brilliance JinBei Automobile Company Limited and General Manager of its Research and Development Centre. Dr. Zhao, one of the main authors in international automobile magazines, has written 5 English books and has published more than 100 academic dissertation papers on automobile technology. Dr. Zhao has been awarded many patents in his career and has won many prizes and awards. Dr. Zhao was accredited as a Fellow by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) in April 2006. Dr. Zhao is currently a part-time professor in Tsinghua University, Jilin University, Tongji University and several other leading Chinese universities

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