

Workshop on the Future of European Studies in Asia

Manila, the Philippines | 5-7 December 2007

ABSTRACT OF PRESENTATION

A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in China

Prof. Xinning Song

Jean Monnet Chair

Centre for European Studies

Renmin University of China

and

Senior Research Fellow

Comparative Regional Integration Studies

United Nations University

Before 1990s, European studies in China was basically an area studies with a separate agenda for politics, economics, international relations, history, law and so forth; and focusing more on individual countries, especially France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy. After 1990s, especially during the EU-China Higher Education Cooperation Programme (1997-2001) European studies started to be introduced to Chinese universities and research institutions. Because of the Chinese higher education system, European studies has not been regarded as a discipline but rather still as an area studies within political science, economics, etc.

The Centre for European Studies at Renmin University of China (CESRUC) was set up in 1994 in co-operation with the university's Department of International Politics and Department of International Economics. In 1996, it became an university-based research institute co-operating with different departments and schools in the university, covering basically political sciences, economics, law, sociology and history with clear focus on "European studies", i.e. the European Union (EU) or European integration studies.

The topics covered in this presentation include research projects conducted by the centre as well as teaching programmes which are characterised by a multi-disciplinary approach. Also to be discussed is the viability of European studies as compared to Chinese studies or Asian Studies.

CESRUC was awarded "Key Research Institute" among Chinese universities by the Chinese government in 2000 and "Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence" by the European Commission (EC) in 2005. It is important to compare the two funding schemes, the differences in objectives and priorities to determine their sustainability in the long term.

This presentation will conclude with several suggestions to the Jean Monnet Action programme for non-EU institutions.