

SEMINAR

INTERNATIONAL NGOs IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The Case of Climate Negotiations and Climate Finance

Venue	LT 1, CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower, Central (Live broadcast will be available at Faculty Board Room, Lee Shau Kee Building, CUHK, Shatin)
Date	Wednesday, 6 March 2019, 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Language	English

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEMINAR

Global governance is today not only the purview of state actors interacting through international treaties but also – and more and more – a space where many diverse non-state actors participate in decision making. This is particularly prominent in climate change diplomacy given the variety of scientific, policy, technical and financial expertise it requires and which non-state actors can provide. As demonstrated by the last conference of parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), INGOs participated in the negotiations as observers, representing the interests of local governments, indigenous people, women, youth, business and industry, and the scientific community.

INGOs also prominently figure in the process of financing climate change not only as third-party accreditors and channels of funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) but also as potential brokers reconciling global norms with local needs.

In this seminar, speakers will address the role of INGOs in global governance and green finance:

1. What is the standing of international INGOs in current international public law? Other than legal legitimacy, what else provides INGOs with credibility in climate negotiations? What does INGO inclusion in global governance mean for the future climate governance?
2. How can INGOs help reconcile global norms with local needs, i.e in relation to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)? Can they reduce the complexity and develop a more adequate approach to diverse geographical, socio-economic and environmental settings?

PARTNERS

- Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change Asia-Pacific (RECAP), Hong Kong
- Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Hong Kong
- WWF Hong Kong

PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives of local and international NGOs
- Professional and academic experts
- Students of international and environmental law

AGENDA

Wednesday, 6 March 2019

11:45 **Registration / Refreshments**

12:00 **Welcoming Remarks**

Dr Peter HEFELE, Director, Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Hong Kong

12:10 **Keynote Speech**

**International NGOs in Global Governance:
The Case of Climate Negotiations**

Dr Rio HOWARD, former Official, OECD, Paris/France

12:40 **Commentary**

**Governing the Green Climate Fund:
Reconciling Global Norms with Local Needs**

Dr Maria FRANCESCH-HUIDOBRO, Principal Consultant, Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Hong Kong

13:00 **Panel Discussion**

Chair: Dr Peter HEFELE, KAS RECAP

- **Dr Rio HOWARD**
- **Dr Maria FRANCESCH-HUIDOBRO**
- **Mr. Jean-Marc CHAMPAGNE**, Head of Environmental Finance, WWF HK
- **Professor Benoit MAYER**, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, CUHK, Hong Kong

13:30 **Concluding Remarks**

Networking / Reception



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Organisation Contacts

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Speakers' Biographies

Dr Rio HOWARD, former Official, OECD, Paris/France

Dr. Howard is a former official at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, where she served as Principal Administrator in the Council and Executive Secretariat. She holds Masters and Doctoral degrees from Cornell University in the United States and has taught in American universities including the University of California at San Diego and Hampshire College in Massachusetts. Her research experience includes the Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) and the Centre national de la Recherche Scientifique in France. Her current research interests include the role of international non-governmental organizations in the climate sector.



Abstract for Keynote speech on “International NGOs in Global Governance: The Case of Climate Negotiations”

NGOs, especially the large international NGOs, have become more visible as *de facto* developers of global policy, a development which raises significant questions about their standing in the structure of global governance. What criteria establish the credibility and legitimacy of NGOs and by whom or what are these judgements made? Is there a potential or actual conflict of interest between the ‘donors’ which support an NGO and the beneficiaries of its activities? Should international NGOs be regulated, and if so, by whom or by what? The climate negotiations provide a good illustration of this issue. In sheer numbers alone, NGO presence is difficult to miss: some 1,100 were registered for the COP meetings in Paris in 2015, with over 7000 participants, a presence which has not diminished with subsequent COP meetings.

Dr Maria FRANCESCH-HUIDOBRO, Principal Consultant, Regional Project Energy Security and Climate Change, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Hong Kong

Dr Francesch-Huidobro is a political scientist with over twenty-five years of professional experience in environmental, sustainability, climate change and energy security policy analysis. Before consulting for the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS-RECAP) she was professor of political science and public administration at the University of Hong Kong (2005-2008) and City University of Hong Kong (2009-2016). She holds a BSc and MSc in Microbiology (Madrid), a master’s in Public Administration (MPA- HKU), and a PhD in Political Science and Public Administration (HKU).



Her work revolves around the processes by which Asian polities manage institutional and policy changes when confronted with new environmental demands, be it geopolitical, socio-economic or technical. Her analysis firmly relies on stakeholders’ engagement as a way to ascertain the pros and cons of the policy solutions proposed. She has led numerous publicly and privately funded projects which have resulted, among others, in strategies for carbon reduction implementation and assessment models and enabling low carbon living at district level. Recent projects include studies on the role of cities in climate diplomacy, on low carbon transitions in isolated electricity supply systems in Southeast Asia, and on carbon pricing policies. She is author of *Governance, Politics and the Environment: a Singapore Study* (ISEAS 2008), and co-author of *Governing Climate Change in Chinese Cities* (Routledge 2015). Her work on climate adaptation governance in delta cities has been cited by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5C (2018).