Dear friends,

2011 was an exciting and eventful year at Columbia Global Centers | East Asia as Professor Safwan M. Masri—Chair of the Columbia Global Centers Director Group and Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East—became our Acting Director. Additionally, we significantly expanded our full-time staff and moved from Tsinghua Science Park to our new office in the tech hub of Zhongguancun.

While continuing projects such as Studio-X Beijing and the Urban China Initiative, we also organized and hosted a wide variety of programs to further Columbia’s academic research and dialogue in China. We invite you to peruse the past year’s highlighted news and events below—and we look forward to welcoming you soon to our new office!

Regards,
The CGC | East Asia Team
**Programs**

**Urban China Initiative**

In a joint initiative with Tsinghua University and McKinsey & Company, we’ve continued to develop the Urban China Initiative (UCI), a think-tank composed of representatives from the worlds of academia, government, business, and non-government organizations. UCI brings together these leaders to tackle a tremendous challenge facing the Chinese government: the largest migration to urban metropolises in human history.

UCI sponsors research on urban development in China and grants funding to students and faculty, including two recent recipients from Columbia University. In October, CGC | East Asia co-organized the UCI 2011 Annual Forum at Tsinghua University. At the hugely successful event, some of the more than 200 guests volunteered to stand in order to attend the conference. Columbia Professors Elliott Sclar and Saskia Sassen presented their research at the forum.

**Summer Palace Dialogue between Chinese and American Economists**

In its second year of involvement, the Center took a leading role co-ordinating the 2011 Summer Palace Dialogue between Chinese and American Economists (SPD). SPD serves as a track two dialogue between economists and policymakers of both countries, this past year tackling current problems emanating from the global economic crisis. Former CGC | East Asia Director Xiao Geng negotiated the economic focus for 2011 and participated in the Dialogue.

Other participants included Columbia Professor Merit Janow—Chair of the Faculty Steering Committee of the Columbia Global Centers | East Asia—retired U.S. Admiral William Owens, Nobel laureate Michael Spence, and former Chair of the U.S. Council of Economic Advisors Laura Tyson. Evening participants included the U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke and Deputy Governor of the People’s Bank of China Yi Gang. CGC staff worked tirelessly throughout, developing briefing materials through macroeconomic research, providing U.S. participants’ logistics support, and co-managing the day of the event. The Center also hosted a CGC | East Asia advisory board meeting prior to the event’s public session.
ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Throughout 2011, the Center co-organized conferences that engaged Columbia professors on a range of East Asia-focused dialogues. In March, we co-organized the symposium titled “Reforming the Global Monetary System,” featuring Professor of Economics Joseph Stiglitz.

July featured the International Healthcare Leadership Symposium, hosted by Columbia Professor David Roye. The symposium represented a high-level dialogue between healthcare leaders, this year on the topic of “Effective Hospital Management and Policy, Treatment and Prevention.”

Moreover, in June, the Center assisted with the organization of the International Policy Advisory Group meeting, coordinating with Columbia professors, providing conference materials, and managing the site. Opened by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, discussion revolved around current key economic issues that served as the basis for recommendations to the November 2011 G20 Summit.

WEATHERHEAD FORUM IN BEIJING

In October, the Center successfully organized a three-part lecture series entitled “China and its Neighbors: From Pyongyang to Kabul” in conjunction with the Weatherhead East Asian Institute and Renmin University. Professors Charles Armstrong, Morris Rossabi, and Elizabeth Wishnick lectured on fascinating overviews of China’s relations with North Korea, Mongolia, and Afghanistan respectively. Scores of students, faculty, embassy officials, and other members of the public attended the lectures and participated in the subsequent dialogues.
ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND VISITS

CGC staff also organized a series of continuing programs throughout 2011. The Monthly Scholars’ Luncheon program brings a dozen leaders from academia, business, and government to discuss U.S.-China economic and strategic cooperation. The Center also provided on-the-ground assistance for visits from the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, Office of Admissions, School of the Arts, and more. In the first official Columbia University visits to local high schools, Columbia administrators met with staff and students of several top high schools in Beijing and Shanghai to further mutual understanding. In conjunction with the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (GSAPP), the Center also continued to support Studio-X Beijing—a local base for collaborative architectural research, exhibitions, and cultural exchanges.

Alumni Events

Throughout the year, the Center co-organized and participated in alumni events with the Columbia Alumni Association of Beijing. Events included an honorary dinner for Dr. Clyde Wu and Sir Gordon Wu, a summer reception at Capital M, an evening cocktail event at Temple Restaurant, and the donation of an elementary school library in Hebei Province. More events this year are sure to come; please stay in touch!

Internship Program

The Center hosted some 20 interns and volunteers over the last year from a variety of backgrounds. They engaged in activities ranging from assisting Columbia faculty in their research to organizing conferences and events. The Center offers volunteer opportunities to high school students and internship positions to college and graduate students. We are always looking for sharp and enthusiastic volunteers and interns. If you know any qualified candidates, please do contact us.
Developments

About the Team

**Safwan M. Masri, Acting Director:** Professor Masri currently serves as the Chair of the Columbia Global Centers Director Group, Director of the Columbia Global Centers | Middle East, and Professor at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University, where he served as Vice Dean, MBA Program Director, and Faculty Director of the Samberg Institute for Teaching Excellence from 1993 to 2005. Professor Masri is also Chairman of the Queen Rania Teacher Academy, and has served as Advisor to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and as Founding Chairman Emeritus of King's Academy.

**Director:** With the August departure of our former director Xiao Geng, Columbia Global Centers is still seeking nominations for the directorship. Should you like to pass along any recommendations, please contact us at beijingcenter@columbia.edu

**Tong Ge, Deputy Director:** Tong holds an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management, an MA in Political Science from Arizona State University, and a BA in International Relations and English from the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing. She previously worked in government and the financial sector.

**Jin Liu, Assistant Director:** Jin holds a Master of Science in Financial Management from New York University. Previously she worked at New York University and the State of Kansas Governor’s Office.

**Sean Patrick Quirk, Research Fellow:** Sean holds a BA in Political Science-International Relations from Columbia University. He now serves as the Research Fellow for the Summer Palace Dialogue between Chinese and American Economists.

**Mi Xiong, Program Officer:** Mi holds an MA degree in Technological Economics and Management from Kunming University of Science and Technology, and a BS degree in Computer Science and Technology from the Navy University of Engineering in China.

**Jiuming Tu, Administrative Assistant:** Jiuming holds a BA in English from Southwest Jiaotong University and is completing her MA in British and American Literature from Nankai University.

**Xuan Liang, Office Assistant:** Xuan holds a college degree in law and accounting from Beijing Agriculture Professional College and has many years of experience in office management.

**Yi Ping, Logistics Assistant:** Yi graduated from Beijing Finance & Trade Institute with a degree in business management and law.

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NEW OFFICE OPENING THIS SPRING!

Due to generous support of our donors, our new, larger office will allow us to host a multitude of events and forums within the Center itself.

Our official Office Opening Event will occur this spring. All Columbia alumni, students, friends, and family are welcome to join us. Please stay connected for the date of the event.

LOOKING AHEAD

EXPANSION AND CONTINUATION OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

The East Asia Center will continue to co-organize the following Columbia-led annual conferences: International Policy Advisory Group (IPAG) Annual Meeting, led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs; Initiative for Policy Dialogue (IPD) Conference Series, led by Professor Joseph Stiglitz; and International Healthcare Leadership (IHL) Conference Series, led by Professor David Roye.

The Urban China Initiative will be expanding its international influence by participating in a world summit on urbanization. An updated China Urban Sustainability Index, a tool for measuring China’s cities and economic growth quality, is to be launched in March 2012, while more calls for urbanization research will be announced this year. In collaboration with the National Academy for Mayors of China and Chinese Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, UCI will also provide training for high-level Chinese policymakers.

Lastly, the Center is now working to advance Columbia’s leadership in the Summer Palace Dialogue between Chinese and American Economists (SPD). The 2012 SPD program is currently scheduled to occur in Beijing this fall.
STUDENT PROGRAMS

Global Scholars Program The East Asia Center is currently in discussion with the Weatherhead Institute to launch a global scholar program this summer for Columbia undergraduate students. Under the guidance of a faculty member, a group of students will conduct sociological research in China and present their research results the following fall semester on campus.

Global Entrepreneurial Program The Center is currently in discussion with the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences about a potential one-week entrepreneurial training course, targeting three potential groups: high school students, college graduates, and young entrepreneurs. Columbia faculty will be major lecturers, and the initial program will be primarily honed toward talented high school students wanting to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

Orientations The Weatherhead East Asian Institute currently provides a pre-departure orientation in New York for students heading to East Asia on scholarships. The Center aims to organize a similar short orientation program for Columbia students once they arrive in Beijing. Such activities will complement the Center’s pre-departure activities for admitted Chinese applicants.

Admissions Office Information Session The Center is planning to work with the Admissions Office to host information sessions for local high school students interested in applying to Columbia. This activity serves to facilitate mutual dialogue, increasing Columbia University’s exposure in the high school community and helping university administrators learn about Chinese applicants.

IN-HOUSE EVENTS FOR COLUMBIA AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Academic Events Based on the successes of the Weatherhead forum in Beijing, the East Asia Center will begin offering lectures and panels by Columbia faculty and local scholars in the new office’s event space. The Center is also creating a series of brown bag events for the community to engage in academic discussions.

Quarterly Alumni Events The East Asia Center will continue to work with the Columbia Alumni Association of Beijing (CAABJ) to host quarterly events for local alumni, and these gatherings can now be hosted in the new Beijing office.

C.V. Starr East Asian Library Director Jim Cheng introduces Columbia and its resources to students at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

The 2012 Chinese New Year Alumni Cocktail Reception in the new CGC | East Asia office on January 14, 2012. Co-hosts include the Columbia Alumni Association of Beijing (CAABJ) and Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CUCSSA).
Chinese New Year Annual Reception  The Center will host the Chinese New Year Annual Reception—one of its largest events—in the office next year. This year, the Center co-hosted a 2012 gathering with CAABJ and the Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CUCSSA) as the first in-house event since the office’s opening.

Film Screenings  In addition to hosting lectures, Center staff members are working with Columbia’s School of the Arts to organize film screenings in the new office space. This potential program would share films produced by Columbia professors with the local Columbia and Chinese communities.

Thank You For Your Support

2011 has witnessed Columbia Global Center | East Asia fulfill its mission as Columbia University’s regional base, as well as facilitating many programs and events of truly global scope. Equipped with a new facility, we will host events of greater scale in the upcoming year, as we continue to support Columbia students and faculty.

Thank you for being a part of the Columbia community and supporting us as we have developed, expanded, and sought a place in your relationship with Columbia. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Fireworks over Beijing scare away evil spirits in preparation for the Lunar New Year.

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