ACADEMIC YEAR
2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT

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Columbia Global Centers | Beijing was established in March 2009 as one of the first in the network of Columbia Global Centers. As Columbia’s focal point in China, the Beijing Center serves as a gateway to the region as well as a unique link to other global centers around the world; it not only provides Columbia faculty and students with unparalleled opportunities to expand their research and scholarship, but also functions as a conduit for knowledge exchange and skill development with local and regional academics, experts, and practitioners.

From July 2016 to July 2017, the Beijing Center continued to engage several key areas of focus that will increase the flow of advanced education and research resources from Columbia University to the region. Making the most of networks and resources in China are bilateral collaborations in 1) Arts, Culture & History, 2) Engineering & Applied Science, 3) Urban Planning & Public Health, 4) Environment & Sustainability, and 5) Business, Innovation & Entrepreneurship between Columbia faculty, students, alumni, and their Chinese counterparts.

During this year, the Center organized and hosted 71 events with more than 2,850 attendees and 1.4 million online viewers, while engaging 7 Deans, 14 Schools, 81 faculty members, 264 students, 686 alumni, and 95 local partners.
“Rather than observing world events from a distance, our students and faculty who travel to the global centers find themselves immersed in those events and learning in unique ways from the experience.”

Lee C. Bollinger  
President, Columbia University

“The network of global centers has served as a catalytic base for faculty and students eager to pursue their research interests in new settings, as conduits that have forged connections between Columbia faculty and regional experts and academics, and as curators of important conversations around the globe.”

Safwan M. Masri  
Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University
The Beijing Center is governed by a board of directors composed of Columbia University senior administrators and receives guidance and direction from the Office of Global Centers and Global Development in New York and a Faculty Steering Committee (FSC). The Beijing Center's FSC provides academic and intellectual input, leadership, and advice regarding the Center's activities and plans. It supports the Center's engagement with faculty; assists in identifying, expanding, and advancing scholarly exchange; and helps the Center produce innovative and sustainable programming.

- Benjamin L. Liebman, Robert L. Lieb Professor of Law; Director, Center for Chinese Legal Studies, Columbia Law School
- Jason Bordoff, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs; Founding Director, Center on Global Energy Policy
- Qin Gao, Professor of Social Policy and Social Work at the Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW); Director, China Center for Social Policy
- Eugenia Y. Lean, Associate Professor of Chinese History, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; Director, Weatherhead East Asian Institute
- Lydia H. Liu, Wan Tsan Tam Professor in the Humanities; Director, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University
- Wei Shang, Du Family Professor of Chinese Culture, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures
- Shang-Jin Wei, N. T. Wang Professor of Chinese Business and Economics; Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Graduate School of Business and SIPA
- Weiping Wu, Professor of Urban Planning at Columbia GSAPP; Director, M.S. Urban Planning Program
- David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow, Center on Global Energy Policy; Senior Research Scholar, Co-Director of Energy and Environment Concentration at SIPA
- Merit E. Janow, Dean, School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA); Professor of Practice, International Economic Law and International Affairs, SIPA
- Shih-Fu Chang, Sr. Executive Vice Dean, School of Engineering and Applied Science; Richard Dicker Professor of Telecommunications, Electrical Engineering Department, Computer Science Department
The Beijing Center’s Advisory Board provides additional oversight and is composed of prominent academics, public figures, and business leaders. The Board meets annually and provides ongoing leadership and counsel regarding the Center’s activities and developmental directions.

- Anita Cheng (P: CC09, CC16), Founder of SupChina
- Jon Christianson (LW89, BU89), Partner at Skadden Arps Slate Moogie & Flom LLP
- Wei Sun Christianson (LW99), Chief Executive for China and Co-CEO, Asia Pacific at Morgan Stanley
- Anne Fang-Hamm (CC04), CEO of ZhenFund
- Yue Huang (P: CC17), General Manager of Beijing Xuansheng Venture Real Estate Development Co. Ltd.
- Korhan Kurdogulu (IA90, P: CC20), Owner and Manager of ATA Holding
- Kai-Fu Lee (CC83, P: CG12), Chairman and CEO of Innovation Works
- Charles Li (LW91, P: CC16, CC18), CEO of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
- He Lin (P: CC17), Beijing Xuansheng Venture Real Estate Development Co. Ltd.
- Roberta Lipson (BU77), CEO and President of Chintex International, Inc.
- Cherie Nursalim (BU90), Chair of Three on the Board and Vice Chair of GfTI Group
- James Risdy (P: LW11, TC11) Deputy Chairman & CEO of Lippo Group of Companies
- Nina Sun (IA01, P: CC14), President of Sunnybank Co., Ltd.
- Zhe Sun (GFS99, GFS00, P: CC15), Adjunct Senior Research Scholar at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- Boming Wang (IA68), Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of SEEC Media Group Limited
- Lan Xue (P: CC17), Cheung Kong Chaired Professor and Dean at the School of Public Policy and Management, Tsinghua University
- Lan Yang (IA96, P: CC18), Founder and Chairperson of Sun Media Group and Sun Culture Foundation
- Alex Zhang (CC09), Director of Banyangzavar
The Beijing Center employs professional staff members who manage programs and events, provide research and study program coordination and assistance, coordinate communications and public relations, and administer and oversee Center operations, HR, and logistics.

1. Xin Peng, CFO and Executive Director of Columbia Global Centers
2. Fiona Yang Liu, Operations Manager
3. Helena Na Xiao, Program Manager
4. Xuan Liang, Office Manager
5. Alvin Olve Quan, Communications Officer
6. Minmiao Bai, Operations Assistant
7. Chencheng Duan, Event Coordinator
8. Yazhen Wang, Event Coordinator

14 SCHOOLS

71 EVENTS HELD FROM JULY 2016–JULY 2017

7 DEANS

264 STUDENTS

81 FACULTY MEMBERS

686 ALUMNI

95 LOCAL PARTNERS

2,850 ATTENDEES

1,425,256 ONLINE VIEWERS
Columbia Global Centers | Beijing focuses on themes that the Columbia community has strong interest and expertise in and strives to make sure they meet the urgent and long term needs of organizations, individuals, and the general public in local and regional areas.

**Arts, Culture & History**

Making the most of Beijing’s rich cultural history and the Center’s extensive network of artistic luminaries, and supported by the School of the Arts, Department of Music, and Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, the Beijing Center galvanizes the possibility of new perspectives and builds a platform by promoting art and culture exchanges—one that provides a fertile staging ground for programs that enhance collaborative engagement between the University and China, and a deepened understanding of the world.

This year, the Beijing Center hosted over 25 seminars, panel discussions, and workshops for a wide range of topics, including but not limited to creative labor and environment protection in China, animal protection, LGBT rights, film industry transformation, and Tibetan culture. Fifty-four speakers, 22 partners, and more than 1,300 audience members joined our discussions.

**Film Screening and Panel: The Ivory Game**

On June 30, 2017, the Beijing Center hosted a film screening of *The Ivory Game* and a panel discussing both the fight against ivory trade and the promotion of wildlife protection via documentary filmmaking. Hongxiang Huang, the Chinese journalist in *The Ivory Game* and Columbia alumnus; Mary Peng, Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, the Jane Goodall Institute China; Professor Lydia H. Liu, the Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities, Director, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University; and Professor Ying Cihan, Assistant Professor of Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, joined the panel. Executive Vice President for the Global Centers, Professor Safwan M. Masri, delivered opening remarks for the event. CGTN (CCTV International), China Daily, and Caixin Media covered the event and film.
2ND ANNUAL "NO-BOUNDARIES" INTERNATIONAL ART PRE-EXHIBITION

On May 28, 2017, the Beijing Center hosted this international art pre-exhibition, which promoted both art and awareness for children around the world. The shared theme this year—a single grain of rice—touched upon the subject of world hunger.

Following the opening ceremony and remarks, attendees viewed 200 individual works of art (selected from 1,500 total pieces) that displayed a range of subjects, artists, and viewpoints, featuring 10 pieces created by children with disabilities and 20 pieces by children from migrant worker communities. Student participants of all ages, ranging from kindergarten to university level, gave presentations exploring their understandings and interpretations of the shared theme.

ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCE

Working with the School of Engineering and Applied Science, its Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, and the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the Beijing Center presented the core impacts of Columbia’s tangible scientific research to the local community. It laid a foundation for creating a bridge between vision and technical application.

IMPACT OF ENGINEERING ON HUMANITY: VISION FROM COLUMBIA ENGINEERING

On June 29, 2017, the Beijing Center hosted a panel showcasing the Columbia School of Engineering’s contributions to the world today and its foresight, and featured Dean Mary Boyce and three Columbia Engineering Professors: Shih-Fu Chang, Jingyue Ju, and Yuan Yang.

The panelists discussed the new vision for the School, the impact of their engineering research on humanity, as well as Columbia’s solutions and accomplishments in this area. Ten SEAS students participated in the panel discussion and nearly 50,000 viewers watched online.
THE EARTH CANNOT BE SILENCED:
COLUMBIA CLIMATE RESEARCH AND THE FATE OF THE PLANET

On July 8, 2017, the Beijing Center was joined by prominent scientists in a panel discussion highlighting Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (LDEO), its mission, and the depths of its research studies with the goal of encouraging increased collaboration between LDEO and China. The Center invited Professor Arthur Lerner-Lam, Professor Oisela Winckler, Professor Xiaojun Yuan, and Professor Yan Zheng to share their perspectives on the state of climate research and their work in China.

The panelists also discussed China’s role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the potential for the Belt and Road Initiative to support sustainable development. Academicians, scientists, and researchers of China Academy of Science, State Seismology Bureau, National Ocean Service, SEAS alumni, and 61,624 online viewers joined in the discussion.

THE COLUMBIA-FUDAN GLOBAL SUMMIT ON AGING & HEALTH:
A DIALOGUE ON RESEARCH, POLICY, HEALTH SYSTEMS, AND INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

In collaboration with key academic departments, including Mailman School of Public Health, the Medical Center, and the School of Social Work, the Beijing Center hosted events to address major urban planning and healthcare issues confronting the region through key initiatives advocating healthy, sustainable lifestyles that contribute to a stronger, more economically stable society.

This major international conference convened leading scientists, policy-makers, and industry experts on aging from all around the world in a stage-setting collaboration between Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health and Fudan University’s School of Public Health from Oct. 17 to 19, 2016. These discussions provided a significant opportunity for the cross-sector sharing of ideas, practices, and experiences, and helped develop a policy framework to ensure that the elderly in China—and around the globe—are able to lead healthy, productive lives. The Beijing Center supported its media operations, event promotion, and conference management. More than 300 international experts and professionals joined and contributed their thoughts and ideas.
Sustainable Urbanization & Prospects for Xiongan New Area

On July 3, 2017, the Beijing Center held a public dialogue concerning the future paths of urbanization in China—specifically, the recent development of the Xiongan New Area. Urbanization in China has made gradual but steady progress in recent years as more rural residents have transitioned to urban areas.

The panel discussion featured prominent faculty members of Columbia University, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Capital Normal University, Fudan University, and Tongji University in exploring three key issues that the development of Xiongan would bring to the fore: the agglomeration economy, sustainable urbanization, and innovation networks.

Environment & Sustainability

Serving as a critical regional bridge, the Beijing Center leverages Columbia’s cutting-edge, world-class research capabilities to launch China-focused projects on the issues of sustainability and environmental protection. It will highlight potential solutions specific to China’s unique state of economic development. Working with SEAS, the Center on Global Energy Policy, the Development Mechanism Fund of the Ministry of Finance, the Energy Research Institute of National Development and Reform Commission of China, the Energy Development Research Center of the China Investment Association, the CERI Economics and Technology Research Institute, and others, the Center is organizing discussions to further the bilateral cooperation between Columbia and China.
US-CHINA ECOPARTNERSHIP

China’s Baotou Steel Group is cooperating with the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) to develop an advanced, zero-waste iron and slag treatment technology. Part of a wider State Department initiative, this groundbreaking partnership will accelerate the transformation of China’s steel industry and encourage the ongoing co-development of clean technologies. The Beijing Center hosted a launch and press briefing in Beijing on May 25, 2017 and will continue to support further demands of the technological advancement.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE DIALOGUE

On June 9, 2017, the Beijing Center hosted a high-level conversation on energy and climate change between Mr. Guobao Zhong, former Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission and former Director of the National Energy Administration, and Mr. Chengyu Fu, Chair of the UN Global Compact China Network, former Chairman of China Petroleum and Chemical Corp (Sinopec) and CEO of China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC). David Sandalow, Inaugural Fellow at the Center on Global Energy Policy, served as the moderator.

The Beijing Center also hosted a signing ceremony for the research partnership between the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and the Center for International Energy and Environment Strategy Studies at Renmin University of China.

G-20 ENERGY WORKSHOP

During the G-20 Energy Ministerial Meeting in Beijing in October, 2016, the Beijing Center and the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) invited more than 80 industry leaders and researchers from think tanks and investment institutions from across the value chain to discuss solar power, oil demand, and sustainability policy.
BUSINESS INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Beijing Center is building a platform to bring faculty and senior alumni together in conversation, offering a multinational conduit for open dialogue and debate among business leaders, key policymakers, and world-class scholars to discuss innovation, technology, commerce, and economics. This year, the Center co-hosted several panel discussions and conferences in Beijing under this theme with Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, CAA Beijing, and other partners.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PANEL DISCUSSIONS

On July 18, 2017, the Beijing Center hosted a panel discussion with influential alumni entrepreneurs, including Anna Fang-Hamm, a CGC Beijing Advisory Board member, and invited them to share their experiences and understanding of entrepreneurship as well as their insight on future developments with Columbia students and alumni. Following the panel, the students were given the opportunity to engage and build connections with the alumni panelists at a reception held by the Center.

On January 12, 2017, the Beijing Center held a panel discussion on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Innovator’s Night, with the Greater China Initiative, a SIPA student organization, as a signature event on their China Trip. More than 20 current graduate students from SIPA, the Law School, the Business School, and GSAS attended the event, along with more than 20 alumni.

WORLD ECONOMY & THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH

Partnering with the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and Tsinghua University, the Beijing Center supported this annual conference in 2016 and 2017 to gather Nobel Laureates, renowned academics, key policymakers, and business leaders to foster a global conversation on major economic issues and the future of economic relationships in a rapidly changing world.
Throughout the growth of its programming efforts, the Beijing Center has cultivated several well-received programs, all of which have attracted large audiences and have become local points in developing new partnerships and, ultimately, more impactful programs. These existing programs are built upon the University’s superb capacities in each area of focus and encourage collaboration across academic disciplines with Columbia faculty and students, enabling them to work and study in a global context.

Public lectures were designed to showcase every aspect of the real Columbia University across several regions. Audiences will have the unique opportunity to experience Columbia resources firsthand.

The Beijing Center invites Columbia faculty members to give lectures and mediate dialogues; Deans and Vice Deans to introduce schools’ visions and education programs; admissions officers to speak about the application process; librarians to introduce the university library resources; and career development staff to promote internships and career opportunities, with even more engagement to come. This platform will not only exhibit Columbia University from official perspectives, but also promote bilateral, on-the-ground, intimate engagement between Columbians and their local counterparts.
**Columbia Beijing Summer**

Making the most of visits by prominent Columbia University faculty members and academics in Beijing during summer vacation, the Beijing Center presents a seasonal festival by organizing a series of public talks, panel discussions, and dialogues as an effective way of engaging Columbia professors and local partners on diverse topics and many of the key issues surrounding development and policy in China and the world.

During Columbia Beijing Summer 2017, 32 events were successfully held with 9 Deans and University executives, 30 faculty members, 163 students, 346 alumni, 63 local partners, 1,763 attendees, and 1,028,171 online viewers.

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**Columbia-China History Project**

The Columbia-China History Project is designed to identify and display the long, rich historical connection between Columbia and China to promote further and deeper collaborations. The goal of the project is to leverage the Columbia networks and highlight the significance and impact of Columbia and its alumni in China and to link our alumni engagement with the Center’s strategy of localization. Successful implementation will create greater ownership of the Center as the centralized Columbia platform in China among all alumni.

This year, the Beijing Center published a 6-minute short film detailing this history, shared with the Center’s audiences over 50 times. The short film was later published online and received more than 10,000 views in the week after its debut. The Center also hosted two exhibitions about historical Columbia alumni Dr. Hu Shih and Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo, and four academic symposiums and lectures about historical alumni both in Beijing and on campus in New York City. The families of V. K. Wellington Koo, Ping Wen Kuo, and Anna Fang-Hamm all provided generous support.
The Beijing Center serves as a regional hub for Columbia students to study and gain new experiences in a global context, with the following events and programs.

The Beijing Center supports teaching and academic exchanges such as the Global Scholars Program (GSP) Summer Research Workshop and the Social Science Spring Workshop. In 2017, from June 11 to June 30, the Beijing Center hosted leading professor Ying Qian and her students in the Global Scholars Program, providing additional support for their courses and daily life in Beijing, liaising with a dozen guest lecturers, organizing 10 local tours, and coordinating field trips. The Center staff received positive and constructive feedbacks during program-end interviews with faculty and students.

The Center also supported 20 graduate students with the Greater China Initiative, a SIPA student organization, in their China Trip in January 2017, as well as an experience-sharing event for Columbia undergraduate students. About 50 students from Columbia College, SEAS, General Studies, and Barnard College joined.
**Orientation & Send-off Party for New Students**

Partnering with the Columbia University Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CUCSSA) and the Columbia Alumni Association of Beijing, the Beijing Center hosts orientation sessions for newly-admitted students from China each year to help them better prepare for their arrival at Columbia; it delivers updated on-campus news and gives a quick primer about New York City and the areas around campus. Dialogue sessions also connect new students with their seniors in the same program so they can form mentor/mentee relationships and gain information about academic programs.

The send-off parties, usually held with a thematic panel discussion featuring senior alumni, are another opportunities for new students to meet with their peers, current students, and alumni.

In 2017, the Center supported multiple events for newly-admitted students, including new student orientations in Beijing, Shanghai, and other major cities in China with CUCSSA. The Center hosted send-off parties—one on June 16 specifically for the School of Social Work, another on July 16 for all incoming graduate students, and a final party on July 22 for new undergraduate students and their parents. In total, 356 students, 93 alumni, and 17 parents participated.

**Internship Programs**

The Beijing Center has helped identify potential employers in China for undergraduates for the Columbia Experience Overseas (CEO) program and the Columbia University Global Opportunities (CU-GO) Internship Program, both run by the Center for Career Education. These connections enable Columbia students to work and study in a global context.

The Center helps schools and institutions on campus find local internship opportunities and also hosts orientations and networking events for these students so they can better adjust to local environments.

In 2017, the Center identified 8 potential employer organizations, and hosted 5 students from the CEO program at its orientation session.
The Beijing Center works closely with the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA) in Beijing, Shanghai, and other cities to organize social gatherings and academic exchanges among alumni.

**Academic Exchanges**

The Beijing Center initiates the Columbia Global Centers / Beijing Salon Series, which aims to bring everyone together to see “lumen in tuo lumine.” The Salon Series covers a wide range of topics and themes to engage with the local and regional Columbia community. Many of the featured guest speakers are Columbia professors, scholars, alumni, and current students.

In 2017, two Salon Series sessions were held, for which seven alumni joined as speakers and more than 30 alumni joined as audience members.

**Alumni Networking Events**

The Beijing Center supports CAA Beijing in organizing holiday gatherings to bring alumni together. More than 100 alumni participated in the 2016 Christmas gathering hosted at the Beijing Center.
Thank You
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