**Voices from East Asia: Civil Society Actors in Environmental Protection, Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Assistance Governance**

Bochum, Ruhr-University, Beckmanns Hof

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| 09:30 – 10:30 | **Keynote:** Civil society in East Asia – between facilitator and stakeholder, Third Sector and advocacy movement  
NORA SAUSMIKAT (Asienhaus, Cologne, Germany) |
| 10:30 – 12:00 | **Panel I: East Asian Civil Society Actors in Domestic Environmental Governance**  
Chair: Florian Pölking  
PENG REN (Global Environmental Institute (GEI), Beijing, China)  
*Chinese NGOs “Go Global” and GEI’s experience*  
ANNA CASPARI (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)  
*China’s New Overseas NGO Management Law – Threat or Opportunity for China’s Domestic Environmental Civil Society?* |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | Lunch Break                                                            |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | **Panel II: East Asian Civil Society Actors in Domestic Development Governance**  
Chair: N.N.  
ULRIKE SOLMECKE (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)  
*Development as social progress: China’s civil society between growth paradigm and degrowth ideas*  
KYUNGYON MOON (Chonbuk National University, Jeonju, South Korea)  
*South Korean civil society organizations, human rights norms, and north korea* |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | **Panel III: East Asian Civil Society Actors in Domestic Humanitarian Assistance Governance**  
Chair: Ulrike Solmecke  
AOI HORIUCHI (Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), Tokyo, Japan)  
*East Asian civil society actors in domestic humanitarian assistance governance: Case of Japan - NGOs response to the Great East Japan Earthquake and its review*  
KRISTIN SHI-KUPFER (Mercator Institute For China Studies, Berlin, Germany)  
*Scandals, millionaires and soft power – Views of Chinese civil society on humanitarian assistance at home and abroad* |
<p>| 16:00 – 16:30 | Tea/Coffee Break                                                       |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Discussion                                                             |
| 18:30        | Conference Dinner                                                      |</p>
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| 09:30 – 10:30 | **Keynote:** Trimming the Ivy: How International Organizations Shape Transnational Civil Society  
JENS STEFFEK (Technical University Darmstadt, Germany) |
| 10.30 – 12.00| **Panel IV:** East Asian Civil Society Actors in Trans-Boundary Humanitarian Assistance Governance  
Chair: Diana Schnelle  
GOO SOO KWON (Seoul Cyber University, South Korea)  
*From Peripheral to Core: Evolution of South Korean Non-governmental Organizations for Trans-boundary Humanitarian Action*  
KAMILA SZCZEPANSKA (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)  
*Japanese CSOs in humanitarian assistance: the challenge of capacity building and resources* |
| 12.00 – 13.00| Lunch Break                                                                               |
| 13:00 – 14:30| **Panel V:** East Asian Civil Society Actors in Trans-Boundary Environmental Governance  
Chair: Anna Caspari  
BERTHOLD KUHN (Free University of Berlin, Germany)  
*China’s Role and Challenges in Implementing Sustainable Development Policies. Opportunities and Limitations of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)*  
MASAYOSHI IYODA (Kiko Network, Kyoto, Japan)  
*Japanese Climate NGOs in trans-boundary climate governance* |
| 14.30 – 16.00| **Panel VI:** East Asian Civil Society Actors in Trans-Boundary Development Governance  
Chair: Kamila Szczepanska  
TAKESHII KOMINO (Church World Service Japan, Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction (JCC DRR), Tokyo, Japan)  
*The Journey of JCC-DDR: Lessons and Way Forward*  
ANDERS UHLIN (Lund University, Sweden)  
*Transnational Civil Society Activism and the Governance of Development in Asia: The Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank*  
DIANA SCHNELLE (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)  
*“Backdoor Japan” revisited: Local authorities and non-state actors in trans-boundary development of Northeast Asia – conceptualizing governance in the Sea of Japan region* |
| 16.00 – 16.30| Tea/Coffee Break                                                                          |
| 16.30 – 18.00| **Discussion & Closing Remarks**                                                           |
Location

The workshop will be held in Beckmanns Hof (see site plan (1)) Please find the directions and a map here: in [German](#) or [English](#).

Contact

Fakultät für Ostasienwissenschaften / Sektion Politik Ostasiens
Ms Anna Caspari, email: [anna.caspari@rub.de](mailto:anna.caspari@rub.de) / Tel. 0234/32-26449
AKAFÖ-Building, Room 2/14, Universitätsstr. 134, DE-44780 Bochum (see site plan (2))
Abstracts (in alphabetical order):

CASPARI, ANNA
China’s New Overseas NGO Management Law – Threat or Opportunity for China’s Domestic Environmental Civil Society?
In the face of the country’s current disastrous environmental situation the number of Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOs) in China has increased significantly in the last decades, exceeding 6,000 by 2016. Chinese ENGOs come in many shapes and sizes, such as small grassroots NGOs, internet-based advocacy groups or large-scale Government Organized Non-Governmental Organizations (GONGOs). Even the more independent grassroots types of these organizations so far have, albeit reluctantly, been tolerated or even actively incorporated by the Chinese government.
State-society relations in China since the 1980s have been significantly influenced by local cadres’ observation, learning and experimentation and have primarily been formed by means of direct and indirect incentives, creating a model of “consultative authoritarianism” (Teets 2014; cf. Heilmann 2008). This constitutes a sharp contrast to the corporatist approach of the Maoist era.
Although under these circumstances China’s nascent domestic environmental civil society therefore was able to develop and make progress in terms of environmental advocacy, the influence of numerous international actors, such as International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and foundations, primarily from the US, must not be overlooked. While these international actors certainly have fostered civil society development in China, particularly when it comes to funding and activists’ professionalization, criticism likewise has been voiced in terms of potentially negative effects due to their direct influence on local actors’ activities which might not always be for the benefit of local communities. Additionally, these international donors appear to be favoring cooperation with GONGOs over grassroots civil society organizations (Spires 2011), thus thwarting the latters’ development to the former’s advantage.
During the Xi Administration (2012-) the Chinese government’s approach to civil society governance in general, and to international NGOs and foundations in particular has taken a much more authoritarian turn again, which is exemplified by the newly introduced Overseas NGO Management Law that has come into effect on January 1st 2017.
This paper analyzes the impact of the new allegedly restrictive regulations for international civil society actors working in China on the country’s domestic environmental civil society. In doing so it frames China’s environmental civil society as a social movement and applies social movement theory, in particular pertaining to political opportunity structure (POS) to analyze whether this new situation that could potentially diminish international actors’ influence on domestic civil society will constitute a (financial) threat to China’s environmental civil society, or rather an opportunity to learn to stand on their own feet, develop distinctive tactics and adapt their activities to local needs.

HORIUCHI, AOI
East Asian civil society actors in domestic humanitarian assistance governance: Case of Japan - NGOs response to the Great East Earthquake and its review
The Great East Japan Earthquake on 11 March 2011 was a wide-area compound disaster. The magnitude was 9.0, which is the most powerful one ever recorded in Japan. The epicenter was located 130 km off the east coast of Miyagi Prefecture in Tohoku region, the north of Japan. The earthquake was followed by a series of disasters, tsunami and nuclear power plant accidents. More than 15,000 are dead and 2,500 are missing, 3,500 indirect deaths are reported, and 470,000 people evacuated from their houses. 110,000 people are still away from home as of July 2017.
Among many public institutions and private organizations that responded, 19 Japanese NGOs responded within 72 hours, and 18 responded within one week. Responses by NGOs vary from emergency medical care, delivery and distribution of emergency goods, childcare, to supporting Disaster Volunteer Centers (DVC) at emergency phase. As a largest NGO network, JANIC played catalyst roles, including information sharing, coordination

1 Ministry of Civil Affairs, officially registered organizations; number of unregistered organizations supposedly significantly higher
among NGOs, connecting funding agencies and private companies with NGOs, and negotiations with the Government and policy recommendation.

One year after the earthquake, together with stakeholders, JANIC conducted a series of reviews on NGOs’ response. This is intended, not just to assess or evaluate, but to record issues and problems, as well as their causes, to provide lessons for similar cases in the future. Through interviews, workshops, focus group discussions and questionnaire surveys with persons who were engaged in external aid organizations and local organizations, both public and private, 10 issues were identified and reviewed based on internationally recognized evaluation criteria such as DAC evaluation criteria, the HAP Standard, ALNAP (Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance) and Core Standards of the Sphere Project. 10 issues include accountability, opinions of local stakeholders, safety of staff, how assistance was delivered, and whether organizations were competent.

IYODA, MASAYOSHI

Japanese Climate NGOs in trans-boundary climate governance

It is commonly believed that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on climate change in Japan exert little influence on trans-boundary climate governance. However, it remains to be elucidated that what extent they have engaged in and exerted influence on the process. To better understand the function of climate CSOs in Japan, here I elaborate their activities, opportunities to access to policy-making process, resources of the CSOs and outcomes in transboundary climate governance. Using participant observation and process tracing, I have shown that CSOs in Japan have achieved some policy and process changes with limited resources while a fundamental policy change has not been achieved due to less power than government agencies. Resources of Japanese climate CSOs were rich expertise and experience and network in both domestic and international level, but there was a lack of broad understanding and support by the general public. Activities of Japanese climate CSOs were observing process of international negotiation and domestic policy-making and communicating information with key actors. Opportunities to access to policy making process in Japan were depending on level of openness of Japanese government at different times. Climate CSOs achievements at this time were ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, setting of greenhouse gas emission reduction target in 2009, OECD agreement to limit overseas public financing for coal-fired power plants and acceleration of acceptance of the Paris Agreement. These results provided insights that Japanese climate NGOs should play an important role through acquiring more resources and capacity.

KOMINO, TAKEISHI

The Journey of JCC-DRR: Lessons and Way Forward

The presentation will highlight the history and achievement of Japan CSO Coalition for Disaster Risk Reduction (JCC-DRR) in run up to the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR). JCC-DRR became the largest network in Japan that focuses on Disaster Risk Reduction, and its advocacy efforts were planned strategically to reflect lessons learnt from East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Power Plant Accident in 2011 to post-HFA (Sendai Framework for DRR), which also resulted to nuclear power plant meltdown in Fukushima. WCDRR became the first high-level DRR conference that had the issue of nuclear in one of its agenda points. The presentation will also highlight the lessons learnt from each phases of JCC-DRR’s advocacy, and recommended way forward. JCC-DRR is now in the midst of creating its strategy towards 2020, and the presentation will also touch on key elements of the strategy draft.

KUHN, BERTHOLD

China’s Role and Challenges in Implementing Sustainable Development Policies. Opportunities and Limitations of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

This paper first explains why China has developed ambitious policies, targets and projects for sustainable development at national and sub-national level and has become a promoter of the Agenda 2030 and climate
action at international level. Driving factors at domestic level tie well into dynamics at international level, for example in the field of China’s aspiration for leadership in the field of green technologies and smart city development. Second, it sheds light on the *breath of discourses* and stakeholder action for the promotion of sustainable development and ecological civilization. The political leadership is recognizing the relevance of market-based mechanisms and also seeks the involvement of academics and CSOs in the process of policy-formulation, monitoring and evaluation. We observe CSOs with different degrees of autonomy and independence from the government at different levels. Pollution monitoring, information sharing on environmental risks, awareness raising and education in the field of green commuting and sustainable consumption as well as involvement in the design of green belts and parks are typical activities of Chinese green civil society organizations, labeled as ENGOs.

**Kwon, Goo Soo**

*From Peripheral to Core: Evolution of South Korean Non-governmental Organizations for Trans-boundary Humanitarian Action*

As South Korea has been converted from a recipient to an emerging donor country since early 1990s, so a SK NGO community which is dedicated to international development has also grown very rapidly. Labeled as operational NGOs, their mission and types of services vary, one of which areas is trans-boundary humanitarian assistance, dominated by the SK public sector – government ministries (MOFA, MOHSW, MOIPS and MOD) and agencies (KOICA, NMC and KEMA). This presentation aims to elucidate how SK NGOs’ involvement in the area has been evolved chronologically and argue what challenges they have encountered. The period of establishment was started from relief activities to victims of Rwandan massacre in mid 1990s and SK NGOs involved a temporary and micro-scale humanitarian action in disaster-affected areas till early 2000. The growth period came after 2014 Indian tsunami, which made them realize necessity of contingency planning, organized response and medium and long-term post-disaster recovery. In parallel with institutionalization of the Korean government sector for overseas humanitarian assistance, the NGOs made efforts to build capacity of various areas of humanitarian operations, ranging from need assessment to post-disaster recovery management. Now, SK NGOs are in transition to an initial period of holistic approach of linkage in relief to development framework, related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Though SK NGOs has recorded a remarkable growth in a quantitative perspective, they have also encountered challenges which should be resolved for achievement of quality humanitarian action. Firstly, polarization between big and small size NGOs seems to accelerate disparity in funding, capacity and outcome. Secondly, hierarchical and bureaucratic governance in SK NGOs seemingly prevents aid workers to respond imminent needs, locally addressed in timely manner. Lastly, SK NGOs still focus on aid delivery in operation, rather than harmonization of advocacy and action for resilience-centered recovery and disaster risk reduction, echoed in a global humanitarian community.

**Moon, Kyungyon**

*South Korean civil society organizations, human rights norms, and North Korea*

By analyzing the relationship between the policy stances of South Korean administrations in respect of North Korean human rights and NGO (nongovernmental organization) advocacy, this essay argues that South Korean humanitarian and human rights NGOs contributed to the adoption of different human rights norms in South Korean society and the effectiveness of advocacy of each side - humanitarian and human right NGOs – was highly subject to the operational environment by administration. Under the Sunshin Policy of Kim Daejung Administration (1998–2002) and Roh Moo hyun Administration (2003–2007), South Korean humanitarian NGOs separated civil and political rights (CPR) concerns from economic, social, and cultural rights (ESCR) concerns and focused on the protection of “right to food” and this enabled the large scale of food and humanitarian assistance to North Korea from 2000 to 2007. Under the hard-line policy of the Lee Myung-Bak administration (2008–2012), South Korean human rights NGOs resumed active advocacy targeting the international community by exposing poor CPR situation in North Korea through transnational human rights networks and this led to the adoption of North Korean Human Rights Act on 3 March, 2016. This article conclude that both humanitarian and human rights NGOs in South Korea were significant norm entrepreneurs. However, these humanitarian and human rights NGOs narrowed the focus of human rights norms to ESCR and
CPR respectively and the political stance of South Korean government was a critical factor that determined the effectiveness of each advocacy.

REN, PENG

**Chinese NGOs “Go Global” and GEI’s experience**

In recent years, Chinese NGOs have emerged as potential key actors in international affairs, foreign diplomacy and multilateral cooperation. There are growing calls for Chinese NGOs to “go global”, especially for those focusing on environmental and social development areas.

It is against such backdrop and external needs that the Global Environmental Institute (GEI) started the NGO “Going Out” research in 2016. By conducting literature review, online survey and field interviews, we sought to understand the current situation of Chinese NGOs to expand their work outside their own borders, their willingness to “go out”, as well as the challenges they face at present. We also compared China with other countries in terms of relevant policies, methods and practices, providing policy recommendations, cooperation best practices and mechanisms as references to the government, enterprises and Chinese NGOs especially those working on environmental and social development issues.

As one of the first Chinese environmental NGOs to carry out overseas projects, GEI has brought over our experiences and thoughts into the research. While our research uniquely focuses on environmental and social development NGOs, we are hoping that this research will provide value to this field and stimulate further in-depth research, policy facilitation, capacity building and field projects.

SAUSMIKAT, NORA

**Keynote - Civil society in East Asia – between contribution and advocacy movement**

The European parliament recently developed a 'shrinking space' strategy and impressive policy tools to push back against restrictions on civil society across the world. Simultaneously, a global alliance of NGOs formed to defend basic rights for participation. What we witness now is a global attack on civil society understood as a Western concept based on civil rights and a democratic political system. The EU as well as other Western democracies defend their political cultures, which are closely tied to a normative understanding of civil society. This normative understanding of CS is bound to democratic institutions like rule-of-law polity which secures civil rights and a free press.

The global attack on civil society movements is part of an international battle on the right for an indigenous path to modernization. This also includes the genuine local definition and criteria of what kind of civil society is welcomed. Also, in East Asia the developments of civil societies are closely connected with the developments of the political cultures. Therefore, we need to discuss the different functions and developments of East Asian civil societies in close connection with the political changes during the last decades.

SCHNELLE, DIANA

**„Backdoor Japan“ revisited: Local authorities and non-state actors in trans-boundary development of Northeast Asia – conceptualizing governance in the Sea of Japan region**

Labeled “Backdoor Japan” (ura-nihon) for its economic backwardness, the west coast of northern Japan moved to the center of interest in the late 1990s for its surge in subnational regionalism around the Sea of Japan. Following the end of the Cold War and the decentralization dynamics local actors attempted to step out of the shadows and actively promote the trans-boundary development of their neglected regions heralding the advent of a new form of governance in this subregion. By now, however, the focus seems to have shifted back to “big player”-relations, while most of the micreregionalist projects are considered to have failed. This paper examines the evolution of trans-boundary development in Northeast Asia from the perspective of Japan. It focuses on the case of the Sea of Japan rim, attempting to capture the role of local authorities and non-state actors in the process. The approach deliberately stretches the concept of “Civil Society” to include subnational governments and adjacent local organizations as well as – to a certain extent – SME, allowing for a more comprehensive representation of “the people's voices”. In contrast, the “government sector” is understood to represent a state's central government and bureaucracy, while the “business sector” primarily refers to “big businesses” dominating the zaikai and the gyokai in the case of Japan.
Contemplating some theoretical foundations of governance, the study sets out to assess and explain the transformation of “governance without government” in Northeast Asian trans-boundary development.

SOLMECKE, ULRIKE
Development as social progress: China’s civil society between growth paradigm and degrowth ideas

Although China has indisputably achieved immense successes in fighting poverty via a long period of high growth rates, this economic model has now been stretched to its limits. With a middle class of more than 100 million people the ecological carrying capacity has already been reached or even been exceeded in various environmental areas. The hope to continue the growth path by stimulating domestic consumption is, at the same time, based on the confidence that technical innovations and investments in “green industries” will be sufficient to make economic growth and environmental protection compatible – a confidence that is neither justified by the actual environmental development of the last decades nor the narrow time slot that remains for reaching environmental and climate goals. In fact, to achieve substantial further reductions in poverty rates by the hitherto used trickle-down model will not be possible without generating prohibitive environmental costs. Therefore, concepts enabling further progress for the Chinese society as a whole need to take the constraints of natural resources as well as their fair allocation into account and – on this basis - develop ideas of less resource intensive lifestyles.

Against this backdrop, the presentation inquires into new concepts of social progress that are presently developed at civil society level and looks (1) at the extent to which these development approaches move away from the growth paradigm and incorporate ideas of distributive justice and more self-sufficient lifestyles and (2) at the structural-institutional conditions for establishing such concepts.

STEFFEK, JENS
Keynote - Trimming the Ivy: How International Organizations Shape Transnational Civil Society

In much of the academic literature it is taken for granted that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are a quasi-natural product of citizen action and largely independent actors in world politics. The purpose of this presentation is to challenge the prevalent conception of an organized civil society that organically grows from the societal grassroots to the summits of international politics. Public international organizations (IOs) found, foster, and aggregate a good portion of transnational civil society in a top-down fashion. The resulting non-state actors are here called foster NGOs. IOs may have very different motivations for creating them. They may either need some organizational resources they do not have; or they may attempt to create civil society allies for an IO's political mission.

SZCZEPANSKA, KAMILA
Japanese CSOs in humanitarian assistance: the challenge of capacity building and resources

The main aim of the paper is to present the TOMODACHI NGO Leadership Programme and to investigate its significance in the context of a broader problem of capacities and resources of Japanese civil society organisations (CSOs) working in relief and recovery sectors and beyond. The TOMODACHI NGO Leadership Programme was launched in 2011 under the auspices of the US-Japan Council and involved partnership between Japan Platform and Mercy Corps. The programme consisted of a number of workshop and exchange meetings, all aiming to develop capacities of Japanese CSOs and their ability to work with international partners in disaster response. As such, it constitutes an important example of initiatives directed towards strengthening operational capabilities of Japanese non-governmental actors. The paper investigates aims and content of events organised within framework of the programme, as well as how its participants evaluated it and how beneficial they considered it to be. The paper draws on interviews with the programme organisers as well as members of Japanese CSOs who participated in it. The findings of the paper help to illuminate the on-going problem areas in relation to capabilities, preparedness and level of professional experience of Japanese CSOs that engage in activism in the international realm. Here, despite the progress that have been made over the last decades, the continuous resource and capacity deficits hinder the expansion of scope of Japanese CSOs’ activities on the global arena. Hence there is a pressing need for further implementation of capacity building programmes such as the TOMODACHI NGO Leadership Programme.
Transnational Civil Society Activism and the Governance of Development in Asia: The Asian Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

During the last decades civil society actors have become increasingly active across national boundaries. Activists in formal non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as less institutionalized social movements frequently target not only state leaders, but also global and regional governance institutions. The global governance of development, manifested in multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Trade Organization (WTO), have been the object of particularly sharp criticism and protests from transnationally organized civil society activists. This kind of critical civil society engagement with international development institutions is visible also in an East Asian context where a growing number of civil society organizations are monitoring regional governance institutions. Here I will analyze civil society activism targeting the two major regional institutions concerned with development governance in Asia: the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Established in 1966, ADB is a relatively old organization while AIIB started operations as late as in January 2016. Whereas Japan and the United States are the most influential actors in ADB, China is the dominant player in AIIB. The question is to what extent such different features of the two Asian multilateral development banks matter for the forms of civil society advocacy and how effective civil society actors have been in influencing these international institutions. Drawing on civil society and ADB/AIIB documents and interviews with representatives of civil society organizations I present findings from a comparative case study.