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Third Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics
Final Report

“Regional Integration in Asia and Europe”
13-15 March 2014

School of Foreign Languages, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, PR China

Regional integration has become an integral part of contemporary global politics: the European Union seeks to further advance ties among its members as a solution to the on-going financial crisis; China and the EU have pledged to negotiate a Bilateral Investment Treaty; the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is taking steps to deepen integration among its members in a number of policy domains; China, Japan and Korea have concluded the first round of negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in March 2013 while the US remains invested via the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP); at the same time, sub-state actors in both Asia and Europe are transforming into important foreign policy actors, too.

These phenomena raise many questions: What role do leading countries in Asia and Europe play in regional integration processes, most notably China and Germany? How does regional integration in Asia and Europe change the relations to the US and vice versa? Does regional integration help the Asian and European economies and companies keep or regain their competitiveness? What is the impact of regional integration on peripheral countries? And what is the role of sub-state actors like provinces or cities in regional integration?

These central questions were addressed during the **Third Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics**, organised by the Graduate School of Global Politics at Free University Berlin and the School of Foreign Languages at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou which kindly hosted the Workshop. The event took place in the framework of the **UACES Collaborative Research Network on EU-China Relations** (ESSCA School of Management at Angers / College of Europe at Bruges / Graduate School of Global Politics at Free University Berlin). The event was generously supported by **Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Shanghai** as well as the **Association France Euro-Chine**. More than **80 scholars**, diplomats and other practitioners, students, and interested individuals from **over 20 different countries** in Asia, Europe and beyond participated in the event. As many as

The following pages present the main results of the Third Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics.

DAY 1, 13 March 2014: Introduction

The Workshop's first afternoon session was moderated by the head of the organisation team, Dr. **Frauke Austermann**, Assistant Professor and Program Director of ESSCA School of Management, Shanghai. The audience was first greeted by Prof. Dr. **Chang Chenguang**, the Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at Sun Yat-sen University, the Workshop's host institution. He highly welcomed the fact that the Workshop has travelled to the South of China. They were followed by Prof. Dr. **Klaus Segbers**, the Director of the Center for Global Politics (CGP) at Free University Berlin, who remarked that if you organise something three times in a row, it becomes a tradition. In that sense, Segbers was very pleased to announce that the Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics has reached such an important milestone. A welcome speech was also given by Dr. **Peter Hefe**le, Director of the Shanghai Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), the main sponsor of the event. Hefele stressed the importance not only of the topic of regional integration as such but also of people-to-people exchanges between Asia and Europe, to which the Workshop made an important contribution.

Introductory Expert Panel Discussion:

“Regional Integration in Europe and Asia: Opportunities and Challenges”

An introductory expert panel discussion kick-started the Workshop. Four renowned experts of regional integration in various parts of the world set the stage on the opportunities and challenges of regional integration in Asia and Europe. Dr. **Peter Hefe**le of KAS Shanghai moderated the discussion.

Ms. **Laurence Vandewalle** of the Directorate General for External Policies at the European Parliament started the discussion by pointing to the successful, yet often overlooked case of the Benelux as an example of regional integration. The three countries – Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – have especially close cooperation in foreign policy. She argued that small countries are very important to the process of regional integration and put into question the capacity or even the desirability of larger countries to lead European integration. Furthermore, Vandewalle recalled that integration requires investment. A good example for this is the introduction of the development cooperation instrument in 2007. Hence, the European Union also contributes financially to the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Vandewalle also discussed the role of the sub-state actors, especially in light of the upcoming EU elections. A reason for concern is the rise of the extreme right-wing political parties in Europe. This is a phenomenon that mirrors the peoples' fear of globalisation and it also shows the communication gap between European institutions and European citizens. Interestingly, the current emergence of nationalism in Europe coincides with the rise of nationalism in Asia. Vandewalle concluded that regional integration is not a linear process, and something that is easily finished – and even in Europe it requires further work.

Prof. Dr. **Klaus Segbers**, Director of the Center for Global Politics at Free University Berlin, tied up to the current state of leading countries in regional integration, notably Germany. Segbers stressed that Germany faces high and partly contradictory expectations today. It is often blamed for not taking a more active role in global politics. However, German assertiveness is also met with fear. Nonetheless, Segbers stated that especially after the escalation of the events in Ukraine, both the EU

and Germany are bound to take on more responsibility in the future. Segbers went on to say that regional integration in both Europe and Asia also happens to coincide with the decline of the United States (US). The US is leaving Iraq, Afghanistan and the Middle East, having clearly lost the status of an undisputed superpower, and its ability to solve conflicts. Moreover, the differences in values and goals between Europe and the US have become apparent. Finally, Segbers highlighted the third development of our times which is the economic crisis. To stabilize the Eurozone, the EU will have to pursue closer fiscal and political integration. Segbers agreed with Vandewalle in that the crisis has resulted in an alternative narrative which is to move back to intergovernmentalism, or 'repatriation' of competences, a process accompanied by growing state-level as well as sub-state nationalism, such as in Scotland and Catalonia; and with the rise of populism, and not only in the EU, but also in other European countries such as Switzerland.

Panellist Prof. Dr. **Shen Wei**, Jean Monnet Chair Professor in EU-China Relations and Associate Dean for China at ESSCA School of Management, stressed that European integration has never been easy but still continues despite multiple obstacles. The factors that have kept the project going have been the visionary leadership – not only of countries, but often of individuals. The 'never again' mentality after two devastating wars resulted in genuine reconciliation allowing for solidarity and consensus among European states. Such 'never again' mentality is not as prominent in Asia. Shen pointed out that in Asia, there is the success story of ASEAN. However, he recalled that ASEAN remains by and large an intergovernmental organisation rather than an instance of regional integration along the lines of the EU. One factor that has determined the respective paths are the objective circumstances, such as the timing. When Europe embarked on integration, the founding states were at a similar stage of development, with all of them having experienced two world wars. This made it much easier to integrate Europe than to integrate Asia. Shen stressed that people-to-people exchanges and socialisation are crucial for the integration of Europe and of Asia. In order to facilitate this, he entertained the idea of an Asian version of the "Erasmus" student mobility programme.

Dr. **Fei Sheng**, Assistant Professor at the School of Asian-Pacific Studies, Sun Yat-sen University, discussed the role of China as a leader in Asia. He argued that while Chinese economic pre-dominance and leadership is undisputed, it is an open question to what extent China leads in other areas, such as the process of regional integration. For Chinese policy makers, the fact that China does not export conflict is considered a good development. Moreover, Fei emphasised that China still maintains the identity of a developing nation, and is preoccupied with domestic issues, and hence has limited capacity to devote itself to the process of regional integration. Finally, China, and its foreign policy and scholarly community are very US-centric; they are bound to see the regional processes as related to the development of Sino-American affairs and America's involvement in the Pacific.

The introductory expert panel discussion was followed by a welcome dinner. The participants were greeted by H.E. **Jochen Künzel**, Acting Consul-General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Guangzhou who gave a speech on regional integration in Europe and Asia. Künzel stressed the importance of regional integration as a means to secure peace. It is for this reason that a united Europe has been a non-negotiable constant in German foreign policy for almost seven decades. Instead of being governed by the law of the strong, Europe is now governed by the strength of the law. This can serve as a role model for East Asia, where institutionalised political dialogue is still rather weak.

DAY 2, 14 March 2014: Research Panels

THEME 1: A German Europe, a Chinese Asia? Leadership of Regional Integration in Asia and Europe

The second day of the Workshop began with presentations and discussions on leadership of regional integration in Asia and Europe, notably with a focus on the elephants in the room, that is, China and Germany.

Panel 1.1:

Prof. Dr. **Zhou Shixin**, Research Fellow at the Center for Asia-Pacific Studies of the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), framed leadership as a function of outside recognition: leaders are only those who are recognised as such. He argued that ASEAN itself is a regional organisation without a clear leader. This has implications on its capacity to lead the regional integration in the broader sense. While being the most advanced instance of regional integration in Asia, ASEAN still faces challenges that are rooted in the diversity of the region, and bilateral tensions between individual countries.

Dr. **Dhananjay Tripathi**, Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi, started with the premise that “true Asian regionalism” is not possible without advancing Chinese-Indian cooperation. Adopting a neo-functionalist framework, Tripathi argued that international politics is not merely a crude clash of interests, but also a means to solve problems. He discussed the potential functions of the Indo-Chinese cooperation such as infrastructure, energy security, green-, as well as space technology.

The paper by Dr. **Deng Jinsha**, Lecturer at the CPC Party School and Dr. **Li Fujian**, Research Fellow at the East Asian Studies Center, China Foreign Affairs University, compared the processes of regional integration in Europe and in Southeast Asia. They argued that the EU has followed an endogenous path of institutionalisation while ASEAN followed an exogenous path by political means, informalities and consensus-building. The process in the EU has had more or less clearly identified leaders with Germany and France acting as the motor of integration as opposed to the lack of clear leadership in ASEAN.

Dr. Zhang Yi-ke was the final panellist, presenting a paper on behalf of Dr. **Wu You**, Lecturer at the School of Foreign Studies at Shanghai University on cultural diplomacy as a means of China’s leadership in Asia. The presentation dealt with the concept of soft power and its growing importance, and growing popularity in China’s foreign policy and scholarly circles, as well as the various sources of China’s unique cultural identity and by extension, its cultural diplomacy.

The questions and answers session saw vigorous discussion and input by the panel chair, Prof. Dr. **Zhang Zhenjiang**, Vice Dean of the School of Overseas Chinese and International Studies at Jinan University and Professor for International Relations. Important conclusions were among other things that it is crucial to promote a “true Asian regionalism”.

Panel 1.2:

In a co-authored paper with Prof. Dr. Jing Men, InBev-Baillet-Latour Chair of EU-China Relations at the College of Europe at Bruges, Ms. **Veronika Orbetsova**, Research Assistant at the same institution, highlighted China’s perception of East Asian regional integration. As China is unwilling to assume a

leadership role for regional integration, ASEAN fills in the void and assumes this role. This allows China to rise peacefully while benefitting from regional integration.

Dr. **Ding Hui**, Assistant Professor at the School of Government of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, assessed China and Germany according to the model of peaceful rise after 1990. Clarifying the concept first, he identified two political crises as the catalysts for change, namely the Tiananmen movement in China and the reunification of Germany. Identifying domestic structural pressures and international structural pressures, he contended that the two countries' models for peaceful rise are indeed comparable.

Dr. **Tony Lee**, Post-doctoral researcher at the University of Taipei in Taiwan, used discourse analysis to examine the interaction between China and Germany as perceived by heads of states. Analysing the discourse of Angela Merkel as well as Hu Jintao, Wen Jiabao, Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang for the time period of 2005 to 2014, Lee distilled recurrent patterns such as passive behaviour, retractors or explainers that point to a more self-focused Chinese and a more embracing German discourse.

In a co-authored paper with Mr. Matthieu Choblet, PhD Candidate at RWTH Aachen University, Mr. **Matthias Hackler**, Master Candidate at the School of International Studies at Renmin University of China, also offered a discourse analysis on regional integration in China and Germany. Focusing on challenges such as the international financial crisis, they analysed debates in the German Bundestag and official statements in China thereby identifying confidence building narratives in both countries. Among other things, the authors remarked that the 'China dream' could potentially be echoed in regional integration with an 'ASEAN dream.'

Prof. Dr. **Ding Chun**, Jean Monnet Chair and Director of the Center for European Studies at Fudan University, Shanghai, rounded off the thought-provoking panel with the remark that leadership always comes with a responsibility for the whole region, which China and Germany might not be willing to assume.

THEME 2: Regional Integration in Asia and Europe and the Role of the United States

After a tea break that was accompanied by informal and lively debates and reflections on the previous panels, the second set of research panels discussed the role of the US, which is essential when discussing both European as well as Asian regional integration.

Panel 2.1:

Prof. Dr. **Zhu Zhiqun**, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Chair in East-Asian Politics at Bucknell University contributed to the debate on the role of the US by tackling the puzzle why there is little-to-no integration in Asia despite decades of economic interdependence. According to Zhu, traditional theories of regional integration are insufficient to explain this puzzle. One explanation is that power struggles between China and the US pose an obstacle to Asian integration, as they make the integration process highly political rather than just economic. Moreover, while the US has strongly endorsed European integration, they had not actively promoted a similar process in Asia.

Dr. **Marcin Grabowski**, Assistant Professor at the Institute for International Relations and Politics at Jagiellonian University complemented these ideas, and showed that the US Pivot to Asia actually does not change the transatlantic relations too much. Grabowski bases his claim on a comparison of US foreign policy to Asia of various administrations over the past twenty years (from George H. W. Bush to Barack Obama). He concluded that despite certain differences, the mainstream discourse on the American pivot to Asia is hyperbolised.

Ms. **Linda Flanderova**, PhD Candidate at Charles University, Prague and Fudan University, Shanghai compared differences and similarities of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) towards the 'old power' US and the rising power PR China. China has recently shown a deep interest in the CEEC as a region. Despite the presence of relatively efficient regional bodies such as the Visegrad Group, Flanderova observed that a main issue is the national level: without even a proper strategy at the national level, it is hard to develop a common 'Central/Eastern-European' strategy towards either of the two powers.

The panel chair Prof. Dr. **Francis Snyder**, C.V. Starr Professor of Law and EU Jean Monnet Chair and personam of Peking University, questioned how relevant the European experience is to analysing Asian regional integration. One major difference is that there has been no Marshall Plan in Asia and hence the US influence on regional integration in Asia is more limited.

Panel 2.2:

Ms. **Wang Wenjia**, PhD Candidate at Université Catholique de Louvain stressed the urgent need for the EU to accelerate their free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with ASEAN. According to Wang, the FTA of the ASEAN member states with China and a promising Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) approach under the leadership of the US are characterised by a tendency to exclude the EU from beneficial trade conditions in the region. She pointed out that the EU's biggest asset is the capacity to bring advantages to the region, most notably through technology transfer.

Mr. **David Fouquet**, President and Senior Associate of the European Institute of Asian Studies in Brussels discussed the potential for a renewed security role of the EU in the Asia Pacific region. In his view there are four major policy options: 1) the Korean Model, referring to the EU's former diplomatic involvement in the 'Korea issue'; 2) bandwagoning, through which the EU would be forced to take sides between China and its neighbouring states; 3) a stronger military role, through missions or arm sales in the region; and 4) trying to influence the parties to use cooperative and structural integration through developing resources and joint ventures, which Fouquet deems the most promising one.

Mr. **Maximilian Rech**, PhD Candidate at the Graduate School of Global Politics at Free University Berlin and Renmin University of China contributed a more theoretical angle by shedding further light on the concepts of power and polarity. Using Europe-China relations as a case study, Rech argued that both powers remain second-order poles in a unipolar world. Second-order poles should focus their efforts on cooperation in non-traditional security matters, economics and soft power domains such as urbanisation and people-to-people exchange. Thereby they can shape the rules of game for an emerging multipolar world after US predominance.

Dr. **Li Fujian**, Research Fellow of the East Asian Studies Center, China Foreign Affairs University, gave valuable comments on the papers and animated a lively discussion.

After a lot of food for thought during the morning sessions, the participants enjoyed actual food, notably delicious Cantonese cuisine. During the lunch, the Workshop hosts Dr. **Frauke Austermann** and **Anastas Vangeli** presented the results of the First Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics: an **edited volume** entitled "**China and Europe in 21st Century Global Politics: Partnership, Competition or Co-Evolution**" which has recently been published with Cambridge Scholars Publishing. The volume provides a comprehensive analysis of four pressing issues of current EU-China relations. Each topic is analysed from a Chinese and a European perspective: 1) high politics and secure relations 2) dealing with the European sovereign debt crisis; 3) renewable energy and environmental issues; and 4) soft power and public diplomacy.

THEME 3: Overcoming the Crisis: Economic and Business Prospects in the course of Regional Integration in Asia and Europe

Panel 3.1:

In the afternoon, the Workshop participants looked into economic and business prospects of regional integration in Asia and Europe. **Alberto Vettoretti**, Chair of the Pearl River Delta Chapter of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China and Managing Partner at Dezan Shira and Associates, moderated session 1.1.

Dr. **Jagannath Panda**, Head of the East Asia Centre of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi, highlighted the politics of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). They have been presented as competing fora of regional integration. This competition is intensified by US and Chinese interests in the region. India's role could potentially be stabilising when fostering an open framework of economic cooperation that also extends to confidence building measures in maritime issues.

Dr. **Shintaro Hamanaka**, Economist at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, analysed the RCEP and the TPP using the so-called Power Agenda Paradox. He illustrated how major players seek to dominate the respective economic integration schemes and exercise influence. Emphasising exclusion as an important element to wield control, Hamanaka explained de jure and de facto discrimination in the respective fora. While incumbents enjoy considerable advantages, latecomers may also exploit the already brewing competition to their advantage.

Dr. **Frauke Austermann**, Assistant Professor in International Affairs at ESSCA School of Management, Shanghai, tackled the following puzzle: young university graduates in both China and the EU face difficulties to enter the labour even though macroeconomic conditions are very different and despite the fact that graduates are ever better educated in both regions. The problem is of strategic importance to both the Chinese and the European economy and requires strategic solutions – such as in the form of intra-state regional integration in China and inter-state regional integration in Europe.

Ms. **Angela Heucher**, Consultant at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), focused on stalled multilateral economic integration in the World Trade Organisation (WTO). She stressed the impending challenge of a spaghetti bowl effect with overlapping and duplicating regional integration schemes. Heucher analysed the role of Europe in this respect and highlighted the potential detrimental effect of regional integration on the multilateral WTO harmonisation. Before losing out, Europe should streamline its efforts to sign FTAs in Asia.

The subsequent round of questions and answers was intense and Vettoretti welcomed contributions on trade imbalances between India and China as well as possible avenues for RCEP, TPP, and alternative FTAs. With regard to the labour market, participants suggested closer interregional integration, more free movement of people, as well as vocational training and entrepreneurship as solutions.

Panel 3.2:

Dr. **Zhang Yi-ke**, Deputy Director of the Division of International Teaching at the Department of Academics of the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong analysed China's views on regional

integration projects in Central Asia. Whilst Russia is vividly debating the geostrategic implications of Central Asia and the broader Eurasian space, China is just beginning to define its role in this region. Until today, China has not shown public support for Russian President Putin's project of a Eurasian Economic Union as China's gains and losses are still to be evaluated. There is a chance that the SCO becomes the competitor of the Eurasian Union. Despite China respecting Russia's zone of influence, interests of both powers remain far from being unanimous.

Ms. **Julia Soeffner**, PhD Candidate at the Graduate School of Global Politics at Free University Berlin and Fudan University analysed the notion of identity formation in Europe and East Asia. Soeffner started from the premise that regional economic integration is not enough to hold Europe together. The sovereign debt crisis in Europe and the slow integration process in Asia are evidence for that. In Europe, the creation of a regional identity has been a persistent, ambiguous and still unfinished project. Meanwhile, Asia is facing a rise of nationalism, distrust and antagonism. The idea of Asian regional integration lacks the support of political leadership and a broad support by different public and civilian actors.

Ms. **Hong (Natalie) Yan**, PhD Candidate at the University of Geneva and Research Fellow at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, discussed the prospects of establishing a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which is part of the China-Europe 2020 strategic agenda. In replacing the existing 27 bilateral agreements it shall create a stable basis for EU investment in China and strengthen the EU Commission's exclusive competences in external economic policy. On China's part, the BIT plays an important role in establishing a new global order and might counterbalance other initiatives such as the TTIP.

Prof. Dr. **Francis Snyder**, C.V. Starr Professor of Law and EU Jean Monnet Chair ad personam of Peking University, gave an overview and discussed the different regional trade agreements (RTAs) China has signed with its partners, all of which have distinct peculiarities while remaining comparable to other existing RTAs. In that sense, there may not be a single template or 'China pattern' of RTAs yet. It is however certain that they are a manifestation of China's changing perceptions of external affairs. They also may provide an impetus for the regional integration processes in Asia as they stimulate the creation of new sites of governance.

The presentations were followed by a discussion by Mr. **Anastas Vangeli**, PhD Candidate of the Graduate School for Social Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and a vivid debate on the importance of Central Asia in regional integration and on to the political debates on Chinese investments in the EU and similar issues in other regions.

THEME 4: From Borders to Bridges or Vice Versa? Regional Integration, Peripheral Countries, and Sub-State Actors

The Workshop was rounded off with two more research panels on peripheral countries and sub-state actors and their role in regional integration.

Panel 4.1:

Dr. **Ivaylo Gatev**, Assistant Professor for European Politics and Regional Integration at Nottingham University, Ningbo, analysed under what conditions interregionalism is possible. He addressed the issue by examining infrastructure interconnection projects and the role of the EU and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) therein. The EU adopts a policy of external governance, with exclusionary and hegemonic interregionalism, while the SCO pushes for inclusive, sovereignty enhancing and pragmatic interregionalism. Though seemingly different, either approach maintains the interests of the main players at hand, namely Europe's companies or China's state-owned enterprises.

Ms. **Anastasiia Vishnevskiaia**, PhD Candidate at the Center for Global Politics at Free University Berlin, stated that regional integration in Central Asia is complicated by the fact that nation building is not yet finalised. Therefore, regional organisations are relatively unimportant with the exception of the SCO. China's presence in Central Asia has effects on economics and migration. While Russian influence is slowly fading, China's influence is growing. However, there is an increasing alienation of Central Asian countries to Chinese migrant workers.

Mr. **Yan Shaohua**, PhD Candidate in European Studies at Hong Kong University offered a social constructivist analysis of the European Parliament's role in democracy promotion in Europe. Yan argued that the EP has played a significant role in supporting democracy in Europe and has appointed itself as the champion of democracy. Analysing cross-party consensus in successive waves of enlargement, Yan distilled this institution's role in European regional integration. In conclusion, the EP has not only contributed to European integration, but it has also altered the course of integration towards a more normative direction.

Dr. **Marcin Grabowski**, Assistant Professor at the Institute of International Relations and Politics at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, moderated a very lively questions and answers session. Grabowski invited questions that related to duplication of infrastructure projects and proliferation of various Chinese regional economic centres, the role of the SCO in both infrastructure and migration, as well as historical evidence in regional integration and the potential of selection bias in research.

Panel 4.2:

The panel discussed regional integration on the micro-level and the perspective of inter-regional cooperation.

In a co-authored paper with Prof. Dr. **Tung-Chieh Tsai**, Professor and Chair of the Graduate Institute of International Politics at National Chung Hsing University, Mr. **Tony Liu**, PhD Candidate at the same institution, analysed the Greater Tumen Initiative as an example for cross-border cooperation on the regional, sub-regional and the micro-regional level. Set as facilitator to increase trust and economic prosperity alongside the Tumen River in Northeast Asia, he argued that the project's rise and fall would parallel the development of regional relations in Northeast Asia and that a major reason for the Initiatives' slow progress can be seen in the absence of great power support.

Mr. **Anastas Vangeli**, PhD Candidate of the Graduate School for Social Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences examined the partnership between China and the Western Balkans, framing them within the context of the growing cooperation between China and the countries of Central-East Europe. China is believed to provide the region with badly needed investments at times when the EU has diminished clout in the region due to the financial crisis and the enlargement fatigue. However, China still remains a relatively marginal player in the region, as the countries in the region see the EU as its primary partner, and further pursue their accession to integration in the Union.

In a co-authored paper with Dr. **Qing Yi-Qing** from Hunan Normal University, Dr. **Zeng Xiangming**, Assistant Professor at the School of Ideological and Political Education of the China University of Mining and Technology, analysed Chinese cultural diplomacy to Portuguese speaking countries. Next to the increasing presence of Chinese companies in Brazil, Angola and elsewhere, China also heavily invests in infrastructure, health systems and poverty reduction in these locations. These activities are set to protect Chinese interests in the Portuguese-speaking world.

A final lively debate followed. Panel chair and discussant Prof. Dr. **Shen Wei**, Jean Monnet Chair Professor in EU-China Relations and Associate Dean for China at ESSCA School of Management,

emphasised the importance of micro-regionalism and the impact of great power politics on intra-regional developments.

Closing remarks and EU-China Collaborative Research Network - Best Paper Award

The conference was closed by Dr. **Frauke Austermann** of ESSCA School of Management, the head of the Workshop's organisational committee and a Board Member of the UACES Collaborative Research Network on EU-China Relations. Based on the conference results, Austermann developed questions for a tentative research and policy agenda, such as how to solve the puzzle of the necessity for an engine of regional integration on the one hand and the rise of nationalism in both Asia and Europe on the other hand. Tying up to the origins of European integration, she asked: what is Asia's coal and steel? And what is Europe's current coal and steel?

As a final official act, the **UACES EU-China CRN Best Paper Award** was granted. Dr. **Zhang Yi-Ke**, Deputy Director of the Division of International Teaching at the Department of Academics of the China Executive Leadership Academy Pudong, won the first prize, a monetary award of 100 EUR, for her paper "China's Perspective on Eurasian Integration." The second prize, the book based of the First Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics went to Dr. **Dhananjay Tripathi**, Assistant Professor at the Department of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi, for his paper "Discussing a Way Forward for Asian Regionalism: An Analysis of Complimentary Role of India and China in South and South East Asian Integration."

The conference concluded with a convivial dinner. All participants agreed that the Third Workshop on Europe-China Relations in Global Politics was a genuine success and are looking forward to the Fourth edition.

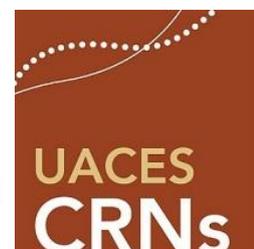
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