

PLANNING MEETING FOR ADVICE ABOUT A CONFERENCE
ON THE STUDY OF INEQUALITY IN CHINA, A SUMMER
SCHOOL ON INEQUALITY, AND A LONG-TERM
COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ON THE ASIAN
FAMILY IN TRANSITION

October 19-20, 2012

University of Chicago Center in Beijing
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This meeting is convened to discuss three related initiatives and to solicit your advice about them. All involve efforts to engage and exchange ideas and data with scholars in China. The first initiative concerns a summer school on inequality. The second is a conference about inequality in China. The third is a conference series on the Asian family in transition.

The Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group (HCEO) of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) is affiliated with the Becker Friedman Institute (BFI) at the University of Chicago. Jointly, HCEO and BFI, together with the China Center for Economic Research (CCER) will conduct a **summer school on the study of inequality**. This summer school will be directed by Professor Steven Durlauf of the University of Wisconsin and Professor Yao Yang, currently Deputy Director at CCER. It will be patterned along lines similar to the

successful HCEO Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality (SSSI) held in Chicago in July, 2012. A description of the Chicago summer school is attached. Displays and videos of SSSI's lectures can be found at <http://sssi.uchicago.edu>. Students from many fields attended. They built relationships with each other and with the instructors. HCEO and CCER's plan is to develop a similar format for the June, 2013 summer school in China, but Professors Durlauf and Yao will work hard to ensure that the summer school focuses on topics relevant to the study of inequality in China. An important goal of the summer school will be to acquaint graduate students in China from diverse fields with recent developments in the study of the measurement and origins of poverty and inequality and the design and evaluation of policies to alleviate it. This format will allow for rich interactions among Western-based scholars, China-based scholars, and graduate students in China from multiple disciplines and institutions. It is important that the summer school program be relevant to the Chinese context. We welcome suggestions about the school. A provisional program is attached.

The second initiative is a **two-day conference** on inequality in China that will be connected with the summer school. It will feature the latest empirical and theoretical research.

We solicit your ideas on how to structure the conference effectively and also how to link it to topics in the summer school. Both the conference and the summer school

will be convened close to the first meeting of the Chinese Econometric Society, which is taking place June 16 and 17, in Beijing.

We seek to make both the conference and the summer school interdisciplinary, inclusive, and tolerant of divergent points of view. Western scholars have much to learn from scholars in China.

A third topic to be discussed comes on the agenda because of the fortuitous coincidence of the recent launching of an initiative by the Becker Friedman Institute of a series of seminars to study the **Asian Family in Transition**. Asian family life is changing. These changes have profound implications for the society and the economy. An important program within HCEO studies the family and its contribution to inequality and opportunity. The Becker Friedman Institute also has an active program on the economics of the family. In this series of conferences we will have an opportunity to link together each of these initiatives, and truly broaden and deepen research on topics of the family in Asia and its contribution to inequality and social change.

We seek your advice on how to make such a seminar series effective: whom to include and what to include. As with all HCEO activities, we seek to make these seminars multidisciplinary, inclusive, and excellent.

