

The Governance E-Gazette



Maastricht Graduate School of Governance

27 October 2006

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance goes East

In the first week of October, Academic Director Chris de Neubourg and Programme Manager Keetie Roelen travelled to China and Vietnam to meet with Beijing Normal University and Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences. The visits were part of the preparatory phase for a proposal within the Asia Link programme of the EU. This programme aims at the establishment and strengthening of links between European and Asian universities through curriculum, human resources and institutional development. MGSOG prepared a proposal together with 2 partners in Europe (University of Antwerp and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona) and 4 partners in Asia (Beijing Normal University, Nanjing University, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences and Royal University of Phnom Penh). The European-Chinese-South Asian collaboration aims to develop and implement several activities in the field of social policy analysis, including the set up of a social policy analysis case pool, the development of a dual degree MSc and organization of separate courses, internships and online trainings.

The visits to Beijing and Hanoi entailed visits to the partner institutes to brainstorm and discuss the possible activities and set up of the project. MGSOG already has a solid relationship with Beijing Normal University, in specific with the Institute for Social Development and Public Policy (ISDPP), that has extensive expertise in social policy and the social protection field in especially China. The Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) is new partner that we included into our network via contacts with Unicef and UNDP in Vietnam. The institute is the main body in Vietnam in the field of social policy and policy analysis and MGSOG will also cooperate with them in other projects.

After the intensive brainstorms and discussions, there was also still time to take a bike ride through Beijing under Mao's watchful gaze....



God's own Country: India revisited

Research fellow Britta Augsburg's research focuses on client exit in microfinance in India, i.e., "Who drops out of which kind of programme, why, where and when)? And what can/needs to be done about it? Her research is conducted in collaboration with BASIX India, India's oldest microfinance institution, based in Hyderabad where Britta will stay for the coming months. A report by Britta on her experiences in 'God's own country':

"Starting my PhD I was thinking that at conferences you listen to presentations, attend panel discussions, are surrounded by many smart people and mainly talk academics. After having now attended my second conference in India, I came to realize that this is only part of the story.

Beginning of this month, I presented, together with my co-author J. Philipp Schmidt (PhD at UNU/Merit), a paper on "The Use of Free and Open Source Software in Microfinance – Increasing Efficiency and Outreach to the Poor" at the Globelics 2006. This conference, on "Innovation Systems for Competitiveness and Shared Prosperity in Developing Countries" was held in the State of Kerala – all the way in the South of India and also called (rightly so) God's own country.

It was a very interesting conference, attended by a few hundred scholars from all over the world that gave me (as a newcomer) many insights into the field of innovation. Only the part "shared prosperity" came a bit short to my taste (which might be driven by the fact that my research is focused towards the bottom of the pyramid though). Basically, all the experts in the field were present at the conference and I also met quite a few known faces from UNU/Merit there.

But I mentioned in the beginning that academics is only part of the story. As did the last conference I attended in India, also this one left many impressions that are not related to academics - one could start with the amazing venue – directly at the beach, surrounded by coconut palm trees, the many nice and interesting people I met, the awesome food (south Indian dishes – a dream!) and the exercise during the sessions...".



Career Day

On November 10, the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance is organizing a 'career day' for our current students and for people who are interested in learning more about our master's programmes and more importantly, the professional life in the public policy domain after studying at our School. During the morning sessions, faculty members and students will take current and future students through the specializations within our programmes. In the afternoon, professionals from the public policy field and related positions, will be invited to speak about their career, i.e., How does a day at their work look like? Which institutions/people do they deal with? What skills are needed? How did they get there? What is the organization like? What are the possibilities for young academics?

We have received confirmations from the following institutions and / or organizations:

- European Commission
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands
- World Bank
- United Nations Development Programme
- Career Centre Maastricht University

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
- Arcadis

In the afternoon the Career Day will be concluded with a casual drink, an excellent opportunity to network, ask questions and find out all practicalities.

Do you want to participate? Please send an e-mail to R.Schwachofer@governance.unimaas.nl

Nice to meet you...Timor El-Dardiry (MPP Manager)



My name is Timor El-Dardiry and I am replacing Keetie Roelen as MPP programme manager over the next couple of months. If you are not an MPP student you may have seen me because my office (which I share with Martin) has a big window and is close to the School's rear entrance: it is always easy to see whether I am in!

Before coming to MGSOG, I studied Economics in Maastricht. In the meantime I lived, worked and studied in Paris, New York and Washington DC...but I found out that the charm of Maastricht carries an irresistible attraction of its own. When I'm not working, I enjoy swimming and cycling (three cheers for south Limburg). And when I'm too lazy for sports, I enjoy going to the cinema (three cheers for Lumière). Finally, for those people wondering about my background: my mother is Dutch and my father is Egyptian. Since I was raised in the Netherlands, my mother tongue is Dutch. I don't speak Arabic unless you count "hello" and "my name is"...but who knows, that may change some day!

To learn more about the activities of the School please check our online agenda:

[Maastricht Graduate School of Governance agenda>>](#)

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl

Also we would appreciate your comments and recommendations.

© Photography Maurice Bastings, Keetie Roelen, Britta Augsburg

