

Double Degree Master Program ,Transformation of urban Landscapes'. Memorandum signed.

On November 18th 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding was solemnly signed by Prof. Pei Gang, President of the Tongji-University, Shanghai and Prof. Elmar Weiler, Rektor of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum as well as by Prof. Renner, Dean of the Faculty of Geosciences, to establish a International Double Degree Master Program.

Since 2005, an International Summer School Program has been conducted by the Chair of Urban and Metropolitan Studies, Geographical Institute of Geography of Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning (CAUP) of the Tongji-University. In order to further the development of the joint program, both universities are preparing a Double Degree Master Program ,Transformation of urban Landscapes' that shall start in autumn 2012.

The program will combine the teaching and research experiences of the Geographical Institute on landscape transformation in the former Ruhr industrial area and other metropolitan areas in Germany with the needs of contemporary urban transformation in China. The educational principle will be based on the scientific and engineering comprehensiveness of the graduate program in the field of urban landscape evaluation and planning. In the curriculum both universities emphasize the mutual respective strengths of their staff, e.g. planning competence at Tongji University and landscape assessment and evaluation competence at RUB.

In August 2011 Prof. Dong Nannan and Prof. Wang, vice-dean of the CAUP came to Bochum to discuss a draft proposal with the dean of the Faculty of Geosciences, Prof. Hohn, and Prof. Zepp from the Geographical Institute. Thereafter the proposal was further discussed with the International Offices and central administration of both Universities and eventually transferred into the Memorandum of Understanding.

Working groups of both universities are now elaborating a detailed curriculum.



Fig. 1: Nannan Dong, Zhijun Wang, Uta Hohn & Harald Zepp (from left to right) negotiating the draft proposal for the Double Degree Master in August 2011



Fig. 2: Signing the Memorandum of Understanding: Prof. Renner, Dean of the Faculty of Geosciences (RUB), Prof. Weiler, Rektor of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Prof. Pei, President of the Tongji-University (from right to left); Prof. Wu and Prof. Cai



Fig. 3: A poster documenting the past International Summer and Autumn Schools and the Master Programme in preparation (Prof. Pei, President of the Tongji-University, Prof. Zepp (Geographical Institute, RUB), Sebastian Schulz (MSc candidate Geographical Institute, RUB), Prof. Cai (CAUP)