

# CHINA – UK COMPETITION AND REGULATION PROGRAMME

## REPORT ON YEAR 2 BEIJING VISIT AND WORKSHOP

9-16 MARCH 2005

### Purpose

The purpose of this workshop was to review the progress of the five Chinese research groups working on various aspects of regulation and competition, to provide insights into current issues on regulation and competition and to give guidance on the potential policy impact of the research. Time was also devoted to the planning of project activities over the coming year.

### Review meetings

A workshop was organised which included five individual review meetings with each of the research groups. The review team consisted of a panel from CRC, University of Manchester including Professor Paul Cook, Dr Yin-Fang Zhang, Dr Edmund Amann and Lesley Harris and representatives from British Council including Gary Hallsworth, Ian Robinson, Yu Li and Lena Li and Liu Wei from Hongfang (formerly SILE). An appropriate member from the Advisory Group also attended each meeting.

A review of progress and an assessment of initial findings from the research were presented for each project. These included:

1. Zhang Junkuo and Li Bu  
Institute of Market Economy, DRC, State Council  
China's Competition Policy: Preliminary Mapping
2. Dr Gao Shi-ji  
DRC, State Council  
Building of China's Regulatory System for the Medical Care Service
3. Yu Hui and Wang Huitong  
UNIRULE  
Building a Regulatory Structure for China's Water Supply Industry.  
Lessons of British experience.
4. Jiao Jinhong (Shanghai Institute of Law and Economics)  
Ding Ding and Xu Jing (University of International Business and  
Economics, School of Law)  
Securities Regulation and Corporate Governance of Listed Companies:  
the Boundaries of Chinese Securities Regulation

5. Chen Jianmin and research team  
Law School, Tsinghua University  
Protecting Consumers' Rights and Interests: the role of Consumer Protection Organizations.

Following each presentation, the panel exchanged views with the researchers concerning both the progress of the research and the analytical issues that it raised. Overall, it was felt that each project had achieved significant progress and it was likely that each would contribute in some way to the development and formulation of policy in regulation and competition. Members of the programme's Advisory Group in particular commented on the relevance of aspects of the research to critical issues currently being tackled by government.

### **CRC PRESENTATIONS**

Two presentations were made by CRC. The first, by Dr Ed Amann entitled 'Competition and Regulation in Latin America: are there Lessons for China?' examined the experience of regulation and competition in a range of South American countries with a special emphasis on the Brazilian experience. Dr Amann highlighted the lessons that could be drawn from the Latin American experience that were of relevance to China as it develops new institutions of competition and regulation.

The second, by Dr Yin-Fang Zhang entitled 'Regulatory Impact Assessment', outlined new developments with respect to regulatory impact assessment and reported on a cross-country survey of RIA recently undertaken by CRC. Dr Yin-Fang Zhang discussed the potential for adopting RIA in China.

### **WRAP-UP MEETING**

A wrap-up meeting was convened by British Council. The meeting was attended by representatives of each research institution, CRC, British Council and Shannon Ellis from the British Embassy. Paul Cook provided an overview of the review meetings and comments were made on each projects progress. A number of key issues that emerged from the research were identified and plans for the future development of the research were discussed. Paul Cook showed the ways in which each research paper formed an integral part of the research programme, linking regulation and competition issues.

### **PRESENTATION ON POLICY IMPACT**

A presentation on policy impact was made by Lesley Harris and Paul Cook. This covered how research and policy could be defined, how research influences policy, the strategies for influencing policy and how policy impact

can be assessed. The research teams discussed how they currently approached some of these aspects.

## **MANAGEMENT MEETING**

A management meeting was convened between the British Council, Liu Wei and CRC to discuss the week's events, plan for the completion of research activities and the organisation of an international conference at the end of this current phase of the project. A schedule of activities to be undertaken by each of the research teams was identified and agreed upon by the management group. This included targets for the finalising of research papers, the production of policy briefs and reports to government. The management group also discussed ways in which the programme's work would be disseminated through the CRC website, dedicated working papers, the CRC book series with Edward Elgar publishers and relevant publications in China.

It was decided that an international conference would be held in Beijing in February 2005. There would be an international call for papers and presentations by the programme's research teams. The Advisory Group would be approached to assist in raising the profile of this conference and drawing it to the attention of key policy makers in government. It was anticipated that one of the DRC's of the State Council may be approached to host the conference. Both British Council and CRC would solicit other organisations to support the conference. The management meeting agreed on ways in which each project team would evaluate its work and achieve policy impact.