

Annual Report 2012

The operation of the Cairncross Economic Research Foundation in 2012 is continuing to follow up the requirements of government rules and regulations and adhering the principles of efficiency, high quality and transparency. The activities implemented in 2012 are including the economic policy research, high-level dialogue, training, workshop and forum. The objectives and aims of all activities have been achieved by the end of the year.

1. “Deeping China’s Economic Reform: an International Perspective”

Following completion of the study of “Thoughts and Suggestions for China’s 12th Five-Year Plan from an International Perspective”, the Office of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs (Zhong Cai Ban) and the National Development and Reform Commission has requested a follow-up study with the objective of offering suggestions from an international perspective on systemic and institutional reforms necessary for the effective implementation of the 12th FYP and the realization of its objectives. The study is led by Professor Michael Spence (Nobel Laureate in 2001), Dr. Edwin Lim (Former World Bank Director, the first Chief Representative of the World Bank Office in China and the first CEO of China International Capital Corporation Ltd) and Prof Adrian Wood (Former Senior Economist of the World Bank, Chief Economist of the UK’s Department for International Development, Professor of International Development at the University of Oxford). More than 20 international and national specialists were participated the study. The study includes the topics of state enterprises reform, social security reform, fiscal reform, governance, legal system and competition policy.

Since the study started, the team has met with the Chinese government officials from relevant ministries and departments, Chinese specialists from the research institutions to discuss the current challenges and issues of economic development in China. In this year, several workshops and forums were arranged to discuss the study report. The project is expected to complete in the end of 2013.

2. The Cairncross Foundation Visiting Scholar

This project is to support an international collaborative and comparative policy research study on “Integration of the Rising Powers into the Global Innovation System” between the Institute for Policy and Management, Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Technology and Management of Development Centre, Department of International Development, Oxford University. Study on innovation is important to China’s future growth and economic development. The Cairncross Foundation provided a grant in 2012 for a Chinese researcher to work in the University of Oxford from October 2012 to September 2013. The study started in early 2012 and expected to finish in July 2014.

3. Workshop on “The Challenge of Reforming China’s Municipal Finance - What are the Next Steps?” in University of Oxford China Centre

The workshop was held in early October 2012 in the China Centre of University of Oxford. China’s municipal finance is an area on which little had been published, and it was a topic that attracted little scholarly interest. The workshop is an opportunity for brainstorming between the top young scholars in China who are working on issues related to municipal finance and Oxford/UK academics to seek synergies from the different perspectives. The workshop is expected to be the first step in developing a large program of policy-relevant research that will involve Chinese academics and graduate students from different provinces and the experts from University of Oxford.

4. “Public Policy Program” Training Course for Chinese government officials at Oxford University

The Public Policy Program was successfully conducted in 2012 at Oxford University. The training course was organized by the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs at Oxford University. The participants are senior officials from the Chinese government agencies, academic and research institutions, financial institutions and regulatory commissions. The objectives of training course are to learn the management structure and process in UK’s public sectors and offer some enlightens to grope the best practice in China based on China’s characteristics, through lectures, case studies and field visit. The Foundation has funded the academic and cultural programs.

5. The Cairncross Foundation Lecture

Prof. Wu Jinglian has successfully delivered a lecture at St Antony’s College, Oxford University in December 2012. Professor Wu’s Lecture focused on “The Challenges in China's Economic Policy and System Reforms in a Changing Global Economy”. The lecture was co-organized by the Oxford Department of International Development and Technology & Management for Development Centre, chaired by Prof. Valpy FitzGerald, Head of the Oxford Department of International Development (ODID). The discussant was Prof. Adrian Wood, former Senior Economist at the World Bank, former Chief Economist of the UK's Department for International Development, currently Professor Emeritus of the ODID. Over 130 participants joined the lecture, including many Chinese students in Oxford.

The Foundation has achieved the targets set up in the annual plan. All activities are implementing smoothly and according to its time schedule. The Foundation has passed the annual audit and government annual review.