



Research Seminar

The pros and cons of Confucian values for infrastructure development

Dr. Martin de Jong

Associate Professor, Delft University of Technology (Netherlands)

Wednesday, 28 April 2010 (12:45 -14:00)
Room 829, Knowles Building, HKU

Abstract:

In many countries around the world, the speed of decision-making on mega-projects in China is followed with growing interest and envy. Pleas are made to copy aspects of the Chinese institutional system and improve the speed, economicity and effectiveness of decision-making. But institutional transplantation is not so easy; it entails various cultural, political, legal and philosophical underpinnings without which decision processes and citizen attitudes cannot be understood. This lecture, originally held as an inaugural lecture for HIT, will focus on the question how Confucian aspects influence the functioning and position of the public sector in China in infrastructure development.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Jong is Associate Professor of public policy at the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management, Delft University of Technology (Netherlands) and Professor of Public Management at the School of Management, Harbin Institute of Technology (China). He is also an associate of the Next Generation Infrastructures Foundation. In the course of the years, Dr. Jong has specialized in the cultural and institutional aspects of cross-national policy transplantation, especially in the policy areas of transport infrastructure planning, spatial planning and environmental planning. He has published numerous books and articles on that subject. Most recently, he is involved in issues of planning, decision-making and public-private partnerships in China and their legal, political, cultural and philosophical underpinnings. He obtained his Master's Degree in public policy from Erasmus University Rotterdam and Leiden University (Netherlands) and his PhD degree from Delft University of Technology. Since 1999, he has spent time as a scholar at the Department of Geography and Planning of the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), the School of Public Policy at George Mason University (USA), the Department of Systems Analysis of Helsinki University of Technology (Finland), and the Department of Planning and Regional Development of the University of Thessaly (Greece). He has done contract research for the Dutch Ministries of Environment & Planning and Transport & Waterworks, the Dutch Social and Economic Council, The Dutch Knowledge Centre for Big Cities (KCGS), the Nordic and Baltic Road Federations, the Finnish Ministry of Transport & Communication and Eurocities. He currently conducts research on the possibilities of implementing a smart electricity grid in the district of Guangming in Shenzhen (China) on behalf of the Shenzhen planning bureau.

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