



Centre for Income and Labour Market Dynamics in Asia (CILDA)
Economics Division, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Economics Program, Research School of Social Sciences
The World Bank

Poverty, Inequality, Labour Market and Welfare Reform in China

An International Research Conference sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the World Bank

25-27 August 2004

Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The last two decades have seen unprecedented change in China as economic reform has generated substantial growth and increasing standards of living, including a substantial decline in absolute poverty in China as a whole. At the same time, there has been rising inequality of income between and within regions increasing unemployment, and concerns about heightened vulnerability to risk at the household level. The reforms have abolished the old cradle to grave social welfare system and left China with the need to design a new welfare system to cope with the new environment.

This conference is designed to bring together economists and policy makers who work in the field of labour market and social welfare reform in China. It provides a unique opportunity for researchers from different universities and countries to interact with Chinese policy makers. It will utilize the latest data to focus on the changes that have taken place and to investigate their causes. It will speculate on future changes and analyze the design of appropriate welfare systems for this stage of China's economic development.

The World Bank will contribute a session on issues likely to be addressed in the forthcoming China Poverty Assessment. Dr Martin Ravallion of the World Bank Development Research Group will deliver a Keynote Address.

The conference will be held in the Australian National University (Canberra, Australia) between the 25th and 27th of August, 2004. The conference organisers will fund four nights accommodation in Canberra over the conference dates for authors of accepted papers and discussants.

The organisers are exploring the possibility of developing a symposium of selected conference papers for consideration at the *Journal of Comparative Economics*.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

- Paper proposals are invited in any area of poverty, inequality and labour market and social welfare reform in China.
- The deadline for submission is Monday, 1 March, 2004.
- Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
- Submissions should include (i) the author's name, affiliation and email address, (ii) title, and (iii) statements of the paper's goals, methodology and significance.
- Authors of accepted papers will be notified by 22 March 2004.
- Deadline for final papers is Friday 9 July 2004
- Please make your submission on the attached form by email or fax.

Conference Convenors:

Dr Xin Meng

**Centre for Income and Labour Dynamics in Asia (CILDA) and
Senior Fellow, Economics Division, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian
National University**

Professor Bob Gregory

**CILDA and
Head, Economics Program, Research School of Social Sciences
Australian National University**

Enquiries: Dr Xin Meng, Email: xin.meng@anu.edu.au Tel: +61 (0) 2 61253102

Conference website: <http://cepr.anu.edu.au/chinaeconreformconf.htm> *TBC*

Conference coordinator: Catherine Baird Email: econ.projects@anu.edu.au; Tel: (02) 61250183

**The Australian National University
International Research Conference
Poverty, Inequality, Labour Markets and Welfare Reform in China
25-27 August 2004**

Conference organised with the support of the World Bank and the Ford Foundation

I/We would like to submit a paper to be considered for inclusion in the conference program:
(Submissions to be received by 1 March 2004)

Full Name/s:

Full Mailing Address:

Tel:

Fax:

Email:

TITLE OF PROPOSED PAPER:

ABSTRACT (300 words maximum). Please state briefly, the paper's goals, methodology, significance and results:

EMAIL OR FAX FORM TO:

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