



WINTER SCHOOL



China in Africa

challenges and opportunities



Institute of International Studies
University of Wrocław, Poland
14-19 December 2009

The intro...

Institute of International Studies, University of Wrocław and Fatal Transactions are pleased to announce the Winter School on *China in Africa: challenges and opportunities* for students from countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is a second edition of the Fatal Transaction workshop. The first "school" took place in September 2007 and has met with a huge success. It gathered 30 students from Central European universities who had an opportunity to interact with scholars and instructors from Africa, Western Europe and United States. The upcoming Winter School will also focus on contemporary problems of Africa, but this time the overarching theme will be rapidly growing engagement of China in the continent, which is particularly pronounced in the natural resources sector. The Winter School's departure point will be the international conference *China's quest for African resources: the new scramble or strategic partnership?* taking place in Wrocław, December 14-15, where the key issues related to the topic will be introduced to the participants. The China's appetite for Africa's riches have risen many concerns among academics, NGOs and Western politicians. It has equally brought hopes for the continent's long-awaited development and poverty alleviation. The Winter School will be designed to explore the phenomenon of China's push into Africa, its benefits and costs, political and economic ramifications for the continent's future.

Who may apply?

The Winter School is intended to draw together master or doctoral level students of social sciences (political studies, international relations, economics, sociology) who are interested in Africa and wish to learn more about the increasingly complex and far-reaching relations with China, with special reference to natural resource exploitation and trade which to date has been generating the most attention. Around 30 participants from Central and Eastern Europe are expected to come to the event. Candidates are required to be fluent in English, both written and spoken, as this will be the official language of the Winter School.

How to apply?

Just send your CV and motivation letter, where you explain why you are interested in attending the Winter School, on the following e-mail address: fataltransactions@gmail.com. The deadline is September 30, 2009. You will be notified of your acceptance by October 15, 2009.

Costs?

University of Wrocław will cover costs of your stay in Wrocław (accommodation and meals, see the hotel's website: <http://www.wroclaw.hotelsystem.pl>). Please note, however, that travel costs will not be reimbursed.

Program

The Winter School will cover the following topics:

1. Geopolitical rivalries for African natural resources: West versus Asia's emerging giants (China and India)
2. Economic impact of China's expansion into Africa: micro/macro perspective
3. China's policy vis-à-vis democracy, state reforms and human rights in Africa
4. Country case studies of China's rising role in Africa

On Monday (14.12) and Tuesday (15.12), participants will attend the conference on *China's quest for African resources: the new scramble or strategic partnership?* taking place in the Aula Leopoldinum in the University's main building. The participants will later on work together on producing a report of the conference. This Winter School will be facilitated by experienced academics and NGOs instructors who have undertaken research in the related issues. The detailed program of the workshop as well as the names of the instructors will be posted on the Institute's website www.ism.uni.wroc.pl by the end of September. A very essential part of the Winter School is the establishment of a network between the Universities of the region and their students. Participants will receive certificate of course attendance issued by the Institute.

Contact

For further information e-mail:

Karolina Bieniek (MA)

fataltransactions@gmail.com

University of Wrocław

The University of Wrocław has a history of more than three centuries and a long list of Nobel Prize winners. Founded by Leopold I Habsburg the university evolved from a modest school run by Jesuits into one of the biggest academic institutions in Poland. Today the University of Wrocław teaches over 40,000 students and around 1300 doctoral students at 10 Faculties. 9000 students graduate from the University every year. University of Wrocław is a new member of the Fatal Transaction coalition. By joining in as a partner in 2007 the University embarked on a mission to expand the coalition to the new EU member states in Eastern and Central Europe. The University's input to the FT project will be mostly of a research character but will also include multiple actions exercised outside of the university walls intended to raise awareness of public opinion in Poland and other countries in the region about the conflict minerals issues.

Fatal Transactions

Fatal Transactions is dedicated to transform Fatal Transactions into Fair Transactions: Transactions that truly contribute to sustainable peace and reconstruction in Africa. Fatal Transactions is an international network of NGO's who believe that the natural richness of Africa, be it gold, diamonds, oil or copper, can be a motor behind development and stability instead of a source of conflict. Revenues from natural resources often stimulate or continue conflict and human rights violations and threaten the just established fragile peace. In the mean time only companies, some individuals and corrupt governments profit while the local population hardly benefit from their countries' natural wealth. Fatal Transactions gathers information, organizes events and does research. This way Fatal Transactions can show the link between conflict and human rights violations and resource extraction. Fatal Transactions acts as a critical watchdog towards governments, companies and international institutes and lobby's for more corporate social responsibility in resource extraction.

For more information visit: www.fataltransactions.org

This conference is co-funded by the European Union. The contents of this conference is the sole responsibility of Fatal Transactions and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

