

Project1

Social Security Reform in Rural China – Old-Age Pensions and Health

(Policy Support for Social Security Reform under the Tenth Five-Year Plan, People's Republic of China; Asian Development Bank [ADB], TA 3607 PRC)

Funded by: Asian Development Bank, Manila

Principal Investigator (Team Leader)
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Members of the Project Team
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Project Summary:

The project investigated the conditions of setting up public social security systems in rural China, with an emphasis on old-age pensions and health services. The study on health services was conducted by Prof. Liu while Prof. Leisering conducted the study of pensions and also led the overall research team.

The study of old-age pensions aimed to depict the current provisions for old age in China and the earlier development since the fifties; to provide a conceptual framework for analysing old-age security in rural areas; to look at the experiences of other countries in the field of rural pensions; and to investigate the key issues of the current reform debate: the viability of family support and land as pillars of rural old-age security; the effectiveness of the pilot pension schemes in selected areas; and the problems of inequality and the environment of pension policies.

The study of pensions included field visits in three types of counties: two well-off counties in Shandong Province, a poor county in Yunnan Province and a middle county in Hubei. On the basis of the evidence from the field visits the project drafted policy options and strategies.

Conference:

Basic Security Policy in Rural China (Beijing, PR China, 7/2001; organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security)

Publications:

Lutz Leisering, Gong Sen, Athar Hussain, 2002: People's Republic of China - Old-Age Pensions for the Rural Areas. From Land Reform to Globalization. Asian Development Bank, Manila

(also Working Paper Nr. 1, Research Programme SocialWorld, Bielefeld University, Faculty of Sociology, download:

www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz/Forschung/Projekte/socialworld/pdf/arbeitspapier1.pdf)

Leisering, Lutz, 2002: Ein moderner Lebenslauf in der Volksrepublik China? Zur Generalisierbarkeit eines Forschungsprogramms. In: Günter Burkart und Jürgen Wolf (Hg.): Lebenszeiten. Erkundungen zur Soziologie der Generationen. Festschrift für Martin Kohli. Opladen: Leske + Budrich: 25-40