Since the start of the economic reform process in China a quarter of a century ago, there have been spectacular increases in per capita income and equally spectacular reductions in income poverty. However, inequality—interpersonal, interregional, in incomes and in social indicators—has increased dramatically, particularly in the last fifteen years. The object of this conference is to take stock of growing inequality in China, focusing on its causes, its consequences, and policy responses to it in the future.

Friday, September 24

Participants arrive

Saturday, September 25

8.15—8.45  Registration, Continental Breakfast

8.45—9.00  Opening

Ravi Kanbur (Cornell), Guanghua Wan (WIDER), Xiaobo Zhang (IFPRI)

9.00—10.15  Session I: General Patterns


9.50—10.15  Discussion

10.15—10.45  Break

10.45—12.30  Session II: Regional Inequality
10.45—11.10 Guanghua Wan* (WIDER) and Yin Zhang (WIDER), “Why Do Poverty Rates Differ From Region to Region: The Case of Urban China.”

11.10—11.35 Simei Wen (South China Agricultural University), “Regional Inequality in Rapid Economic Development: Experience from Guangdong.”


12.00—12.30 Discussion

12.30—2.00 Lunch

2.00—3.45 Session III: Capital Markets, Credit and Inequality


2.50—3.05 Xiaobo Zhang* (IFPRI) and Kong-Yam Tan (World Bank), “Reform and the Transformation of Rents in China.”

3.05—3.45 Discussion

3.45—4.15 Break

4.15—5.30 Session IV: Health Access


4.40—5.05 Yunni Yi* (University of York), Alan Maynard (University of York), Gordon Liu (Peking University), Xianjung Xong (Ministry of Labor and Social Security, China) and Feng Lin (Bureau of Social Medical Insurance, Zhenjing City), “Equity in Health Care Financing.”

5.05—5.30 Discussion

6.00 Conference Dinner (by invitation)
Sunday, September 26

9.00—10.45  **Session V: Institutions, Market Development and Inequality**


10.15—10.45  Discussion

10.45—11.15  **Break**

11.15—12.30  **Session VI: Inequality, Growth and Policy**

11.15—11.40  Dwayne Benjamin (University of Toronto), Loren Brandt (University of Toronto) and John Giles* (Michigan State University), “The Dynamics of Inequality and Growth in Rural China: Does Higher Inequality Impede Growth?”

11.35—12.00  Ran Tao* (University of Oxford) and Mingxing Liu (Peking University), “Rural Taxation, Policy Burdens and Fiscal reform in China.”

12.05—12.30  Discussion

12.30—1.00  **Next Steps and Closing**

Note: For multiple authored papers, the name of the presenter is marked by a *.

8/27/04