



Theme:



2019 The 4th PKU-WASEDA

Workshop

*“Peace and Conflict in the Developing World:
Resources, Technology and Trade”
November 1, Peking University*

Speakers:



Topic: “China's Economic Diplomacy at Seventy: Bifurcation and Future Agendas”

--by Prof. Zha Daojiong, Peking University

China's economic diplomacy has for the past seventy years certainly come a long way and well served the purpose of developing the nation and advancing its interests abroad, in addition to making the country a major force of change in the process of globalization.

This paper is a broad-sketch review of China's economic diplomacy in the past seventy years by asking three questions: What went right? What do we see as warranting (continued) serious attention? What do we recommend for future action? I offer a treatment of the bifurcated feature of China's economic diplomacy. This is useful and in fact necessary as academic English-language literature about global economic diplomacy tends to be either dismissive about value in treating China as a separate case or ahistorical, i.e., basing observations on Chinese initiatives made in the 2100s only. An ahistorical approach tends to play up the dimension of projection of power and influence outside the country, including selective (re)interpretation of China's policy pronouncements, while failing to pay due attention to the twin side of China adjusting its domestic policies to accommodate foreign demands. We end with a short list of topic areas that we deem to merit contemplation in thinking about China's future choices in economic diplomacy.