



Conference Program

“INSTITUTIONS, INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN CENTRAL ASIA”

Conference in Goettingen, Germany, September 25–26, 2008

*Organized by the Private University of Applied Sciences Goettingen, Germany,
and the University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

Chairmen: Prof. Dr. Joachim Ahrens and Prof. dr. Herman W. Hoën

The countries of Central Asia are increasingly the focus of intense international attention because of their geopolitical and economic importance as well as their unsettled transition processes. The region faced enormous challenges when the Soviet Union disintegrated. Overall, it has made rudimentary progress in opening up to the international community, creating market institutions, and building more inclusive, democratic political processes. Daunting challenges remain – reflected in the region’s relatively low economic and human development indicators. In particular, reforms of the institutional environment have been largely neglected. It is evident that the lack of effective institution building as well as rule enforcement in the economic and political realms represents one of the key weaknesses and drawbacks of transition. Hence, crafting adequate market institutions will be of utmost importance in the years ahead. This conference seeks to explore key aspects of institution building as well as economic and political governance in Central Asia.

For further information on the conference and research on Central Asia,
visit: www.pfh.de/centralasia

PRESENTATIONS AND SESSIONS

THURSDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

8:30 – 9:00	Registration in PFH reception area
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9:00 – 9:15 Room: Auditorium	WELCOME ADDRESS <i>Joachim Ahrens, PFH Goettingen</i>
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9:15 – 10:45	PARALLEL SESSIONS A
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Room: 100	Session A1: Sectoral perspectives <i>Chairperson and discussant:</i> <i>Herman W. Hoen, University of Groningen</i>
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<i>Olaf Heidelberg</i> <i>European Union, Delegation of the</i> <i>European Commission to the Kyrgyz</i> <i>Republic, Bishkek</i>	Factors determining crop insurance market development in a transition economy: the case of Kazakhstan
<i>Kamiljon T. Akramov</i> <i>International Food Policy Research</i> <i>Institute, Washington, D.C.</i>	Institutional change, decentralization and service delivery in Kyrgyzstan
<i>Yergali Dosmagambet</i> <i>CERDI, Université d-Auvergne,</i> <i>Clermont-Ferrand</i>	Compositional change in secondary education and productivity dynamics with a special reference to Kazakhstan

Room: Hoersaal	Session A2: Governance and institutions I <i>Chairperson and discussant:</i> <i>Farrukh Imnazarov, PFH Goettingen</i>
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<i>Christian Danne</i> <i>University College Dublin</i>	Opportunity windows, commitment devices, and institution building in small open economies – evidence from the EU periphery
<i>Jan Drahokoupil</i> <i>Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of</i> <i>Societies, Cologne</i>	The variety of peripheral statehood in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
<i>Rainer Schweickert</i> <i>Institute for the World Economy, Kiel</i>	Searching for external drivers – determinants of institutional change in Central Asian countries

10:45 – 11:00	Coffee Break
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SESSION B

11:00 – 12:30
Room: Auditorium

Central Asia in international structures
Chairperson and discussant:
Ingmar Schustereder, European Business School

Andrea Schmitz

German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin

Kazakhstan as a new regional power in Central Asia?

Nienke de Deugd

University of Groningen

The European Union and Central Asia: a case of policy transfer?

Sámi Faltás

CESS, Groningen

Security issues in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

12:30 – 12:45

Coffee Break

KEYNOTE SPEECH

12:45 – 13:30
Room: Auditorium

Turkmenistan after Turkmenbashi: a governance perspective

Richard Pomfret, University of Adelaide

13:30 – 14:30
Room: Plaza Café, PFH

Lunch Break

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

14:30 – 16:00
Room: Auditorium

Institution building and governance in Central Asia: problems and prospects

Frank Bliss, Bliss & Gaesing Associated Consultants
Joern Graevingholt, German Development Institute
Richard Pomfret, University of Adelaide
Martin Spechler, Indiana University

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:45

PARALLEL SESSIONS C

Session C1: Uzbekistan: country-specific issues

Room: 100

*Chairperson and discussant:
Manuel Stark, European Business School*

Munira Aminova
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

The impact of national culture on corporate governance: the case of Uzbekistan

Manuela Troschke
*Institute for Eastern European
Studies, Regensburg*

Social capital and the formation of a market economy: the case of Uzbekistan

Farrukh Imazarov
PFH Goettingen

Transition Strategies in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan since independence: paradoxes and prospects

Session C2: External Actors

Room: Hoersaal

*Chairperson and discussant:
Ingmar Schustereder, European Business School*

Sebastian Lesch
*Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development*

The Central-Asia Concept of the German Government

Ulrich Höcker
GTZ

Sustainable economic development in Central Asia: the role of GTZ

19:30 – 22:00
Restaurant Kartoffelhaus

CONFERENCE DINNER

FRIDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2008

9:00 – 10:45

PARALLEL SESSIONS D

Room: Hoersaal

Session D1: Governance and institutions II

Chairperson and discussant:

Herman W. Hoen, University of Groningen

Frank Bliss

*Bliss & Gaesing Associated
Consultants*

Poverty, participation and governance in Tajikistan

Alexander Libman

*University of Mannheim,
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow,
PFH Goettingen*

Informal integration and decentralization in Central Asia

Azim Raimbaev

Vrije Universiteit Brussels

Local self-governance in Central and Eastern Europe and
Central Asia: the role of informal institutions

Hans-Joachim Schramm

University of Bremen

Tbd

**Session D2: Institutions and development in Central
Asia**

Room: 100

Chairperson and discussant:

Manuel Stark, European Business School

Joost Platje

University of Opole

Institutional capital as a condition for sustainable
development: a perspective from transition countries

Abu Ghaffar Mughal

*University of California at Los
Angeles*

Patterns of migration and remittances in Central Asia and the
Caucasus

Heiko Fritz

*International School of Economics,
Almaty*

The system of corporate governance and corporate control
in Kazakhstan

10:45 – 11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 – 12:30

PARALLEL SESSIONS E

Session E1: Governance and institutions III

Room: Hoersaal

*Chairperson and discussant:
Joachim Ahrens, PFH Goettingen*

Joern Graevingholt
German Development Institute

The political economy of governance reform: the case of Central Asia

Manuel Stark
European Business School Oestrich-Winkel and PFH Goettingen

The developmental state: lessons for Central Asia

Anke Draude
FU Berlin

Provincializing governance: functionalist methods and constructivist perspective in the non-Western world

Session E2: Kazakhstan: country-specific issues

Room: 100

*Chairperson and discussant:
Ingmar Schustereder, European Business School*

Saule Sagandykova
University of Stavanger

The effect of foreign direct investment on wages in Kazakhstan

Ben Paarmann
Cambridge University

Transitory centre-periphery relations in FSU countries: the case of Kazakhstan

Gerhard Toews
University of Kassel and PFH Goettingen

The determinants of FDI in Central Asia: the case of Kazakhstan

12:30– 13:30
Room: Plaza Café PFH

LUNCH BREAK

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Is Russia Winning in Central Asia?

Martin Spechler, Indiana University

Discussant: Alexander Libman,

*University of Mannheim/ Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow,
PFH Goettingen*

**13:30 – 14:45
Room: Auditorium**

CONCLUDING SESSION: LESSONS LEARNED?

Moderator: Joachim Ahrens, PFH Goettingen

**14:45 – 15:15
Room: Auditorium**

OPTIONAL:

GUIDED CITY TOUR

**16:00 – 17:30
Old Market Square**