

BROOKINGS

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

China's Emerging Middle Class: Beyond Economic Transformation

Tuesday, September 22, 2009, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

The Brookings Institution, Falk Auditorium, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC

Just 20 years ago, a distinct socio-economic middle class was virtually non-existent in China. Today, no thorough discussion of the country's economic, social or political trends is complete without taking into account the rapid emergence of China's middle class and its impact on the country's social structure and political system.

On September 22 and 23, the John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings will host a diverse group of scholars from the United States, China and elsewhere to discuss China's emerging middle class. Participants will present papers on a variety of topics, including social stratification and social mobility in China; the Chinese middle class compared to its counterparts around the world; the values, world views and political aspirations of the Chinese middle class; and how this group might affect China's rise on the world stage. After each panel, participants will take audience questions.

Tuesday, September 22

**2:00 pm–
2:15 pm**

Opening Remarks

Martin S. Indyk
Vice President and Director, Foreign Policy
The Brookings Institution

**2:15 pm –
3:05 pm**

Keynote Address

Introduction: Kenneth Lieberthal
Senior Fellow and Director
John L. Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

William C. Kirby
Spangler Family Professor of Business
Administration and T. M. Chang Professor of
China Studies
Harvard University

**3:15 pm –
5:00 pm**

Panel 1: Overview – Concept and Significance

Homi Kharas

Senior Fellow
Wolfensohn Center for Development
The Brookings Institution

Cheng LI

Senior Fellow and Director of Research, John L.
Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

LI Chunling

Research Fellow and Professor
Institute of Sociology
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

LU Hanlong

Professor of Sociology
Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences

Moderator: Margaret Pearson

Professor of Government and Politics
University of Maryland

Wednesday, September 23

**9:00 am –
10:10 am**

Panel 2: Constructing the Middle Class: Education and Occupation

Deborah Davis

Professor of Sociology
Yale University

Jing LIN

Professor of International Education Policy
University of Maryland

Jianying WANG

Department of Sociology
Yale University

Moderator: Erica Downs

China Energy Fellow
John L. Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

**10:20 am –
12:05 pm**

Panel 3: The Chinese Middle Class in Comparative Perspective

Sang-Jin HAN

Professor of Sociology
Seoul National University

Hsin-Huang Michael HSIAO

Director of Institute of Sociology, Academia
Sinica, and Professor of Sociology,
National Taiwan University

ZHOU Xiaohong

Professor of Sociology and Dean of the
School of Social and Behavioral
Sciences
Nanjing University

Moderator: Richard Bush

Senior Fellow and Director
Center for Northeast Asian Policy Studies
The Brookings Institution

**1:05 pm –
1:55 pm**

Keynote Address

Introduction: Kenneth Lieberthal

Senior Fellow and Director
John L. Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

James Fallows

National Correspondent
The Atlantic Monthly

**2:05 pm –
3:15 pm**

Panel 4: Housing Reform: Distributing Property or Entrenching Inequality

Joyce Yanyun MAN

Professor and Director, Peking
University-Lincoln Center for Urban
Development and Land Policy

Luigi Tomba

Fellow, Chinese Politics
Department of Political and Social Change
Australian National University

Moderator: Kenneth Lieberthal

Senior Fellow and Director
John L. Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

**3:25 pm –
5:00 pm**

Panel 5: Values, World View and Political Participation

Jie CHEN

Professor of Political Science
Old Dominion University

Bruce Dickson

Professor of Political Science and International
Affairs
George Washington University

Sida LIU

Assistant Professor of Sociology and
Law
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Ethan Michelson

Associate Professor of Sociology and Law
Indiana University-Bloomington

Moderator: Dennis Wilder

Visiting Fellow
John L. Thornton China Center
The Brookings Institution

To RSVP, please call the Brookings Office of Communications at 202.797.6105, or visit