

MuXiYuan: A neighbourhood untouched in a changing Beijing



The dizzying pace of change in urban China is nowhere more evident than in Beijing. No city on earth is reinventing itself more rapidly than the next Olympic city. Half the world's production of steel and a third of its concrete is feeding the voracious appetite for construction. New apartments, hotels, offices, stations and roads are transforming the landscape of the capital. Old sites are torn down, making way for new ones, in the relentless pursuit of modernisation.

But there are still a few corners of the city that have managed to avoid the bulldozers. MuXiYuan, in the south of Beijing, is one of them. Jikky Lam's photographs offer us a snapshot of the daily lives of the people living in the neighbourhood: doing groceries, running errands, cooking, chatting with acquaintances. A glimpse of mundanity in the face of frenetic change. MuXiYuan's small streets and narrow lanes are hemmed in by new high rise apartments on one side, and a huge overpass on the other. There are no plans as yet for rebuilding MuXiYuan, but surely it is only a matter of time before the 'city that ate the world' swallows up the final traces of its 19th century self. ■

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Energy Programme Asia (EPA)

The New EPA-Joint Research Programme

Domestic and Geopolitical Challenges to Energy Security for, China and the European Union

A Joint Research Programme between Energy programme Asia (EPA)-IIAS and the Institute of West Asian and African Studies (IWAAS)-Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in cooperation with the Institute of Industrial Economy-CASS.

The objectives of this comparative research project are to analyse (a) the geopolitical and (b) domestic aspects of energy security challenges for the European Union (EU) and China and their impact on energy security policy strategies. The geopolitical aspects involve analysing the effects of competition for access to oil and gas resources and the security of energy supply among the main global consumer countries of the EU and China. The domestic aspects involve analysing domestic energy demand and supply, energy efficiency policies, and the deployment of renewable energy resources.

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The Core Research Team

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Activities:

- The First International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA), 'The Challenges of the post-Soviet Transition in Kazakhstan', International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, 8 April 2005, the Netherlands.
- The Second International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA) in cooperation with the Clingendael International Energy Programme (CIEP), 'The Security of Energy Supply in China, India, Japan, South Korea, and EU: Opportunities and impediments', International Institute for Asian Studies' and CIEP, The Hague and Leiden 20 – 21 May 2005, The Netherlands.
- The Third International Conference of the Energy Programme Asia (EPA) in cooperation with the Energy Economic Research Centre, Beijing, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China, Global Cooperation Towards Energy Efficiency: Barriers and Opportunities. Beijing 24 – 25 June 2006, China.

Forthcoming events:

The First research-oriented meeting, the Institute of West Asia and African Studies-CASS, December 14-15, 2007, Beijing-China

The second research-oriented meeting in the Netherlands, October, 19-20, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands

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