

Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals (GRIP-ARM)

The International Institute for Asian Studies facilitates several research-based activities around the Chinese BRI/China's global influence. A new addition in this area is 'Green Industrial Policy in the Age of Rare Metals (GRIP-ARM) – A trans-regional comparison of growth strategies in rare earth mining'.

The GRIP-ARM programme is Led by Dr Jewellord Nem Singh from the Institute of Social Studies at Erasmus University (Netherlands) and Associate Research Fellow at IIAS. This ERC-funded five-year project seeks to address three intricately connected questions:

(1) How do state capacity, business power and organizational structure of domestic markets shape the design of industrial policies in resource-rich countries?

(2) What explains the success of some countries in generating linkages between resource extraction and manufacturing, and what accounts for their failure?

(3) How effective are the responses of importing countries and their manufacturing industries in securing a stable supply while reducing the socio-environmental costs of extraction?

The new global political economy is increasingly defined by 'critical raw materials' – of which rare earths elements (or 'rare earths') are the most significant. The GRIP-ARM study examines the globalized supply and demand for rare earths – from mining, processing, manufacturing, use and recycling – to have a closer scrutiny of mining both as a strategy for industrialization and as an integral part of contemporary efforts towards a sustainable supply of raw materials. GRIP-ARM interrogates the dynamics in rare earth mining that might lend this particular resource a tool for economic development.

This is one of the first systematic, comparative study on rare earths mining and economic development, which brings political science perspectives in conversation with natural resource geography and international political economy. Using a trans-regional comparison of China, Brazil and Kazakhstan, the GRIP-ARM project will span across five years, starting from 2021.

Relevance

Two important trends underline the urgency of this research. Firstly, low and middle-income countries joining the race for industrialization are increasing demands for high-tech goods ranging from computers, mobile phones, and flat screens, as well as for low-carbon consumer products, such as energy-efficient cars, solar panels, wind turbines, and even lights – all of which constitute further pressures to accelerate the pace and breadth of natural resource exploitation. Secondly, growing demands for rare earths are currently suffering from a supply constraint given that China – the dominant market player in rare earths mining – has begun to impose export restrictions and reorient its mining policy to support domestic industrialization. The impending resource crunch

creates incentives for mineral states to gain strategic and economic advantage.

GRIP-ARM's agenda is especially salient as several rare earth projects are being developed in Latin America, Africa and Asia to create an alternative supply chain outside China. By building an interdisciplinary scholarship on rare earths-based growth strategies, GRIP-ARM contributes to scholarship on innovations in non-traditional manufacturing sectors as key to long-run economic development (Nem Singh & Chen 2018; Ovadia & Wolf 2018; Peres 2013).

Furthermore, GRIP-ARM aims to influence debates on international development by targeting knowledge exchange activities towards key decision-makers involved in Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) No. 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and No. 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). The project likewise builds on the expertise of an International Advisory Board consisting of international policy practitioners and senior experts in the fields of political economy and development studies.

Another crucial element of the project is that it will create valuable knowledge for the Global Rare Earths Industry Association, which provides inputs on global efforts to create a secured, greener supply of critical raw materials. The study will add to knowledge on how developing countries can seek to build industrial capacity to extract in less environmentally destructive ways. In these ways, the research contributes to the urgent call of designing growth strategies compatible with ecological sustainability.

Objectives and outputs

The study has three primary objectives: (1) To empirically document how mineral states design industrial policies that have the potential to link extraction and manufacturing sectors of the economy. It will also explore why similar policies yield varying outcomes; (2) To identify the political factors that successfully built linkages between sectors of the economy, spur technological innovation, and maximize benefits from extractive industries; (3) To analyse new initiatives of rare earth importers in the EU and Japan. The project will provide insights on how importing countries and their manufacturing firms have promoted ways to address long-term supply vulnerability and sustainability of resource use.

The project will produce a number of academic outputs including a monograph on 'Transforming Rare Earths for Industrial Development', articles authored by the project leader, articles co-authored with the PhD researchers (on Brazil and Kazakhstan) and articles co-authored with the post-doc (on China's Rare Earths policy, industrial policy and building innovation and linkages through china's mining sector).

For more information, please contact the project leader, **Dr Jojo Nem Singh**
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www.iias.asia/programmes/green-industrial-policy-age-rare-metals-grip-arm

Paul van der Velde and IIAS

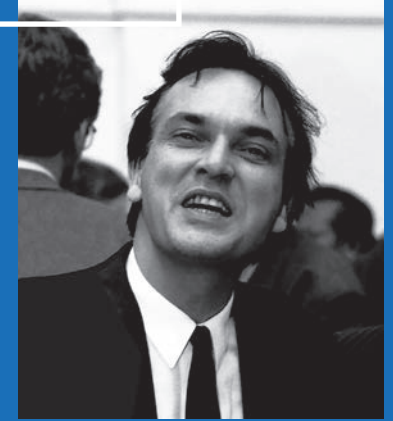
Philippe Peycam

For many of us, it is difficult to imagine IIAS without Paul van der Velde. Still, from November 2021, due to his retirement, he is no longer officially an institute staff member. Luckily, Paul will continue to be associated with IIAS as an affiliated researcher, and we will continue to see him and enjoy his perennial upbeat spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to pause for a minute and reflect on Paul's achievements and contributions to IIAS. His name has been closely connected with the institute's development from its very inception. Many initiatives for which IIAS is known were either pioneered by Paul or have his unique imprint on them. Off the top of my head, I can think of *The Newsletter*, IIAS's book series, and of course, the International Convention for Asia Scholars (ICAS). Whether factually his 'baby' or not, ICAS conferences as they have developed since the first event in Leiden in 1998 to the recent online one in Kyoto would not have taken place if they hadn't been formulated in Paul's creative mind. In every ICAS event, a sheer number of innovations – from the book talks to the multi-lingual book prizes – bear Paul's signature.

The story of Paul van der Velde at IIAS is one of a relentless churning of ideas, some brilliant, some, perhaps, less so. His involvement guaranteed that every year, every event would be different from the previous one. Along with this whirlpool of ideas are the hundreds of individuals who benefited from his assistance, notably in publishing their book or article or in another capacity. Paul's love for published works and his curiosity for new written materials are boundless.

Having worked with him for more than a decade, I have learned to value his contagious enthusiasm and willingness to always try something new. Some images are now burned in my memory, such as the epic Indian Ocean Studies roundtable



Paul van der Velde, 1997, Opening of the International Institute for Asian Studies

in the crumbling foyer of the Africa House building in Zanzibar in 2018 and the much larger Africa-Asia conference in Dar es Salaam one week later. In the same year, there was also an exciting short visit to Moscow where we caught a glimpse of the remains of the cold-war era as we tried to garner support among our Russian colleagues so they would overcome their initial suspicions before participating in ICAS 11 in Leiden. No less exciting were our jaunts together in the vibrant madness of Rio de Janeiro to work with our Latin American colleagues in outlining plans for a new Latin America-Asia collaborative platform.

Outside of IIAS, in 2016, he was awarded Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau, amongst others, for his involvement as editor-in-chief of *Zeeuws Tijdschrift*, a magazine dedicated to the history of his dear region of Zeeland; we affectionately call him "Sir Paul."

IIAS has greatly benefitted from Paul's unique style of engagement, and equally, IIAS, for Paul, has been a space where he could realise his dreams and wishes in the way he imagined them. I don't think he would have been able to work as happily elsewhere, which is a testimony to the Institute's capacity to let its members flourish to full potential. On behalf of all my colleagues, I want to thank Paul for all that he has done and for his positive influence on the culture of IIAS. I am glad to know that he will continue to inspire us in his new role.

The challenges of energy transition: Comparing China's Belt and Road Initiative and the European Union

On 9 March 2022, 14 researchers from China and Europe will convene to discuss their individual research projects in the context of the joint research programme between IIAS-EPA and CASS-IWEP, titled, 'Geopolitical Economy of the Belt and Road Initiative and its Reflections'. The aim is to

publish the papers presented at this fourth research-oriented meeting in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal and later as a book (2023).

www.iias.asia/events/challenges-energy-transition-BRI-EU

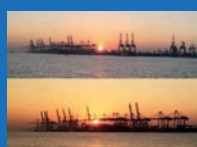
IIAS Webinar Series

We organise webinars on a variety of Asia-related topics, held by IIAS fellows and other speakers. All webinars are announced on our website at www.iias.asia/events.

You are most welcome to join (free of charge) by registering online in advance. We will

subsequently contact you with further information on how to participate. Our previous webinars can be viewed on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/asianstudies.

The following speakers have been confirmed for the coming period, and we will be adding new lectures to the list as time goes on.



9 March 2022

Webinar

Two container ports in the Indian Ocean (1989-Present). A window into India's model of development

Speaker:
Richard T. Griffiths



11 March 2022

Webinar

An enquiry into the causes of the vanishing Anjana River in West Bengal, India

Speaker:
Sankha Subhra Nath



7 April 2022

Webinar
IIAS Book Talk Series

Heritage and the Making of Political Legitimacy in Laos

Speaker:
Phill Wilcox (author)