

Staff Seminar

**Title: Energy Security and Sustainable Development:
the Shale Gas Development in China**

Speaker: Professor Paolo Davide Farah

Date : 25 March 2015 (Wednesday)

Time : 4 pm - 5 pm

Venue : School Conference Room [P5401]

Abstract:

China is appraised to have the world's largest exploitable reserves of shale gas, although several legal, regulatory, environmental and investment-related issues will likely restrain its scope. China's capacity to successfully face these hurdles and produce commercial shale gas will have a crucial impact on the regional gas market and on China's energy mix, as Beijing strives to decrease reliance on imported oil and coal, while attempting to meet growing energy demand and maintain a certain level of resource autonomy. The development of the unconventional natural gas extractive industry will also endow China with further negotiating power to obtain more advantageous prices from Russia and future liquefied natural gas (LNG) suppliers. This seminar, adopting a comparative perspective, underlines the trends learned from unconventional fuel development in the United States, emphasizing their potential application to the Chinese context in light of recently signed production-sharing contracts between qualified foreign investors and China. The wide range of regulatory and enforcement problems in this matter are accrued by an extremely limited liberalization of gas prices, lack of technological development, and political hurdles curbing the opening of resource extraction to private investors. These issues are exacerbated by concerns related to the risk of water pollution deriving from mismanaged drilling and fracturing, absence of adequate regulation framework and industry standards, entailing consequences on social stability and environmental degradation.

Bio:

Professor Paolo Davide Farah received J.D. in International and European Law, University of Paris Ouest La Defense Nanterre (France), LL.M in European Legal Studies, College of Europe, Bruges (Belgium) and Double PhD in International Law from Aix-Marseille University (France) and University of Milan (Italy). He currently works at West Virginia University (WV, USA) and teaches climate change, trade, energy and environmental law and policy. Professor Farah is an expert in the interaction among trade, economic globalization and non-trade concerns, such as sustainable development, energy, environment and human rights with a special focus on China and other Asian countries. He acts as an Editor-in-Chief and Director of the Book Series "Transnational Law and Globalization" for Routledge Publishing (UK) and as Editor-in-Chief and Director of the Book Series of "International Economic Law, Globalization and Development" (in English) of Ashgate Publishing (UK).

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