



Welcome » News » Archive » Princeton-Fung Global Forum sparks international focus on 'The Future of the City'



Princeton President Shirley M. Tilghman welcomes participants to the first annual Princeton-Fung Global Forum in Shanghai on Jan. 30, 2013.



Gyan Prakash, the Dayton-Stockton Professor of History at Princeton, asks a question from the floor during one of the Princeton-Fung Global Forum sessions.

Photos and video by the Office of Communications

Web Stories

Princeton-Fung Global Forum sparks international focus on 'The Future of the City'

Posted February 11, 2013; 12:00 p.m.

by Dan Day, Office of Communications

[https://twitter.com/share?text=Princeton-Fung Global Forum sparks international focus on 'The Future of the City'](https://twitter.com/share?text=Princeton-Fung%20Global%20Forum%20sparks%20international%20focus%20on%20%27The%20Future%20of%20the%20City%27&url=http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S36/02/56M05/index.xml?section=&via=Princeton)
<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S36/02/56M05/index.xml?section=&via=Princeton>

Recommend {25}

In the bustling megacity of Shanghai, architects, engineers, urbanists and other scholars gather at the Princeton-Fung Global Forum <<http://www.princeton.edu/fungforum>> to discuss population growth, social trends, climate change and how to determine "The Future of the City."

Nineteen Princeton faculty members from various fields joined professors and policymakers from other institutions at the forum to research, identify challenges that cities face and begin a dialogue to find solutions.

"It's really intended to spark conversations," Princeton President Shirley M. Tilghman <<http://www.princeton.edu/president/biography/>> said at the forum Jan. 30. "We hope that this will be the beginning of a wonderful series of conversations in which Princeton engineers and scholars address important questions facing our world."



President Tilghman welcomes participants to the first Princeton-Fung Global Forum in Shanghai on Jan. 30, 2013.

With a population of 23 million people and the largest city in China, Shanghai was an apt location. The conference was held in the Pudong district, which a mere two decades ago was mostly farmland. Today, Pudong and all of Shanghai project a jagged skyline with cranes erecting even more towers and high-rise housing.

"By all accounts, China is urbanizing at the rate of about 14 million people a year," in essence creating a new Tokyo and a new New York City. William Fung <<http://www.princeton.edu/fungforum/about/william-fung/#comp00005066b51d00000040cf5630>>, Class of 1970. Fung is the founder of the Li & Fung group of export and retailing companies. His \$10 million gift to Princeton <<http://www.princeton.edu/mai>> in 2000 year established the forum and the Fung Global Fellows Program <<http://www.princeton.edu/funggf/>>.

Speakers at the forum represented universities, governments and organizations from Asia, Europe and North America. A recurring theme was the need for a global perspective.

"Gandhi was wrong about the future of India being decided by its villages, not cities," said Edward Glaeser, Class of 1964, Harvard University. He said cities have always drawn people away from rural areas because they offer pathways out of rural areas. "In the 21st century, instead of spreading out, we're clustering in," Glaeser said, noting a paradox that even as technology and social media allow people to communicate over long distances, they still congregate in urban areas.

Daniel Bell, professor of arts and humanities at Jiaotong University in Shanghai and a professor of ethics and political science at Tsinghua University in Beijing, said citizens often identify more with their city than their country. "The need for community is a constant. It's not freedom," he said.



Juan Du of Hong Kong University gestures while speaking during the Princeton-Fung Global Forum. She was joined by (left to right) Jiang Wu, vice president of Tongji University, Shanghai; Ananya Roy, University of California-Berkeley; Alison Isenberg, professor of history and co-director of Princeton's Program in Urban Studies; and Christine Boyer, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Architecture and co-director of Princeton's Program in Urban Studies. (Photo by the Office of Communications)

The clustering of cities doesn't come with

"What is the credit crunch? I asked Max Page about the history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, on a panel with a population of 100,000. They've created more than they've created."

Ye Qi, a professor at Tsinghua University, said that in her own homes and in her work, she deals with the freedom of movement and the suffering from a

Forum participants discussed Shanghai traffic and the historic center of

tops of some of the city's tallest buildings.



Princeton Provost Christopher Eisgruber and Guy Nordenson, a structural engineer and Princeton professor of architecture, review a map showing China's Yangtze River Delta at the "Resilient Cities" exhibition during the Princeton-Fung Global Forum. (Photo by Dan Day)

Denise Mauzerall <<http://www.princeton.edu/~mau>>, an environmental engineering professor, discussed international affairs in Princeton's Woodrow Wilson International Affairs Center <<http://www.princeton.edu/~wias>>, the deteriorating air in China. The foul air causing acid rain is so severe, she said, that "the features are being worn away" at Chinese historic sites.

The balance and interrelation of the world's ecosystems and oceans, were frequently addressed during the forum.

Michael Oppenheimer <<http://www.princeton.edu/~oppenheimer/>>, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geosciences & International Affairs at the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School, cited the damage Hurricane Sandy caused to action over climate change. "We clearly need more measurement" to forecast the effects of a subsequent rise in sea levels threatening coastal cities, he said. Calling for smarter public policy and urban planning, he said, "We need to do better. And if we don't do better, it's going to be a disaster."

François Gemenne, a research fellow at the Institute for Development and International Relations in Paris, said cities will need to adapt to the environmental and demographic changes of the next decades. "There are too many people living in regions that are way too exposed to climate change," Gemenne said, pre



Alejandro Zaera-Polo, dean of Princeton's School of Architecture, makes a point during the forum's welcoming conversation with Tilghman, who moderated the session, and (at left) Rupali Gupte, an architect and urbanist from Mumbai, India. (Photo by the Office of Communications)

lying areas will rise.

Speakers offere
Mauzerall point
pollution in Noi
Nordenson

<http://soa.princeton.edu>
structural engin
architecture <ht
proposals devel
the design and c
surge protection
Mississippi Del

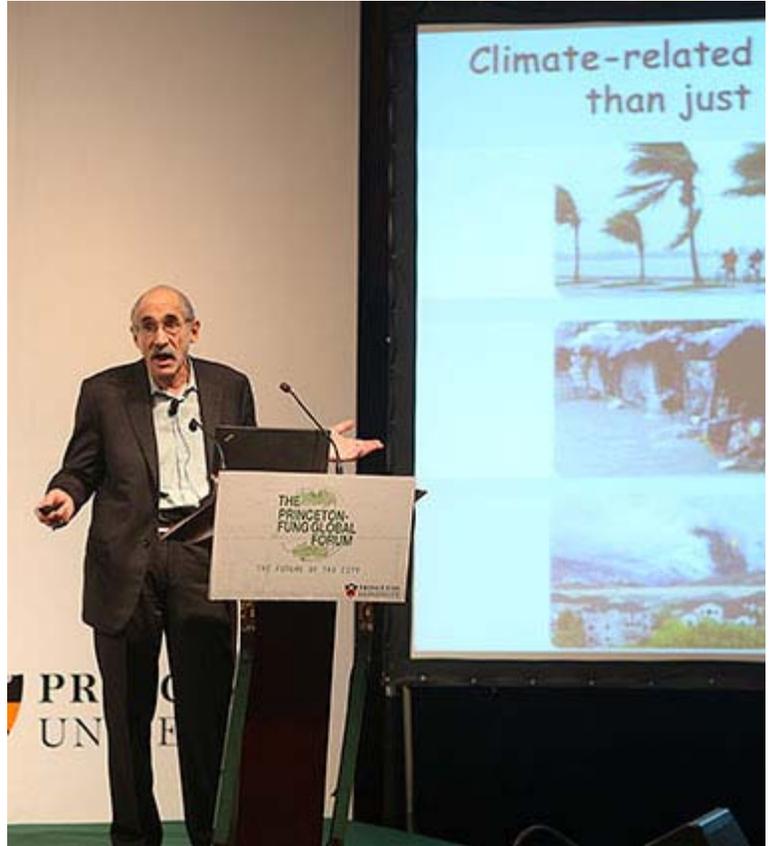
Several research
management, u
engineering and
an exhibition or
the forum. The
by Princeton fa
and others, was
in Shanghai for

Also on the Fun
discussion on ci
American filmn
1985, and India
Prompted by G



Tilghman and William Fung (center), Class of 1970, chat with Yi Wang, Class of 2009, during the Princeton-Fung Global Forum in Shanghai. Fung's \$10 million gift to the University in 2012 made

possible the forum as well as the Fung Global Fellows Program. (Photo by the Office of Communications)



Michael Oppenheimer, the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Geoscience Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs climate change. (Photo by the Office of Communications)

http://www.princeton.edu/history/people/display_person.xml?netid=prakash , the Dayton-Stockton Professor of History http://www.princeton.edu/history/people/display_person.xml?netid=adelman , director of the Council for International Teaching <http://www.princeton.edu/international/partnerships/council/> . Adelman, who is also a professor of history and the Walter San Spanish Civilization and Culture, was the lead organizer for the Shanghai forum.

Plans for the 1914 Princeton-Fung Global Forum, to be held in Paris, are in the making under the direction of [Jeremy Adelman](http://www.princeton.edu/history/people/display_person.xml?netid=adelman) , director of the Council for International Teaching <http://www.princeton.edu/international/partnerships/council/> . Adelman, who is also a professor of history and the Walter San Spanish Civilization and Culture, was the lead organizer for the Shanghai forum.

While Tilghman moderated the forum's opening session, Provost [Christopher Eisgruber](http://www.princeton.edu/provost) discussion leader for the final session, "Urban Challenges for the 21st Century."

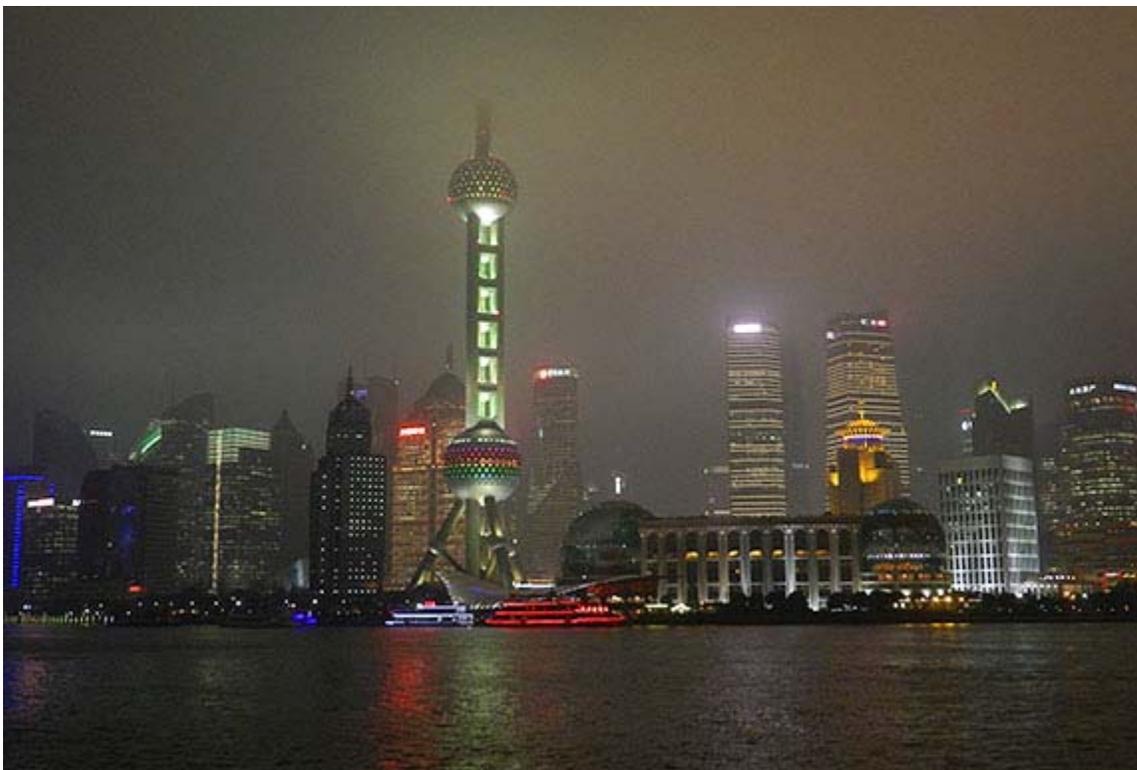
"We are grateful to William Fung for making possible a conference that launched conversations across fields and across the world's most pressing problems, including problems about the future of cities, are international and interdisciplinary in nature and positioned to contribute to the solution of those problems, but we will have to forge new partnerships and collaborative efforts to be effective.

"Many of the Princeton faculty attending the conference mentioned to me that the conference put them in contact with people and places that were not previously a focus of their research," Eisgruber said. "That is a major achievement. Jeremy Adelman's leadership was crucial to that good result, as were William Fung's vision and support."



More videos from
will be made available on
website <<http://v>

Stephany Xu, Class of 2012, presents a fan to Tilghman as David Wu, Class of 1979, looks on. (Photo from the Office of Communications)



The Oriental Pearl Radio and TV Tower, the signature building of the Shanghai skyline, pokes into the fog on Feb. 1, 2013. Scholars attending the Princeton-Fung Global Forum got a view of the tower during a tour of the city. (Photo by Dan Day)

[Back To Top <#](#)

Alison Isenberg, professor of history and co-director of Princeton's Program in Urban Studies, speaks during the "Planning and Equity" session during the Princeton-Fung Global Forum. *(Photo by the Office of Communications)*



Attendees at the Princeton-Fung Global Forum had this view of classic buildings along the Bund, Shanghai's fabled district along the Huangpu River, during a tour Feb. 1, 2013. (Photo by Dan Day)

