

The logo consists of a teal square with the letters 'SGC' in white, sans-serif font.

SGC

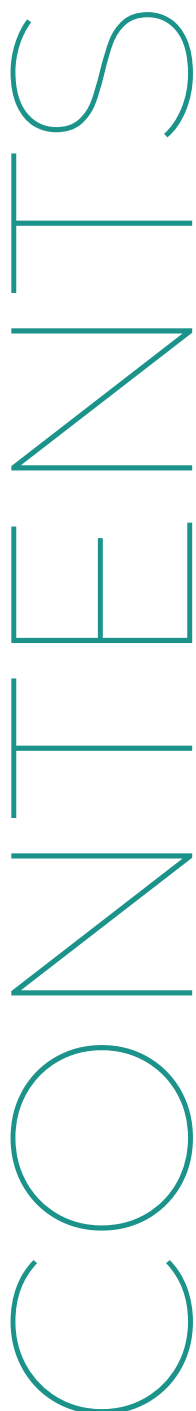
Frankfurt School
Sino-German Centre

Annual Report



2025

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DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

It is our great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Sino-German Centre (SGC) at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management for the year 2025. We are delighted to share with you the wide range of activities and the continued progress of the Centre throughout the year.

Our activities included the well-established virtual roundtables with leading experts on timely and relevant topics such as the outlook for China's economy, the rise of the large language model DeepSeek, Germany's China policy, the ongoing internationalisation of the Renminbi, and Chinese citizens' perceptions of Germany. We also continued the Sino-German Expert Dialogues on Sustainable Finance Products and Practices in cooperation with GIZ China, with workshops held in Frankfurt and Beijing. In addition, we organised a scientific colloquium on China's economy and participated in the conference on economic security jointly organised by the Frankfurt Competence Centre of German and Global Regulation (FCCR) at Frankfurt School and the Europe Institute of Saarland University. Through numerous articles and interviews in professional journals, newspapers, and conference contributions, the SGC once again positioned itself as a relevant and visible contributor to the Sino-German business and economic dialogue.

Over the past year, we also continued the joint meetings of the Board of Trustees and the Steering Committee of the SGC. These high-level meetings serve as a platform for exchanging views on political and economic relations between Germany and China and for advising the SGC on its further development. At the spring meeting, Stefan Messer, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Messer Group, delivered a keynote address entitled "Experiences and Future Prospects of Messer Group in China." At the autumn meeting, Huang Yiyang, Consul General of the People's Republic of China, spoke on "Sino-German Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Environment." Both presentations were very well received and followed by intensive discussions.

In 2025, there were also personnel changes in the governance of the Centre. The General Meeting of the SGC approved the proposal of the Executive Board to appoint Thorsten Giehler, Head of the Economy, Employment & Social Development Department at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as Co-Chair of the SGC, succeeding Prof. Rüdiger von Rosen. The Executive Board and the General Meeting expressed their sincere gratitude to Prof. von Rosen for his dedicated work in building the Centre over the past years. He will continue to serve as a member of the Executive Board. Furthermore, the General Meeting appointed Prof. Philipp Böing, Senior Researcher at the ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research and Professor of Innovation Economics at Goethe University Frankfurt, as a new member of the Executive Board.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support over the past year. Without it, we would not have been able to further advance the success story of the SGC. We hope you will continue your commitment to the Sino-German Centre in the Year of the Fire Horse and warmly invite you to join the Centre as a member.

With best regards,



Thorsten Giehler
Co-Chairman



Prof. Dr. Horst Löchel
Co-Chairman

02 - VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES



SGC's Virtual Roundtables with experts from business, politics, and academia provide in-depth insights into various topics from business and society in the context of German-Chinese relations. [Find all recordings on YouTube!](#)

January

Outlook for China's Economy in the Year of the Snake

1. **Dr. Julia Haes**, Managing Director, China Institut für die deutsche Wirtschaft (CIDW)
2. **Dr. Yi Xiong**, Chief Economist at Deutsche Bank China

February

Perspectives of Germany's China Policy After the Election

1. **Maximilian Butek**, Chief Representative of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce Shanghai
2. **Christian Sommer**, CEO & Chairman at German Centre Shanghai Moderators

March

DeepSeek and the Race to the Technological Frontier

1. **Dr. Thomas Asikis**, Deep Learning Engineer at Aisot Technologies and Postdoc at University Zurich
2. **Prof. Shenglin Ben**, Dean, Zhejiang University International Business School (ZIBS)
3. **Prof. Lucas Böttcher**, Assistant Professor of Computational Science at Frankfurt School of Finance & Management

January

February

March



June

What China Policy Does Germany Need?

1. **Frank Sieren**, Leading China Specialist and German Bestseller

September

THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE RENMINBI

1. **FAN, Shilei, Chief Representative** – People's Bank of China, Frankfurt Representative Office
2. **Dr. Johannes Petry**, Principal investigator, State Cap Finance Project J. W. – Goethe University

December

WHAT DO CHINESE PEOPLE THINK ABOUT GERMANY?

1. **Dr. Christopher Beier**, Assistant Lecturer, University Bonn
2. **Martin Hansen**, Regional Director East Asia, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

June



December



03 - SINO-GERMAN EVENTS

Workshop on Climate Risk Management and Sustainability Disclosures

Jointly with GIZ, CIFA, FS-IAS, and IFS Frankfurt, June 11th

The Sino-German Centre co-hosted the 3rd Workshop of the Sino-German Expert Dialogues on Sustainable Finance Products and Practices on June 11 at Frankfurt School, together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Climate Investment and Finance Association of China (CIFA), the International Advisory Service at Frankfurt School (FS-IAS), and the Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS).

This workshop focused on climate risk management and sustainability disclosures. The event was opened by Prof. Horst Löchel, Co-Chair of the Sino-German Centre, followed by welcome remarks from Dr. Julia Wendel-Hübner, Fellow and Sustainable Finance Advisor at the Hessian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport, Housing and Rural Areas; Mr. Marcus Lange, Director of the Asia Division at GIZ; and Mr ZHU Qingfeng, Vice Chairman and Secretary General of CIFA. Keynote presentations were delivered by Ms. Carola Menzel, Head of the UNP Centre at Frankfurt School, and Prof. Liang Xi, Professor of Infrastructure Sustainable Transition at University College London and Executive Member of CIFA.

The two subsequent panel discussions included representatives from CIFA, Deutsche Bundesbank, Deutsche Bank AG, FS-IAS, Hengfeng Bank, IFS, and Ping An Insurance Group. The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Prof. Rüdiger von Rosen.



Sustainable Finance Workshops on Financing for the Zero Carbon Park Transition

Jointly with GIZ, CIFA, FS-IAS, IFS, and Taicang High-tech Industrial Development Zone
Beijing, October 18th



Following the Sino-German Workshop on Climate Risk Management and Sustainability Disclosures held in Frankfurt in June, a follow-up workshop on Financing the Zero-Carbon Park Transition was jointly organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS), Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, the Sino-German Centre of Finance and Economics (SGC), and Taicang High-tech Industrial Development Zone, Jiangsu. The workshop took place on 16 October 2025 in Beijing.

The workshop was opened by Ms. Qi Lan, Team Leader Climate, GIZ East Asia. Welcome remarks were then delivered by Ms. Bianca Fluck, Economic Section, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Beijing; Dr. Ma Jun, President of the Institute of Finance and Sustainability (IFS); and Prof. Horst Löchel, Co-Chair of the Sino-German Centre of Finance and Economics (SGC) at Frankfurt School.

Their statements underscored the importance of deepening Sino-German cooperation in sustainable finance and industrial decarbonization, highlighting the role of industrial parks as key platforms for green transformation and the need for innovative financing instruments, improved governance, and capacity building to support low-carbon development.

Following the opening session, the workshop featured keynote presentations by Ms. Yang Ping, Director of the Financial Market Division of the Research Bureau of the People's Bank of China, on "The Status Quo and Recent Developments in Transition Finance Policy in China," and by Mr. Eugen Doce, Head of International Advisory Services at Frankfurt School, on "De-risking Innovative Investments to Support the Low-Carbon Transformation of Industrial Sectors."

The keynotes were followed by two panel discussions featuring representatives from ABB, the China Beijing Environment Exchange, the China Carbon Neutrality Committee of the China Energy Conservation Association, CICC, the China National Institute of Standardization, Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific, GIZ China, Huaxia Bank, IFS, and Taicang High-tech Industrial Development Zone. The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Dr. Janto Hess, Project Director, Sino-German Cooperation on Climate Change – Climate Partnership, GIZ East Asia.

04 - RESEARCH PROJECTS

China Colloquium

The Strategy of 'New Productive Forces' and the Future of China's Economy



On 21 May 2025, the Sino-German Centre at Frankfurt School hosted a high-level symposium on the future of China's economy to mark the release of the book *The Rise of China's Economy: Past, Present, and Future*, written by Prof. Horst Löchel and Tim Jablonski and published by Springer. The focus of the symposium was China's future growth model. Around 30 participants from academia and business took part in the discussion, which was moderated by Prof. Rolf D. Cremer.

The main speakers were Professor Yeling Tan from the Blavatnik School of Government of Oxford University, Prof. Klaus Mühlhahn from the Institute for China Studies at FU Berlin and Prof. Löchel. The opening remarks were delivered by the President of Frankfurt School, Prof. Nils Stieglitz, as well as representatives of the Hans and Ria Messer Foundation, which generously supported the writing of the book. The concluding remarks were given by Prof. Bertram Schefold of Goethe University Frankfurt.

A German edition of the book will be published shortly. The edition has been extensively updated and rigorously revised to reflect the latest academic research and developments.

[More about the book](#)



05 - MEDIA & CONFERENCES

Articles & Interviews

- **A new growth model for China**

<https://m.21jingji.com/article/20250221/herald/c2d05f3258e531bc5e84599b0e71c363.html>

Southern Finance, February

- **Statement on the transatlantic relationship at CCTV**

<https://tv.cctv.com/2025/03/28/VIDE2eUITrprjswLoMe45FN250328.shtml?spm=C45404.PlcSaTuiQb0E.ENSvHePEGND5.89>

CCTV, March

- **China im Aufwind, Europa im Zollschock**

<https://wirtschaft-mit-weisbach.captive.fm/episode/china-im-aufwind-europa-im-zollschock-professor-horst-lochel-und-christoph-berger-im-gesprach/>

Podcast, Wirtschaft mit Weisbach, April

- **Trump treibt China nach Europa**

<https://www.n-tv.de/wirtschaft/Trump-treibt-China-nach-Europa-article25723217.html>

n-tv Podcast, Wirtschaft und Welt, April

- **Der Handelskrieg mit den USA animiert China zu einer wirtschaftspolitischen Kehrtwende**

https://sgc.frankfurt-school.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Chinas-Wachstumsmodell_9-Mai-2025.pdf

China Table, May 9th

- **Chinas Resist the First Round of Tariffs — Will It Sign a New “Purchase Agreement”?**

https://sgc.frankfurt-school.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Interview-DW_May-13th-2025.pdf

Deutsche Welle, May 13th

- **Wenn Tempo Perfektion trifft**

https://sgc.frankfurt-school.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Wenn_Tempo_Perfektion_trifft.pdf

Berliner Zeitung, July 18th

- **China und die schwindende Dominanz des Westens**

https://open.spotify.com/episode/6x7fmU7OnaPf7fnmXPHMcG?si=ZsMlxnmbQOmcN_8SecSQcg&nd=1&dlsi=548aabf4df3b4f7c

News Podcast Finanzfluss, September 3rd

- **Anti-dumping probe by EU raises concern**

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202509/26/WS68d5e89aa3108622abca30be.html>

China Daily, September 24th

- **Digitaler Yuan: Bisher nur verhaltende Verbreitung in der Bevölkerung**

<https://f6sef.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/mr/sh/6rqJ8GoudeITQdtaTB7uN74iIkC/N6ysUOlif2b#Meinung>

China Decoded, October 16th

- **Brücken bauen in der Welt: Potenziale deutsch-chinesischer Wirtschaftskooperation im Bauwesen**

<https://f6sef.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/mr/sh/6rqJ8GoudeITQdtaTB7uN74iIkC/MX08L5FISuj6#Meinung>
China Decoded, November 13th

- **Wir brauchen einen Neustart mit China**

https://sgc.frankfurt-school.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/FAZ-Interview_14-Nov_clean.pdf
Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung, November 14th

Conference & Speeches

- **Die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung Chinas**
 IKB, Düsseldorf, April 9th
- **Der Aufstieg Chinas**
 UBS, Hamburg, April 23rd
- **Die neue Weltordnung**
 FS-Homecoming, May 24th
- **Europas wirtschaftliche Sicherheit zwischen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit und globalen Machtverschiebungen und die Rolle Chinas**
 Conference ‚Wirtschaftliche Sicherheit und Marktregulierung‘, Juni 13th
- **How the Maritime Silk Road has Shaped Globalisation – The Case of Porcelain Trade**
 FS - China Elective, October 28th

06 - OUR TEAM



Thorsten Giehler Co-Chairman



Prof. Dr. Horst Löchel
Co-Chairman



Ilka Kranefuß
Project Coordinator

OUR PARTNERS



We thank you for your continued support

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