

"China's Global Rise: Human Rights in China" Program Schedule

MONDAY, April 10

4:00 PM Opening Address: "Rule of Law and Civil Society: Effective Tools for Promoting Human Rights in China?" (*Furman University, Younts Conference Center*)

Han Dongfang, China Labor Bulletin

Wang Dan, Harvard University, Former Tiananmen Square Student Leader

8:00 PM Keynote Address (*Furman University, Younts Conference Center*)

Lorne Craner, President of the International Republican Institute and former Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

TUESDAY, April 11

4:00 PM "Promoting Human Rights in China: What Role Can the International Community Play?" (*Furman University, Younts Conference Center*)

John Kamm, Dui Hua Foundation

Nicholas Becquelin, Human Rights Watch

" China's Global Rise: Human Rights in China" 2006 Participants

Han Dongfang, Director, China Labour Bulletin

Han Dongfang is the founder and director of China Labour Bulletin, a Hong Kong-based group that promotes workers' rights and independent trade unionism in China. He broadcasts a call-in radio show for Radio Free Asia that focuses on workers' struggles in China and reaches an estimated audience of 40 million.

A former squad leader in the People's Liberation Army and railway maintenance worker, Han joined the PRC's first independent trade union, the Beijing Workers Autonomous Federation, one day after it was founded in May 1989. He became its leader before the Chinese government banned the organization and sent troops to fire on pro-democracy advocates at Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989. The Chinese government placed Han on its "most wanted" list in the crackdown that followed, and Han spent 22 months in Chinese prison before being released on medical parole in 1991. Han tried to return to China in 1993, but the Chinese government forcibly expelled him for "opposing and attacking China, betraying it and his Chinese citizenship, and undermining the interests of the country."

Han, his wife, and three children now live in Hong Kong. Han is a frequent speaker at international labor movement, NGO, and government-sponsored conferences around the world.

Wang Dan, Harvard University, former Tiananmen Square Student Leader

Wang Dan was placed at the top of the Chinese government's "Most Wanted Beijing Student Leaders" for his leadership role in the pro-democracy Tiananmen Square protests in the spring of 1989. Wang played a key role in organizing "democracy salons" at Beijing University to discuss politically sensitive topics prior to the Tiananmen Movement. Wang spent four years in prison before he was released in February 1993. After two years under close police surveillance, barred from returning to his studies, and subject to official harassment, Wang was rearrested in 1995. He was sentenced to eleven years imprisonment for "plotting to subvert the government," but was released in 1998 and exiled to the United States.

He is currently completing a dissertation at Harvard University on "A Comparative Study of Political Terror in Taiwan in the 1950s" and remains active in working for greater human rights, democracy, and rule of law for the citizens of China.

Lorne Whitney Craner, President, International Republican Institute

Lorne Whitney Craner returned to the International Republican Institute (IRI) as President in 2004 after a three-year term as Assistant Secretary of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor under Secretary of State Colin Powell. Among his accomplishments as Assistant Secretary, Mr. Craner sharpened the Bush administration's focus on human rights in Central Asia and initiated the first U.S. government programs to promote democracy in China. Craner received the State Department's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, in 2004.

Mr. Craner joined the International Republican Institute, which conducts programs outside the United States to promote democracy, free markets, and the rule of law, in 1993 as Vice President for Programs. He served as IRI President from 1995 until his appointment as Assistant Secretary. Prior to joining IRI, Mr. Craner served as Director of Asian Affairs at the National Security Council (1992-93), Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs (1989-1992), and Senator John McCain's foreign policy advisor (1986-1989). Mr. Craner is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and sits on the boards of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, the Chairman's Advisory Council of the U.S. Institute of Peace, and Internews Network, a nonprofit organization supporting open media worldwide.

Mr. Craner received his Masters degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Reed College.

John Kamm, Founder and Director, The Dui Hua Foundation

John Kamm, businessman and human rights activist, is the founder and director of the Dui Hua Foundation (“dui hua” means “dialogue” in Chinese). The non-profit Dui Hua Foundation works to engage the Chinese government in constructive dialogue to improve human rights, secure the release and better treatment of political and religious prisoners, and promote the rule of law. The Foundation maintains a political prisoner database with over 10,000 detainee names, and conducts open source research to reveal information about political arrests as well as information on the Chinese legal and penal systems.

Kamm has been engaged in human rights work in China since 1972, and was an early advocate of corporate responsibility. He has intervened on behalf of hundreds of Chinese detainees and prisoners of conscience and traveled to China more than 70 times since 1990. Kamm was awarded the Department of Commerce’s Best Global Practices Award by President Bill Clinton in 1997 and the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights by President George W. Bush in 2001. In September 2004, Kamm received a MacArthur Fellowship for “designing and implementing an original approach to freeing prisoners of conscience in China.” Kamm is the first businessman to be awarded a MacArthur Fellowship, which recognizes “individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary originality and dedication to their creative pursuits and who have contributed importantly to society through their work.”

Kamm is an honorary professor at the Guangzhou Foreign Trade Institute and Qingdao University in China, and a visiting professor at Beijing’s Renmin University. He directs the Project in Human Rights Diplomacy at Stanford University and is a director of the National Committee on US-China Relations.

Kamm was the Hong Kong representative of the National Council for US-China Trade from 1976 to 1981 and president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong in 1990. He holds an undergraduate degree from Princeton University and a Masters from Harvard University.

Nicolas Becquelin, Human Rights Watch

Nicolas Becquelin has served as Human Rights Watch's Hong Kong-based China researcher since January 2006. Prior to joining HRW, he served in 2002 as Senior Researcher and from 2003-2005 as Research Director and Legal Representative for Human Rights in China (HRIC). In 2001, Dr. Becquelin received his doctorate in Chinese History from the School for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences in Paris, having worked primarily with the Research Center in Modern and Contemporary China. From 1996 to 1999 he was a Research Fellow at the French Center for Research on Contemporary China.