

Event: Workshop on “OBOR strategy and Its Implications for International Migration and Socio-ecological Changes”

Organizer: Asian Population Association (APA) Scientific Group on One-Belt-One-Road Strategy: Implication on Population Dynamics and Socio-Ecological Impacts

Host: Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI), Shanghai University

Dates: Oct. 10-11, 2017

Location: Shanghai, China

Submission deadline: May 1, 2017

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The implementation of the One-Belt-One-Road (OBOR) strategy initiated by the Chinese government in 2013 and the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in 2015 to back the initiative have attracted enormous attention from academic scholars and the public arena. The OBOR strategy is indeed likely to generate an important impact in the regions along the land based Silk Road Economic Belt on the Eurasian continent and the ocean-going Maritime Silk Road linking Asia, Europe and Africa. Driven by large scale investments in infrastructure, improved transportation and communication facilities, economic collaborations, educational and cultural exchanges across countries and regions, flows of financial resources, materials, information, and population are already in place and will increasingly affect population and socio-economic dynamics in Asia. The OBOR initiative will enhance international and internal migration, contribute to changes in population growth and population compositions (by age, education, rural/urban residence, religion, nationality), as well as in the spatial distribution. It will in turn lead to changes in labor productivity, consumption patterns and lifestyles, and consequently generate opportunities and challenges to economic growth, social integration, resource use and environmental protection.

In line with the vision of the Asian Population Association (APA) to be a central scientific platform in bringing together professions and institutions working on emerging population issues within the region and around the globe, the APA scientific group (SG) on “OBOR Strategy: Implications on Population Dynamics and Socio-ecological Impacts” was established in September 2016. The SG aims to (1) explore the consequences of the OBOR initiative on population dynamics with a focus on internal and international migration, and (2) investigate the impacts of population changes induced by the OBOR initiative on environmental issues and socioeconomic outlook.

The APA SG on OBOR, in collaboration with Asian Demographic Research Institute (ADRI) at Shanghai University and the Asian MetaCentre for Population and Sustainable Development Analysis, will hold the first workshop “OBOR strategy and Its Implications for International Migration and Socio-ecological Changes” on Oct. 10-11, 2017 in Shanghai, China. The workshop will focus on the countries and regions along the OBOR and the themes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Estimation and projection of international migration along OBOR at regional, national, and subnational levels
- Investigating and modeling the socio-demographic profiles of international migrants

- Effects of international migration on population dynamics and spatial distribution in the origin and destination
- Economic, social, demographic, and environmental drivers of international migration
- Social and economic integration of international migrants and the impacts of increased migration on countries of origin and destination
- Effects of international migration on national and regional economic growth, technological development, and environmental/climate change

Please send your extended abstract (2-4 pages containing research questions/hypotheses, data sources, methods, and key findings) or full paper (5,000 to 6,000 words) to Yu Zhang zhang.yu.sh@qq.com. Please also include a short biography of a maximum of 100 words. The deadline for submission is May 15, 2017. The workshop will have about 20 participants. ADRI has limited funding to cover travel and local costs. Priority will be given to participants from low-income countries, in particular to students. The list of participants will be announced by June 1, 2017. Selected papers, after review and revision, are eligible to be published as a special issue of a peer review international journal.

Scientific Committee members:

Leiwen Jiang; Mohanmmmad Jalal Abbasi-Shavazi; Jesus Crespo Cuaresma; Jane Folkingham; Raya Muttarak; Brenda Yeoh