

## East Asianists and the Job Market

### October 15th, 2012

On Oct. 15th, 2012, three graduates of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna presented themselves and their experiences on the job market to the audience. After a brief introduction, they elaborated on fears and expectations prior to their job entry as well as experiences of finding a job. Students of all study programs of our Department showed great interest and actively took part in the discussion.



**Sandra Bauer** studied Sinology and East Asian Economy and Society. She is currently working as Editor/Project Manager for MSF (*Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders* in Vienna). She mentioned that for her it was important to develop additional fields of interests and to gain work experience in these fields. She worked part-time for medical newspapers during her whole course of studies and was therefore able to present valuable work experience when she entered the job market. Accordingly, she emphasized the significance of work experience combined with knowledge acquired by studies of specific fields of interest.

**Chang Yuan Li** received degrees in Sinology and International Business from the University of Vienna. Together with his business partner, he has been running his own business named *LiWiener Printing Solutions* since 2006. The company specialized in digital fine art printing and provides services in printing solutions, colour management consulting and software development. He recommended participation in Summer Schools or related programmes that provide opportunities to improve language skills or offer a better understanding of business in China. As students showed great interest in how to launch a China-related enterprise, Mr Li elaborated on the risks and chances of working with Chinese business partners and suggested to be prepared for challenges of finding financial sponsorship.

**Christoph Klose** received an MA in Social and Economic Sciences and a Doctor of Philosophy in Japanese Studies. He has been holding the lecture series "Politics of Japan" and "Politics and Economics of Japan" at the Department of East Asian Studies at Vienna University, and is currently employed at the *United Nations Industrial Development Organization* (UNIDO) in Vienna. He advised students to think positively about a future job position, but to keep expectations realistic at the same time. He recommended to not only focus on language studies, but to combine language skills with other qualifications. He also stated that grades are not as important as experience, no matter whether at work or in research.

All three graduates agreed that professional experience besides the course of studies is of great importance and will have substantial influence on one's professional path. They also highly recommend presenting a variety of skills including at least two different subject areas, such as language skills in addition to specific knowledge of economy, society or politics.

*The lecture and discussion series on "East Asianists and the Job Market" was established by Prof. Rüdiger Frank with financial support by the Department of East Asian Studies in 2010. It is designed to improve the employability of our future graduates by inviting their peers and senior representatives from typical employment fields for intensive discussions and exchanges.*