

Activity Report

On May,25th, 2014, the Research Institute of Marxism (RIM), Peking University, successfully organized a public lecture held by Dr. Gregor Gysi, chair of the *Die Linke* parliamentary group in the Bundestag, on the subject “*Die Linke* and the left politics in Germany”. The staff and graduate students – around 80 people - from Peking University as well as the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS), Renmin University, Beijing University of Forestry and partner organizations of RLS in China participated in this event.

Focusing on this issue, Mr. Gysi gave a very comprehensive introduction to the development of the left politics since the reunification of two Germanys as well as the evolution of the *Die Linke* as a left party since then. The major questions discussed in his lecture include 1) How to rethink the “old politics” in East Germany before 1989 - obviously, not all of them are bad or inefficient; 2) How to understand advantages and/or disadvantages of socialist and capitalist politics and policy - both of them can do something better than others; 3) How to evaluate the reality of *Die Linke* as well as the left politics in Germany or EU today - they are facing both quite a lot of challenges and opportunities. Then, he analyzed in great detail the similarities and differences of the major policies of the three left parties in Germany: *Die Linke*, SPD and *Die Gruenen*. His main points are that there are indeed obvious political differences/disputes among them—that is why they could not thus far form a grand left coalition at the federal level at the time being; however, this fact does not mean they cannot work together even bat the federal politic level. Finally, Dr. Gysi answered questions raised by the participants, such as the near future of *Die Linke* in the electoral politics of Germany and Europe.

Before the lecture, the dean of RIM, Prof. Guo Jinanning and the vice dean, Prof. Bai Xueqiu, met with Dr. Gysi and Dr. Lutz Pohle, the chief

representative of the RLS Beijing office. Prof. Guo expressed his great appreciation that the RLS Beijing has decided to conduct a long-term cooperation with RIM, and Dr. Pohle responded with saying that he has a very high expectation with the collaboration between the two sides.

Prof. Huan Qingzhi – an expert in European green-left politics -- and his team are a newly established cooperative partner of the RLS Beijing. In the following years, he will be in collaboration with the RLS to co-create the “BeiDa—Rosa Luxemburg Forum” at Peking University. Through organizing international conferences, lectures and publications, the forum aims to disseminate the core values of democratic socialism such as equity, freedom and justice; promote the Sino-German/European collaborate study of red-green political and social theories and movements; and encourage the Sino-German/European exchange and dialogue of left political and political parties. In fact, Dr. Gysi’s lecture symbolizes the formal “kick off” of this Forum.

Prof. Huan Qingzhi, April 2014