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## How Canada contributed to China's remarkable transformation through university partnerships and knowledge diplomacy

History can sometimes surprise people. Although few now realize that Singapore, a tiny city-state, played an important role in deciding China's path for its political and economic reform, less remember that Canadian universities played a key role in the early years of China's opening up to the world in the 1980s and 1990s. With a typical Canadian tendency to self-effacement, major programs of collaboration with universities in China have largely been unnoted or forgotten, and it seemed that no one made an effort to investigate their long-term contributions. *Canadian Universities in China's Transformation: An Untold Story* will help to fill this gap. Presenting the story of universities working together shortly after the devastating Cultural Revolution, this volume is a unique account of partnerships in knowledge production and application and their resulting impacts.

Specifically, three major national-level programs were at the scene. The Canada-China Management Education Program (CCMEP) linked eight major national universities on both sides, expanding to draw in other universities into a series of mini-networks. This program operated from 1983 to 1996, with C\$39.7 million in funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Canada-China University Linkage Program (CCULP) included a wide range of universities, both national and local, on both sides. It embraced projects in medicine, nursing, agriculture, engineering, urban infrastructure, environment, education and minority cultures, and ran from 1988 to 1995, with C\$19 million in funding from CIDA. The Special University Linkage Consolidation Program (SULCP) provided ongoing funding for the consolidation of 11 CCULP projects, with a budget of C\$10 million, and ran from 1996 to 2001.

In addition to these three programs, there was a wide range of other projects in human-resource development involving diverse partners, including community colleges, the business community and a range of non-governmental organizations. A total of about C\$250 million was expended by CIDA on higher education between 1981 and 2001. Canadian universities played a key role in all these programs of collaboration. At the time, Canadian development aid for Chinese universities was unique in that Canada was the only Western country to engage with Chinese universities at a major programmatic level.

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The York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR) is one of Canada's largest and most active communities of scholars working on East, South and Southeast Asia as well as Asian migrant communities around the world.

The Centre includes faculty, graduate students and research associates from the social sciences, humanities, fine arts, law and business.

YCAR facilitates and supports research projects, knowledge exchange and graduate student training, as well as engagement with wider communities in the conduct or dissemination of research. YCAR is located on York University's Keele campus.

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In this book, leading scholars from Canadian and Chinese universities elaborate on the historical experience of collaboration in areas as different as environmental sciences, marine science, engineering, management, law, agriculture, medicine, education, minority cultures and women's studies. Contributors use theoretical frames such as dependency theory, human capital, the knowledge economy and Habermas's theory of communicative action, to facilitate a striking dialogue between Canadian and Chinese perspectives as common questions are addressed.

The authors provide key insights into factors that ensured the long-term success of some partnerships, as well as barriers that hindered others and vivid lessons for current collaboration. Case studies include a project that began with the training of Chinese judges developing into reciprocal programs in legal education in China, Canada and Latin America, and an examination of how joint environmental research has had policy impacts at the national level in China and more broadly at the international level.