



Gregory Chin of York University's Department of Political Science and York Centre for Asian Research and a Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo, spoke about the role of emerging donors in Afghanistan, in particular China and India. Prof. Chin explained that the issues of Afghanistan and its neighboring regional power, Pakistan, is an important one for China and India not only in the realm of regional stability, but also for Canadian strategic interests. In his presentation, Mr. Chin did not agree with assigning China to the category of "emerging donors" since providing development assistance to a country such as Afghanistan and other regions of the world - Caribbean, Latin America, Africa - is not new for China. What is new, however, is China's and India's rise as economies and how their rise "**affects the development paradigm in the global South.**" In regard to China's role in Afghanistan, Prof. Chin said that the country has provided hundreds of millions of aid in U.S. dollars to Afghanistan, trained Afghan military and police, worked with international community on drug trafficking problems, anti-terrorism efforts and border management issues. He also talked about some Chinese reconstruction and investment projects in Afghanistan and concluded by saying that China's role in Afghanistan is very important. Afghanistan is also the largest recipient of aid from India, a country that has virtually no history of cooperation in development assistance, but as a democracy is a valuable partner for Western donors as its contributions in Afghanistan are significant. Similarly, the speaker told the participants about some of India's projects in Afghanistan. Mr. Chin also made an interesting comparison between China and India as regional players and their role in Afghanistan as well as how these two Asian powers position themselves as providers of development assistance. Mr. Chin's observation was that both China and India would be restructuring the mechanisms of their development assistance programs in the nearest future.

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