

# Book Launch: Who owns China's land and housing?

Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, Monday 14 May, 18:45-20:45



In less than two decades, China's real estate underwent an economic explosion. Real estate has pushed forward an unprecedented urbanization, driving up housing prices to levels never imagined, and leading to an affluent elite owning multiple properties. Few realize that the ownership structure for land and housing was critical in propelling the Chinese boom.

At the same time, the structure is becoming a major problem – its ambiguity leads to risks, speculation, evictions, urban sprawl, and a growing divide between rich and poor. In this context, the Chinese state has taken the decision to set up a fundamental institution: a registry that brings together all data over space and land, that what is on top of it, and beneath.

Though ambitious in scale and novel in design, the establishment of a land registry has met with considerable obstruction due to an unsolved question: Who owns the land and housing? In light of revolutionary land reforms and expropriations for property development, it should not be a surprise that the question is extremely difficult to answer. In this lecture, Prof. Peter Ho presented his new book *Unmaking China's Development* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) that *does* provide the answer...

The event was opened by the Dutch Deputy Ambassador, Bas Pulles, with the Cultural Attaché, Ineke van de Pol, chairing. The event was well-attended with representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources of China, the Ford Foundation, CITIC, the Wall Street Journal, the Singapore Straits Times, and the Dutch Financial Daily.

## Program

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| 18.45-19.00 | - Registration  |
| 19.00-19.10 | - Opening by the Deputy Ambassador Bas Pulles   |
| 19.10-19.40 | - Presentation by Professor Peter Ho  |
| 19.40-19.50 | - Comments by Professor Liu Shouying, Renmin University and former Vice Director General, State Council Development Research Centre |
| 19.50-20.15 | - Q&A   |
| 20.15-20.45 | - Drinks and snacks   |

## Venue and time

This lecture took place at the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, Liangmahe Nanlu No. 4, Monday 14 May from 18.45 to 20.45.