Integration of Minority Groups for a more Socially Sustainable China

E-Participation as a Potential Solution?
Why China Matters?

China is becoming an important International Agenda-setter!
China Facing Domestic Challenges

- Income Disparities
- Inter-ethnic Tensions
China Facing Domestic Challenges

- Xinjiang Protest: the Shocking “7.5 Riots”
Minority Inclusion as a National Priority

- **Ethnic Minorities:**
  - 9% of the total population
  - 100 million people
  - 55 different ethnic groups
Minority Inclusion as a National Priority

Central government has recognized the significance of reducing social inequality

Economically-focused development policy

Social well-being-focused development policy

CHINESE DREAM: "National rejuvenation, improvement of people’s livelihoods, prosperity, construction of a better society and military strengthening."
What impacts these policy changes will have on ethnic minorities in China?

How to implement national policies in local communities?

What is lacking in China is adequate mechanisms to facilitate meaningful participation of the indigenous ethnic groups in local governance processes.
Is E-Participation a potential solution?

• E-participation:

Facilitating connections between citizens and their local government

ICT

Reinforce political-participation
Is E-Participation a potential solution?

- **PPGIS:**
  - A special platform of e-participation
  - Identifying loci of social phenomena
  - Allowing for empowerment and inclusion of marginalized population
  - Dialogue is achieved through spatial and visual E-technology
China’s “Blood-stained Housing Map”

Using Google Maps to plot evictions, deaths, etc. resulting from land grabs across the country.
Using technology and ICT to map incidents of sexual harassment and assault in Egyptian cities.
IDRC Project on Sustainable Cities
Sharing Knowledge on PPGIS:
Engaging Urban Indigenous Minorities in Western China
2013 - 2015

Project website:
http://www.chinaeam.uottawa.ca/ppgis.html
Responding to China’s Global Re-emergence

- E-participation is a potential solution to include ethnic minorities in China.
- Canada was ranked 11th among the most advanced in e-governance technology; China was 78th in 2010.
- Western countries can play a definitive role in shaping a future for socially sustainable development in China via E-technology.
- This requires a shift in the approach countries take in their foreign policy toward China.
Responding to China’s Global Re-emergence

- China is now a major power inside the mainstream of international society.
- Canada and the international community can play an active role in assisting China to become a soft power and an effective international leader.
- China can benefit substantially from knowledge transfer, given Canada’s leading expertise in e-participation technology.
Thanks! Merci!
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