



## Miriam Schroeder

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“It is very useful to get feedback from evaluators on how to measure the impact of an organization on market transformation.”

Representing the climate change research community and currently in the process of completing her PhD, Miriam Schroeder is contributing to the project “Emerging modes of governance and climate protection: green companies in newly industrializing countries,” implemented by the University of Potsdam. The rationale for the project is that, to date, research has focused on governments, NGOs,

and international organizations, whereas the role of the private sector and its incentives to get involved in climate change mitigation efforts, especially in newly industrializing countries, has yet to be properly investigated.

As part of her dissertation work, Schroeder focuses on China, where she looks at the effectiveness of provincial Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) centres, semi-public organizations working toward promoting CDM projects among local companies and industries. Schroeder explains that throughout China, there are about 200 private consultancy firms working on promoting CDM projects, although they are mostly clustered in large urban areas. Provincial CDM centres fill the gap in China’s rural areas and are supposed to act as catalysts between government and the private sector.

Since 2005, China has become much more active in the climate change arena and has declared that the issue will be a central consideration in its energy policies. However, Schroeder maintains, although the potential for CDM in China is enormous, there is still a lack of capacity and knowledge at the local level. Provincial CDM centres are one approach to remedy this situation and are meant to provide the information and tools for local companies to get involved in CDM initiatives.

According to Schroeder, when provincial CDM centres were first set up, target companies and businesses were skeptical, comparing CDM to a “cake falling from the sky.” The idea that developed countries would pay for carbon credits was not something that people really grasped. With the launch of the CDM market in 2005 and with the set up of private CDM consultancies and some provincial CDM centres, project owners, financial institutions, and government officials became more aware of the issue and of incentives to become involved in climate change mitigation. In the meantime, projects have been started and are successfully underway.

To help evaluate the institutional impact of the provincial CDM centres on local CDM market development, Schroeder put her social science skills to use and conducted extensive interviews with donor organizations, Chinese central and provincial governments, the CDM centres, Beijing-based project developers and buyers, provincial project owners, developers, NGOs, and researchers. She also employed a “peer group assessment” in her evaluation, which provided quantitative data on awareness levels within the CDM centres’ target audience. Schroeder believes that “doing this ‘peer group assessment’ as an approach to triangulating perspectives might be an interesting approach also for other forms of evaluation.” To round off her investigation, she found that the approach employed by Eric Martinot in 1998 to measure transformation of renewable energy markets could be used to help draw conclusions in her own study ([www.martinot.info/Martinot\\_WB66.pdf](http://www.martinot.info/Martinot_WB66.pdf)).

Reflecting on the conference experience, Schroeder says that she gained useful insights from participants on institutional impact evaluation methods. She also says that she attended the conference for two reasons: “to share the China experience and to see whether opportunities exist for replication,” illustrating her desire to test whether the concept of provincial CDM centres can serve as a model for other countries facing similar conditions.

Fortuitously, she discovered that similar centres are already being set up in India, another mega nation. Indian colleagues at the conference informed her of these “nodal agencies,” which are “state-level institutions with apparently similar functions as the CDM centres but still in the process of being set up.” She notes that “the Indian example shows that there is a demand in large countries to decentralize and enable local players to engage in CDM.” It also provides her with an example to learn from and compare to.

Schroeder says she found the lack of Chinese representation at the conference somewhat of a drawback, because “China has such a high relevance for any climate regime, and good monitoring and evaluation of Chinese mitigation and CDM projects is still a bottleneck.”

Schroeder found that the evaluation community had a lot to share during the conference. She reflects that “it was an eye opener on the need for scalability; on shifting focus from the project level to a wider scope, and also on the need to communicate results on a political level.” She has come away with useful information that will help her complete her PhD research and contribute to developing replicable capacity development strategies to encourage local efforts to combat climate change.

For Miriam Schroeder’s conference presentation, please see [www.esdevaluation.org/images/Mitigation\\_Schroeder.ppt](http://www.esdevaluation.org/images/Mitigation_Schroeder.ppt)

For additional information, please visit her project’s website at [www.sfb-governance.de/cdm](http://www.sfb-governance.de/cdm) or Schroeder’s homepage at [www.sfb-governance.de/en/teilprojekte/projektbereich\\_d/d3/teamd3/schroeder.html](http://www.sfb-governance.de/en/teilprojekte/projektbereich_d/d3/teamd3/schroeder.html)