

COLLOQUIUM BY ZHANG BING

DOES ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION AFFECT LABOR DEMAND IN CHINA?

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Does Environmental Regulation Affect Labor Demand in China? – Evidence from the Textile Printing and Dyeing Industry

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ABSTRACT:

Developed countries, including the United States and Western Europe, have, for the most part, addressed most of their major environmental concerns. On the other hand, developing countries, including China, are just beginning to figure out how to balance economic development with the desire to address numerous severe environmental problems. In this paper, we use two enterprise-level data sets – China's Environmental Statistics Database (2002-2007) and China's Industrial Enterprise Database (2002-2007) to estimate the impact of a more stringent wastewater discharge standard for all the textile printing and dyeing enterprises in Lake Tai, Jiangsu region on labor demand. We find that enterprises which face this new more stringent standard decreased labor demand by approximately 7%, which is consistent with the current literature. Furthermore, we find that the new standard had heterogeneous impacts on different types of enterprises that the more stringent discharge standard has particularly large negative effects on employment in domestically-owned private enterprises, but little or no impact on public or foreign-owned enterprises.

BIO:

Dr. Bing ZHANG is a professor of environmental policy at School of Environment and School of Government at Nanjing University. He is also the director of Center for Environmental Management and Policy Analysis which is supported by Nanjing University and Jiangsu Environmental Protection Department. He holds a doctorate in Environmental Planning and Management from Nanjing University and Rutgers University. His research focuses on environmental governance system in China. He examines detailed regulation design on regulating pollution and GHGs in China, as well as its impacts on industrial competitiveness, structural dynamics and social welfare.