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INTERNATIONAL  
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**International Think Tank Issues  
Critical Report On China and Globalization**

The International Forum on Globalization (IFG) presents a report analyzing how China's emergence as an export powerhouse affects Chinese workers, the environment, rural communities, and other issues. On the eve of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial in Hong Kong—with the eyes of the world on China— *China Copes With Globalization: A Mixed Review* also discusses the implications of China's WTO membership, including perspectives on textile trade, and internal policy debates within China.

Visiting IFG scholar and author Dale Wen, a native of China, offers unique perspectives about China's transformation toward a market-oriented economy that are not commonly known in the West. Along with many other countries, China is experiencing the paradox of globalization—economic indicators may rise; yet often are accompanied by an increase in the gap between the rich and the poor; loss of jobs and livelihoods; a decrease in social benefits such as health care and education; and loss of cultural and communal relationships.

These are some of the highlights from the report:

- The gap between the “haves” and the “have nots” has increased dramatically since China's adoption of a market-oriented economy. In the early 1980s, the richest 10 percent of the population earned less than 20 percent of the national income. By 2005, the top 10 percent earned 45 percent of the income.
- Contrary to popular perception, China is experiencing a net loss of manufacturing jobs. From 1995 to 2002 manufacturing jobs decreased overall by 15 percent.
- By 1978 around 85 percent of the rural population was covered by health care; today, more than 80 percent of rural dwellers do not have any form of health care.
- “Green” technology is not a panacea to clean up China's environment. China's State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) estimates that although water treatment facilities are installed in most major industrial plants, about one-third are not operated at all and another one-third operate occasionally. This is because the fines levied by SEPA are less than the expenses of using the “green” technology.

Many believe that China is at a crossroad. China's response to increasing social unrest, along with its massive ecological problems, has implications not only for its 1.2 billion citizens but for the entire planet. *China Copes With Globalization: A Mixed Review* examines some of the social movements in China calling for alternatives to the current global economic model.