



Save-The-Date Message/ Ankündigungstext Veranstaltung taz Berlin 20.10 2014

Environmental advocacy and citizens self-organization in Europe and in China

Location: taz Conference Room, first (Chinese second) floor, Rudi-Dutschke-Str. 23, 10969 Berlin

(U-Bahn: Linie 6 Kochstraße)

Time: 14.45-19.00 Uhr (2.45 pm- 7 pm)

Target groups:

- Students of development policies/international relations/china studies
- NGO staff/ associations dealing with climate change, environmental protection, human rights, green finances, sustainable agricultural, chemical Safety, capacity building NGOs, Zero-waste

Content:

How do organizations and NGOs in Germany, as in China work? What is the root of our civil society? How it all began in the 1970's? Which role played the media and press freedom? How to organize civil society campaigns in Germany or on the European level? Is advocacy work possible in an authoritarian state like China?

The focus of this seminar is the development of our civil society and NGOs. Together with our Chinese participants of the EU-China NGO Twinning program (www.eu-china-twinning.org) we want to explore the differences and similarities of the working conditions for NGOs. The speakers are recognized experts in their respective field of work and can draw on many years of experience in NGO work. The Chinese participants represent seven different NGOs working in the fields of bank monitoring, zero-waste, agriculture, chemical safety, climate change, and NGO-training.

Please register for participation because space is limited, entrance free.

Contact: Nora Sausmikat, Stiftung Asienhaus, n.sausmikat@asienhaus.de

Program: How do civil societies organize in Europe and in China?	
2:45 pm	Welcome and introduction to the seminar Dr. Nora Sausmikat (Stiftung Asienhaus)
3:00-4:10 pm	Short introduction of the twinnings, their organizations and their topics (each 10 minutes)
4:10-4:40 pm	Citizens self-organization and press freedom in Germany Sven Hansen (taz- editor Asia) (20 min Input/10 min discussion)
4:40-5:10 pm	How do I organize a national campaign Jochen Fritz (Kampagne meine-landwirtschaft.de) (20 min Input/10 min discussion)
5:10-5:25 pm	Tea Break
5:25-5:55 pm	Policy, persuasion and press - EU environmental advocacy Alison Abrahams (EEB Brussels, The European Environmental Bureau) (20 min Input/10 min discussion)
5:55-6:25 pm	Campaign “ Sootfree for the Climate” (http://www.russfrei-fuers- klima.de/) Dorothee Saar (DUH Berlin, Director traffic and air pollution control) (20 min Input/10 min discussion)
6:25-7:00 pm	Discussion and concluding remarks
7:00 pm	Dinner

Background information on program and Chinese participants:

EU-China NGO Twinning Program (www.eu-china-twinning.org): The EU-China NGO-Twinning program is an exchange program for the staff of European and Chinese Non-governmental or Non-profit Organizations and think tanks. It aims at establishing sustainable partnerships and cooperation between Civil Society Organizations from both regions. It is organized by the Stiftung Asienhaus and supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

2014 Twinners:

Global Environmental Institute (Beijing) and the CEE Bankwatch Network (Czech Republic) are focusing on environmental and social risk assessment methodologies that are applied by European banks and wish to cooperate on researching Chinese investment in European countries.

Nature University Fund (Beijing) and Arnika Association (Czech Republic) aim to realize a joint project under the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) to improve capacities of ENGOs in their involvement in policy making, establish advocacy actions, and generate new data for a better implementation of local and national chemical safety policies.

Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center (Kunming) and Save-our-Seeds (Germany) will exchange on pesticide issue, eco-agriculture and biosafety/GMO.

Wuhu Ecology Center (Wuhu) and Let's Do it Foundation (Estonia) are both focused on waste management, including community activities to promote Clean-Up Events, „zero waste“ strategies, waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

Beijing Farmers Market (Beijing) and International Federation of Organic Agriculture (Germany) will focus on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (Beijing) and Sandbag Climate Campaign (UK) will collaborate on a detailed analysis of how the trial carbon markets will work in China, looking at available trading data and bringing together media and analysis on the topic.

Beijing Huizeren (Beijing) and Pro Bono Lab (France) will focus on capacity building for NGOs. In applying Probono services, they will increase their capabilities, as well as drive social innovation and solve social issues.