



EU-China NGO-Twiner Exchange Programm

A project of the Asia Foundation supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

Some Background information

The Need for Civil Society and NGO Cooperation

The political, economic and cultural relations between Europe and China have been growing over the last years as well as the impact of Europe, China and European-Chinese relations on global social and ecological developments.

At the same time exchange and cooperation between institutions, organizations, science and business between both regions have deepened – but exchange between civil society organizations and NGOs is still weak – let alone long term and sustainable cooperation between them.

There are different reasons for that. But it is important to overcome obstacles, because personal contacts, trust-building relations and cooperation between civil society organizations and NGOs can contribute to a better understanding of developments in both regions and strengthen forces working for sustainable development.

China becomes more and more important for European NGOs working on climate change, food safety, labor rights, environmental protection, agrarian issues or youth exchange. Yet, Chinese NGOs get more and more professionalized and involved in international cooperations – especially in the field of climate change and environmental protection. This seems to be the perfect time for an exchange program.

This program could be innovative and influential in many ways: The participants will become multiplier and ambassadors of participation concepts and more effective ways of getting involved in social, ecological and political developments in both regions. Above that, this exchange program will strengthen network building and alliances between Chinese and European organization and therefore contribute to a just and peaceful world. The missing information on Chinese developments will be channel directly into important multiplier organisations in Europe. At the same time, Chinese NGOs will get important insights into working methods of European NGOs, will form alliances and get involved in the discourse on the “Great Transformation”. Again, these processes will enable more Chinese NGOs, think tanks and grassroot activists to participate in international debates. It supports professionalization and internationalization and enables organizations from both regions to development joint visions for a better future.

From Personal Encounters to Long-term Partnerships through Exchange of NGO-Staff-members

There are different ways to strengthen dialogue and exchange: short-term visits and dialogue programs, joint long-term trainings and education programs or support for internships.

But to help to develop long-term partnerships and co-operation one step more would be useful: an exchange program that gives staff-members of CSO and NGOs the opportunity to work for a certain period of time (i.e. between 6 and 8 weeks) in a thematically similar oriented organization in the other region. During this time the basis could be laid for common projects and future cooperation.

We are aware that one precondition must be met by the participating organizations and staff members in Europe as well as in China: Language is one of the challenges. Because only few staff-members of European NGOs speak Chinese, and only few Chinese speak another European language than English, the receiving organization must provide an English working environment.

We appreciate that the Robert Bosch Foundation has shown its readiness to develop such an exchange project together with us, the German Asia Foundation.

Pilot Project from September 27, 2012, till March 2013

In this first phase, the grounds for the exchange project should be laid and first exchange programs should be undertaken.

1. a survey will be conducted among Chinese and European NGOs to clarify the conditions under which NGOs can participate and to define the organizational structure of the future project and especially the financial conditions under which participation is possible.
2. the project will be discussed with Chinese NGOs in Beijing (September 27 in the frame of the EU-China Dialogue on Disclosure of Information) and with European NGOs and potential co-funders in Cologne or Brussels end of January/ beginning of February 2013.
3. From November 2012 till February 2013 first experimental exchanges (duration 4 weeks) will take place.

On the basis of these experiences the final structure of the project will be further developed. It is aimed to involve 10 Chinese and 10 European organizations per year in the exchange program. The German Asia Foundation is an experienced player in EU-China exchange programs. For more information see:

- http://www.eu-china.net/german/Materialien/EU-China-Civil-Society-Forum_2010_Global-Concerns-Global-Cooperation.html und
- http://www.eu-china.net/german/Materialien/Sausmikat-Nora-Fritsche-Klaus-Eds._2010_Civil-Society-in-European-Chinese-Relations.html
- http://www.eu-china.net/german/Materialien/Sausmikat-Nora_2010_Community-Building-and-Grassroots-NGOs.html
- http://www.eu-china.net/german/Materialien/Sausmikat-Nora_2009_Civil-Society-Dilemmas-in-Dealing-with-China.html
- http://www.eu-china.net/german/Nachrichten/2011.11.30_EU-China-Civil-Society-Dialogue-on-Informal-Work-and-Migration.html
- http://www.eu-china.net/web/cms/upload/pdf/nachrichten/26_08_11-Press-Release-Dialogue2.pdf.



Questionnaire:

Please send your responses to:

China Program of the Asia Foundation
Hohenzollernring 52
50672 Köln
Email: china-programm@asienhaus.de
Phone: 0221-71612112

Name, organization, contact

Topics

- In what area/topic your organization is dealing with international issues?
- Are there topics here, in which China plays a role?

If yes:

- How important are these topics in your work?
- What issues are they about?
- What are the challenges for your work here?

Exchange Programs

- Do you have contacts with NGOs in Asia, Africa or Latin America?
- Are there any exchange programs with NGOs from these regions? If so - on what subjects and which countries?
- How important are these contacts / this exchange for your work?
- Are you generally interested in learning more about non-governmental organizations from China?

Trainees in your organization

- Does your organization provide space for trainees/ space for short-term guest project managers? For how long? What are the requirements?
- Could you imagine to include an employee of a Chinese NGOs as an trainee/ guest project manager? In which subject area? What requirements would you place on such a guest / such a trainee?
- How long should such a placement be in your opinion? Is the placement of an English-speaking trainee possible without hindrances?
- What support you can afford - organizationally, financially?

Sending your employees to temporarily work in a Chinese NGO

- Can you imagine one of your employees / one of your staff exempt for a limited time for working in a Chinese NGOs?
- If yes, for how long and in what subject area you think this is desirable - are three months is an acceptable time period?
- What do you hope to gain from this exchange for your organization?
- What financial requirements must be given to you?