



## Symposium

(by invitation only)

### Urbanization Processes and Participation in German-Chinese Partnerships

Organized by the City of Cologne and the Asia House Foundation

**September 27th, 2016**

1.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

**VHS-Forum, Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum, Cäcilienstraße 29-33, 50667 Köln**

In 2012, the European Union and China, followed by Germany and China in 2014, agreed at the highest political level to formulate the details of an “urbanization partnership.” These decisions are testament to the dynamic transformation brought about by China’s modernization and to the great social and environmental challenges facing the country. Following a two-year period of preparation, the German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership was launched in June 2016. This new political platform will focus on issues of sustainability, environmental protection and infrastructure, as well as business and innovation. It will also encompass topics such as the urban-rural relationship and urban governance. The relationship with China, previously rooted at the national level, will gradually be filled with life through municipal and regional exchanges.

China’s urbanization plans are highly ambitious: In the future, nearly half of the population will live in five giant urban clusters. During the next 10 years, 250 million people are to be “urbanized.” While 52% of Chinese currently live in cities, 70% are expected to do so in 2025. This puts pressure on local governments to build adequate housing and relocate the rural population, as well as to find innovative solutions for transportation and industry with respect to climate change mitigation. As Ben Barber argues, mayors of the future must become masters of “good governance.”

In Germany, too, urbanization processes directly impact everyday life. They are at the center of local politics and require active citizen participation if they are to be successful and sustainable.

In this context, the symposium will give those active in politics and municipal partnerships well-founded insights into global urbanization processes, especially the highly dynamic developments in China. At the same time, it will use specific examples to explore how various forms of participation in German and Chinese cities are shaped and how they can be encouraged.

Therefore, the question of opportunities for citizen participation in its different forms, both in Germany and China, will be at the center of the symposium. The goal will be to highlight the civic dimension in the development of an urbanization partnership with China, to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges and to create impulses for the practical implementation of German-Chinese cooperation. The special focus will be the twin city partnership between Cologne and Beijing, established in 1987.

*The event will take place as part of the project “China matters” ([www.eu-china.net](http://www.eu-china.net)).*

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**Veranstaltungssprachen:**

German and Chinese (simultaneous interpretation)

**Goal:**

Recommendations for shaping German-Chinese city and urbanization partnerships through participation.

**Target Groups:**

Representatives of the Cologne city council and administration, of the Beijing Municipal Government, of other municipalities, of municipal associations and the state of NRW, as well as of German development cooperation organizations (GIZ, Engagement Global/ SKEW, DEG etc.); civil society actors active in German-Chinese municipal partnerships, especially Cologne-Beijing.

The **Chatham House Rule** will apply to this event:

The participants may freely use the information obtained under the condition, that they reveal neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers or other participants.

**Registration:**

Registration deadline: 31. August 2016. For registration please send an email to:

[urbanisierung@asienhaus.de](mailto:urbanisierung@asienhaus.de). Number of participants limited. After consultation with us travel costs can be reimbursed if needed.

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**Program:**

Moderator: Ludwig Weitz (ViSiON)

1.30 p.m. – 1.50 p.m.	<b>Welcome addresses by the organizers and donors</b>
<b>Part I: Urbanization Processes and Participation from a Global Perspective German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership</b>	
1.50 p.m. – 2.10 p.m.	<b>Sandra Müller</b> (German Government, Liason Office of the German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership)
2.10 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	<b>German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership</b> <b>Hans-Liudger Diemel</b> (Technical University of Berlin)
2.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	<b>A Global Perspective on Urbanization Processes and Participation</b>
3.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	Questions and Discussion Break
<b>Part II: Urbanization and Participation in German and Chinese Cities, General Parameters and Room to Maneuvre from a Citizen's Perspective</b>	
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<b>Andreas Fulda</b> (University of Nottingham) <b>Reflections on the Role of Public Participation in Chinese Reform Processes</b>
3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<b>Participation in Chinese and German Cities (short statements, each 10 Minutes)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yan Ying</b> (Beijing Municipal Government, Deputy Director-General of the Reform and Development Commission)</li> <li>• <b>Anne Luise Müller</b> (City of Cologne, City Planning Office, tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Song Qinghua</b> (Shining Stone, NGO)</li> <li>• <b>Anna Ditges</b> (Director of the film <i>Wem gehört die Stadt – Bürger in Bewegung</i> [Who Owns the City – Citizens in Action])</li> <li>• <b>WANG YUN</b> (王昀, EDITOR EDITOR OF CITYFORUM, 市政厅, TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Almut Skriver</b> (Köln mitgestalten e.V)</li> </ul>
4.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Plenum discussion
6.00 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.	Break
<b>Part III: Panel Discussion</b>	
6.15 p.m. – 6.55 p.m.	<b>Participation in the German-Chinese urbanization partnership and the Cologne-Beijing twin city partnership: recommendations and perspectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yan Ying</b> (City of Beijing)</li> <li>• <b>Anne Luise Müller</b> (City of Cologne)</li> <li>• <b>Sandra Müller</b> (Liason Office of the German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership)</li> <li>• <b>N.N.</b> (State of North Rhine Westphalia)</li> <li>• <b>N.N.</b> (Association of the Friends of China e.V., Cologne-Beijing Partnership Society)</li> </ul>
6.55 p.m.	<b>Closing remarks by the organizers</b>
7.00 p.m.	<b>End-of-event get-together (finger-food and drinks)</b>