

9-10 MAY 2012

From left to right: Mr Huang Haoming (CANGO), Raphael Droszewski (European Delegation), Mr Li Yong (Ministry of Civil Affairs), Xiao Fenghuai (CICETE), Caroline Quinn (British Embassy), Dr Horst Fabian (GIZ / CIM).



Civil Society Contributions to Policy Innovation in the PR China

Major findings from the EU-China International Conference on Civil Society Contributions to Policy Innovation in Beijing, China:

127 civil society participants from both China and Europe have attended the conference

This first international conference under the "EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Participatory Public Policy" programme aims to review the topics discussed during the first four EU-China Dialogue Forums (D1-4)

During the conference, eight Chinese and European civil society practitioners and academics shared their latest research findings and case studies on the four major issues: Climate Change and Sustainable Consumption and Production (D1), Industrial Pollution and Environmental Health (D2), Informal Work and Migration

(D3), Child Welfare and Left-behind Children (D4)

Civil society practitioners from Europe and China actively participated in the discussions, had exchanges with panelists and shared their opinions and suggestions on how civil society should participate in the public policy making and implementation processes

10 video interviews were recorded alongside the conference and will be made available to the public via Tudou.com, Vimeo.com as well as through the programme website www.eu-china.net

Entrepreneurship (D5), Information Disclosure (D6), Government Finance Reform (D7) and Civil Society and the Rule of Law (D8).

A Call for Papers (CfP) will be issued in January 2013 and shared with invited European and Chinese academics conducting research on issues related to the latter four dialogue forums. Conference proceedings will be published as an edited book in 2014. If you are interested in joining this book project please get in touch with Dr Andreas Fulda, Manager of the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Programme. Email: Andreas.Fulda@nottingham.ac.uk

UPCOMING EVENTS

The second international conference will take place in Nottingham, UK in Autumn 2013 and aim to review the remaining four dialogue forums on the issues of The Art of Social

The 6th EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Information Disclosure will be held in Beijing from 26-28 September 2012.

For more information please contact Ms Wang Lu from the China Association for NGO Cooperation (wanglu@cango.org).



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A suitable instrument of civil society dialogue, cooperation and reform. Placing CIM-experts in strategic civil society institutions in China

By Dr Horst Fabian

Dear hosts, dear partners and friends of the EU–China Civil Society Dialogue,

First I would like to thank you for your kind invitation. I feel honoured and I am happy that I can make a small contribution to this ongoing dialogue in my function as Programme Coordinator East Asia at the Centre for International Migration and Development (CIM) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. I imagine that I have been invited today because CIM is the only state agency for development cooperation within the EU that has over the last decade built up a relevant portfolio to support the development of Chinese civil society. In this regard, CIM has developed a rather unique, long-standing and broad body of experience in this field – in close partnership with German and other

GIZ Office in Beijing as participants at this conference.

I will focus on the past actions and possible future contributions of CIM and the CIM experts to the ongoing EU–China Civil Society Dialogue, in a broad sense. I will argue that the presence and activities of the CIM experts have provided a good support structure for the EU–China Civil Society Dialogue in a narrow sense – i.e. through the EU mandate – but that they have also given rise to many unplanned synergies. I strongly believe that in the future a group of CIM experts could make a relevant contribution to facilitating more continuity and institutionalising this dialogue within leading organisations of the Chinese civil society sector in a broad definition, including the sectoral “infrastructure” institutions.



The structure of my speech is as follows: a short explanation of why CIM's architecture is well suited to supporting Chinese civil society development under rather sensitive political conditions; an overview of the main contributions and results of CIM in this field; some short reflections on the future challenges for Chinese policy regarding civil society development and public participation. In my concluding remarks, I will suggest that the CIM programme might be an excellent building block for the future EU–China Civil Society Dialogue in a possible second phase after the dialogue programme comes to an end in 2013.

Suitability of CIM architecture

international political foundations. The presence of CIM as a widely known and accepted partner in Chinese civil society development is demonstrated by the fact that this conference has been organised by one of CIM's long-term partners, the China Association for NGO Development (CANGO) and a former CIM expert, Dr Andreas Fulda, in his role as coordinator of the present phase of the EU–China Civil Society Dialogue. Besides Dr Fulda and myself, I count six (one former and five current) CIM experts and two counterparts of CIM at the

First, I would like to explain and to stress why the CIM architecture is well suited for supporting civil society development in China. CIM is run jointly by GIZ and the German Federal Employment Agency. As such, the CIM architecture is rather unique as a human resources service provider for development cooperation that places German/European long-term experts in key positions within leading local institutions. For local employers, CIM acts as a kind of bridge to the German/European labour market.

The Germans and Europeans placed by CIM are called ‘integrated experts’ because they have the status of local employees, receiving a local salary which is topped up by CIM. This means that the CIM experts are not part of a project managed by CIM, but that they are placed in line on demand of local partners: the “ownership” regarding goals and means is with the local employer. The Integrated Experts Programme therefore helps build up relationships of trust with local partners, provides deeper insights into local structures, and fosters adaptation to local contexts and realism.

This very special architecture is able to work on sensitive issues under sensitive political conditions because the local employer in charge knows the potentials and the limits of possible reform activities. This assumption is confirmed by our experience: during more than ten years of support for civil society in China with about 30 CIM experts in this field, CIM and the CIM experts have never been confronted with any political problems. Certainly, there have been minor problems, but these relate to individual situations.

At the same time, the CIM experts are part of German–Chinese development cooperation and of German/EU cooperation with China in general. This fusion of roles facilitates the privileged access to civil society institutions and networks in Germany and Europe – as opposed to Chinese stakeholders alone. In some sectors, CIM experts could make relevant contributions building the sectoral platform of an ongoing international dialogue between German/European and Chinese civil society organisations. This has been the case in the field of climate dialogue and cooperation. For German stakeholders this facilitated a structured and continuous dialogue with their Chinese counterparts. For the Chinese civil society organisations, the international exchange with their German/EU counterparts allows the access to international know-how, standards and approaches. Therefore this can be called a real win-win situation.

Portfolio development and results

Since 2001, approximately 30 CIM experts have been placed into and have supported Chinese civil society institutions. At present there are eight. At first the development of a civil society portfolio happened by chance: Huang Haoming, the head of CANGO, who knew our programme well as he had been responsible for the CIM programme at the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), our Chinese partner organisation, requested the support of a CIM expert. At that time I knew nothing about the development of Chinese civil society. Without the trust in Huang Haoming and his advice, I would never have dared to enter this sensitive area. It is not by accident that CANGO is the leading Chinese organiser of this conference.

This first pilot placement led to further requests, e. g. by the renowned Chinese NGO Global Village of Beijing. After some experience and strategic deliberations,

we mainly focused our programme on supporting what can be called infrastructure or cluster institutions within Chinese civil society – key drivers of civil society development. Programme areas include: training and capacity building facilities, civil society policy and action research, supporting regional or issue-oriented NGO networks, provincial state institutions promoting cooperation with civil society actors, innovative pilot projects on local participation and – just recently – support for the China Foundation Center, responsible for the promotion and monitoring of good governance of the still young Chinese foundation sector, among other things. In the following I will briefly focus on the main results in these action fields.

Establishing and developing facilities for training and capacity development of NGOs

As most Chinese NGOs are rather young in organisational and membership age there was and is great demand for training and capacity building. CIM experts have supported the development of several training facilities: the first by Dorit Lehrack at CANGO mainly for NGO management, and a second one by Michael Buesgen at the Capacity Building and Assessment Center (CBAC) with a strong focus on grassroots NGOs. Recently Michael Buesgen also prepared the design and first round of a training facility for Non-Profit Incubator (NPI), a very interesting and innovative civil society incubator and network organisation. Also, some – mainly junior – CIM experts supported capacity building within some innovative NGOs (Global Village of Beijing Centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge (CBIK) in Kunming; Mountain, River, Lake, Sustainable Development (MRLSD) in Nanchang and Yunnan Environment Development Institute (YEDI) in Kunming). This is not the place to evaluate the results in detail, but in general, these efforts have been successful. In only two instances could sustainability not be fully reached because of insufficient support by a charismatic, very personalised leadership.

Support of regional and issue-oriented networks

The development of regional and issue-oriented networks in China is a recent phenomenon and still situated in a grey area of uncertain political acceptance. Nevertheless the development of networks is an important step in terms of the communicative learning and organising capacities of Chinese civil society development. Three relevant contributions by CIM experts include: first, at CBAC Michael Buesgen supported, consulted, and trained several thematic learning networks of grassroots NGOs. In close cooperation with the German parent organisation Global Nature Fund and Mountain, River, Lake Sustainable Development, Ms Adameit accompanied the set-up of the Chinese Living Lakes Network (CLLN) and helped to integrate CLLN into the global Living Lakes Network. And finally, for three years Patrick Schroeder worked with

China Climate Action Network (secretariat at CANGO). I am sure that without the support of Mr Schroeder the series of dialogue workshops between Chinese and German/European NGOs that have taken place since Copenhagen could not have been organised in such an effective way. Mr Schroeder acted as an organiser and interpreter in the case of intercultural misunderstandings and diverging views. He also linked the network to other initiatives and maintained the dialogue between the workshops. This dialogue platform is now starting to make the transition from dialogue to the first small cooperation projects between Chinese and German climate NGOs and cities.

Supporting NGO Research Centres

Chinese NGO research capacity, in terms of policy and action research, has developed during the last 15 years, though not to the level required to meet China's immense need and considering the restrictive political framework. The interest in international dialogue and the need for international know-how and experiences of civil society development is huge. In terms of demand, it would be easy to place many CIM experts in these institutes. Probably the leading policy research institute is the NGO Research Centre (NGO RC) of Tsinghua University, the main Think Tank of the Chinese government, led by Prof. Wang Ming, where Prof. Kuhn worked as a CIM expert for two years. His main contributions were in the field of the reception and discussion of German/European models of regulation and certification of good governance of NGOs. The Institute for Civil Society of Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, led by Dr Zhu Jiangang, is supported by Prof. Gransow. One focus of her support is on the introduction of the instrument of social assessment mainly of large infrastructure projects. Her team is working on a database and mapping of the landscape of civil society organisations in South China. In close cooperation with the German provincial government of Rhineland-Palatinate the University of Xiamen is preparing, supported by Prof. Kuhn, the foundation of an Institute for Environmental Governance and Public Participation. This initiative is based on an agreement of the Minister-President of Rhineland-Palatinate, Kurt Beck, with the government of Fujian province.

Facilitation of local pilots of citizen participation

During the last years there have been several innovative experiments with local participation on the urban level in China (budget voting, future conferences, etc.), which are not well known in Europe. Every year the China Center for Comparative Politics and Economics and its Director Prof. Yu Keping honour interesting and innovative local public participation approaches by conferring awards to them. Nevertheless the know-how regarding innovative participation concepts and methods in general is still low and there are just a handful of experts and few change agent organisations in this field. One of them is Shining Stone in Beijing where several

CIM experts supported the transfer of know-how, the reflections on and promotion of the pilot projects on a sub-district level. CANGO, and the then CIM expert Andreas Fulda, introduced two pilots of future conferences on the city level, one in Nanjing (see picture), and reflected this issue for international development cooperation with China in a successful international conference on Mainstreaming Public Participation.



As there is a huge demand regarding innovative participation methods in China, GIZ/CIM are reflecting on the possibility to support the establishment of an Academy of Participation Methods with a local partner supported by CIM experts. The focus would be mainly on the transfer and adaptation of know-how to the local context, developing training courses, and perhaps joint European-Chinese research projects on innovative local participation models and methods. The Chinese demand is strong and we are exploring the issue of possible sponsors for this project.

Facilitation of international exchange and cooperation between Germany/EU – China

In the past 20 years, up until about five years ago, there has been scarce information, much misinformation, and mistrust regarding Chinese civil society development in Europe. Therefore one of the roles of CIM civil society experts has been to foster the exchange of information, dialogue, and recently and on a small scale, joint projects. In a certain way you can say that CIM and CIM experts and our strategic partners, most importantly CANGO, acted as civil society ambassadors between Germany and China and vice versa. Facilitating this dialogue has always been a two-way street. Chinese NGOs and civil society stakeholders were exposed to civil society models and players in Germany/Europe in joint workshops (mainly restricted to climate NGOs) and during several visits of civil society stakeholder delegations to Germany. After their meetings with German civil society stakeholders in 2006 four leading members of the delegation produced a book about relevant aspects of German civil society including policies and law. The delegation also visited the USA, Great Britain and Japan and documented their experiences and information in books. There have also been many publications by CIM experts.

German civil society players and actors interested in Chinese civil society were brought into contact and dialogue with Chinese NGOs as well. Just to give an example: every time a German Environment Minister has visited China in recent years the German Embassy arranged a meeting with Chinese environmental and climate NGOs, which was organised by CANGO with the support of CIM experts. As far as I know, there was one result common to all these meetings for representatives of German NGOs (BUND, NABU, Germanwatch, etc.) and politicians alike: all were impressed by the existence of active, informed, engaged, open and outspoken Chinese environmental NGOs and a lively civil society in general.

During the last four years networking between Chinese and German/European civil society stakeholders has been deliberately planned and prepared. Since 2008, every new CIM expert in the field of Chinese civil society has arranged a one-week visit during the preparation period to civil society stakeholders in Germany within his or her special action field. With this and the publications mentioned above, CIM and the CIM experts have contributed that the interested German civil society public is now better informed about developments in Chinese civil society. There is a growing consciousness that Chinese civil society is a relevant actor in Chinese development and a relevant partner in terms of international dialogue and cooperation.

Conclusion in the form of a suggestion

Considering the experience, suitability and potentials of the CIM programme and architecture supporting Chinese civil society development and international civil society dialogue and cooperation between Europe and China, there are good reasons to argue that CIM is well positioned to support the official EU–China Civil Society Dialogue during a possible second phase. A group of CIM experts placed in strategic institutions of Chinese civil society ‘infrastructure’ and leading sectoral (network) organisations could create an active support structure for this dialogue within Chinese institutions.

CIM experts placed in strategic Chinese civil society institutions can facilitate international civil society exchange and dialogue in general; support the building and continuity of issue-oriented exchange platforms; facilitate the professionalisation of Chinese civil society institutions by know-how transfer, supporting the development of training facilities, and dialogue and common learning processes; and initiate concrete cooperation projects, e. g. on issues of international governance.

The presence of CIM experts within Chinese institutions would through these activities contribute to the deepening and broadening of this dialogue in terms of more continuity between workshops and conferences; better chances for clarifying intercultural communication problems; a broader diffusion within the Chinese civil society system; a better acceptance of this dialogue in

China; support for the greater effectiveness of this dialogue; enhanced visibility of EU–China dialogue and cooperation in this action field.

Here I would also like to point to the additional opportunities presented by CIM as a part of GIZ. With GIZ’s proven track record of more than 30 years of supporting and mediating processes of institutional reform and innovation at state level, there are excellent reasons to imagine a fruitful division of labour and cooperation between CIM (civil society development) and GIZ (support of innovations in state institutions including new patterns of cooperation between state and civil society) within an integrated EU programme.

Outlook: New challenges and opportunities for Chinese civil society development

Please allow me to conclude with a short, broader outlook for Chinese civil society development and its implications and challenges for EU–China Civil Society Dialogue.

The Chinese Government is pushing a transition strategy with the prospect of creating a new development model that is more balanced in economic, social and environmental terms: Driven by rising incomes in the domestic market instead of export-driven – already with relevant results in recent years; based on innovation and qualified labour, driven by future labour shortages because of the new, challenging population structure and age pyramid, instead of an unlimited supply of cheap labour; environmentally friendly, energy efficient and low carbon development.

This transition or more precisely these transitions not only require new economic priorities, but more importantly, institutional innovations mainly in the direction of a more participatory and socially inclusive development model. This presupposes the continuation of reforms which have been held back somewhat in the recent past by what Premier Wen Jiabao called ‘vested interests’. The continuation of incremental and pragmatic reforms against vested interests will only be possible with a stronger and more autonomous role for civil society in alliance with the driving political reformers and a state based on institutionalised forms of dialogue of all stakeholders and a broad participation of citizens. These new institutions must be rooted in the Chinese context, Chinese traditions, and Chinese design and rhythm, but certainly will be inspired by dialogues with the Western democratic traditions. Therefore these new challenges and developments in China also imply new challenges and opportunities for deepening and broadening the EU–China Civil Society Dialogue, including the transition to concrete cooperation projects.

Dr Horst Fabian was Programme Coordinator East Asia / China at CIM/GIZ from July 1992 till July 2012. After his retirement he remains committed to civil society development in China, trying to serve as a civil society ambassador promoting the dialogue between European and Chinese civil society organisations.

Conference participant reflections on EU-China NGO cooperation, policy innovation and future dialogues

By Li Lisi

NGOs are not only at the forefront in pointing out flaws and challenges created by globalization, but struggle themselves with overcoming these challenges for effective international cooperation. Digital communication technologies do lower the cost of time and money for better global communication. But do we pick our project partners by sending an email? For real cooperation on equal level, we still need face-to-face contacts for trust-building and mutual learning.

Exchange platforms such as the Sino-European conference on “Civil Society Contributions to Policy Innovation in China” held in Beijing in June 2012, seem to be a useful format to advance partnerships and support transcontinental networking. But crossing cultural and continental borders remains a challenging – and very costly – endeavor. This fact could clearly be felt during this conference. Most overseas participants were Beijing residents, and except for the European project partners, almost no European NGO representative made it to Beijing. But this absence does not mean that this type of exchange is unimportant. It simply shows that many obstacles remain for transcontinental NGO cooperation. Although there seems to be a growing interest among the European NGO community in reaching out toward China, not many project partnerships have emerged so far. There might not be enough European NGOs engaged in China, yet, to fill a conference room and gather to reflect upon strategies of partnership development or policy innovation with Chinese NGOs. For the time being, Chinese NGOs seized this opportunity of exchange with national and foreign experts to reflect upon goals, limits and lessons learned in policy impacts by Chinese NGOs. On the side of Chinese NGOs,

pragmatic expectations for the outcomes of this conference were being formulated:

At the beginning of the conference, the hope was mentioned to expand this platform to include more thought exchange not only with other NGOs, but also with government officials and academics. To this end it would be good to include more diverse audiences in the dialogue so that NGOs can deepen contacts with groups that are most involved in the actual formulation of policies in China.

Furthermore, the desire was expressed to learn more about relevant techniques for actual NGO work and to get to know more fund-raising opportunities. These pragmatic goals seem to point toward an expectation of a more workshop-like and interactive character, whereas the conference format was that of speeches and presentations followed by short Q&A sessions.

Specifically, the need for more cooperation with and more funding by the Chinese government was mentioned. Chinese NGO embraced the conference as an opportunity to express needs for greater political acceptance, appreciation and support of their work. The government representatives signaled during the introductory speech that it still holds the wide-spread image of Chinese NGOs as lacking personnel resources and the right level of service-orientation for the government. Therefore, they were not yet capable to live up to the needs of economic developments in China. Unfortunately, no dialogue took place to elaborate upon policy frameworks that could enable such increases in NGO capacity for impact.



These pragmatic expectations for the conference might not have been met by the speakers, who dwelled more theoretically, but with case studies from different issue areas, on the conference topic of policy innovation by NGOs. While Michael Mehling from Ecologic Institute gave an overview over influences – including taking up veto-positions – of sometimes very influential civil society lobby groups on aspects of international climate policy with a focus on the United States, Tao Wang from the Tsinghua-Carnegie Centre reflected upon various challenges that Chinese environmental NGOs face in their battle for recognition. Although being in the unfortunate position of an “unloved child” in the international climate change community, he clearly pointed at flaws that Chinese NGOs should tackle if they want to become an effective player within Chinese climate policy and politics. Swift reactions to climate policy issues (e.g. the aviation ETS issue), objective positions and instructive proposals were needed to foster trust in

overcome fragmentation to collectively assert their rights.

Presentations on further examples from NGO engagement in different issue areas were given, which would have given European NGOs a good overview over issue areas and problems faced by Chinese NGOs at the moment. But to provide a platform to foster exchange between NGOs from very different issue areas and to share experiences seems generally a good move to counter the fragmentation between NGOs, a fact that several speakers pointed out as a remaining challenge in the Chinese NGO community.

Unfortunately, there were not enough time slots for outcome-oriented discussions and constructive interaction between participants. Although at times each table was asked to reflect upon some questions in small groups, the short time slots did not allow for in-depth discussions. Communication barriers



their capacity as innovative policy advisors. Holding on to global visions, even during “hard times”, and supporting innovative local solutions could strengthen NGOs’ position in policy innovation processes. Jennifer Holdaway pointed out how NGOs can strengthen accountability on the ground by reporting on environmental and health issues. But collaboration in the field of health is weak and NGO knowledge and ‘guanxi’ mostly remain limited to one small theme or area. The cooperation with EU-NGOs in relation to specific issue domains does not often yield a “problem fit” because of large differences in the settings, but the outlook for collaboration with regard to generic problems seems more promising. While Tang Hao pointed out fragmentation between NGOs on different levels, Jean-Louis Béjà gave an example of how workers

remained between European and Chinese native speakers. Still, the atmosphere was constructive and open-minded, and tea breaks were enthusiastically being used for intensive networking and catching-up with former acquaintances, an outcome of conferences that should not be underestimated. For future EU-China dialogues a more equal participation of European and Chinese NGOs could be achieved, so that these conferences can provide room for more transcontinental personal contacts, exchange, mutual learning, and – hopefully – the design of concrete project partnerships.

Li Lisi is Doctoral Student at the University of Heidelberg, researching the development of Chinese civil society thematic networks.

We should pay more attention to the development and education of rural left-behind children in China

By Zhang Qiuling

Following the “China-EU Dialogue: Problems and Solutions of Left-behind Children” in March 2012, more than 100 practitioners and researchers from Chinese and European NGOs gathered in Beijing in May, having in-depth discussions on policy innovations focusing on left-behind children and three other topics of common concerns. After intensive discussions, participants from both sides realized the urgency and complexity of the left-behind children problem in China, and they reached the consensus that left-behind children are in the most critical development stage of their life and should receive more social support.



Current situation of left-behind children in rural areas

According to the 2005 National 1% Population Sample Survey, the China Women's Federation estimated that left-behind children between 0-17 years old in China had increased to 73.26 million, of these 58 million left-behind children in rural areas. Left-behind children of 0-5 years of age accounted for 27.07% of all the children left behind, in which the left-behind children in rural areas reached to 15.7 million, accounting for 30.46% of rural children of the same age.

According to the statistics from the China Women's Federation, in the group of left-behind children with both parents having left and staying with their grandfathers or other relatives, children of 0-5 years old accounted for the greatest proportion, over 55%. Although most of the grandparents of the children left-behind are not “old and weak”, but their education level is very low. The ratios of

grandfathers and grandmothers who had never attended school or only finished primary school are 74.96% and 84.02% respectively. One can imagine that the growth and development of left-behind children is faced with many prominent problems, and it needs more attention from our society.

II. The prominent problems faced by the left-behind children in rural areas

i) Scientific feeding and health care

According to statistics, nearly 20% of migrant parents left home before their children's first birthdays. Of those 30% went out when the children were only 1-3 months old. A considerable number of rural left-behind infants did not get sufficient breastfeeding, which had direct adverse impact on the baby's growth and development. Moreover, due to the constraints of economic conditions of the grandparents or low degree of education, illegal sales of low-quality milk replacements in the rural markets to some extent exacerbates the health risks of children left-behind.

Because of the low degree of education of grandparents, they often lack of the knowledge about nutrition and health, which easily leads to some circumstances, such as part of the left-behind children cannot obtain timely and entirely program of immunization, the diet structure is not reasonable and so on. For instance, some researchers found that some grandparents will sell eggs to be able to buy the children instant noodles or other unhealthy snack foods advertised.

ii) Emotional and social development issues

In recent years, numerous studies in the field of child development have shown that infants and small children will obtain a sense of security, satisfaction and happiness with the warm, intimate and continuous attachment to the mother. This intimate relationship is the basic elements of the mental health of children, which plays a vital role in promoting the development of the child's physical development, nervous system function, emotional control and social skills development. The early relationship quality between children and the main carer, and the interrupting of this relationship, have a significant impact on the quality of the children's own development and the quality of their future social relations.

The left-behind children will experience the separation at the most critical period in the development of attachment relationships with their most intimate carer —mother. If they cannot get high-quality care from grandparents or other carers, that is the timely and sensitive response to children's demand: the children will feel insecure and lose the sense of trust and control of the external world, which will result in a profound and lasting impact on their emotional and social development.

iii) Cognitive development, early education and school readiness issues

Brain research shows, early childhood is the key period of brain development. In addition to health, safety and nutrition, only if the child's emotional needs are met and get rich stimulation, it can promote the development of the brain. Early-family education is the most important way to promote early childhood cognitive development. But as a result of left-behind young children's grandparents are mostly have low degree of education, they may not understand the importance of early education, also do not possess this knowledge and ability, coupled with the heavy labour burden, it is difficult to attend to children's early education needs. Consequently, the children's cognitive development is limited.

Over the years, due to a serious shortage of rural pre-school funding, the opportunities that rural children get access to formal preschools are significantly less than for urban children. In 2009, two-thirds of rural children in rural areas could not go into nursery schools. The shortage of the family education on left-behind children cannot be compensated by pre-school. Early development is limited, school readiness is insufficient, and so it will bury a hidden trouble for children who need to adapt to primary school without a hitch.

III. Policy Suggestions

Early childhood development will not only affect their future life, but also affect the quality and efficiency of our countries' future laborers, the life quality of citizens as well as the equity, stability and development of society. According to the World Bank's assessment, the rate of return for investing on early childhood development and education is about 7-18%, much higher than the financial investment. Despite assurance that early childhood development and the opportunity and quality of education should be the responsibilities and obligations of the Government, but "the children cannot wait". High-quality care can improve the impact of the negative experiences of the children, prevention is always better than intervention. As NGOs or personal concerns about left-behind children, what can they do?

(1) They can assist local economic development to create more employment opportunities in the local, so the parents of left behind children may be in the side of their children. Under the pressures of life, in densely populated and economically underdeveloped regions, the young

parents had to migrate to big cities to be workers. According to statistics, left-behind children is mainly concentrated in the most populated province of centre and west China, Sichuan, Anhui, Henan, Hunan, Jiangxi, Guizhou, Guangdong province accounting for 65.97% of all left-behind children.

(2) Assist local people improve the left-behind children's programme on immunization and health care management. In order to raise service levels of the vaccination ejection in rural areas, and then let the left-behind children share the entire program of immunization, we can rely on the backbone of the community and the power of volunteers, assign duties and responsibilities to them for monitoring children's immunization programmes region by region, and ask them to timely remind and supervise the guardians to take the left-behind children to the vaccination.

(3) With the experience of the project of Child Family Foster Care by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, guardians for left-behind children scientific parenting, child development and education training can be provided by trained local personnel (such as organizing the local doctors, teachers or community backbone to receive the training courses) to become guardians for left-behind children. They can make regular home visits, assess children's development, and provide timely technical guidance and support for young children's care.

(4) Carry out community-based and home-based comprehensive early childhood intervention projects. Learning from the Early Childhood Development Program (ECCD) undertaken by the United Nations Children's Foundation in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the child-friendly home project (Child Friendly Space) integrated in cooperation with the NWCCW, we can give full play to the role of the community backbone and the local educational resources to supply the scientific parenting training and advocacy work to guardian for left-behind children. Give full play to the role of the central resource of the township nursery in order to drive the development of non-formal early educational activities in rural communities.

(5) Expand publicity and advocacy to ensure that the rural left-behind children can share the country's existing child welfare policies. For example, the propaganda about the young children's right for a share of the rural cooperative medical services, the propaganda for the relevant welfare policy for the children with disabilities, and so on.

(6) Advocate and promote the local governments to expand the ability of reception and admission of migrant children to nurseries and promote various forms of childcare services.

Zhang Qiuling is a training officer at Care for Children based in Beijing, China. Her focus is the development and right issues of disadvantaged children and psycho-social support for vulnerable children.

How Ecological Business Changes the World

By Emma C. Xiangdian

During the two days of the “International Conference on Policy Innovation in China” participants discussed the following four topics: Participatory Public Policy, Climate Change & Sustainable Consumption and Production, Industrial Pollution & Environmental Health, Migrant Worker & Left-behind Children. In my point of view, all those topics are closely related to enterprises. The main target of China’s policy innovation are enterprises, the implementers of sustainable production are enterprises, the main industrial pollution causes are enterprises. Even the subcontracting system among migrant-workers is based on the relationship between capital and production. And the root of the problem lies in the dehumanized commercial design of the profit-chasing enterprises.

In his two books “Eco-business Studies” and “Natural Capitalism”, the renowned environmental economist Paul Hawken elaborated on the enormous social impact of business and the powerful force of ecological changes of enterprises. I think, the force is mainly reflected on two major changes in enterprise. The first is the change in the way of thinking, which is systems thinking. The second is the change in the working methods, which is transboundary cooperation. Systems thinking is fundamental to a new commercial design of enterprises, is the key for the current commercial society on the way to the future eco-business society. Transboundary cooperation is the solution for NGOs and individuals, who have the common interest to keep the world a green place, to promote sustainable development of enterprises and our society.

But what is eco-business? Eco-business is a sustainable commercial system which promotes exchanges of materials, energies and information between society and nature and keep them in a dynamic balance. Literally speaking, it means to use eco-system thinking to find a win-win-win solution for the



Yes, the influence of enterprises is everywhere. Enterprises have unparalleled creativity. All that we eat, wear, use, etc. are produced by enterprises. But at the same time, enterprises have the most devastating impact to the environment. Both shortages of natural resources and environmental pollution are caused by unsustainable production systems. And those damages to the environment will in return release different kinds of social problems. For example, air pollution will have negative impacts on health issues of urban residents. But if we can change the commercial designs of enterprises, sustain its creativity and counteract its destructive power, then we can make the world a green place, not only in the sense of natural environment, but also in the sense of social-cultural environment.

enterprises. Its core state is the so-called “double-cycle”, which include the ecological cycle in the nature and industrial cycle in business and commerce. In a sustainable ecological business world, all products will melt into these two circulatory systems. These products not only have advantage in competition with products which are lacking ecological effects, but also no longer produce harmful wastes for the environment. Obviously, ecological business is the common concern for enterprises, various types of organizations and many other stakeholders, which will help achieve a win-win situation for the economy, the ecology and the society.

In order to express the relation between eco-business, cross-boundary cooperation and the idea of changing the world, I have made a reference to the thoughts of Ray Anderson, CEO of the company Interface, on improving traditional environmental formula and create a positive new formula $I=(TxaxH)/P$, where I is Impact, meaning positive impact from human kind for the future of the world; T is Technology, means green technology; a is affluence, means wealth obtained from eco-business; H is Happiness; P is Population, means population and social management. This new formula is first published in “A World is Turning Green – Eco-business Oriented Solutions” by the Social Science Press in January 2012. Such formula may cause headaches to many readers, yet the illustration on the left page will help readers gain a better understanding of the idea.

As shown in the illustration, the formula contains the

government, NGO, research institutions, now pay more and more attention on “looking for and implementing green solutions” rather than just to “discover and exposure social problems”. For example, after 6 years of research and development, Xerox zero landfill copier products now have an estimated annual saving of 400 million dollars in production costs. One reporter asked one of the design engineers about her motives to be so passionately involved in this project, her simple answer was: because I am a mother. This shows that the integration of green desire and commercial activities bring a great work ethic and creativity.

Considerable evidence has show that in the last 30 years, more and more successful eco-business solution cases have appeared all around the world, they are even more eye-catching in the last 10 years. Those enterprises which have already been implementing eco-business

strategy since 1990s are now able to prove how eco-business is changing the world. For example, the above mentioned Interface CEO Ray Anderson, he began to take measures to make eco-business transformation in his own company in 1994. One the one hand, they used raw materials which can be quickly recycled and did research on new technology to guarantee product reuse, on the other hand, they created the “rent instead of sell” business model. 12 years later, the fossil fuel usage of the company was decreased by 60%, greenhouse gas emissions reduced by 82%, sales was up 2/3, and the profit was doubled. All this happened simply because Ray Anderson was inspired by the book “Eco-Business” he read in 1993.

Eco-business is changing our world. A cross-boundary cooperation between the government, enterprises, NGO and research institutions will make a meaningful combination of NGO's broad vision and the power of enterprises, and help promote the development of eco-business, make our world a green planet.

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core of the above mentioned eco-business – the bi-circulation. The globe represents a natural circulation, the dual gear and arrows indicate the process circulation. The formula thus means that it depends on four main factors to create a green future: green technology, wealth obtained from eco-business, a happy state of mind and a rational population management. They embody our true desire for a green future, and this desire will stimulate the passion for creativity for people working in all kinds of professions. All stakeholders, including enterprises,

A consortium board meeting was held on 10 May 2012.

Participants from left to right: Orlando Edwards, Tang Hao, Karen Lim, Mark Pixley, Aleksandra Markiewicz-Wright, Andreas Fulda, Wang Lu, Elizabeth Wright, Wang Xiangyi.



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