



EU-CHINA CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE ON INFORMATION DISCLOSURE | BEIJING, CHINA

26-28 September 2012

Participants propose discussion topics for the Open Space session.

This dialogue forum - just like the previous five EU-China Civil Society Dialogues conducted from July 2011 until July 2012 - has illustrated in an exemplary fashion how citizens can be invited to join policy deliberations in a critical and constructive way.



Civil Society Perspectives on Information Disclosure

Major takeaways from the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Information Disclosure, organised jointly by the China Association for NGO Cooperation and the Great Britain-China Centre:

83 participants from Chinese and European NGOs, universities, and supporting organisations deliberated about the issue of open government information and NGO transparency.

Dr. Wang Yanzhen, Research Director of the People's Congress of Beijing's Dongcheng District shared two case studies during the forum.

Eight guests from China and Europe, Dr. Thomas Hart, Senior Adviser to China Academy of Telecommunications Research, Dorit Lehrack, Senior International Adviser of China Foundation Center, Sam Geall, Deputy Editor of chinadialogue,

Isabel Hilton, Editor of chinadialogue, Sophie Le Clue, Programme Director of China Water Risk, Dr. Shen Guoqin, Lecturer from China Peoples Public Security University, Dr Mao Da, Lecturer from Beijing Normal University, as well as Chen Liwen, Director of School of Waste, Nature University, gave keynote speeches focusing on open government and information disclosure in the EU, NGO transparency in Germany, environmental reporting in the media, transparency of environmental information and NGO participation, etc.

CANGO and GBCC have produced a video documentation of the dialogue forum. It is now available to the public via Tudou.com:

<http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/HBorP0kJlko/>

Two follow-up projects have been identified and developed during Day 2 and Day 3 of the dialogue forum:

(1) Investigation and Analysis on the Situation of Chinese Green Credit in 2012. Partner organization: Green Finance Institute of Hebei University of Economics and Business.

(2) Women's Home Environmental Education in Gacha Villege, Ewenke Ethnic Autonomous County. Partner organization: Women's Federation of Ewenke Ethnic Autonomous County.

Ms Wang Lu is the Follow-up Action Teams Coordinator for the two chosen follow-up projects. She can be reached by Email: wanglu@cango.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 7th EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Government Procurement of CSO Services will be held in Beijing from 15-17 January 2013.

For more information please contact Ms Wang Lu from CANGO (wanglu@cango.org).



This project is funded by The European Union



A project implemented by the University of Nottingham and its consortium members

Attracting more people with similar values to join the process of problem solving

By Liang Liping | Translation by Dr Patrick Schröder

Shortly before the Mid-Autumn Festival in 2012, about 80 NGO friends from all over the country gathered together at the Center for International Academic Exchange of Beijing Normal University to participate in the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Information Disclosure, organized by the China Association for NGO Cooperation and the Great Britain-China Centre.

During the dialogue we listened to expert lectures, had group discussions, worked on themes related to information disclosure and shared the results with other groups. Mark and Karen from Leadership Inc. led us through the whole process, from experience sharing, to policy recommendation and action planning.

When I learned about the issues of information disclosure and public participation of waste incineration projects on the first morning, the dispute about the waste incineration factory in Fan Yu and the dialogues between NGOs, the government and the media, one recent incident that happened in my city of Guangzhou, appeared in my mind. Hearing Ms. Le Sophie's keynote speech on China's water risk, I realized that water resource scarcity is not only an environmental issue or a livelihood issue, but also closely linked with the economy, investments and capital flows.

In the Open Space session, I shared my opinion on NGO capacity building in regard to information disclosure. When we are faced with problems, or when we communicate with the government, we cannot solely rely on cursing them. NGOs should not be synonymous with poverty and vulnerability. Before trying to bring changes to others, we need to upgrade our abilities of solving problems and increase our level of professionalism. This will attract more people with similar values for joint problem-solving and help build a high quality team. We need to gain full knowledge of existing laws and regulations and develop good communication skills. After the discussion, we carried out an action planning process for an NGO capacity building training project.

On the second evening, the German Asia Foundation gave an introduction to their EU-China NGO Exchange Programme. One student, who has worked in a German NGO for half a year, shared his observation of German environmental NGO workers who practice environment protection in their everyday life. Instead of driving cars, they choose to ride bicycles or use public transport, which makes me feel very ashamed. I came to think that if we can also combine our knowledge with actions, we will naturally get more respect and become more influential.



In the interactive sessions, the participants engaged in discussions on different topics, such as environmental information disclosure, government officials' property and the public's awareness about information disclosure. We shared many cases on information disclosure with each other and talked about obstacles and difficulties we encountered in our work.

At the end of the forum, we all sat in a circle and many of us were eager to share their feelings and feedbacks. One witty participant said: "There will be bread, information will be disclosed and NGOs will have a better tomorrow." I can not recollect the reason, but we all asked Dr. Andreas Fulda to sing a

Chinese song. His beautiful voice sang, "...in that distant place, there is a nice girl..." which brought our thoughts back to the place we came from. Now it was time to go home, celebrate the mid-autumn festival and go back to work afterwards.

By Liang Liping, General Manager Guangzhou Zhizhe Nonprofit Culture Communication Limited, Director of Guangzhou Association for NGO Cooperation.

Roles and Rights of Non-State Actors: Access to Government Information

By Dr Thomas Hart

Introduction

Freedom of Information Laws, Access to Information Regulations, Transparency Policies, and Ordinances on Openness of Government Information – while the name of the provisions may vary from place to place, the core of the matter does not. Almost all have in common that they cover two principles through which information can be released to the public: Request-driven information release and proactive publication. In the EU, this is complemented by a dedicated system to access environmental information: while in principle providing the same kind of access rights as general Freedom of Information-type laws, these environmental provisions actually are more coordinated under the roof of the EU, and in general provide a wider scope of access.

Whether a government system is open or not, however, should not necessarily be judged based on the sheer existence of an Access to Government Information Law. The most transparent law could limit itself to a casual sentence like “all public sector information is available, unless there is an important reason for it not to be.” This would work if public and private sector had a common understanding about the need for transparency, its benefits, and its necessary limitations.

Government bodies need input from all parts of society to base their decisions and administrative acts on as solid a foundation as possible.

In reality, this is not the case in any place of the world. Governments tend to see more confidentiality requirements about their own deliberation processes, as evidenced for instance in the long-lasting debate about whether documents related to governmental decision-making processes should be made public, and at what time, and to what extent this might affect the outcome of these decision-making processes. The public administrations tend to base their publication strategy on “what the public needs to know”, while transparency advocates rather believe that the “need” can only be assessed once the available information is actually made available for public scrutiny. There seems to be a fundamental difference in perception of state and non-state actors as to what the ideal level of transparency should be.

One of the key drivers of these laws was non-state actors such as NGOs and the media, who are among the key users of access rights. For them, accessing comprehensive information held by government is of vital importance to their activities. Government departments that are able to trust civil society with using the released information competently (which includes aspects such as often taking information “as is”, acknowledging that the fact a document exists within government does not necessarily mean that it represents a “government opinion”, or is even necessarily an indication of its accuracy) will benefit from the input these individuals and organizations provide, supporting more sustainable decisions, representing a wider range of the population.

The benefits of a comprehensive information disclosure policy

It is important to note that implementing a more transparent government system is not just to the benefit of civil society, but also brings direct benefits to the administration:

Government is tasked by citizens to act on their behalf: On a very fundamental level, the citizens have tasked the government with fulfilling joint tasks on their behalf. It consequently has to be transparent about their tasks and efforts to the people, it has reporting obligations to fulfill and keep the public well-informed.

Citizens own the information: taxes paid for government to be active in the first place. While there may be reasons that not all information produced within government is divulged to citizens, this implies the principle of transparency, with exceptions requiring justification.

Government needs qualified citizen input: Government bodies need input from all parts of society to base their decisions and administrative acts on as solid a foundation as possible. There is no way a government body could know who may be affected by or have a useful opinion on a matter of policy or administration. If the aim is to base government decision-making on as large a part of society’s know-how and intelligence, the wider the information about this decision-making process is available, the better feedback will there be.

Joint decision-making creates more sustainable decisions: Public sector activities by their very nature always affect non-government: citizens, companies, NGOs...

Decisions made by government behind closed doors and revealed only at a stage when changes are hard or impossible, leads to citizens feeling like second-class members of society. Individual complaints, sometimes larger-scale protests, and a general feeling of dissatisfaction and mistrust is the result.

Proactive Information Strategies yield better information management: it is not just the individual user who is flooded in an abundance of available information. Independent of the transparency obligations, the public sector needs to create systems of handling and sorting this information. Transparency obligations help establish a framework for information management by forcing the offices to develop information and document categories.

Proactive information dissemination is less work than reacting to individual requests: Given that most government offices already have content management systems and electronic record management in place (or are introducing them), it is a straightforward task to flag some information that

preconceptions, and explain the implications of the new regime, including the reasons behind the change and the procedures that come with it.

New transparency regimes should also be based on the needs of the potential “customers”. These customers, the citizens and organizations that want or need to access and use the information, will have a focus on certain topics: Typically, most information is requested on infrastructure development and environmental issues (where people are individually affected, e.g. through concerns about their living environment). Through initial and continuing discussions with civil society groups, government can facilitate both the work of these organizations and its own workload: information that when published is already arranged according to relevant thematic headlines minimizes future individual requests, and consequently the need to compile information based on these requests.

The interest and activity of civil society can in this way help government departments to streamline its processes and become more efficient in managing and handling the available information: The dialogue with potential information recipients in non-state sectors supports government’s reflection of their own work flow and structures. It is also vital to help identify flaws and inefficiencies that still exist and that can be streamlined before new information management processes (and technologies) are applied. In this way, preparing for proactive information disclosure becomes an important input for the further improvement of government’s work.



Source: Citizens as Partners, OECD Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy-Making

is being handled as “for public release,” others as “not to be released.” This is less obtrusive for the everyday office work than having a focus on responding to specific citizen requests.

The introduction of new transparency obligations often is triggered by the suspicion that secrecy of office plays a role in abuse of office power and fosters corruption. This is true, and transparency limits the possibility of abuse. However, the vast majority of government officials are not under such suspicion, and they would actually benefit not only from the specific improvements of their work environment listed above, but also from the stronger limits on their less ethically inclined colleagues’ behavior. As any institution, public or private, being subjected to change, it is necessary to pick up the staff from where they are, identifying the existing concerns and

Publication Channels

Especially in the very developing and transition countries that are currently working on government modernization programs (including making government more accessible and transparent), a large portion of the population still does not have frequent access to online media, or still lacks the skills to make best use of it. Because of this, implementation plans for improved government transparency should focus on creating a multi-channel distribution strategy, reaching as wide a range of the population as possible. This can include channels such as government websites, bulletins, press conferences, townhall meetings, public mass media, government gazettes, public archives, or public libraries. With the increasing availability of e-government contact points, additional options come in, such public information screens or online kiosks, service hotlines, public reading rooms (including electronic reading rooms). Mobile government applications for cellphones are suitable for regions where mobile penetration exceeds fixed online availability.

Civil society organizations can play a significant role in information dissemination, not just in collecting it: they are competent in their respective field of work, can assess and judge the abundance of raw data and information that often overwhelms individuals, and can serve as intermediary between the flood of government information and the specific interest and concern of the citizens. By using government-based information to compile dossiers and summaries, they can support a better understanding of government activities – and also make sure that civil action is based on better knowledge and more profound arguments.

Some civil society organizations take this to the source: a number of websites (sometimes with government support) have been established to document the information flow between government and citizens, documenting information

requests made, the responses they received (the information, or the rejection, including the reasons, if provided), and facilitating submitting new requests. These websites (www.whatdotheyknow.com in the UK, or www.fragdenstaat.de in Germany) do not only provide actual information – they can also be an inspiration for civil society to learn more about requesting and retrieving government information, to learn more about the topics frequently showing up in these requests, and to practice putting the data provided into the context of larger social or policy developments.

Dr Thomas Hart is Information Society Consultant in China and Indonesia as well as Senior Advisor to the Carter Center's Access to Information Program in China and to the China Academy of Telecommunications Research.



My Work and Government Environmental Information Disclosure

By Dr Mao Da | Translation by Dr Patrick Schröder

Personally, I have applied five times for government environmental information disclosure.

I submitted a written application to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Environmental Protection in September 2009, requesting the disclosure of a feasibility study report entitled Pollution Risk Assessment for Solid Waste Landfill in Beijing. The reply was "no" because the available data for the Bureau was not comprehensive and further investigation and deliberation was needed.

The Bureau also added that the requested information fell into the category of "national secret" which I not always necessarily believe. In an academic journal database, I found a doctoral dissertation which is entitled exactly the same as what I have requested, so are the completion time and research institutes. And the cover of the doctoral dissertation reads "Confidentiality: Public".

The second application was about the "plastic bag restriction" policy that I have been concerned about. I applied to the Beijing Municipal Administration for Industry and Commerce in November 2009 for statistics about the "plastic bag restriction" law enforcement statistics. Luckily, this time I not only got a reply, but also successfully obtained the relevant information.

During my application process, I also used Weibo (Twitter in China) for dissemination, as a way to attract attention from different social groups, to put pressure on the relevant government departments, so that they would respond to my application as soon as possible.

In March 2011, I sent an application to the Ministry of Environmental Protection which alleged on its website the completion of the Survey on Persistent Organic Pollutants that was carried out from 2006 to 2008. I applied for the survey results via the MEP website, but MEP replied "no" via e-mail on the grounds that the information requested is the "internal information of MEP".

I made another application to MEP via their website in July 2012, requesting pollution emission data about Guangzhou Likeng incineration plant and the EIA report, as well as information about whether the plant is a key dioxin emitter or not. Yet, no reply has been made.

I sent a written application via registered letter to the Beijing Administration Commission for Municipal Affairs and Environment in September 2012, in hope of information about used battery collection, storage, and disposal of the sanitation department. They responded and gave me an appointment to pick up the response letter on September 24. At my visit to the Commission, the officials in charge of waste battery collection work replied the application and explained on some issues. However, in fact, the information in the written reply I have received is not complete, and I will continue to apply for the information not yet provided in written form.

During my application process, I also used Weibo (Twitter in China) for dissemination, as a way to attract attention from different social groups, to put pressure on the relevant government departments, so that they would respond to my application as soon as possible.

In addition to hands-on applications for government environmental information disclosure, I am concerned about several other cases as well. At the beginning of 2012 for instance, Yang Zi, an ordinary citizen applied for the disclosure of medical incineration flue gas emission data to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Environmental Protection. Since the MEP refused to his request, he sued MEP to the People's Court of Haidian District. In the course of proceedings, the MEP argues that because Yang Zi does not live within 800 meters of the incineration plant, so he is not the related person of interest, hence he has no eligibility for such application.

I have been concerned about the progress of this case. Later that year in June, I published an article in the Southern Weekend, talking about why information disclosure is so difficult. My main comments were: First of all, the Regulation for Government Information Disclosure and the Environment Information Disclosure Practices (Pilot) are about how to let people know what the government does, they do not state any conditions or restrictions for public application. Instead, the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Environmental Protection itself created the "applicant eligibility" question and openly throws this as its argument at the People's Court. Secondly, according to the Environment Information Disclosure Practices (Pilot), the medical waste disposal situation falls into the category of what should be disclosed by the BEP. So I think the approach of the Beijing MEP and the Court's decision was both wrong.

I was also concerned and involved in the case where the Green Beagle Environment Institute sued the Department of Environment Protection in March 2012. At the beginning of the year, Green Beagle asked the Ministry for Environmental Protection to disclose the “survey results on the PCB-containing electrical equipments and wastes in eight priority provinces”, which was already mentioned in the National Environmental Gazette in 2010. Green Beagle received a negative reply, giving the reason that this belongs to the category of “procedural information”.

Subsequently, Green Beagle worked together with a law firm and filed an administrative lawsuit on 31 March. Shortly after the court received the indictment, the Ministry for Environmental Protection invited us for a consultation. The Ministry attached great importance on this matter; officials from the General Office, the Pollution Prevention Division and the Law Division all took part at the consultation. And they gave us the supplementary specification during the meeting, and disclosed the information we asked for. Thus, we dropped the charge.

of great value, since it not only provided the test results, but also shares the experience and techniques the participants learned during the application process.

The environmental information which the Yipai law firm applied for is closed related with the ongoing environmental monitoring work implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The law firm focused its application on the information of sewage disposal enterprises in the “2011 List of the Key Monitoring Enterprises”, because this is the information that should be published by the departments of environmental protection automatically.

After Yipai law firm sent the application to 80 municipal departments of environmental protection, it finally got replies from 63 cities, among which 59 are valid with at least one piece of government information disclosed. Actually there were only 20 responses within the statutory period. They got 11 further replies only after telephone communication. Another 32 replies came after the law firm called for administrative re-examination. This shows us, the applicants often need to do a lot of follow-up work after they have submitted the application, in order to obtain the information.

After the public action of Yipai law firm, we can come to the following conclusions. First, they believe that the local departments of environmental protection attach insufficient importance to information disclosure. This should be improved especially in the Southwest and the Northwest. Secondly, it means high costs for the public and NGOs to get access to government information, because the environmental departments tend to make all kinds of excuses to stall the application until the applicants start to take follow-up actions, such as administrative re-examination or start a proceeding process. Thirdly, the reasons the local environment departments provide normally do not meet with legal requirements. Finally, administrative re-examination is a quite effective technique in the application process.

Based on my personal experience and my observation of NGO actions, I would say that although some government departments have begun to pay attention to public applications for open government information, overall this mechanism has not been comprehensively and effectively implemented in China yet.



I also noticed that some NGOs are making systematic tests on the effectiveness of environmental information disclosure. For example, recently the Yipai law firm in Beijing released a report entitled “Public Action on Application for Government Environmental Information Disclosure in Eighty Urban Pollution Resources”. This report is

Dr Mao Da reads at the College of Chemistry/Beijing Normal University and a Senior Fellow of Nature University and Co-Founder of Panshi Energy and Environment Research Institute.

The Green Choice Alliance: An emerging public power

By Li Li

Launched in 2007 by IPE, consisting 21 environmental protection NGO, supported by 43 environmental protection NGO until now, the Green Choice faces the whole country with a vast number of Chinese consumers, hoping that every consumer could consider the enterprise's environmental performance and choose their products carefully before they improve the environmental behavior. With these goals in mind, we established the Green Choice Alliance. Based on continuous updates of the IPE database, the Green Choice Alliance developed a set of systematic solutions to help consumers find out about polluting suppliers more effectively. Furthermore, it helps

solve pollution problems through transparent and participatory reviews. It made a clear commitment not to choose pollution enterprises as suppliers, which provides new impetus for enterprises to follow the laws and protect the environment. In addition, the Green

Choice Alliance appeals to well-known enterprises and urges them to opt for green choices regarding their supply chains. One of its member organisations, the "EnviroFriends Institute of Environmental Science and Technology" takes active part in NGO communications, pollution enterprise supervision in Japan and Korea, trainings for students from premier schools, high schools and universities, organization of press conferences, investigations of and negotiations with pollution enterprises, etc.

Green Choice vs. Environmental Pollution

China is becoming a super consumption power and one of the world factories at the same time. On the one hand, enterprises play a major role to enhance economic prosperity and social development; on the other hand, they contribute to

pollution. Most of the environmental pollution incidents are due to a neglect of environmental responsibilities. According to our data, 80% of the drainage outlet to the sea exceeds emission standards; more than three hundred million rural populations do not have access to safe drinking water in China; 20% of the key cities do not have drinking water sources providing water of standard quality. Water problems are threats to the public health and social stability; they also accelerate resource depletion and hinder social development. Enterprise have no right to pass on its environmental costs to the society and to violate environmental laws and regulations. The Green Choice Alliance have collected more than 109,000 records of unlawful practices disclosed by the government and the media, with 5000 enterprises exceeding standards, under which more than 70 multinational companies.

APPLE Inc

To address the problem of IT brand supply chain pollutions, we organized five press conferences. After the first three "Report on Heavy Metal Pollution in the IT Industry", all the 29 well-known brands responded except for Apple Inc. Hence we held two special news conferences to address Apples Inc's problems. On 20 January 2011, the fourth report called IT Enterprise Environmental Responsibility "Apple Special Conference", put forward the idea of "cleansing poisoned apple" and "save the Snow White". In the end of August, after seven months of research we released a fifth report called The Other Side of Apple. On 15th November, the Chiefs and project officers from the four core organizations of the Green Choice Alliance "Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs", "EnviroFriends Institute of Environmental Science and Technology", "Green Beagle" and "Friends of Nature" had a vis-a-vis meeting. Unfortunately, Apple's attitude was negative. The meeting followed with a lot of media reports, more than 900 people mailed Apple Inc to show their concern about Apple's supply chain environment management. Under the pressure of public opinion, Apple released its "2011 Annual Report on Supplier Responsibility Progress" on 15 February 2012, enclosing the n-hexane poisoning accident of 137 employees at its supplier "United Win Technology Limited". Apple Inc thus improved itself. But Ma Jun, Director of Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, pointed out that Apple should not put the responsibility on their suppliers, since Apple Inc also intervened in the production and management of its Chinese suppliers.



After several exchanges and negotiations, Apple Inc finally published a list of their suppliers in March 2012. It is encouraging to see that Apple Inc has begun to supervise the transformation of their suppliers and urge factories to involve third party auditors, and cancel the orders of suppliers if the products are not up to environmental standards. To reveal the other side of Apple does not mean to ruin the brand. On the contrary, we are looking forward to a brand new life of a Green Apple.

Some Japanese and South Korean enterprises are very environment friendly in their own country, but not so in China. Using the East Asia Environmental Information Network, we send letters to the headquarters of those enterprises with help of NGOs from Japan and South Korea. NGOs from the three countries work closely together to help the enterprises make improvements. Progress is already shown in Japan, which successfully promoted our third party audit project.

Single-vote veto system

The Green Choice Alliance sends unscheduled round-mails to inform the public about enterprises which have passed third party audits. If no one disagrees, the enterprise will be removed from the pollution list. If in doubt, the single-vote veto system will be used. Huo Daishan, known as “The Huai River Defender” for example has twice raised his objections and provided very professional reasons for that. He said: “It is not that I am conspicuous or I want to make things difficult for enterprises on purpose, the third party audit project is still worth exploring”. Ma Jun’s comment on that was: He was deeply touched by Mr. Huo’s actions which tell us the partners of the Green Choice Alliance take their job very seriously, and there are many professionals working in NGOs.

The everlasting battle with pollution

Recently we held one Press Conference on “Brand-Enterprises in the Textile Industry”. Our monitoring continues, investigations on pollution are in action, and the second Press Conference is under preparation. We believe that more and more NGO-Alliances will take actions together, and more and more media, enterprises and the public will play their part in the united actions. We are determined to continue our work and to promote the process of green choice. We work hard together to reduce the spots on our pollution map, and to raise the number of people who are willing to participate in green choice.

Li Li is the Director of EnviroFriends Institute of Environmental Science and Technology. A video interview with her is available online: <https://vimeo.com/50304047>

Video report from the dialogue forum



The 7th EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Information Disclosure was jointly organised by the China Association for NGO Cooperation and the Great Britain-China Centre. 83 participants from Chinese and European NGOs, universities, and supporting organisations convened in Beijing from 26 until 28 September 2012 and deliberated about the issue of open government information and NGO transparency. In this video documentation participants share their views on principles and practices of information disclosure in Europe and China.

<http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/HBorP0kJ1ko/>



Further information about past and present programme activities

All information related to the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Programme (including upcoming events) can be accessed on the programme website, maintained by consortium partner German Asia Foundation:

<http://www.eu-china.net/english/participatory-public-policy/Civil-Society-Dialog-Themen.html>

Green Supply Chains of brand mobile phones

By Dr Tang Hao

This follow-up activity of the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Industrial Pollution and Environmental Health aimed to raise consumer awareness for the human and environmental costs of brand mobile phone production in the Pearl River Delta Region. The project partners Institute for Civil Society at SYSU, chinadialogue, NGO Archive and the Social Security Research Team conducted three distinct and yet related project activities which centered around the concept of green supply chains and included brand mobile phone corporations, factories, environmental protection departments, trade unions, labor organizations, as well as environmental protection NGOs. More specifically, during the implementation of the follow-up the project team conducted

stakeholders pushing the public to pay greater attention to the issue of green supply chains. It allowed the project team to explore feasible methods for social advocacy. Lessons learned were shared during a seminar in which scholars, corporate representatives, college students and other stakeholders took part.

How has the follow-up strengthened individuals and organisations in policy implementation, e.g. by formalising partnerships between CSO, research institutes, media organisations & local government agencies or by establishing partnerships between Chinese and European CSO?



iStockphoto/Andreas Fulda

- 1) research on the relationship between corporate responsibility and consumer behavior
- 2) investigated the pollution condition of Apple's mobile phone production line, and
- 3) documented the pollution of brand mobile phone production on video.

How has the follow-up contributed to agenda setting, policy formulation and policy dissemination, e.g. CSO publications, micro blogging, social documentaries, public talks, community dialogues?

Our research was designed to explore the relationship between corporate social responsibility and consumption psychology and behavior of young consumers. It enabled a reflection among

Apple's supply chain has come under increasing public scrutiny in recent years. Nevertheless, the importance attached to this topic by society differs a lot from country to country. After the Foxconn scandal took place, people in America and the UK conducted campaigns to boycott Apple products and asked to safeguard labor rights and interests with a great variety of consumers participating in it. But here in China, people mostly blamed Foxconn and arguably a majority of people did not even know too much about the relationship between Apple and Foxconn. The reason for this phenomenon is not only due to the distinct development level of civil society home and abroad, and due to the depth and extent of the promotion of corporate social responsibility, but also because of the media's role in the guidance of public opinion. These three aspects are what we have analyzed and explored in our research project.

How has the follow-up helped operationalise policy implementation, e.g. development of guidelines, tailor-made capacity building for policy implementers?

First drafts of our research outcomes, reports and videos have been produced. We are currently revising and updating the materials and will make them public in due course. We are convinced that our work will form a good foundation for further work on the issue of green supply chains in China's IT industry.

Tang Hao is Associate Professor at South China Normal University and Vice Secretary-General of the Sun Yat-sen University's Center on Philanthropy.

Food Safety Newsletters

By Dr Tang Hao

This follow-up aimed to strengthen cooperation between Europe and China in public policy innovation of environmental sustainability and food security and to make a comprehensive interpretation of China's food safety issue contributing to informative communication and sharing. Aiming to bridge the gap between civil society, academia and media on the understanding of food safety issues in China and initiate constant concern from the public on food safety, this project has produced five food safety newsletters and a food safety council, held by chinadialogue in Beijing on 30 August 2012.

How has the follow-up contributed to agenda setting, policy formulation and policy dissemination, e.g. CSO publications, micro blogging, social documentaries, public talks, community dialogues?

The production of newsletters was a fairly lengthy process. We have released newsletters one by one. We will create more publicity through micro blogs and public discussion in the future. The 64-page English-language publication is a useful source for anyone interested in food safety issues in China.

How has the follow-up strengthened individuals and organisations in policy implementation, e.g. by formalising partnerships between CSO, research institutes, media organisations & local government agencies or by establishing partnerships between Chinese and European CSO?

The bilingual newsletters have been forwarded extensively. chinadialogue is the one and only Chinese/English bilingual website committed in reporting China's environmental issue which is endowed with strong capacity of analysis from an international perspective with a broad horizon. Therefore, it has won a far-reaching implication in the dialogues between English-speaking countries in the field of researching China's environment.

How has the follow-up facilitated multi-stakeholder involvement in policy implementation, e.g. through trainings, study tours, community-based pilot initiatives?

More and more emerging organizations, enterprises and communities nowadays carry out schemes that cope with food safety problems. In

times of acquisition, we summarized and reported cases that dealt with food security issue with efforts and also we invited experts to study the cases and that served to communication of experience.

Food Safety in China

舌尖上的威胁——中国食品安全分析报告

中外对话 chinadialogue 2012



This publication is available online: <http://www.chinadialogue.net/reports/5374-Food-safety-in-China/en>

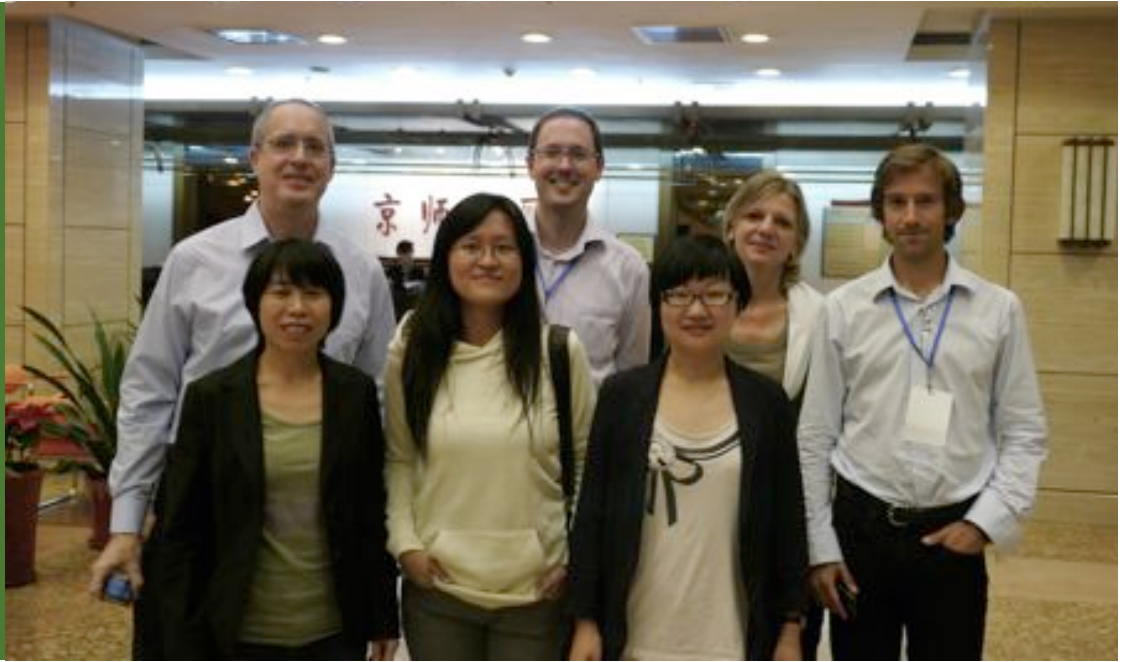
How has the follow-up provided timely and reliable feedback to policy makers and policy implementers, e.g. participatory policy implementation assessment reports; CSO shadow reports etc.?

Though in a short term of our policy implementation, it is hard to create direct impact; we are determined to push ahead the long-term improvement of policy with in-depth exploration, communication and interaction. More importantly, while we were the process of releasing our newsletters, we attracted relevant talent from a national authority which was newly built in 2009 - the Food Safety Commission - to join us. Our new team members will contribute to further dialogues among civil society, academia, and policy makers and implementers working on food safety.

Tang Hao is Associate Professor at South China Normal University and Vice Secretary-General of the Sun Yat-sen University's Center on Philanthropy.

The sixth consortium board meeting was held on 28 September in Beijing.

Participants from left to right: Mark Pixley, Wang Xiangyi, Christine Ding, Andreas Fulda, Wang Lu, Nora Sausmikat, and Orlando Edwards.



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