

## Gender

### Report of Workshop 3

Moderation: Nora Sausmikat  
8 participants

Nora Sausmikat gave a short introduction about the gender discourse in Europe and China, as well as some facts to underline the challenge of gender inequality. For the further discussion in the workshop she formulated the following question: What could be the role of women NGOs in China and the EU to foster social security problems?

Afterwards five members of women NGOs in Austria, Germany and China gave presentations about their organizations and social security with regard to gender issues.

Weifan Chen introduced the Cultural Development Centre for Rural Women. The most important points were the dependence of rural women on their husbands and sons and the role of land for social security of rural women. Generally social security is based on land, family and patriarchy. As rural women often have no right to have land for themselves, social security for them is mainly based on the household.

Gao Xiaoxian talked about the Chinese system of social security, which is still under construction. She pointed out the question about the role of civil society organizations in this process.

Christa Wichterich (WIDE) started with the question: What does social security mean for us (women)? Furthermore she introduced different models of social security systems mainly in Europe and named the Scandinavian one as universal.

Claudia Thallmayer introduced WIDE. She pointed out two main challenges WIDE has to face concerning the cooperation with Chinese women NGOs:

- There are no cooperation links between Austria and China so far (but there are trade links and some critical work)
- Stabilize women's dialogue and alliances in the future.

Nina Hechenberger and Birge Krondorfer introduced Frauenhertz. Frauenhertz works with annual topics. As their focus in 2009 is on "hertz goes international", they build up some co-operations with other European feminist organisations. Birge Krondorfer underlined the importance of being public and their aim of women learning how to articulate themselves.

The question for the final discussion was: What can we learn from each other?

First the Chinese participants asked questions to the Europeans:

- How to influence the government to support women's NGOs?  
The government think thinks that all the citizens are treated equally. The function of NGOs is to highlight the gender gap and to help the government reducing inequality.
- How do western NGOs use cultural resources to achieve there goals? How do they use cultural aspects to communicate with the people?
- What are the concrete problems about gender in the European social security system?  
The social security depends on labour. Women often do low paid jobs and no continuous work and therefore have less entitlement to social security. In the Chinese system social security is also mainly based on labour. People who are not able to pay are excluded from the social security system.

For the minutes  
Anna Achleitner