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**A project by the  
German Asia Foundation**

**Supported by the  
Robert Bosch Stiftung**

## Press release

### **„Twinning Non Governmental Organizations from Europe and China“ Pilot project kicks off with initial exchange programme**

On Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wang Jian, researcher at the Chinese „Youth Climate Action Network“ (CYCAN) began a 10 week fellowship with the project „Heiße Zeiten“ at „Eine-Welt-Netz NRW“ in Düsseldorf. On January 13<sup>th</sup> Daniel Worrings of the Düsseldorf project started a job-shadowing stage at CYCAN to gain some first hand experience in China. These are initial steps of a long term project that aims to strengthen cooperation between Chinese and European NGOs. The programme is operated by the German Asia foundation (Asienstiftung) and will be funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Given the growing importance of the EU-China relationship, exchange and cooperation between institutions, organizations, science and business in both regions have deepened – but exchange between civil society organizations and NGOs is still in its infancy. With the launch of this programme the Asienstiftung and the Robert Bosch Stiftung aim to fill a gap in this important area of social development. The first two participants' feedback also underlines the significance of such an exchange.

They want to actively support intensified cooperation between German and Chinese NGOs. Wang Jian is hoping this project will „give more and more Chinese volunteers deeper insight into the work of German NGOs. At the same time, on the German side it may also lead to a better understanding of China's situation on the issue of climate change.“

Daniel Worrings admits that he had initially been skeptical towards the idea of an exchange. „I immediately wondered: Is there something like a civil society in China at all? My knowledge was very limited, so stereotypes sprouted like crocuses in spring.“ He is now looking forward to refining his German image of a civil society in China. „I want to make a contribution to sustainable dialogue between young volunteers from both Germany and China.“

This pilot project will help lay the foundation for a large-scale „EU-China NGO-Twinning“ programme. It started with a kick-off-meeting in Beijing, with more than 50 Chinese NGOs participating. A European meeting will be held in February, to encourage European NGOs and Foundations to participate in the programme. The second phase of the project is scheduled for summer of 2013.

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## **The Robert Bosch Stiftung**

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. The Foundation still holds 92 percent of Robert Bosch GmbH's capital stock of €1.2 billion. Founded in 1964 it has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for more than 40 years.

The foundation engages in the areas of science, health, international relations, education, society and culture. It operates the Robert Bosch Hospital, the Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch Institute for Clinical Pharmacology and the Institute for the History of Medicine.

In total the Robert Bosch Stiftung has provided grants worth €1 billion since its founding. Approximately €68 million was spent on program work in 2011.

In 2006 it established a regional focus on China and has since supported Sino-German relations in the areas of Good Governance, education, media and culture.

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