



LEADERSHIP INC
Facilitating Organizational Change
in Greater China

EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Industrial Pollution & Environmental Health

Press Release

Guangzhou, August 26, 2011

69 participants from Chinese and European NGOs, universities, government, and media joined the second dialogue on “participatory public policy” from 23rd to 25th of August 2011 in Guangzhou/ South China. This dialogue was jointly organized by the Sun Yatsen University, Civil Society Institute and the German Asia Foundation. What made this dialogue special was that

- the complex topic of environmental health was made manageable by a clear focus on the relation between industry, environment and health and government
- Key note speakers Miranda Schreurs (German advisory council of environment, Berlin) and May Tan-Mullins (University of Ningbo) could draw on their rich experience of working in both regions of the world and addressing the topic in question from many different angles (historical lessons, role of NGOs/ government)
- Jennifer Holdaway – represented by Cai Chao – outlined environmental health governance in China based on the Social Science Research Council Project on Environment and Health
- the Chinese participants were carefully chosen and represented a mixture of first, second and third generation of NGOs as well as policy advisors and academics
- South Chinese organizations were given the chance to present themselves and participate in European-Chinese dialogue
- new EU-Members states were represented by a representative of a NGO from Estonia highlighting cross-border cooperation projects between Europe and Central Asia
- the European participants represented a mixture of “old China hands” who very early have been involved in civil society actions in China as well as young organizations, academics, governmental institutions and media
- prior to the workshop the participants could gain insight in experiment based NPO projects by visiting an ecological farm outside of Guangzhou.
- two follow-up projects have been identified which will strengthen the cooperation between European and Chinese civil society organizations

The Peoples Government of Guangdong province was represented by one deputy who actively took part during the whole three days process of finding common grounds for joint actions between Europe and China. From the European side the German Consul General Wolfgang Kessler attended the meeting.

Above that, six video reports documenting some key actors have been produced by citizens journalists of University Television Station at the University of Nottingham Ningbo (NUTS). The organizers will publish these video reports, a full report on that dialogue and as many presentations as possible on the website www.eu-china.net/english/public-participatory-policy.

The dialogue can be described as a full success because of the intense and focussed discussions, the very successful networking processes among European and Chinese participants and the facilitation by Leadership Inc. which enfolded full dynamics and laid the ground for trustfully, enthusiastic and resourceful future cooperation and exchange.

German Asia Foundation / Institute for Civil Society