



China-Program

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2016 EU–China Twinning: Partnerships between European and Chinese NGOs

Social and Environmental Justice and Climate Change

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Greetings

Believing in the value of cross-border exchange

Since January 01, 2017, the new law on managing foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is putting civil society exchange between China and other nations into a new legal framework. As the main funders of the EU – China NGO Twinning program, we strongly believe in the value of direct, topic-oriented cross-border exchange. We continue to express our hope that the new regulations further facilitate, rather than obstruct our efforts in this regard.

“International Civic Cooperation” is one of the key themes of the Robert Bosch Stiftung’s focus area, International Relations. Non-state actors play a vital role in transformation processes, which can benefit from trust and advice from the outside. Therefore, we highly stress the importance of people-to-people dialogue and collaboration amongst peers. We do so by also bringing together other important stakeholders of society, such as judges, lawyers or journalists and educators from Germany and China.

The overarching goal of Stiftung Mercator in its International Affairs programs is for people to understand one another, learn from one another and jointly overcome global challenges. In practice, this goal is primarily pursued through the “exchange of people and ideas”. In our China program, we work with young people (from high-school students to young professionals) and educators, as well as with decision makers in politics and administration, (civil-) society, science and culture. Cooperation among NGOs and the professionalization of the non-profit sector is a field, which we support

in the context of our partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs in Beijing, with which Stiftung Mercator has officially registered a Beijing Representative Office.

The Stiftung Asienhaus in Cologne once again had the lead in coordinating all partners involved. We congratulate Nora Sausmikat and her team for a successful year with many varied applications from China and Europe. We would also like to thank the Climate Action Network (CAN-E) in Brussels and the China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) in Beijing for their commitment and hard work. In the following pages, you will see for yourself that the interest in an exchange of topics and joint projects is alive and well. The participants’ impressive portfolio ranges from environmental interest litigation, sustainable consumption and preservation of historical buildings, to sexual education, low-carbon household practices, aviation emission reduction, renewable energy developments and waste management. We are looking forward to the continuing collaboration between our two foundations and all partners involved.

Christian Hänel
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International Relations America and Asia
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Dr. Anne Duncker
Director
Centre for International Affairs
Stiftung Mercator



Editor's Note

If one were to look for the 2016 civil society word of the year, it would have to be “shrinking spaces”. So often has this term been used in connection to the global threat to civic freedoms, the marginalization of politically “unsavory” fields of work, the growing lists of legal and regulatory restrictions and the strategy of putting civil society activists on par with foreign puppets, criminals and even terrorists, that many members of civil society organizations have tired of it already. The reality of more and more governments interfering with civic spaces, however, is a dangerous global trend.

In China, the 2016 Charity Law went into effect and the National People's Congress passed new legislation on the regulation of international NGOs. Both have already had a great impact on Chinese and European civil society organizations in China and Europe and at the same time a marginalization of certain topics. We can witness a move towards social enterprises rather than pure NPOs, the regulation is going hand in hand with rising distrust towards civil society organizations.

Since the law on the regulation of international NGOs came into force on January 1st, 2017, the Ministry of Public Security has informed foreign organizations that its implementation will be a gradual process, and that many issues are still in need of clarification. Meanwhile, the EU has sent lists of questions to the Bureau of Public Security regarding which organizations, specifically, will be covered by the law, as well as how the legal and illegal activities mentioned therein are defined. In part, these processes function as trust building measures, since both sides can clarify and negotiate concepts central to the civil society sector.

These clarifications, once they have been made, will help in reestablishing an atmosphere of trust and

understanding. Meanwhile, collaborations which have been running for 10–15 years need to slow down, as organizations wait for a more predictable climate to return.

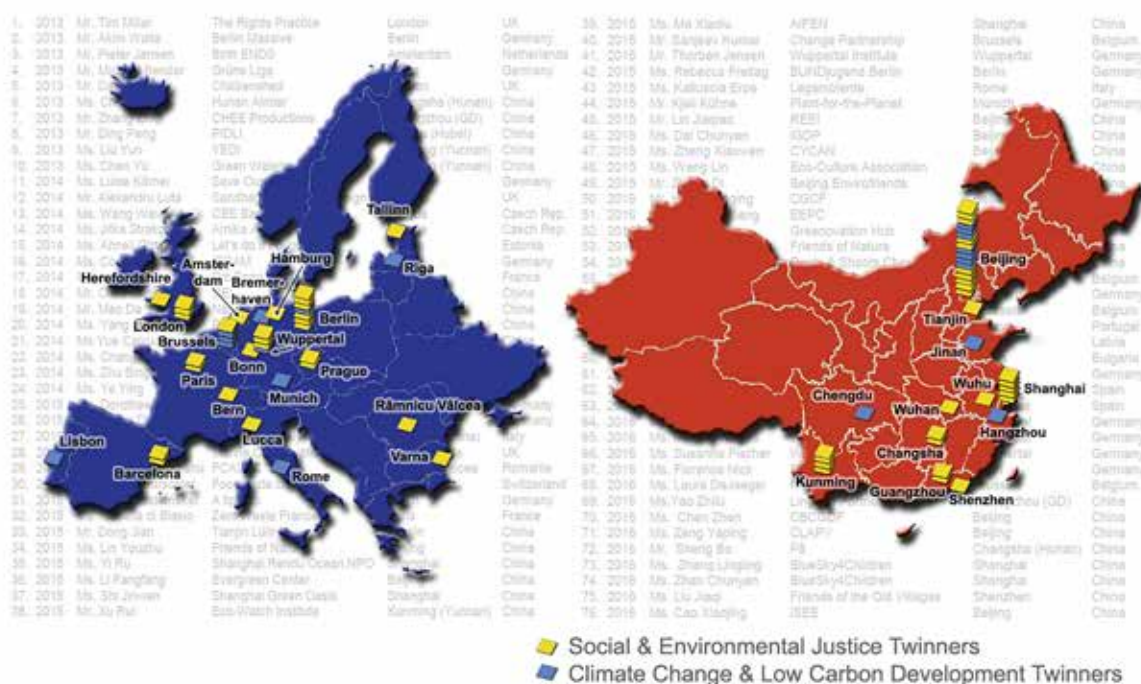
Paradoxically, the number of transnational collaborations among NGOs continues to grow. The fight against climate change, pollution and waste production, as well as for poverty alleviation and humane labor conditions; the achievement of establishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – all these are topics which benefit from successful international cooperation among NGOs.

Topics 2016

We ourselves are often surprised by the shifting topics we encounter in our program. While the key issues in 2015 were waste, including marine debris and food waste, air pollution, social inclusion and water consumption, the 2016 twinning focused on topics new to the program, such as sexual education for young people, circular economies, rural development and cultural heritage protection, and sustainable consumption. We also encountered recurring topics, such as air pollution, this time linked to VW's Dieselgate scandal, zero waste policies and environmental advocacy.

Through the fusion of our program with our partners at CANGO and CAN Europe, we added renewable energy, aviation emissions reduction, climate change education and low-carbon household practices to our list of topics.

With a field of participants this diverse, we were surprised by the numerous visits among members of dif-



The growing network of the EU-China NGO Twinning Program

ferent Twinning pairs, as well as by the collaborations that have occurred or are in planning. While not every pairing may have been a perfect match, the Twinning program in itself is always productive and a lasting success for the participants.

Building sustainable partnerships

As documented in our 2015 and 2016 Twinning Program reports, several organizations have carried out follow-up projects or continued their cooperation after the initial twinning. This means that current participants join a large group of Twinning alumni in becoming part of a growing EU-China/China-EU civil society network.

As shown in the chart above, our network already covers 12 different European countries and half of the Chi-

nese provinces. Because ambitious initiatives are an integral part of this program, the EU-China NGO Twinning Exchange created its own image film this year, capturing the atmosphere of mutual trust and the passion for creating a better world that form the foundation of our project. (<http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2017/03/it-is-out-now-our-new-eu-china-ngo-twinning-film/>)

We consider expanding the scope of global cooperation among civil societies to be essential, and recognize the need to tackle current and looming global crises in an effective and legitimate manner. The EU-China NGO Twinning Exchange has proven to be an effective means of realizing this ambitious goal.

Dr. Nora Sausmikat, Joanna Klabisch
Cologne, June 2017

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1. The importance of partnerships between Chinese and European NGOs

Is it *really* bad luck to lose the horse?

This year, we would once again like to begin our report with this insightful Chinese proverb. It reflects our belief that no one can predict the advantages and disadvantages of fundamental change.

Trust is the foundation of what we do. The very first ideas for an NGO/NPO exchange program were formulated 13 years ago. Today, we can already look back on four years of successful NGO partnership building with 72 participants from 12 different European countries and China. Since 2015, Stiftung Mercator is on board as a new partner in the program. They support the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-E) and the Chinese Association of NGO Cooperation (CANGO) in organizing five additional Twinning pairs focused on climate change issues.

The main challenge when starting the program was a prevalent negative attitude on the European side. People from associations and organizations active in environmental and social issues simply had no interest in China. In addition, they were skeptical that they would really be working with “independent” organizations, since they saw Chinese NGOs as top-down constructs. Four years of NGO twinning have begun to change European perceptions of civil society in China and vice versa, gradually reducing reservations and igniting a whole series of joint projects and exchanges. We all hope that this positive change will continue, despite fundamental changes in working conditions.

Achievements from 2012 until today

The very first pilot Twinning pair came to Germany in September 2012 (<http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/>



programme/pilot-programm/). Since then, we have documented every year of the program in a brochure like this one, highlighting lessons learned. An alumni network has been established to assist in further developing the program. It continues to work on EU-China related topics and supports newcomers to the program. In 2014 and 2015, the level of professionalization among participating NGOs was quite high, with Twinning fellows having an average of 4 years of work experience and an average age of 36 and 31, respectively. Policy briefings have helped channel lessons learned into politics, while the Twinning program has created its own social media presence and can rely on an international board and selection committee. It was even invited to the 40th anniversary celebration of EU-China diplomatic relations, as well as to the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue, where it was introduced to an international audience on May 18th, 2015.

The Twinning Program and many of the joint projects developed have been featured in television reports and newspaper articles. These have been compiled on our website (for coverage of the 2016 Twinning Exchange, see: <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2016/09/the-twinning-2016-half-time/>). An image film is now available under <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2017/03/it-is-out-now-our-new-eu-china-ngo-twinning-film/>.



Dr. Nora Sausmikat at the “Intercultural Presentation Training” in Berlin

The greatest achievement, however, lies in the sustainability of partnerships created between European and Chinese organizations. Of the participating organizations, 50 percent are still collaborating today. Twinning fellows (“twinners”) and alumni have already developed 10 different follow-up projects (listed here: <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/follow-up-projects/>), ranging from joint publications and papers on topics such as chemical residues in eggs or the environmental impact of Brexit, to developing a low-carbon campus evaluation index or organizing zero waste festivals, beach clean-ups and certification workshops for organic agriculture. Finally, networking between current twinners and Twinning alumni creates new constellations from which additional projects and synergies emerge.

The whole program was a truly enriching experience from which we will all profit for a very long time – true to the spirit of sustainability.

Florence Nick, Bund Heimat und Umwelt

Goals of the EU-China NGO Twinning

The exchange program supports the professionalization and internationalization of organizations and enables participants from both regions to develop joint visions for a better future. Specifically, the program seeks to accomplish the following:

Train civil society ambassadors: Through the exchange, both organizations will gain competent and internationally experienced staff. The exchange fellows will act as ambassadors of participation concepts, spreading knowledge on the most effective ways of getting involved in social, ecological and political developments in both regions.

Build cross-regional civil society networks: This exchange program will strengthen networks and alliances between Chinese and European organizations. The exchange fellows will be able to experience the work environment and projects of their partner organization first-hand.

Strengthen mutual understanding: European exchange participants will gain a better understanding of the

opportunities and challenges in China's civil society faces. Chinese exchange fellows will obtain a better understanding of civil society structures in Europe as well as the role and functions of non-profit organizations in the region. Participants from both regions have the opportunity to look past stereotypes to develop new perspectives on their own country and gain insights into the various working methods of the partner country – the ways in which working styles, project design, public relations, and best practices differ.

Create long-term partnerships: The exchange enables organizations to establish new partnerships or continue and deepen existing collaborative relationships. They are able to establish personal contacts with staff members in the partner organization and can thus establish sustainable long-term partnerships.

Engage in capacity building: Chinese and European NGOs will be provided with important information on environmental and social topics in each respective country. The program includes six seminars for capacity building and knowledge transfer. The participants can exchange thoughts on their experience with questions of sustainability, social and ecological justice, good governance, participation, and global debates.

The 2016 Changsha Capacity Building Workshop



Capacity building workshop facilitated by P8

From August 18–21, 2016, Stiftung Asienhaus, CANGO, and CAN-E jointly organized a 4-day workshop on capacity building and experience sharing among European and Chinese NGOs in Changsha, Hunan province. This workshop was co-organized by P8, a social enterprise working on the testing, prototyping and up-scaling of

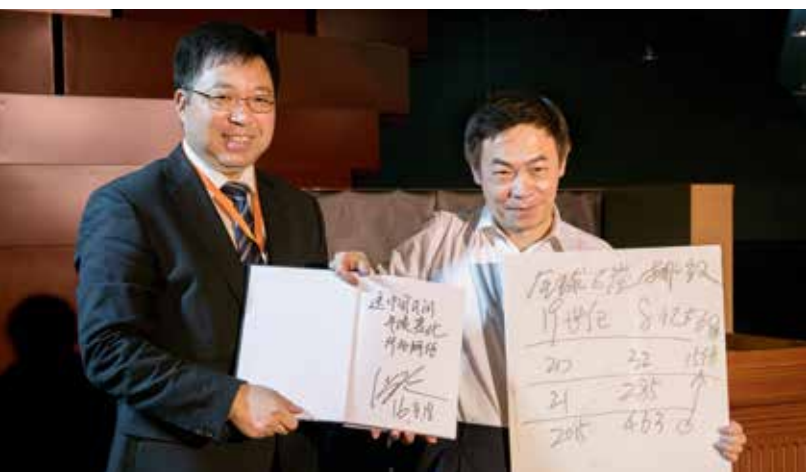
sustainable communities. P8 is located on the low-carbon campus of the BROAD Group, an air conditioning enterprise. More than 50 participants from China, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Latvia, Portugal, Bulgaria, France, and England attended the workshop.

The workshop consisted of three days of intense discussions and a half-day field trip with Green Hunan, a local NGO. Thematically, the workshop was divided into two parts. Part one focused on capacity building, with expert speeches on topics related to NGO work in China, as well as experience sharing among the twinners. Part two was clustered around four topics, namely, sustainable living, sustainable communities, inclusive education and pollution, as well as climate change and litigation. Panel and group discussions focused on how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) might influence the environmental and social impact of urbanization. The participants also had the opportunity to hear a keynote speech by Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, former president of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Nobel Prize winner.

On August 18th, opening speeches were held by Mr. Huang Haoming, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of CANGO, and Dr. Nora Sausmikat, Head of the China Program at Stiftung Asienhaus and initiator of the Twinning Program. Dr. Sausmikat reflected on her 10 years of experience in conducting civil society dialogue programs at Stiftung Asienhaus, while both speakers expressed their wish to continue their collaboration and strengthen NGO cooperation between the EU and China.

Next, Mr. Zhang Yue, winner of the 2011 UNEP Champions of the Earth award and president of BROAD Group, greeted Twinning program participants, emphasizing that humanity faces an uphill struggle against climate change. He highlighted the building sector's negative impact on climate change, noting that it makes up 50 % of China's energy consumption, and drew attention to the fact that the total rise in worldwide carbon emissions in 2015 was 60 times higher than at the start of the 19th century, and 15 times higher than at the beginning of the 20th century.

Mr. Huang Haoming addressed the challenges facing China's civil society development under the "new laws" from both Chinese and European perspectives. These



Zhang Yue presenting his calculations on global carbon emissions with Huang Haoming

“new laws” are the Charity Law, which went into effect on September 1st, 2016, and the **Law on the Management of the Activities of Overseas NGOs in Mainland China** (also known as the international NGO law or INGO law), which became effective on January 1st, 2017. While the former specifies regulations on public fundraising, the latter requires non-Chinese NGOs to register with the Ministry of Public Security and introduces a temporary activities registration for international NGOs which do not have offices in China. Many of these measures will, according to the government, promote the professionalization of China’s third sector.

Dr. Horst Fabian, independent consultant, made in-depth comments on the information supplied by Mr. Huang’s speech, emphasizing the possible rift that might open up in Chinese-International NGO cooperation as a result of the new INGO law, as well as a potential spiral of mistrust that needs to be actively opposed by civil society organizations.

Ms. Guo Ting, Deputy Editor of China Development Brief, talked about the **changes in the public interest sector due to the marketization of the space occupied by civil society organizations**. She emphasized that the main conditions for positive marketization effects, e.g., equal treatment of all stakeholders, might not be given in China and that, therefore, this development could lead to an advantageous positioning of organizations with conservative values and the marginalization of certain topics in the NGO sector, such as gender equality.



Guo Ting on the marketization of the space occupied by civil society organizations

Mr. Li Hailong, the Deputy Director of the Center for Eco-city Planning and Construction of the Chinese Society for Urban Studies (CSUS), shared information on the subject of **Chinese urbanization under the framework of the SDGs**. Mr. Li explained that there is little room for citizen participation in Chinese urban development planning. Only when the design is finished and most projects are fixed will the public be informed. He pointed out that “detailed planning needs to involve going to every household to talk with the people”. Currently, municipal governments are experimenting with new methods of online information disclosure to facilitate public participation.

During the group discussion that followed, the twinners and visiting local NGO representatives identified a variety of economic, environmental and social



Li Hailong, Deputy Director of the Center for Eco-city Planning

problems triggered by rapid urbanization, as well as possible sustainable solutions involving civil society participation. All participants were asked to reflect on their encounters with the effects of urbanization in the course of their NGO work. The first group pointed out that it is necessary to view rural and urban challenges as interrelated. Rural development is necessary in order to reign in the rural exodus and NGOs can play an important role in these efforts. The second group also saw improving living conditions in rural areas as a possible solution to the brain-drain in China's villages; they furthermore postulated that a more human-centered approach to urban planning is needed to create sustainable cities.

The second day was divided into four thematic panel discussions.

The first dealt with the concept of **sustainable living** and was comprised of three pairs of Twinning fellows. One key question concerned the relationship between growth and development. Zanda Skuja from Green Liberty Latvia argued that “if we go back to the definition that development is social change for the better, then it does not necessarily have to mean growth in the mathematical sense which we commonly associate with economics. In that case, we can join the ideas of sustainable living and economic development.” Her organization promotes a sustainable lifestyle through inspiring people to buy products with fair trade labels. It has also launched a pilot scheme to reward citizens who practice garbage sorting. The Chinese Twinning fellow Zhang Lingling from the Shanghai-based NGO BlueSky4Children pointed out that the “consumption addiction” China faces after years of experiencing a sense of “lacking”, needs to be addressed. NGOs should focus on the promotion of “upgraded consumption” and purchasing of sustainable products. Zhang also emphasized the difference between short-term satisfaction achieved through consumption and long-term happiness. The discussion then turned to the techniques needed in a circular economy, such as the ability to repair and recycle, as well as the willingness to donate idle belongings. Finally, the broader questions of how to change values, and how to define happiness and satisfaction were explored. Zanda pointed out that the time is ripe for shifting from a culture of “having” to a culture of “sharing”. Zhang Liuting, from the NGO Green Woodpecker, admonished participants not to forget that the rural population still faces a “culture

of lacking” and that there is a big gap between cities and villages in China. In her opinion, a more urgent question should be how to ensure a fair distribution of wealth in China. Here the audience noticed another big gap between China and Europe. Social justice in general became the focus of the discussion.



Twinners discuss new models for sustainable communities

The second panel's topic was **sustainable communities**. These were defined as economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient communities. The discussion focused on how to create such communities by creating integrated solutions and by planning for long-term goals. Each organization reported how they work on this topic. Wang Yuan, representing the NGO Friends of Nature, stressed that many of their projects are only effective if managed as community outreach programs, like the current “Low-carbon household” initiative. While instructing one family on how to change their home into a more sustainable one might be a starting point, it is the snowball effect that they strive for. Yang Deng from the Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CCSCP) spoke about the threat of social degeneration in China, as well as about how her organization's sharing communities rebuild trust and seek to reintroduce the human element into city planning. Louis Moreira from Quercus highlighted the role NGOs play in facilitating participation and the empowerment individuals through their engagement in communities and cooperatives. Liu Jiaqi from Friends of Old Villages pointed out the importance of

using community approaches in rural areas. The general tone of this panel's debate suggested that community level approaches to improving sustainability had a clear advantage in China and might be easier to implement in Asia than in Europe.

Panel three focused on **inclusive education**. Two Twinning pairs were accompanied by Pan Yu, a representative from the NGO Hunan Aimier, which had participated in the 2013 Twinning Exchange. Pan Yu discussed his organization's exchange with the British NGO Chickenshed and how their work has continued in the almost 3 years since. The Twinning fellow from the Lingnan Partner Community Support Center, Yao Zhilu, pointed out that informal education and awareness raising is especially important for children from poor backgrounds, some of which have no family. Referring to the first panel, she and her partner Antoaneta Pophlebarova (BalkanKids Foundation) pointed out that these children do not have a "culture of having". Orphans and prison youth are confronted with staff members who usually lack pedagogical training. One way of helping these children is through the ERASMUS+ project, which makes it possible to travel with disadvantaged young adults. Other panelists shared their own experience in educating today's youth, especially on issues of environmentalism and sustainability.

The fourth and last panel was made up of four Twinning pairs and dealt with the far reaching topics of **pollution, climate change and litigation**. Participants first discussed the influence of China's revised 2015 Environmental Protection Law, as well as their own experience

with the new legislation. Zeng Yaping from the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV) informed the audience that since the reform of the law, 42 environmental public interest litigation (EPIL) cases have been filed in China, with 36 of these going through civil court procedures and 34 of them having been initiated by NGOs. There have been many examples of far reaching environmental scandals. When local courts refuse to hear a case, NGOs have to fight through many instances, with some cases making it all the way to the Supreme Court. This, of course, is only possible if the NGO has experienced staff and sufficient resources. Peter Feldkamp from the German NGO Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. noted that the ability to file public interest cases is a sharp sword and an important tool for NGOs in Europe. Nevertheless, he also warned that in fields like air pollution it might lead to the state completely forsaking its responsibilities, making effective law enforcement dependent on private fundraising. The Twinning fellows, all of whom had dealt with litigation, compared the legal conditions in which their NGOs operate in different countries, including Germany, Spain, the UK and Austria, highlighting the respective differences, advantages and disadvantages of working in each. During the discussion, other twinningers suggested establishing a networking platform to facilitate further exchanges. One question, for example, was how to sue companies engaged in fracking. Other issues were carbon market mechanisms and the "Green Desert", an area created by forest monoculture projects which had been accredited by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). China's future as the world's largest market for emissions trading also led to intense discussions.



Many of the 2016 twinningers shared their knowledge on the topic of litigation

In the evening on August 19th, the international board of the twinning program met to reflect on the workshop and the evolution of the Twinning Exchange program.

On August 20th, workshop activities were divided between a preparatory meeting for Chinese twinningers prior to their stay in Europe and a cultural event for European participants.

Three Chinese alumni from the 2014 and 2015 Twinning programs shared their experiences from the exchange, including the challenges they encountered, as well as advice on working and living in Europe.

In the afternoon, Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri, former Chairman of the IPCC and Nobel Peace Prize winner, deliv-



Board meeting 2016 in very hot and humid Changsha

ered a keynote speech about the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report on **climate change in China**. The report highlighted the clear evidence of human influence on climate change. Fossil fuel consumption, overuse of natural resources and improper waste management were only a few of the few topics covered by this well received speech. Dr. Pachauri also introduced a project he launched called Protect Our Planet, which emphasizes the teaching of climate change issues in schools and supports young activists. His project's approach resonated among the youth-focused Twinning participants and might lead to future collaborations. Dr. Pachauri's warning, that the current generation was the last that could change the disastrous path which the obsession with economic growth had led humanity down, both discomforted and motivated the audience. Many discussions followed this input and were carried over into dinner that evening.

Before dinner, however, twinning and visiting NGO activists were asked to participate in a world café exercise and discuss topics which they themselves had chosen. What followed was an energetic and interactive discussion on topics such as community-based emissions reduction, sustainable living and the preservation of environmental and cultural landscapes in the countryside.

On August 21st, Twinning participants went on a **field trip** to an area on the shores of the Xiang River, a key source of drinking water for Changsha. Guided by members of the local chapter of Green Hunan, twinning participants walked along the river bank and learned about water quality assessment techniques, as well as Changsha's new filtration and water re-usage policies. While tem-

peratures averaging 35 °C might have caused some discomfort, the hot weather certainly served to reinforce the importance of access to clean drinking water.

The workshop ended with a **traditional Hunan lunch** and left the Chinese and Europeans with many new impressions. They gained a deeper understanding of numerous topics, developed ideas for possible future collaborations and left looking forward to the final program workshop in Berlin.

Stories of Change – Twinners Roland Jöbstl and Peter Feldkamp Speak at the Beijing Environmental Networking Event “Green Drinks”

The 2016 Twinning program also gave Roland Jöbstl (European Environmental Bureau) and Peter Feldkamp (Deutsche Umwelthilfe) the opportunity to speak at BJ Green Drinks in Beijing, a networking event that regularly invites environmental scholars, activists and journalists and to discuss sustainable development.

Roland spoke on how new alliances between local governments, industry, consumers, and NGOs shift the narrative for ambitious climate action; Peter talked about the Berlin bicycle referendum, a local initiative initiated by himself and others that is compelling the municipal government to increase its overall investment in bicycle infrastructure, thereby giving cycling a new role in Berlin's urban environment. For more information on this event, see: <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2016/09/stories-of-change-twinners-roland-joebstl-and-peter-feldkamp-speak-at-the-beijing-environmental-networking-event-green-drinks/>



Twinners like Wang Yuan from Friends of Nature engaged in passionate discussions during the World Café

The 2016 Berlin Capacity-Building and Reflection Week

How do civil society organizations campaign in Europe and how does that compare to campaigning in the context of China's restricted media landscape? What are the hot topics of NGOs in Europe and in China? What can Chinese and European NGOs learn from each other?

A week of field trips, political discussions and information exchanges about various NGO experiences in Europe and China awaited participants on a visit to Berlin from October 31st to November 4th, with expert input that covered topics like civil society involvement in urbanization processes, trade agreements, environmental litigation and sustainable living.

The event was organized by Stiftung Asienhaus, CANGO, and CAN-Europe in order to enable twinning to exchange ideas and share their twinning experiences with others. Stiftung Asienhaus, CANGO and CAN-E were kindly supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, as well as Stiftung Mercator. The participants of this year's program came from China, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Latvia, Portugal, Bulgaria, France, and England.

During the **first two days** the participants had the opportunity to polish their presentation skills when facing an international audience. This intercultural presentation workshop was held by Antariya Kaeding, Moritz Meyer and Dr. Jens Rogmann from the University of Hamburg. The training culminated in each of the 12



2 day intercultural presentation training Berlin

Twinning pairs giving highly creative and professional presentations during the workshop.

During the following two days, around 50 international guests listened to talks by NGO experts from both regions, Europe and China.

On **November 2nd**, representatives of European NGOs discussed “participation” and campaigning at the local, European and global level, following welcome speeches by the organizers, Dr. Nora Sausmikat, Mathias Claeys Bouuaert (Project Manager of the Twinning program at CAN-Europe) and Dr. Horst Fabian. On behalf of the Chinese organizer CANGO, moderator Ludwig Weitz introduced the speakers of the day:

Nelly Grotefendt (*Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung*) introduced the history of **TTIP-campaigning at the global level**. She gave an overview of the main reasons for resistance to TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), along with the different platforms and initiatives against it. She also described the “European Citizens Initiative” (ECI), a very successful instrument for submitting legislative proposals to the European Council.

The second input, on **European Anti-Coal campaigning**, was introduced by Elena Bixel (CAN-E). Representing local-level campaigns, Denis Petri (Volksentscheid Fahrrad Berlin) introduced the campaign launched by his organization to hold a **referendum on Berlin's bicycle infrastructure**. Denis described how citizens can fight for better air by demanding improvements in cycling infrastructure. Indeed, the Berlin-based campaign has since become a national movement, gaining the support of many politicians.

During the discussion, it became clear that understanding the EU and its trade sovereignty over member states was difficult from a Chinese perspective.

On the topic of coal, the audience learned that some European countries are actually “coal free”, i.e., have stopped the coal-powered turbines that generate electricity. This is true of Belgium, Scotland and Switzerland. Indeed, only 24 % of the European energy mix is derived from coal, while that number is a staggering 70 % for China. Then again, China is not that different from other EU countries like Poland, where 80 % of the electricity stems from coal-fired power plants. Elena



Thomas Henneberg introducing Robert Bosch Foundation to the NGO twinningers 2016

Bixel and Roland Jöbstl agreed that **coal and nuclear energy need to be phased out** simultaneously. “It’s possible – not only possible, it’s necessary!”, stated Roland Jöbstl.

Building on Denis Petri’s talk, Yu Yin (Stiftung Asienhaus), as well as Yang Deng (CCSCP) and Jeanne Cao (Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy), told the audience about cycling initiatives in different Chinese cities. The main problem in China seems to be very similar to Europe – the missing infrastructure. Hou Yuanqing (China Green Carbon Foundation) was especially impressed by the European passion for bicycles. After visiting Brussels, Cologne and Berlin, he felt that “in China, during the past ten years, the streets have become a kingdom of cars.” Referring to the presentation on making Berlin’s biking infrastructure safer, Hou Yuanqing added “I am suggesting to promote this in China, where bikes have become unpopular!”

In the afternoon, audience members and NGO representatives, led by moderator Ludwig Weitz, discussed several questions in using a “Tea House Dialogue” format. All conference participants formed groups of varying compositions and exchanged recommendations as to working methods, instruments, best practices, etc., based on experiences gained, not only during their daily work in their respective NGOs, but especially during their participation in the EU-China NGO Twinning Exchange. In this way, they shared their expertise and provided insights into their Twinning experiences.

“Communication is the key” as one participant put it with regard to cultural differences. “At first, we experienced many communication issues, but after a while

we managed to cooperate closely”. As Laura De Jaeger (Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken) pointed out: “If you give respect, you will receive respect.”

The fourth day, **November 3rd**, focused on the participants’ work during the exchange program. After short welcome speeches by **Clemens Spieß**, Project Manager for the Southeast Asia region at the Robert Bosch Foundation, and Dr. Nora Sausmikat, 12 NGO representatives described their Twinning experience using a variety of formats.

Prior to these presentations, Louisa Kistemaker, a 2015 Twinning alumni, told the audience about **follow-up projects, a tool provided to those participating in the Stiftung Asienhaus pillar of the program** (all follow-up projects are documented on the project website, eu-china-twinning.org). Louisa’s follow-up project consisted of an environmental education festival in

This program connects people and nations, and helps us to develop many different methods for our work, thereby fostering our strengths.

Yang Deng (CCSCP, Germany)

Beijing. It was organized by her NGO, A tip: tap e.V., together with FCASEC from Bulgaria, as well as the Eco-Watch Institute (Kunming) and the Evergreen Center for Sustainable Development (Beijing). According to Louisa Kistemaker, the organizers are already looking forward to “the follow-up of the follow-up”.



Meeting with politicians during a visit to the German parliament

There were too many highlights in the twinning's presentations to report on in this summary. Please visit <http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/participants-reports/> to find presentation slides, photos and a short video of the presentations. Don't miss Yao Zhilu and Antoaneta Pophlebarova's rap about the Twinning experience.

Day 5, **November 4th**, started with a presentation by **Thomas Henneberg of the Robert Bosch Stiftung** on their China portfolio. A large number of incredibly diverse projects were briefly introduced to an interested Chinese-European audience.

The **field trip to the German Parliament** following this presentation was another highlight of the Berlin Capacity-Building Week. Participants visited the Reichstag building before they had the opportunity to meet two German politicians from the party Alliance 90/The Greens: Dr. Michael Weltzin, Policy Advisor on climate issues, and Research Associate Stephan Bischoff. They answered the twinning's questions about the **German Energiewende** (energy transition) on behalf of Annalena Baerbock, the member of parliament who had arranged this meeting but could, unfortunately, not take part.

The very last item on the agenda of the Capacity-Building and Reflection Week was an invitation to the premises of the European Climate Foundation, where Dr. Martin Rocholl, Head of the foundation's Germany program, discussed environmental issues with the twinning. The input given by Dr. Rocholl on the question "Where are the main strategic challenges for German and European climate policies?" sparked a lively discussion that covered many different topics in the fields of social justice, climate change and renewable energies. As Dr. Rocholl underlined, the situation of the energy companies RWE and Vattenfall is problematic, given that their portfolios mainly consist of coal and nuclear, both of which are supposed to be phased out. The issue concerns the financial resources of the companies when dealing with nuclear waste storage. Also, possible solutions were discussed for the 15.000 coal workers in Germany whose jobs are threatened. Another topic was the guaranteed feed-in prices for renewable energy in Germany. Dr. Rocholl highlighted the fact that Germany aims to meet 50 % of its electricity demand from renewable energy sources within the next ten years.

With such positive thoughts, the program's agenda was concluded and participants, who had gained many new impressions and ideas during this week of exchange and reflection, left to various destinations.

2. EU-China NGO Twinning Participants 2016

Compared to previous years, the 2016 Twinning was very special in terms of the age and gender of the participants. Twinners working in the fields of renewable energy, climate change and low-carbon research were mostly men, while those engaged in litigation, education and circular economies were mainly female. In general, Chinese twinners were much younger in 2016 than in prior twinning rounds. In 2016, the following partner organizations and topics were included in the Twinning:

2016 – “Social and Environmental Justice” Twinners		
Chinese Organization	European Organization	Focus Topic
Ms. Yao Zhilu / Lingnan Partners Community Support Centre (Guangzhou)	Ms. Antoaneta Pophlebarova / BalkanKids Foundation (Bulgaria)	Sexual education for marginalized youth
Ms. Liu Jiaqi/Friends of Old Villages (Shenzhen)	Ms. Florence Nick/Bund Heimat und Umwelt (Germany)	Cultural heritage preservation
Ms. Zhang Lingling & Ms. Zhao Chunyan/BlueSky4Children (Shanghai)	Ms. Monika Wirges & Ms. Susanne Fischer/Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt und Energie (Germany)	Circular economy, sustainable clothing-network development
Mr. Sheng Bo/P8 (Changsha)	Ms. Yang Deng/Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (Germany)	Sharing economy and co-housing
Ms. Chen Zhen/China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (Beijing)	Mr. Peter Feldkamp/Deutsche Umwelthilfe e. V. (Germany)	Environmental litigation in air pollution cases
Ms. Zeng Yaping/Centre for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (Beijing)	Ms. Carlota Ruiz-Batista & Ms. Alba Iranzo/Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (Spain)	Environmental Public Litigation Systems
Ms. Cao Xiaojing/Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy (Shanghai)	Ms. Laura De Jaeger/Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken (Belgium)	Sustainable consumption
2016 – “Climate Change” Twinners		
Chinese Organization	European Organization	Focus Topic
Mr. Hou Yuanqing/China Green Carbon Foundation (Beijing)	Mr. Roland Jöbstl/European Environmental Bureau (Belgium)	Low-carbon practices
Ms. Wei Wei/Roots and Shoots (Chengdu)	Ms. Zanda Skuja/Green Liberty Latvia (Latvia)	Waste management
Mr. Meng Deliang/Environmental Education Promotion Centre (Jinan)	Mr. Firmian von Peez/North South Forum (Germany)	Local climate and environmental policies
Ms. Wang Yuan/Friends of Nature (Beijing)	Mr. Luis Moreira/Quercus (Portugal)	Low-carbon households
Ms. Guo Hongyu/Greenovation Hub (Beijing)	Mr. Andrew Murphy/Transport and Environment (Belgium)	Reduction of aviation emission

European exchange fellows stayed in China from July to September 2016, while Chinese participants resided in Europe from October until the middle of December 2016.

What follows are the reports on the Twinning Exchange as submitted by the participating organizations and Twinning fellows.

2.a Social and Environmental Justice Twinning Reports

BalkanKids Foundation & Lingnan Partners Community Centre

During the 2016 Twinning Exchange, the BalkanKids Foundation and the Lingnan Partners Community Centre initiated a knowledge exchange on the topic of informal youth education, with a particular focus on health and sexual education.



Twinners Yao Zhilu and Antoaneta Pophlebarova

Exchange Topic – Sexual education and technology addiction prevention for marginalized youth

The main objective of this project was to start a process of exchange between BalkanKids and Lingnan Partners on sexual education, health education and social work with disadvantaged children. We wanted to use a process of learning-by-doing, while also getting to know different cultures, structures and mentalities in approaching such difficult topics. We had high expectations for this project and hope that it will enable children to realize the relevance proper sexual knowledge in their daily lives, and that it will put them in a position to deal more assertively with issues related to sexuality and love when confronted with sexual harassment, violence or crisis.

Lingnan Partners Community Centre hosting Antoaneta Pophlebarova in Guangzhou

Activities

One of the main activities that I was engaged in during my stay in China was getting acquainted with the network of NGOs working in sexual education, HIV prevention and detection, educational support for disadvantaged children and migrant children; as well as with the various health education and youth involvement structures in the Guangzhou region. I also introduced the European Union (EU) youth work support structures and European Voluntary Service (EVS) volunteering opportunities to Chinese youth workers.

The process of getting to know each other was very interesting and revealing to me on a personal and professional level. What I observed was a hierarchical and stable system comprised of local governments, private companies and NGOs, which was responsible for:

- sexual education – Guangdong YouthNet,
- involving urban students in peer education in less economically developed regions – YU FOUNDATION,
- supporting children of migrant workers in dealing with educational and social difficulties – V LOVE IT Association,
- supporting those suffering from alienation, low self-esteem and difficult relationships – Nurturing Relationships Foundation and
- giving attention and catering to the needs of LGBT communities – Lingnan Partners

With the guidance of my Twinning partner, Yao Zhilu, I visited the offices of all these organizations, introducing them to the BalkanKids Foundation, the Erasmus+



Chinese sexual education material

program and the European Voluntary Service. In return, I gained a deeper understanding of their activities and ideas for the future. I was deeply impressed with the professionalism of their educational materials, which were abundant and appealing in design.

“Depth and Passion” a Chinese conference on sexual education

I was invited to a large two-day conference on sexual education. It was a final trainers’ training event, where each speaker tackled deeply intimate topics in front of a large audience. LGBT people had the confidence to speak up, which was astonishing given that, in China, homosexuality had only been removed from the list of mental illnesses in 2001. Listening to men publicly confess their sexual misconceptions, some of which they had held until the age of 21, as well as the rich variety of questions asked and answered, was deeply moving. I was constantly asking myself how such an event would be viewed in my home country, where we all pretend to be widely informed about sex issues, but giggle foolishly when topics like these are raised. We leave our children at the mercy of unfiltered information pro-

vided by the media and have a low success rate when it comes to unwanted pregnancy prevention among poor and disadvantaged groups. Many things were stunning to me in China, but this especially – the intensity with which a government-streamlined process is adopted by the population – since the lifting of the one-child policy, sexual education has become a priority.

I also had the opportunity to experience kindergarten education and English classes for children during my stay. The sheer size of Mr. Qiu Lin’s Love Kindergarten in Haifeng city surprised me, while the lack of modern, accessible English learning literature explained many of the linguistic problems I encountered.

Conclusion

The result of my twinning is a stable, long-term professional and personal relationship with my partner Yao Zhilu. The next step of which has already been decided: promoting sexual education training and materials among high school students in Bulgaria, and promoting informal education and social campaigning methods among university students in China.

BalkanKids have started a program of sexual education for disadvantaged kids. For this reason, we need to keep training our peer-to-peer educators and encourage them to spread the message. Our exchange with Zhilu has shown that we can learn a lot from the concise Chinese methodology. We need to translate some of the materials and strategies used there into English, so as to develop lesson plans and handouts based on Chinese tutorials for our program.

The twinning resulted in 15 trained, peer-to-peer high school educators, plenty of youth work in the field, an enhanced understanding of Chinese and European education and many plans for future cooperation.

BalkanKids Foundation hosting Yao Zhilu in Varna

The program in Bulgaria was focused on sexual education among disadvantaged and foster care children, with the goal of sharing and building trust with them. We also attempted to educate them on sexual issues using the methodology of the Guangdong Peer-to-Peer Education model from China. We trained 15 local high-

school volunteers to be peer-to-peer educators. In order to gain a deeper understanding of sexual education-related content, the training was transferred to a foster home where the youngsters were presented with necessary and accurate sexual information.

Activities

With the linguistic assistance of our high school peer-to-peer educators, my classes in the foster home were not only successful but also highly enlightening. When

Our cooperation with Zhilu has shown me that we can learn a lot from the concise Chinese methodology.

Antoaneta Pophlebarova (Balkan Kids Foundation)

I was sharing sexual concepts with local Bulgarian high school students and an attending French exchange group, we discovered that due to different cultural

backgrounds, we often misunderstood each other. However, all of us benefitted from the tri-cultural atmosphere.

Weekly high school peer-to-peer educator training was one of the most important parts of my twinning in Varna. We invited volunteers from the BalkanKids Foundation who were interested in the following topics: sexual minorities, love, sexual behavior and decision-making, sexual harassment, prevention of STDs and AIDS, contraception and abortion. My Twinning partner Antoaneta was full of encouragement during my sometimes challenging time in Bulgaria.

Working at an orphanage

Every Wednesday afternoon, I worked alongside the EVS volunteers from the BalkanKids Foundation at the orphanage. Sexual education was especially important in that environment. Many children had their first sexual encounters at a surprisingly young age, but nobody had ever talked to them about sex, protection or the high level of risk they were exposing themselves to.

A colleague from the EVS project took me along to the day care center for children, a place where many BalkanKids Foundation members volunteered. All the children there had been diagnosed with a mental disability. It was an entirely new work environment for me and rather intimidating at first. I did, however, get used

BalkanKids Foundation

The BalkanKids Foundation from Varna, Bulgaria was founded in 2004. Their work is focused on young people from disadvantaged economic backgrounds and orphanages. The foundation's aim is the prevention of risky behavior among young people by developing programs for inclusion and social leadership. They manage foster homes, day care centers and other social institutions. The organization teaches through informal educational methods like sports and music.

Antoaneta Pophlebarova

Ms. Pophlebarova is the owner and administrative director of a language center, as well as the President of BalkanKids Foundation. She also coordinates the activities of European Voluntary Service volunteers with social care centers in town. Since 2004, she has been the foundation's project manager for all international projects as well as the coordinator for People to People International, a large international organization. She holds a master's degree in English Philology and is a qualified CELTA English teacher, as well as a Cambridge examiner.



Peer-to-peer sexual education in Bulgaria

to the innocent way in which they expressed themselves quickly.

Varna Prevention Center (VPC)

The VPC invited Antoaneta and me to a knowledge exchange about the differences between Lingnan Partners and their own HIV prevention programs. China has about 40 million persons infected with HIV, while Bulgaria has about 2,000. We discovered that peer-to-peer information exchange and service points for sexual education were methods used by both of us. Comparing each other's methods was very illuminating.

Conclusion

The multicultural aspect of the Twinning helped underline specific needs with regard to sexual education among different age groups and people with varying cultural backgrounds. On the whole, this brief experience has been very helpful for me as I continue to reflect on and seek improvements in the peer-to-peer education process.

In the last few lessons of the pilot peer-to-peer training, the young people did intensive team exercises and mastered a broad curriculum in their coursework, advancing to become peer-to-peer educators themselves. Receiving their certificates of completion, jointly issued by our two organizations, was certainly a highlight for our young trainees. The knowledge I shared with the children in the homes and with the young volunteers was repaid by them with lots of affection.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

Our organizations went through an intensive consultation process and decided to apply for a follow-up cooperation grant organized by Stiftung Asienhaus and supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation.

My organization will join the BalkanKids Foundation in the first half of 2017 and use TedXTalk to realize

a Peer-to-peer Sexual Education Lecturer Contest. We will organize a fund-raising project, so that the winners and their counterparts can have a travel exchange opportunity. The goal is to fund the travel costs of a young person from each country, so that they can visit their partner in a sort of junior Twinning Exchange.

Antoaneta will come to China to expand our training through Forum Theater, which will add to the development of sexual education in China by adding an attractive new format. During my stay in Bulgaria, I learned that this theater-based technique can trigger a motivated discussions and an open sharing of ideas.

On the Bulgarian side, we will work together to train peer-to-peer educators in high schools, so that they can regularly share their knowledge of sexual education with disadvantaged youngster and organize a monthly sex-ed-related workshop in the Balkankids Foundation office.

Infobox

Lingnan Partner Community Support Centre

Lingnan Partner Community Support Centre is China's biggest NGO working mainly on sexual health services and education in South China. The organization was founded in 2007 and works closely with the Guangdong Provincial Department of Education and other institutions, enabling them to reach China's youth with their educational programs. The Centre holds many seminars which teach young people about sexually transmitted diseases, like HIV.

Yao Zhilu

Ms. Yao Zhilu is a graduate student at the City College of Dongguan University of Technology. From 2013, she also acted as the director of the Xinmiao social service center. She was a Joint Coordinator for College projects and became part of the key staff of Lingnan Partner Community Support Centre in 2015. Her professional courses focus on adolescent social work and community work, as well as social science and psychology. Her work has been recognized through several provincial level awards.

Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU) & Friends of Old Villages

BHU and Friends of Old Villages conducted their exchange on methods and strategies for preserving rural landscapes, as well as on how social innovation can be used in their revitalization.



Twinnings Florence Nick and Liu Jiaqi

Exchange Topic: Rural and cultural landscape preservation

Especially in the context of urbanization and the general trend of people leaving rural areas and moving to modern cities in China, as well as in Germany, both organizations are committed to the preservation of

tangible and intangible cultural heritage. To contribute to the sustainability of communities, we aim to make people see the value of their living environment, including architecture and landscape, as important elements of local culture, tradition and history. Our organizations provide information to the public on the historical, cultural and traditional value of certain places.

Friends of Old Villages hosting Florence Nick in Shenzhen

During our exchange period in Shenzhen we engaged in many activities and had opportunities to compare how our organizations operate. We also exchanged ideas about how to build a sustainable community and discussed different concepts, such as cultural landscapes. Common and different aspects and commitments crystallized more and more clearly with every discussion and activity. BHU works more as a network that brings together multiple actors; the Friends work more on site, realizing preservation projects and supporting entrepreneurs in doing so, while also expanding their network of experts.

Culture

In this exchange, where the traditions, culture, landscapes and architecture were so new to me, Jiaqi and the Friends were the “insiders” and were, of course, much more likely to provide input than me – at least up to the point at which I had reached a sufficient level of knowledge about the local situation. I first had to get to know the Chinese villages and the Friends’ work in a more detailed way. In the end, however, similarities and differences between our organizations emerged quite clearly. We found many occasions to exchange our ideas and to reflect on them.

Activities

In the first week, Jiaqi gave me a comprehensive introduction into the Friends’ work, including their projects, funding and main functions, as well as into the devel-



The gate of a family shrine in Hubei Village, Shenzhen

opment of the city of Shenzhen. I got to know several villages in Shenzhen and their history.

Visiting villages

Visiting the villages was, of course, indispensable to getting deeper insights into the work of the Friends of Old Villages, as well as to gaining more background knowledge about spatial developments in China. We visited villages where preservation work had been completed successfully, such as Da Peng (Shenzhen) and Huangpu (Guangzhou). Both of them are tourist attractions and have museums and buildings which have been refurbished and restored.

Mr. Huang invited us to Huangpu to hold presentations and to get to know the village as an example for successful preservation. Other places we visited were Hubei village in Shenzhen and a village called “Seeing the Dragon” in the countryside in Huizhou. The latter village is classified as a provincial “cultural heritage” site and there is more preservation work yet to be done. The large contrast between rural villages and cities was astonishing.



Mr. Huang in Huangpu village, Guangzhou, talks to two Twinning pairs

The Friends were working on a guided tour project which included publishing a booklet as a guide to Shenzhen villages. To collect historical information on several villages in Shenzhen, I did some research online, but most of the information I found was rather superficial and basic. Also, historical relicts are at risk of being lost because of government plans to demolish the villages in favor of shopping malls and other modern buildings, a fate that has already befallen many Chinese villages. In Hubei village, you can find the largest concentration of historical architecture in Shen-

hen. Today, Hubei village comprises an old and a new district, the former dating back to the Ming Dynasty, the latter already modernized. We visited Hubei twice, exploring the old part of the village and trying to figure out how to design a guided tour there.

We were invited by Mr. Huang Jinrong, who used to be responsible for the restoration of the Cantonese village of Huangpu in Guangzhou, to hold a talk about problems of preservation work in Germany and China. With an audience including two participants from the Twinning program (Antoaneta from Bulgaria and Zhilu from Guangzhou), we talked about different problems and themes in preservation work. It was very interesting to see the results of successful preservation work. The village was inviting and clean, and the buildings were in good shape – unlike Hubei, with its deficient sewage system and waste management. Mr. Huang pointed out the difficulty of finding the right balance between development and preservation. When revitalizing a place, it is important to keep it dynamic and to stimulate the local economy, while at the same time preserving local cultural heritage.

The Real Expo

The Friends were part of the Real Expo in Shenzhen, an exposition for real estate in China, which took place during the last week of my stay. There were stands and brochures with landscape photos, project reports, women and men in traditional clothes and jewelry, as well as stands where Chinese tea was being served and local products presented. Some of these local products were produced by young entrepreneurs, which the Friends had helped support with crowd-funding campaigns. In addition to the stands, decision makers, academics and project organizers held presentations.

Again, the contrast between rural and urban was clearly visible: there was a big difference between the stands representing Chinese villages and the real estate stands financed by the government, which primarily promote urban development. The small village stands were very inviting and ornate, whereas the other stands promoting urban investments were large and futuristically equipped. Apparently, Chinese society focuses more on cultural and traditional heritage nowadays than was the case 10 to 20 years ago. However, the extent of investment in village projects is still smaller than in urban development.

Results of the Twinning

For Hubei village, we designed a guided tour. Agreeing that audience participation is important, we included interactive storytelling, Q&A rounds and games. In addition, including locals helps outsiders in understanding people's connection to their surroundings and, by extension, the core reasons to preserve a place. Making a guided tour more community-driven would be similar to community-based tourism (CBT), a topic on which I did some research.

Common goals and how to achieve them

Our common goal, to make rural space attractive to locals and outsiders, can be achieved by enlightening people about what is precious, valuable and meaningful in local history and culture. This means we first need to provide information to the public. Unfortunately, a lot of knowledge is at risk of being lost when there is such a strong focus on modernization. For the provision of information, aside from projects like guided tours, we both see a great chance in the use of digital applications.

They are especially helpful in providing and sharing information in a fast way and to a broad community, which also includes younger generations. Crowdfunding initiatives are also a fruitful way to use an online platform. When a project is being started with a crowdfunding initiative, those who donate already build a community of supporters. The digital way of operating can also facilitate participation and can be a way to encourage others to participate. Many old villages in China, for example, are not digitalized and detailed maps including street names often do not exist. This is another challenge for preservation work. Volunteers are needed to help work on mapping villages.

BHU hosting Liu Jiaqi in Bonn

Before the beginning of this exchange program, four exchange topics had been listed as a manifestation of our concerns and expectations:

1. BHU's way of networking;
2. community building in European rural areas;
3. ideas and methods of rural landscape preservation;
4. ideas and methods of social innovation.

The Central European Landscape Forum organized by BHU and Civilscape at the beginning of October, as well as many other activities, took place during my stay in Bonn with BHU, helping me conquer the topics mentioned above. Field trips to vineyards in Ahrweiler and its neighboring villages, as well as to the Spreewald, to DENKMAL in Leipzig, and finally to Merseburg allowed me to observe and learn more about the first three topics. Of course, it turned out that the exchange program provided much more for me than expected.

Activities

I started my twinning in Berlin instead of Bonn, as BHU organized the Central European Landscape Forum, together with Civilscape, to which I was invited.

The forum focused on the European Landscape Convention, which has not yet been signed by Germany. We discussed how landscapes should be seen as part of human culture and be taken care of from the perspective of cultural preservation. After the forum, I finally started my stay at the BHU office. I learned more about how BHU and German NGOs operate. The work I was included in there was very inspiring.

Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU)

Infobox

Founded in 1904, the main focus of Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU) is the conservation of cultural landscapes, nature, historical monuments and sites for the protection of regional languages and traditional customs. BHU is the umbrella organization of the local history and citizens' societies in the Federal Republic of Germany and has broad experience in international collaboration with sister organizations all over Europe.

Florence Nick

Ms. Florence Nick holds a bachelor's degree in geography and has been working for Bund Heimat und Umwelt on architecture and cultural landscapes. Since April 2016, she has been working as a student assistant and is responsible for editorial work, as well as the planning and organization of events. Furthermore, she has completed internships in several organizations, such as the Federal Institute for Research on Building and Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in Bonn.



Visiting a traditional “Grandma’s farmhouse” in Spreewald

Subsequently, my professor from the University of Macau introduced me to two Ph.D. students in Chinese dialects and literature, which accompanied me to Ghent, Belgium. We exchanged knowledge on how dialects and culture mingled in the rural area near the Yangtze Delta. They also drew my attention to how the environment shapes the cultural identity of a village, especially in remote areas. I shared this knowledge with BHU and the Friends.

Back in Germany, I visited three NGOs, as well as old farmhouses renovated by the Interessengruppe Bauernhaus (IGB) in the Spreewald. The three NGOs I visited were IGB, the European Council for the Village and Small Town (ECOVAST), and World Heritage Watch, all great NGOs that inspired me in my work. I hope future collaborations can be established.

DENKMAL

It was also very lucky for me to be able to visit DENKMAL, a trade fair for conservation, restoration and old-building renovation in Leipzig. I saw how old houses are taken care of by professional stonemasons, carpenters and IT people, who analyze and record old houses digitally, as well as NGOs. There, I met more NGOs, like EUROPA NOSTRA and its member associations. I also talked with DENKMAL organizers, which made it possible for the Friends to establish a collaboration with Architectural Heritage Preservation International. During the following weeks of my stay in Europe, I continued my work by introducing the Friends of Old Villages to European organizations, learning about European NGOs and their work, and investigating multiple cultural preservation projects and sites operated by BHU and its partners.

I also talked with DENKMAL organizers which made it possible for the Friends to establish collaboration with Architectural Heritage Preservation International, which inspire me in my work and future collaborations would be wonderful.

Liu Jiaqi (Friends of the Old Villages)

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

We are planning to continue our common work on the challenges for heritage preservation in terms of digitalization and volunteer collaboration. Our organizations will keep exchanging ideas and working together on projects that help preservation, in all areas. There are several possibilities, such as organizing study trips, helping to translate certain information, or spreading information about the other organization and the problems in the other country. We will also continue to exchange ideas on heritage preservation and future projects, such as the guided tour we designed together. Invitations to conferences have also been received, but funding is unsure, as of yet.

Infobox

Friends of Old Villages

Friends of Old Villages was established as an NGO in November, 2014, in Shenzhen, north of Hong Kong. It is the largest NGO working on the preservation of old villages in China. Protection of traditional rural architecture through revitalization, crowd funding and public interest litigation is the organization’s main focus. They utilize modern restoration technologies and public promotion to conserve traditional Chinese landscapes and combat the ongoing urbanization process.

Liu Jiaqi

Ms. Liu Jiaqi finished her bachelor’s degree in history at the University of Macao. Furthermore, she holds a master’s degree in art history, which she finished at the University of Kansas. Before her work at the Friends started she gained experience as a TA at the University of Macao and the University of Kansas, as Secretary General and Program Manager with the Association of Museum Student Researchers in Macau, and as a docent in the Zhuhai Museum, Zhuhai.

Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt und Energie & BlueSky4Children

This Twinning explored the possibility of building a sustainable clothing network and improving the sustainability of clothing across its life cycle. Different recycling and reuse options for reducing the carbon, water and material footprints of clothes were explored.



Twinners Monika Wirges and Zhang Lingling

Exchange Topic – Circular economies and establishing a global sustainable clothing network

The focus of this exchange was circular economy and establishing a global sustainable clothing network.

Values have to change in order to decouple economic growth from people's sense of happiness.

Monika Wirges (Wuppertal Institute für Klima, Umwelt und Energie)

During the exchange, the twinnings raised awareness about sustainable clothes management, introducing fabric-sorting and scalable downstream recycling solutions to different groups in China and establishing a “collaborative consumption” project. A synergy emerged between the Wuppertal Institute’s research methods and BlueSky4Children’s concrete actions in the clothing sector regarding the question of how to raise awareness of clothing reuse and recycling.

BlueSky4Children hosting Susanne Fischer and Monika Wirges in Shanghai

The aim for us was to learn more about textile recycling in China, to find out how sustainability is perceived in China, and to see which approaches have already been implemented. We also wanted to learn more about grassroots sustainability initiatives in China, especially in terms of coordination and planning.

As we had not come into contact with BlueSky4Children before, we were surprised at the large number and variety of activities they engaged in, given their small staff. A challenge and a first task at the beginning of the exchange was to get an overview of BlueSky4Children’s current activities. Working conditions in a shared space were also quite different from those in Germany and took some time to get used to. Communication in English worked well with some staff members, while the language barrier was an issue with others and especially outside of the office.

Activities

In Shanghai, we took part in the daily activities of BlueSky4Children and were introduced to their different business activities, which we classified as (a) collecting used clothes for textile donation, (b) collecting used clothes for mechanical recycling, (c) engaging with communities to promote remaking textiles and up-cycling, and (d) engaging in online education on minimalistic lifestyles. For example, we took part in different workshops organized by BlueSky4Children to teach school children about the up-cycling of textiles.

During our stay in China, we compiled a comprehensive report on the four activity streams mentioned above. The underlying idea was to produce a catchy and understandable overview of BlueSky4Children’s core identity and mission, in order to interest potential future investors. Therefore, we used the methodology of a “business model canvas”, that consists of nine different pillars, all describing what the particular business is about. Furthermore, material and carbon

footprint calculations which factored in the clothes recycling process used by BlueSky4Children were conducted. In addition, we organized networking meetings with Shanghai-based sustainability stakeholders, among them the Hamburg Liaison Office Shanghai Co. Ltd, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and the magazine “Business Ecology”.



Clothes recycling in China

Excerpt of the detailed work plan in Shanghai

- Visit to the new office in another part of Shanghai (Sandbox/Co-Working space) and warehouse
- Transportation of textiles to the washing area. Washing, drying, assembling, sorting, labeling with size numbers and packing of the clothes.
- Visit to the optical department of Shanghai University: Presentation and discussion of the results from an optical analysis of roughly 100 different textile samples.
- Visit to an organic food market, one of the first places in Shanghai that offers urban gardening to the people. It includes educational courses and weekend celebrations. People can also rent 1m² of land to plant vegetables, which is taken care of by

the farm when they are on holiday. Other activities are also planned. The project is sponsored by the “Knowledge Innovation Community”, which provides the land.

- Visit to a community workshop: Remaking and up-cycling clothes with children and their parents.
- Participation in a remaking and up-cycling workshop with children and their parents in a small community in Shanghai. The workshop included making a carpet from old jeans.
- Participation in a remaking and upcycling workshop on making teddy bears from old clothes in a community on the outskirts of Shanghai. In the small community, young people from the city are encouraged to move back to the country and are taught agricultural skills.
- Sharing workshop with Lingling and Laura Dejaeger from Netwerk Bewuist Verbruiken, another NGO participating in the exchange.
- Prepared a detailed analysis of the logistical processes of clothes collecting after visiting the warehouse and participating in washing, sorting and packaging clothes.

Meetings and Networking

- Networking meeting with Mr. Lars Anke (Executive Director at Hamburg Liaison Office Shanghai Co. Ltd.). We discussed possibilities for BlueSky4Children to increase its visibility, such as through an announcement in the Hamburg/Shanghai newsletter. We also planned a meeting with the Evangelische Kirche at the end of October in Shanghai.
- Networking meeting with Mr. David Merkle (Project Assistant, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Shanghai) and



Lingling and Monika visiting the Red Cross

Mr. Maximilian Rech (Programme Director & Assistant Professor in International Affairs, ESSCA School of Management, Shanghai): Discussion of potential synergies among ongoing textile initiatives in Shanghai.

- Networking meeting with Ms. Sun Yang (Editorial Director of Business Ecology magazine): Discussion of potential synergies among ongoing textile initiatives in Shanghai.
- Networking meeting with Magali Menant from Constellations International in Shanghai to discuss possible synergies between Constellations and the Wuppertal Institut.

Outcomes and Impacts

The “business model canvas” was applied to BlueSky4Children business operations. Furthermore, calculations of the resource use of Bluesky4Children clothes recycling operations were made and a comparison

between a new bag and a bag made using second-hand textiles was conducted. These can be used for further awareness building by Bluesky4Children. Both the business model canvas and the ecological footprint calculations are the basis of a report written by the twinners from the Wuppertal Institut. Networking meetings arranged by the Wuppertal Institut have increased the visibility of BlueSky4Children. This included placing an announcement in the newsletter of the Hamburg Liaison Office in Shanghai and collaborating with the magazine Business Ecology on innovative textile recycling technologies.

Wuppertal Institut hosting Zhang Lingling and Zhao Chunyan in Germany

Our one-month visit was quite packed, as we visited many inspiring places and also joined one of Wuppertal Institut’s projects. The exchange gave us a good overview of the working methods and environments of different NGOs and textile recycling companies, as well as how government and academia is getting involved.

We found the level of environmental awareness to be quite different in the EU and China. As a result, we felt the need to adjust the methodology we use in our work. In short, the work of environmental NGOs in Europe is at a more advanced level in terms of organization and planning. We found this to be refreshing and inspiring, while also keeping in mind that we would need to make adjustments in order to make some of our partner’s business models work in China.

Activities

After the first introductory days at the Wuppertal Institut, we visited our twinner Susanne’s photography exhibition. It was located in an up-cycling cafe, with furniture all made from recycled material. The products were made in the Congo by locals and exported to Germany. From time to time, the café also organizes up-cycling workshops. This was quite an inspiring first impression of Germany’s recycling landscape.

We met Henning, Susanne’s boss, and discussed the topic of a circular economy in Germany with him, Susanne and Jeanne (Cao Xiaojing), another twinner.

BlueSky4Children

Founded in 2015, BlueSky4Children is a growing grassroots NGO based in Shanghai. Their main focus is on prolonging clothing lifecycles. They built a platform called “Two Pinecones”, the first non-profit door-to-door clothes collection platform in China. BlueSky4Children also cooperates with companies and communities to provide tailored recycling courses in economically underdeveloped areas.

Zhang Lingling and Zhao Chunyan

Ms. Zhang studied at Durham and Fudan Universities. She lived and worked in the UK for ten years as a senior audit manager. She finished her bachelor’s degree in 2002 and worked for Deloitte Shanghai. In 2005, she finished her master’s degree at Durham University, before working for different companies, such as Credit Agricole Corporate Investment Bank and Price Water House Coopers. In 2015, she founded BlueSky4Children. **Ms. Zhao** graduated from Shanghai University in 2015. The topic of her thesis was “NGO brand promotion strategy”. Joining BlueSky4Children in 2016, she is responsible for volunteer management and project management, and organizes weekly volunteer activities. She actively participates in promoting the BlueSky4Children recycling platform and is also involved in other volunteer activities.

Based on this meeting, we proposed a structured comparison between Chinese and German textile recycling industries. The comparison is designed to provide an overview and a comparison between the respective industries in each country, in terms of size, legal and policy frameworks, recycling behavior and recycling channels.

International Recycling Projects

We took part in briefings on the Irish recycling project that Susanne is working on currently and got involved by performing data extraction for the project. Susanne and Lingling interviewed James Hogan (National Waste Prevention Program, Ireland), thereby gaining knowledge about the Green Business Initiative and green hospitality projects in Ireland.

We also visited Re:Newcell board member Henrik Norlin in Sweden and had a comprehensive interview about the cotton recycling business.

We also visited the Red Cross Kleiderkammer in Wuppertal with Monika. The place collects used clothes from residents and distributes them to the needy, as well as to hospitals nearby. We exchanged experiences in terms of clothes classification, processing and donation.

Conclusion

Some of the biggest successes of this exchange program were:

- Organizing an international campaign for simple life workshops in Shanghai with Laura, Monika, Chunyan and Lingling as hosts;
- Conducting an interview about the Swedish textile recycling industry and their innovative technologies which will be turned into an article and published in the Shanghai-based magazine Business Ecology.
- Creating a resource impact card based on the results of calculations and research conducted by Wuppertal Institute, which will be used for promoting upcycling products in China.

This exchange also helped us raise a few points during the EU-China sustainable trading high-profile meeting, held in Beijing from November 28–29, 2016.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

The exchange has brought us insights into the sustainability community in China and Europe and the work that is done there at the moment. We will keep in touch with the goal to continue developing the report on BlueSky4Children activities with more specific data regarding textile production, consumption and waste generation in China and to embed it into the wider context of sustainability initiatives in China. In addition, future collaborations may arise from networking meetings which took place in Wuppertal, such as with Jeanne Cao from ISEE, another twinner.

Infobox

Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt und Energie

The Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt und Energie is designing the transition towards sustainable development. It aims to generate practical and actor-oriented solutions for environmental issues on a local, as well as on a global level, and is organized into four research groups. Clients of the Wuppertal Institute come from government, the business and industry sector, as well as civil society.

Monika Wirges and Susanne Fischer

Ms. Monika Wirges holds a diploma of engineering in biochemical engineering and is a member of the research group “Sustainable Production and Consumption”. She has been dealing with sustainability issues, especially the assessment of different products and their application as a team member in the project “Sustainable Living-Labs in North-Rhine-Westphalia” (SusLabNRW).

Ms. Susanne Fischer holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a focus on industry/production management. In 2010, she joined Wuppertal Institut as a research assistant and currently works as a research fellow in the research unit “Circular Economy” on qualitative assessment of European research and innovation policy interventions in the field of systematic eco-innovation.

Collaboration Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) & P8

Both organizations strive to establish sharing economies by utilizing and monetizing idle resources through, for instance, car sharing, space sharing, and co-housing, thereby reducing environmental footprints and enhancing social justice.



Twinnings Yang Deng and Sheng Bo

Exchange Topic – Sharing economies

The exchange between P8 and CSCP focused on the sharing economy. It sought to contribute to sustainable community development powered by sharing economy initiatives through co-housing and co-working.

CSCP has the background needed to promote the sharing economy among businesses in several European cities. P8 is a leader in prototyping future communities using sharing economies in China. The Twinning program has enabled CSCP and P8 to enhance their understanding of both organizations' experience and methods, thereby allowing them to create compatible approaches to sustainable community development.

P8 hosting Yang Deng in Changsha

The aim of my exchange was to explore how to effectively design, develop and manage sustainable communities as cells of livable cities by integrating my theoretical and practical knowledge with that of my Twinning partner.

Specific objectives:

- To learn from P8's experience in testing co-working and co-housing approaches for prototyping sustainable future communities in China;
- to apply CSCP's knowledge on the sharing economy in support of prototype development for sharing communities in China;
- to explore opportunities for scaling up these prototypes in Europe and China;
- to explore opportunities for collaborating with participating European and Chinese NGOs on sustainable community development.

P8's unusual work environment

P8 is a very innovative and dynamic organization characterized by its openness to experimentation. I started working at P8 while the organization was testing various ideas for enhancing entrepreneurship in a community, including ideas on a new, non-hierarchical organizational structure and approaches for stimulating effective and active communication within the community. P8 has adopted a so-called lean innovation approach for developing and improving its products, services and business model, which is very different from CSCP. Thanks to the help of my exchange fellow and communication with other staff members, including the founders of P8, I was able to adapt to this approach quickly.

Activities

I was invited to participate in a typical example of P8's non-hierarchical, creative co-working process immediately after arriving in China. My twinning began with my participating in the strategy development of one of P8's newest company teams: Team COOP.

The discussions centered on how the new team could contribute to the realization of P8's vision of a co-future. We started to jointly define COOP's vision and core products by applying design-centered thinking

while also creating COOP's branding elements, including logos, office space, etc.

Another focus of my twinning exchange was the constant inclusion of local communities in sustainable consumption and production activities, as well as knowledge exchanges. This included delivering a Pecha Kucha talk on Sustainable and Good Living to over 80 members from local communities, as well as exchanging ideas with visiting organizations (e.g. Chinese Bridge final contestants) on sustainable community development.

A new type of community outreach program, in which I was involved, was P8's conceptualization of co-housing communities. I broadened my knowledge of this topic by conducting research to identify good practices in China and abroad, as well as contributing to internal discussions on co-housing plans.

Sharing city

Of particular interest to me, as it pertained to my future involvement in such conceptual work in Europe, was the opportunity to work on the topic of a sharing city.



Brainstorming with the P8 team in their co-working space

Researching sharing city frameworks based on practices in Europe and America, as well as exchanging knowledge on this futuristic model with the international and local organizations who are driving sustainable community development and sharing city principles (e.g., The Nature Step, Broad Group, etc.) was especially fruitful for my work. I could actively take part in developing strategies on how P8 can spread the idea of a sharing city in China.

Achievements

Aside from the popular public events that I was invited to participate in, conducting a research study of co-working and co-living good practices (not yet published) was one of the biggest successes of this twinning exchange.

We realized that there are a lot of differences, but also a lot of common ground [...] It is important to combine our strengths.

Yang Deng (Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Germany)

After returning to Germany, I was also able to spread the knowledge gained in China in various urbanization and EU-China Sharing City Partnership events attended by city makers from various countries and fields, such as politics, urban planning and civil society.

The Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production hosting Sheng Bo in Wuppertal

P8 is experimenting on what sustainable living in a co-future could look like. We are testing co-working, co-housing, and futuristic education models. The main

Infobox

P8

P8 is a social enterprise working on testing, prototyping and up-scaling sustainable future communities. Its living lab approach combines "establishing hardware", including space, architecture, and construction, with "developing software", such as implementation among communities. P8 engages and develops communities by fostering informed interactions, thereby driving change. The organization regularly hosts events concerning sustainable development.

Sheng Bo

Mr. Sheng Bo has held the position of project coordinator at P8 since September 2015 and has an undergraduate degree in Life Science from Hunan Normal University. He has been actively engaged in voluntary work since May 2013, with organizations such as Green Hunan and Huxiang Nature. He was a council member of the Changsha Wildlife Conservation Association from September 2014 to August 2015, where he worked on wetland and wildlife protection.



COP 22 in Marrakesh

expectation I had before going to Germany was to gain international insights and identify further innovative ideas and effective approaches for the realization and up-scaling of our sustainable future community prototype. Since P8 is planning to do a city branding project for Changsha City as part of the its application to be a “City of Media Art” (UNESCO), participation in this international exchange program was bound to have a direct impact on P8’s future.

Infobox

Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production

The Collaboration Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) was founded in 2005. CSCP is a well-established organization that focuses on supporting companies and institutions on national, as well as international projects in developing and implementing strategies on sustainability. To that end, CSCP cooperates with national and international governmental bodies. In doing so, it has accumulated vast knowledge and experience in promoting sustainable development.

Yang Deng

Ms. Yang Deng has held the position of student assistant for the Director of CSCP since August 2013, following an undergraduate degree in finance and environmental science, as well as a postgraduate degree in environmental studies. She has also been an environmental consultant intern and a consultant at CSCP. She is experienced in conducting research and developing proposals concerning environmental issues.

My specific objectives included:

- Gaining further insights on international experiences in developing sustainable future communities to benefit the development of our living lab;
- enhancing our contribution to a low-carbon future
- gaining insights on how to foster social innovation to support the transition to a sustainable lifestyle and the building of low-carbon communities.

Activities and Networking Opportunities

At CSCP, I tried to be as involved in the organization’s work as my twinning partner had been during her stay in Changsha, though the language barrier proved to be a higher hurdle than expected. However, while working with my twinning partner and other CSCP colleagues on topics related to sustainable community development, I gained many insights into the differences between our organizations’ approaches to this topic.

I also had ample opportunity to visit other NGOs that took part in the Twinning Exchange, including the European Environmental Bureau in Brussels and various climate-neutral housing and development projects in Bremerhaven. Following the capacity building workshop in Berlin, I, along with some of the other twinners, travelled to Marrakesh to participate in COP22. It was a knowledge exchange on a global scale and an unforgettable part of my twinning exchange.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

CSCP and P8 have decided that a follow-up program would be beneficial for both organizations, allowing them to achieve more in-depth cooperation. Both organizations are considering developing joint proposals based on the up-scaling of the sharing community program in China and beyond. These may include:

- co-developing guidelines or a framework for sharing communities, supporting the replication of good practices;
- co-developing an App for encouraging the transition to a sustainable lifestyle in the sharing community.

After the exchange, a sustainable development report for Broad Town, P8’s home compound, will be written by both twinners, based on the knowledge gained during the exchange period, and disseminated to all.

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH) & China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)

DUH and CBCGDF planned a comparative study on environmental public interest litigation and environmental legal aids and wanted to establish a knowledge-transfer network for sharing first-hand experience.



Twinners Peter Feldkamp and Chen Zhen

Exchange Topic – Environmental litigation on air pollution

The role of NGOs in implementing existing environmental legislation is growing. Taking legal action is a strong weapon in this context. Opportunities for NGOs to engage in this field are growing, not only in the EU, but due to the latest legislation, also in China. However, sound knowledge of legal and technical aspects, as well as pursuing proven strategies, are important to achieving success.

Peter being hosted by CBCGDF in Berlin

At Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) I work in the field of air pollution, which is known to be one of the main environmental issues in China. CBCGDF is one of the few NGOs dealing with this topic. Like DUH, CBCGDF uses Environmental Public Interest Litigation (EPIL) to fight for environmental and consumer protection issues. An exchange in this field was expected to be fruitful for both sides.

Activities

We spent a lot of time attempting to understand the differences in legal systems and NGO work. The role of the state in Germany is rather different, which allows DUH to sue public authorities (on national and local level), a possibility not given in China. Furthermore, the act of campaigning, in the sense of influencing the public opinion or raising public awareness, is not as important for Chinese environmental protection NGOs as it is for European organizations. Another big difference is the importance of fundraising from private donors and companies as well as marketing activities. These issues become more and more relevant for organizations like CBCGDF, but are still mostly undiscovered fields. I participated in different workshops as a speaker and expert on these topics, which was very helpful for CBCGDF. We also organized a workshop on the different sources of air pollution in China and Europe and the general perception of this problem, which gave me some great insights to use for my work in Berlin.

Outcome and Impact

The outcome was knowledge, expansion of the mind and – of course – contacts. Contacts were not limited to the exchange between DUH and CBCGDF but also



The topic of biking in China was of interest too

Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V., Germany

The Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH), founded in 1975, is an independent non-profit association which focuses on protecting nature, the environment and consumer rights. Activities of the DUH include coordination, public relations and campaigning, as well as providing consultancy to policy makers on a national and European level. Since 2012, it has been part of the EU Life Project "Clean Air", where it is working on legal opportunities to fight for the right to clean air.

Peter Feldkamp

Mr. Feldkamp studied sociology of law and economics in Germany and political science in Spain. Since April 2016, he has been the project manager in the department of transport and air quality at the Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. He promoted German innovations in the mobility and environmental protection sectors in a project founded by BDI (the Federation of German Industries) and the German Government, called "Germany – Land of Ideas".

very vivid among the other Twinners from Europe and China. The Twinning program also opened some doors to NGOs not participating in this program, like alumni or workshop participants.

DUH hosting Chen Zhen in Berlin

The objectives and expectations of CBCGDF were to learn how DUH and other NGOs work to protect the



Climate Change und Social & Environmental Justice Twinners at the EEB visiting Secretary General Jeremy Wates

environment and to incorporate their experiences into our strategies. I wanted to study how the environmental public interest law (EPIL) system works in Europe and analyze the differences between the EU and China. We want to find a way to cooperate with European NGOs to protect the environment together. When I first came to Europe, everything was new to me and I was very excited. I found Berlin was a very clean and tidy city. When I came to the office of DUH, my twinning partner Peter introduced me to his colleagues. After a few days of working in his office, I found it to be a totally different experience than what I expected.

Riding bikes into the River Spree

On my second day in Berlin, Peter took me to a river bank, next to the parliament. He told me he would ride a bike and jump straight into the river with a group of people. "Do you guys want to commit suicide?", I thought. Wearing a suit and black leather shoes, riding a bicycle and jumping into a river – it all seemed rather crazy to me from a Chinese perspective. I knew Peter's intention was to promote better bicycle infrastructure in Berlin, make cycling safer and encourage people to ride their bikes instead of drive cars, thereby reducing air pollution.

According to my Twinning partner, the government had sabotaged the passing of the bicycle laws they favored, and they wanted the public to know that. There was a lot of media present and the news spread quickly. I was shocked that they used this way to show their dissatisfaction with the government.

In China, whether you are a person or an NGO, such methods are not used. We face many obstacles from the local government, companies and even the public when we try to do something for the common good. We still have a long way to go, to learn and to fight.

Other activities

I joined Peter at a meeting with various small bicycle groups and NGOs who pool their resources to make the government pass the bicycle law. It was the first activity I participated in in Germany. Although people spoke German for almost the whole meeting, I was surprised by their collaborative work. The more people ride bicycles, the greater the improvements will be to urban

air quality. Riding their bikes into the river was part of this campaign.

School campaigns

A group of junior school students came to the DUH office in Berlin, and Peter and I introduced our organizations to them. I showed them the endangered animals and plants that CBCGDF tries to protect in China, as well as the volunteers who try their best to protect the environment and improve air quality in China.



Dr. Sausmikat, Chen Zhen and Peter Feldkamp in Berlin

Supporting public transport

Another creative activity I participated in started at a bus stop. Peter and his friends, who supported the bicycle law, got together to express gratitude to people who take public transportation instead of driving cars. They used rags to clean every bus window that came by. I was very moved by this action. They tried a lot of different methods to reach the public with their message.

Visiting other environmental protection NGOs in Europe

During the exchange period, I also visited other environmental protection NGOs, like ClientEarth, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), France Nature Envi-

China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF)

CBCGDF is a well-established NGO dedicated to environmental protection and biodiversity conservation in China. It was founded in 1985 and is one of the oldest environmental protection organizations in China. Since China's new environmental law took effect in 2015, CBCGDF has filed a total of 46 Environmental Public Interests Lawsuits (EPIL) against companies that have been responsible for air and water pollution.

Chen Zhen

Ms. Chen Zhen holds a bachelor's degree in Politics and Law from Shandong Institute and graduated with a Master of Law from Guangxi Nationalities University in China. From July 2014 to November 2015, she volunteered for CBCGDF and promoted biodiversity protection. Since September 2015, she has been the legal assistant for environment public interest litigation in the legal department of CBCGDF. Her work covers fields such as environmental pollution and ecological damage.

ronment (FNE) and the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UFU), to gain a better understanding of the practical side of environmental protection and environmental public interest litigation in Europe.

While Peter and I discovered that we worked in different areas, as my job was the collection of evidence to help CBCGDF file environmental public interest litigation when companies pollute the environment, and Peter's work concentrated on environmental initiatives and programs, we were still able to learn a lot from each other.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

Since our organizations have the same goal, future cooperation is a possibility. CBCGDF and DUH are both environmental protection organizations and file environmental public interest lawsuits. The two organizations can cooperate in many areas. By visiting other NGOs in Europe, like EEB, Client Earth, FNE and UFU, I was able to establish relationships with these organizations, opening up opportunities in many European countries for future cooperation. Participating in the twinning was a great opportunity and I learned a great deal from these NGOs.

Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA) & Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV)

The overall purpose of this exchange was to understand how environmental public interest litigation (EPIL) works in the EU and China, and to what extent it constitutes a successful tool for environmental protection.



Twinners Carlota Ruiz-Bautista and Zeng Yaping

Exchange Topic – Environmental Public Interest Litigation (EPIL) Systems

In 2015, a law was passed in China that allows environmental NGOs and pollution victims to sue polluters. CLAPV and IIDMA are planning on establishing an online platform and to continuously share information on environmental public interest litigation cases. The goal is to improve the professional capacity of those involved in environmental law litigation worldwide, as well as to set common priorities. The latter is especially important in light of the ratification, by both China and the EU, of the Paris climate change agreement.

By examining the similarities, differences, strengths and weaknesses of the EPIL systems in China and the EU, both organizations will have a clearer understanding of such systems.

CLAPV hosting Alba Iranzo Dosdad and Carlota Ruiz-Batista in Beijing

Based on the overall purpose of the exchange program, we had two main objectives when we went to China. Firstly, to identify the similarities and differences between EPIL systems in China and the EU. This would allow us to carry out a comparative analysis of the structure and effectiveness of both EPIL systems with regard to access to environmental information as a precondition for public litigation cases, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

For this, the following steps had to be carried out:

- Understanding the content and implications of China's 2015 Environmental Protection Law and how it relates to EU and Spanish legislation based on the Aarhus Convention.
- Understanding the role of NGOs and EPIL in the protection of the environment.
- Getting acquainted with specific EPIL cases filed by CLAPV and other NGOs in China, as well as the extent to which the 2015 law has strengthened the role of NGOs in environmental protection in China.

Secondly, our idea was to create a system of communications between our organizations, which would allow us to share EPIL cases relevant to the daily work of both organizations, to discuss common issues and possibly to set common priorities in light of the Paris Agreement.

Challenges

After carrying out our research, we were able to find relevant differences between the EPIL systems we investigated which will serve as the basis for our future joint working plans with CLAPV:

- Standing requirements for NGOs on access to justice.
- The costs of access to justice on environmental matters.



Twinnings Carlota and Yaping with the Climate Change Twinner Luis discussing environmental law at FON

- Who can be a defendant in an EPIL case.
- The existence of courts specialized in environmental matters.
- How access to information and public participation in environmental matters are regulated.

It was also very surprising for us to see the great number of cases which have been filed by NGOs in courts since the approval of the 2015 Environmental Protection Law, as well as some of the ways in which NGOs have overcome the high costs of access to justice, e.g., by using crowdfunding schemes.

Activities

During our stay at the CLAPV office, we were able to see and experience how a Chinese environmental NGO works. Especially the 2015 Environmental Protection Law has greatly benefited NGOs, as they now have the right to sue polluters directly. Therefore, we studied the content and reach of the main instruments which regulate EPIL in China.

Visiting other relevant NGOs and other activities

During our stay in China, we had the chance to meet with other NGOs to fully understand how EPIL works. In particular, we had the chance to meet with lawyers from the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Fund (CBCGDF), as well as with the Director of the Department of Law and Policy Advocacy at Friends of Nature (FON), both of whom were able to provide us with more in-depth information about EPIL in China and the cases they had filed. We also had the chance to meet with Greenpeace officials, who gave us very valuable insights on pollution prevention laws and policies in China.

Conferences

Apart from visiting NGOs, we had the chance to attend a conference on “The Assessment Report of the Environmental Protection Law of China”, where environmental law experts provided their views on how the Environmental Protection Law had been implemented since it entered into force. There, we had the opportu-

nity to meet CLAPV's founder, Mr. Wang Canfa, a highly renowned expert on environmental law, both in China and internationally.

Finally, as part of our exchange, we held a conference on the "Challenges and countermeasures for environmental protection organizations in instituting Environmental Public Interest Litigation (EPIL) from the perspective of environmental law" at the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), which was organized by Professor Yu Wenxuan, Director of the Institute of Environmental and Resources Law at CUPL. There, we carried out a presentation on this topic from the EU perspective, while our twinner provided a presentation from the Chinese perspective.

Conclusions

For us, as professionals in the field of environmental law, the 2016 EU-China Twinning Program was a very enriching experience. We gained a greater understanding of how NGOs are not granted the same opportunities to challenge acts or omissions resulting in environmental damage around the world.

The meetings organized with several environmental organizations in China, such as FON and CBCGDF, have been particularly useful. During these meetings, legal professionals gave us detailed advice by explaining EPIL cases brought before Chinese Environmental Courts by their organizations. A surprising fact is that approximately 42 EPIL cases have already been filed in courts since the approval of the 2015 Environmental Protection Law.

The main results of our legal research can be summarized as follows: first, legal requirements on standing before courts for NGOs in China are more restrictive than in Europe. For instance, while Chinese NGOs are required to have been legally registered and engaged specifically with environmental protection in the public interest for 5 consecutive years, NGOs in the EU only need to have existed for more than 2 years. Second, another limitation for Chinese NGOs relates to the high costs of access to justice. As a result, only 30 out of 700 NGOs have the economic solvency to bring a case before Courts. In the case of the EU, the law provides for the possibility of allowing NGOs in some member states to file a lawsuit without having to pay any costs. Third, EPIL cases in China are generally pursued to directly sue the private companies causing

environmental damage, such as in air or water pollution cases, while in Spain, the law mainly allows us to file a lawsuit against the public administration for negligent acts or omissions regarding environmental matters.

The above-mentioned are just some of the findings of our exchange in China. We believe that both participating organizations benefited greatly from the Twinning program.

IIDMA hosting Zeng Yaping in Madrid

When I came to work in Europe, I wanted to understand the circumstances surrounding the implementation of environmental laws, not only from the perspective of lawyers, but also from ordinary citizens. At IIDMA my twinners provided me with English-language materials and other useful information resources. They also translated some important documents for me to help overcome the language barrier. Thus, I gradually understood more and more about the content of the Aarhus convention and its implementation in different EU member states.

Activities

Working at the Madrid office, I got to know IIDMA's work on environmental issues. The way they work on EPIL cases is different from CLAPV, as the Aarhus Convention emphasizes the obligations of environmental authorities, whereas in China, the Environmental Protection Law grants NGOs the right to file cases directly against polluters.

I also visited some other NGOs which are working on Aarhus-related issues in Europe, such as ClientEarth, the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), France Nature Environment (FNE) and the Independent Institute for Environmental Issues (UFU). In addition, I went to visit project sites recommended by these NGOs to better understand the practical experience of environmental protection and litigation. Thus, I got to know a lot about their practical experience regarding EPIL and the challenges their NGOs face in implementing the Aarhus Convention.

Visiting ClientEarth, EEB and UFU in Brussels

One such meeting was with ClientEarth. They shared information on typical EPIL cases, including the nine ongoing air pollution cases raised by them in Germany. It was a very interesting knowledge exchange.

I met with Ugo Taddei, a lawyer at ClientEarth, who works on EPIL projects in the EU. ClientEarth works to protect the environment through advocacy, litigation and science. We had a short meeting at ClientEarth's office in Brussels and exchanged ideas about how EPIL works, both in the EU and in China. Mr. Taddei provided a general view of EPIL in the EU. We also discussed several other important issues. For example, how they get the resources for a case, whether or not access to justice is free of charge in Belgium, who ClientEarth files lawsuits against, and how many NGOs there are which currently meet the standing requirements to file EPIL cases. By analyzing these cases, we were able to understand the role that NGOs play in EPIL.

In addition, I visited the European Environmental Bureau and met with Mr. Jeremy Wates, Secretary General of EEB. He served for more than a decade as Secretary to the Aarhus Convention with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), prior to joining the EEB. The EEB is Europe's largest federation of environmental citizens' organizations, and Mr. Wates has been working on the Aarhus Convention from the early 1990s. He told us about how he led a campaign by an NGO coalition, the European ECO Forum, to persuade governments to start work on a treaty on environmental democracy and how he coordinated the input from civil society organizations into the official negotiations over the text of what was to become the Aarhus Convention.

To further understand how European NGOs work on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, I visited UFU, a scientific institute with a strong profile in the fields of environmental education, public participation, climate protection and environmental law, with a focus on application-oriented research. Mrs. Franziska Sperfeld, a lawyer in the Department of Environmental Law and Public Participation, introduced several of the projects they are working on, such as internet platforms for environmental information and the implementation of the Aarhus Convention. What impressed me, was that they also proposed to the local govern-

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Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA)

IIDMA is a non-profit organization registered in Spain and established in December of 1996. It was accredited to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) in 1998 and, in 2001, was declared a public utility by the Spanish Ministry of Home Affairs. IIDMA's mission consists of contributing to the protection of the environment and promoting sustainable development through the study, development and effective implementation of the law.

Alba Iranzo Dosdad and Carlota Ruiz-Bautista

Ms. Iranzo Dosdad is a junior lawyer at IIDMA. Ms. Iranzo holds a joint degree in Law and Journalism from Charles III University of Madrid (2013) and an LL.M in Environmental Law and Sustainability from Kingston University of London (United Kingdom). Furthermore, she was a student in the Specialization Program in Environmental Law and International Cooperation at the Externado University of Colombia.

Ms. Ruiz-Bautista is a junior environmental lawyer at IIDMA. She joined IIDMA in September 2014 and has collaborated in different projects oriented towards the implementation of EU environmental law in Spain. Ms. Ruiz-Batista holds a degree in Law and Political Science from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and has completed a specialization course in Environmental Law from the School of Legal Practice in Madrid.

ment that the environmental rights of children should be emphasized in decision making.

Outcome

The most significant outcome of our research project was to identify some of the important differences between the EPIL systems in the EU and China, as well as the challenges inherent in each. Although already summarized by my twinnings from IIDMA, I would like to emphasize some points from the Chinese point of view. Firstly, the standing requirements for NGOs on access to justice are very different. In China, NGOs are required to have been engaged specifically in environmental protection in the public interest for 5 consecu-

Centre for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV)

CLAPV was established in 1998. Its focus is to safeguard environmental rights. It is a research institution concerned with environmental and natural resource law. They organize research on environmental legislation and its implementation, promote academic exchanges and manage training programs. The organization also tries to popularize knowledge on environmental law and protect the rights and interests of pollution victims by providing legal assistance.

Zeng Yaping

Ms. Zeng is a student at the China University of Political Science and Law, where she passed the BAR in 2013. She specializes in Environment and Resource Protection Law and has work experience in researching China's public interest litigation system. Currently, she is the leader of the Innovation Fund, Projects of Masters. Since March 2016, she is an active member in several projects of the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

tive years or more, without any recorded violations of the law. In the EU, standing requirements differ among the countries. Secondly, the system regarding court fees also differs. China follows the principle of "costs follow the event". The first EPIL case brought to the courts after the approval of the 2015 Environmental Protection Law in China cost RMB 197,497 (EUR 27,090). The NGO filing the lawsuit was required to pay a wide range of fees incurred during the proceedings, such as assessment fees, attorney's and expert fees, and other expenses.

For most environmental organizations, the costs of access to justice are more than what they can afford. However, in Europe, given that the EU is a party of the Aarhus Convention, NGOs are allowed to apply for legal aid or measures exempting them from paying litigation costs.

Thirdly, the EU and China follow different legal procedures regarding EPIL cases. In Europe, concerned parties always seek access to justice by administrative or judicial review procedures (some countries require a preliminary review procedure before an administrative authority or an exhaustion of administrative review procedures prior to recourse to judicial review procedures).

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

After completing the exchange program, our main target is to build up a fruitful, long-term collaborative relationship between IIDMA and CLAPV. Despite the different contexts and legal systems in China and Europe, we believe that NGOs are key players in the protection of the environment where the correct use of a powerful instrument such as "law" is decisive. Given that pollution has become a transboundary problem, IIDMA and CLAPV have found enough reasons to cooperate towards a common goal.

While bearing in mind the kinds of projects and topics of interest to both organizations, a follow-up project would also provide the opportunity to create a network aimed at discussing common issues and international challenges, as well as at setting common priorities, especially in light of the ratification of the Paris Agreement by both China and the EU.

Network Bewust Verbruiken (NBV) & Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy (ISEE)

Network Bewust Verbruiken (NBV) and the Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy (ISEE) are both organizations with a focus on fostering more sustainable lifestyles in communities.

Exchange Topic – Improving the sustainability of goods and creating green-swap spaces in communities



Twinnings Laura De Jaeger and Cao Xiaojing

Green Woodpecker and ISEE hosting Laura De Jaeger in Beijing and Shanghai

When I got the message from my organization that I would be visiting China for an NGO-exchange, I was pretty excited. I felt like this was an amazing opportunity to get to know the work of an NGO in a completely different context.

I did not know a lot about China before my departure, which made it even more exciting. What are the challenges faced by NGOs working on sustainable living in China? What does the local population think about this topic?

Activities

When I was in Beijing with the Green Woodpecker Association, I participated in a project which asked tourists not to throw garbage on the street. I took part in a lecture by the Green Woodpecker Association where they introduced green-swap spaces, originally the focus of our exchange, to sponsors. I also visited a waste mill and participated in an up-cycling project with kids, in which they use garbage to make artwork.

Additionally I visited the Beijing Farmers' Market, a Twinning alumni NGO. This organization connects farmers from around Beijing with the city. I had a great talk with the organizer and we arranged a sharing event.

After the Changsha Workshop, I went to Shanghai and visited another organization participating in the Twinning program, BlueSky4Children, and participated in knowledge sharing events there. Zhang Lingling, founder of BlueSky4Children, invited participants from their network and we had a roundtable discussion on how we work on the topics of minimalism and simplifying life.

In Shanghai, I had a few meetings with Pan Tao and Cao Xiaojing about ISEE and the community garden projects. Xiaojing became my new twinning partner from that time onward.

Outcomes and Impact

The sharing event in Shanghai was definitely a great outcome of the exchange. The topics we discussed were the same as those we work on most at Network Bewust Verbruiken. It was very interesting to get to know the methods that the Chinese organizations use.

I also wrote three articles on the knowledge I gained in China, which were well received in Belgium. They gave the Belgian sustainable living community new insights about another country and the Chinese sustainable lifestyle.

NBV hosting Cao Xiaojing in Brussels

I heard about the Twinning program at the end of August from Dr. Pan Tao, the director of the Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy. He told me that there was an opportunity to conduct an exchange with a Belgian NGO on sustainable consumption. Sustainable consumption is a very important issue in achieving sustainable development, especially for megacities like Shanghai. My Ph.D research on the sustainability performance of corporations, especially in the paper industry, was what qualified me to participate. After meeting Laura in Shanghai, we decided that I should come to Belgium and observe sustainable consumption from both the consumer and producer side in Europe.

Sustainable development in Europe

Europe is a leader in promoting sustainable development in areas such as the circular economy, climate mitigation and adaptation and so on. The Twinning program provided me with great opportunities to witness best practices in promoting sustainable consumption from different angles.

Activities

- Observing sustainable consumption projects like the Repair Café in Brussels;



Laura at a community outreach event with children in Beijing

- Visiting two recovered paper mills in the Netherlands;
- Visiting sustainable consumption projects in Germany;
- Participating in NBV activities in Brussels.

Repair Café

I visited the Repair Café in the city of Ypres, as well as the Seeds Library in the Mondo-b project, in Brussels. I heard about these projects from Laura before I came to Brussels. Both Pan Tao and I were very interested in these kind of projects as they are not commonly known in China. When I visited the project sites, I was impressed by the selfless dedication of the volunteers and organizers. However, transferring such a project into Chinese society needs a lot of work.

Paper Mills

I visited Smurft Kappa paper mill in Roermond and Van-Houtum paper mill in Swalmen. Both mills tried their best to reduce pollution and GHG emissions, and to improve resource efficiency throughout the production cycle. The Smurft Kappa Roermond paper mill set their goal as zero waste and a circular economy. The Van-Houtum paper mill provides carbon neutral products. Both mills see their environmental performance as part of their competitive advantage.

Organizations working on sustainable consumption

I visited the organization Taxistop to learn about their efforts in promoting car-pooling and car sharing, which is quite important for sustainable transportation. There, I was told that the most difficult aspect of their work is changing people's ideas and habits, something I can relate to from my experience in China.

I also visited the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) office in Brussels and the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) head office in Bonn. PEFC and FSC are the most popular labels for sustainable forest related products. I learned how to think about the sustainability of products made of wood and non-wood materials from different angles. It is worth mentioning, that I got to know the FSC staff member

who invited me to their head office through the Twinning workshop in Berlin.

Challenges in the European paper industry

When I asked about the challenges faced by the European paper industry, the staff at the Confederation of European Paper Industries said that “strict environmental regulations could hurt the competitive advantages of European paper industries when there are no such regulations elsewhere”. It was the first time that I heard someone worry about economic development being hindered by environmental regulations in Europe. When I discussed similar issues with people from NGOs, they talked mostly about the potential to improve environmental performance.

Wuppertal Institut and ICLEI

I visited Wuppertal Institute and the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability European Office to learn about their projects in resource efficiency improvements and sustainable development in cities and to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. Both are eager to keep in touch and explore opportunities for cooperation.

Sustainable Ghent

Accompanied by Jana from NBV, we discovered Ghent using the city’s EcoMap, which was developed by NBV. We rented bikes to experience the biking infrastructure in Ghent. The city is very bike-friendly. We also visited many interesting projects and shops related to sustainable consumption, such as the Children’s Bike Sharing project, an OXFAM Second-hand shop, a different second-hand shop supported by the government, a no-package shop, as well as an organic food market, etc. Talking with the volunteers at the free bicycle repair project, one of the volunteers told me their goal was to get rid of the cars in the city completely. That surprised me a lot. The development patterns in China’s cities are still more oriented towards cars than people. Almost every family has bicycles, but the infrastructure is far more car-friendly.

Vauban Community in Freiburg

I also had the opportunity to explore Vauban community in Freiburg. Vauban community is one of the most famous sustainable communities in the world. I visited many sus-

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Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy (ISEE)

Founded in 2015, the Institute for Sustainable Environment and Energy (ISEE) is a China-based think-tank and NGO dedicated to disseminating best practices and using shared knowledge to improve our environment for a sustainable future. ISEE works with a group of passionate sustainability partners to catalyze change. ISEE provides tailor-made services for research, reporting, consulting and training on urban low-emissions solutions, education for sustainable development and more.

Cao Xiaojing

Ms. Cao Xiaojing is an ISEE associate responsible for research on low-carbon development and sustainable development in cities, including GHG data analysis, scenario analysis and assessment index construction. She has over 8 years of research experience in climate mitigation and environmental management. She is also a Ph.D. candidate at Tongji University, Shanghai. Her current research interest is the sustainability of paper mills and paper products.

tainable projects on its green map. The residents in the community financed a public recreational area, featuring a “Weidenpalast” (a tree igloo), and a community garden, organized by the “Wandelgarten” initiative. Secondly, I saw the world’s first PlusEnergy house, a private home.

This twinning program provide me great opportunities to witness the best practices in promoting sustainable consumptions from different angles.

Cao Xiaojing (ISEE)

The house produces three times more energy than it consumes. Thirdly, they try their best to use only renewable energy, such as solar energy and that produced by the CHP plant, which uses methane and wood.

Results

I shared the findings from my visit to the Smurft Kappa Roermond mill during a group discussion of the 1 mi 1

Network Bewust Verbruiken (NVB)

NVB is a NGO working in Flanders and Brussels. Its thematic focus is on sustainable consumption. The organization has established a network of more than 40 environmental and social justice groups, has a staff and is being supported by volunteers. Their goal is to raise awareness of patterns of increased consumption. NVB organizes campaigns, workshops and experiments. They also spread information on sustainable consumption by sharing, swapping and repairing goods.

Laura De Jaeger

Ms. De Jaeger did an internship with Network Bewust Verbruiken in 2014, before becoming a staff member. She works as a local and international coordinator. Since 2013, she has been fundraising for Oxfam Solidarity. Shortly before graduation, she did an internship in India at the Kuilappalayam Cultural Centre. There, she worked as a socio-educational worker, doing art-education for village children.

Eco-design Community, with 349 experts presents. The director of 1 mi 1 invited me to write an article about how the paper mill realized closed-loop production and offered to spread the article though their network.

I also shared my experiences during the sustainable biking trip in Ghent, as well as the EcoMap with the Citizen Low-Carbon Action discussion group back in Shanghai. This group includes local Shanghai NGOs and officers from the Shanghai Development and Reform Commission, who design the activities for Shanghai Low-Carbon Day every year. I will recommend best practice approaches during meetings for next year's Shanghai Low-Carbon Day.



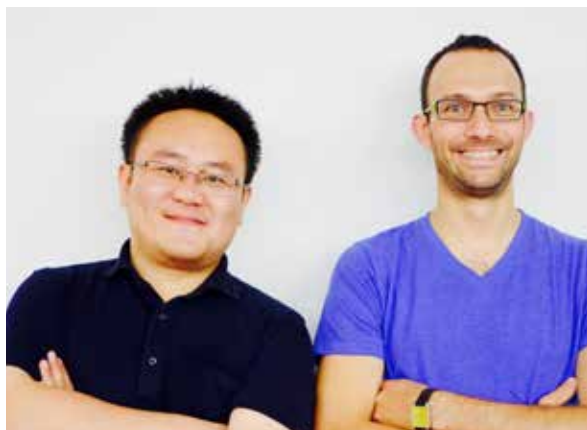
Posting on WeChat about the visit at the repair café in Brussels

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

Although we didn't find possible cooperation projects with NBV immediately, the Repair Café, Seeds Library and the EcoMap are projects that could be pursued in the future. Furthermore, we have built connections with the Wuppertal Institut, BlueSky4children and ICLEI. We will keep in touch and find opportunities to collaborate.

European Environmental Bureau (EEB) & China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF)

The exchange between EEB and CGCF focused on a joint vision of a 2030–2050 low-carbon society.



Twinnings Hou Yuanqing and Robert Jöbstl

Exchange topic – Vision of a 2030–2050 low-carbon society

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) & the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF) collaborated on a vision of a 2030–2050 low-carbon society, as well as on the link between environmentally sound renewable energy, energy efficiency and opportunities to increase carbon sinks with developments related to sustainability criteria for bioenergy.

CGCF hosting Roland Jöbstl in Beijing

Activities

Roland came to China in mid-August 2016, before the Changsha workshop, and stayed for five weeks, until mid-September 2016, visiting organizations in Chengdu and Beijing.

During his stay, he was based in the CGCF office in Beijing, learning about the work of CGCF. Among his main activities in China was a lecture at the State Forestry Administration, which was hosted by CGCF and jointly

prepared by EEB and CGCF. He also attended one event in the networking-event series “Green Drinks” with Peter Feldkamp, another Twinning fellow who represents the Deutscher Umwelthilfe e.V.

Furthermore, Roland participated in an excursion in the Beijing area and conducted several meetings with Chinese experts and organizations working in the area of climate protection, renewable energy and energy transition.

What I have gained from the Exchange

During my stay in China, my twinning partner Yuanqing who we called Daniel, was my ears and my voice in learning and understanding how Chinese organizations contribute to climate protection, renewable energy development and energy efficiency in the context of rapid urbanization.

We spent many hours discussing and explaining the words, concepts and context of our work to fully understand what makes each of us tick. In the last week of my stay, Daniel and I had our final workshop, with many participants from the State Forestry Administration, as well as from the China Green Carbon Foundation, Beijing Forestry University and many other organizations and institutes we had met during the exchange in China attending. We had an intense discussion. In the end, I was exhausted, but also very happy when Daniel and his colleagues came up to me and said, “I really understood what you said. At least 80% of it.”

I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and get to know the other Chinese and European twinnings in the exchange program and share our understanding of social and environmental developments, but also their implications for personal lives and the role of each individual in contributing to the voice of civil society.

It was fascinating to see how the alumni network continues to develop and how additional organizations and collaborations can be established and integrated into the exchange.



Roland Jöbstl and Hou Yuanqing at lecture at the State Forestry Administration

EEB hosting Hou Yuanqing in Brussels

Objectives and expectations

The objectives and expectations of Yuanqing's exchange were as following:

- Gaining an overall view and understanding of Europe's efforts and actions regarding climate change
- Understanding and learning about the missions and activities of NGOs in Europe, especially those in Brussels and Berlin working on climate change, forestry and biodiversity
- Understanding the experiences of NGOs operating in Europe and the fundraising channels available to them
- Understanding levels of public awareness and engagement in climate change, low-carbon development and conservation

Challenges

For me, it was easy to adapt to life and work in Europe. The most surprising thing was the efficient way of working in European NGOs. During the short time of the exchange period, I had to get used to the appointment system and the overall way of working, which was not always easy. I had to plan at least two weeks in advance to make an appointment and wasn't always successful. I had to change my visiting strategy and directly

go to their office or call them. Another challenge I never thought of before was the diversity of accents in Europe. I had to spend more than one week to adapt to French, Dutch and Germany accents in English.

Activities

During my time in Brussels, I mainly learned about EEB's work and visited local NGOs. Later, I went to Cologne and Berlin, visiting project donors' offices and participating in the Twinning workshop. During the first week of COP 22, I went to Marrakesh to participate in the conference and organize a CGCF side event in the Chinese Corner.

After coming back to Europe from COP22, I visited some NGOs based in Berlin and learned about how they fund-raise to do projects relevant to climate change, forestry and biodiversity conservation. Back from Berlin, I participated in several meetings and discussions in Brussels about EU climate change policy. Together with my Twinning partner Roland, we hosted a presentation in EEB to summarize the EU-China Twinning Exchange outcomes, China's environmental agencies and how to

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The European Environmental Bureau

Established in 1974 as the first European environmental NGO in Brussels, the EEB now brings together over 150 civil society organizations. It engages with European Commission activities aimed at promoting effective implementation of EU legislation in specific areas. In this context, the EEB facilitates contacts between the Commission and national environmental organisations.

Roland Jöbstl

Mr. Roland Jöbstl has been working in the field of climate action in energy policies since 2007. He gathered experience as an analyst in the Austrian Federal Environmental Agency, and other institutions. Roland Jöbstl studied business computer science, as well as human and social ecology in Austria and Norway. Now leading the EEB's working group on energy and climate, he focuses on the role of energy efficiency in EU energy and climate policies.

work in China as an international NGO. Some of the activities are highlighted in the following:

Outcome and Impact

The main outcomes and concrete results from the Twinning project:

- Working with an international perspective and acting in an international way

During the exchange period in Europe and while working in the EEB office, I met people with different backgrounds and a diversity of cultures. This Twinning project provided the precious opportunity to test one's abilities of rapidly entering and adapting to local life. Meanwhile, participated in high-level events, such as EU parliament meetings, COP22, and German parliament workshops, let me get involved in the decision making process on current hot topics.

- Understanding EU policy and decision making processes based on transparency and cooperativeness

During the exchange period in Brussels and Berlin, I learned about and understood how NGOs participate



Hou Yuanqing at COP22 in Marrakesh

in the EU policy and decision making process. Transparency and cooperativeness are key.

- Understanding the priority areas of the main EU conservation and climate change NGOs and of governmental agencies

Before I participated in the Twinning project, I knew little about the work of EU NGOs and government agencies.

Forest carbon sinks can play an important role in climate mitigation and adaptation, helping communities and the environment cope with the effects of climate change.

Hou Yuanqing (China Green Carbon Foundation)

Thanks to the two-month exchange period in the EU, I learned about the governance system in the areas of climate change, forestry and biodiversity. By visiting many local and international NGOs, I established connections with them and learned about their fields of work and priority areas. It will help me back in China. Through learning more about best practices in their projects, I hope to develop the next level of cooperation.

Infobox

China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF)

Founded in 2010, the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF) is the first nation-wide non-profit public fundraising foundation dedicated to combating climate change by increasing carbon sink in China. The precursor of the Foundation is China Green Carbon Fund, founded in 2007. CGCF also provides a platform for enterprises and citizens to fulfill their social responsibility by storing carbon credits, mainly through forestry measures.

Hou Yuanqing

Mr. Hou Yuanqing received a Bsc in Ecology at Sichuan University. He joined CGCF in 2016, as project manager in the Project and Research Department. He mainly focuses on developing forest carbon projects. Before coming to CGCF, he worked for The Nature Conservancy China Program as coordinator, participated in and led several forest carbon and restoration projects, including the Northwest Sichuan forest carbon project in the Giant Panda Habitat.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

- Continue the EU-China Exchange

China and the EU are the most important parties in leading the world in the face of crucial issues, such as climate change, biodiversity and sustainable low-carbon development. They have the same goals, but different approaches. Both parties have made considerable efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation, low-carbon development and reform, and conserving our precious planet. Both sides have made achievements in certain areas and have gained considerable experience, so that best practices can be shared. But exchanges and communication are rare.

Yuanqing and Roland work in different fields, but both focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The information exchanges about climate change, forestry and biodiversity conservation will continue.

- Further cooperation on topics of forestry, biodiversity and low-carbon development

The EU and China have put considerable efforts into biodiversity conservation and addressing climate change. Global issues need global cooperation and joint actions. NGOs in the EU and China play an important role in the decision-making process and also contribute to designing the methods used to solve the problems. Both of us will promote the further cooperation between China and the EU in this area

- Enlarge our networks both in China and the EU

Green Liberty Latvia & Roots and Shoots Chengdu

Green Liberty Latvia and Roots & Shoots Chengdu conducted the exchange on the topics of climate change and waste management, combining these issues and seeking to learn the best practices from both sides of the partnership.

Exchange topic – Waste management



Twinners Zanda Skuja and Wei Wei

Both of our organizations share concerns about the impact of waste on the environment, especially in terms of its carbon footprint, as well as on society and economics. We encourage and facilitate both governments and the public to take action and participate in improving how we deal with waste. We share the vision of a low-carbon and zero-waste circular economy in the future. Therefore, we did this exchange on topics of climate change and waste management, combining these issues and seeking to learn the best practices from both sides of the partnership. We jointly searched for other best practices and found common techniques that can be widely applied and developed for further collaboration or used individually. We strengthened our work with local communities through activities during the exchange, as our shared purpose for the exchange was to increase the reach of our work throughout Latvian and Chinese societies.

Roots & Shoots Chengdu hosting Zanda Skuja in Chengdu

Objectives

My objectives were to learn about techniques in using community work to raise awareness of climate change, waste reduction and recycling issues in Chinese society; as well as information distribution techniques, NGO management and organizational practices. I also wanted to gain an understanding of cross-cultural working peculiarities and overcoming cultural differences in order to exchange ideas and find common solutions in our work with local societies, both during the exchange and after, back in my home country.

Challenges

The most challenging part was organizing the work agenda, as well as the time needed to receive responses to questions or feedback, so that I could continue my work. For example, I had to arrange a time to ask questions, instead of asking them straight away. That problem remained throughout the exchange, but I found my own way of overcoming it by getting involved in several tasks simultaneously, so whenever I had to interrupt one while waiting for feedback, I could work on another. Language was a major challenge because only one person in the organization spoke English (my partner) and they did not have much practice before my arrival, meaning that it took some time to get used to communicating. Help to get around the area (for transportation, etc.), was not

If we go back to the definition that development is a social change for better, then it does not necessarily have to mean growth in a mathematical way that we commonly perceive economics. And in that case we can join the sustainable living and economic development.

Zanda Skuja (Green Latvia)



Zanda and Wei Wei at the Green Liberty Latvia office

always provided when needed, but I was eventually able to get around fine.

Activities

Writing articles, creating presentations, presenting, organizing community volunteer work, setting up community game activities, reporting.

Outcome and Impact

- Article
- Presentations created
- Live presentation given during Eco-Fair
- Activity days organized in communities
- Photo reports from community activities
- Overall background research provided for partner organization's staff

Green Liberty Latvia hosting Wei Wei in Riga

Objectives

- Expand my horizon
- Network with other NGOs
- Understand how NGOs in Europe work

Challenges

- The official language in Latvia is Latvian, a language I had never heard before. My Twinning partner and her colleagues speak English well, but public events and activities were in Latvian, making them difficult for me to understand.
- During the exchange in Europe, I also did work for my organization in China, which was very tiring because of the time difference.

Activities

- “Environmental enzymes workshop”

Both of our organizations focus on working with schools and teenagers. Green Liberty usually uses interactive ways to carry out their program in schools.

In addition, next to the workshop on environmental enzymes that I led, I also went on a mini-tour around the school. The school sorts garbage and plants fruit and vegetables on its farm. The farm produce is then eaten by the teachers and students. The kitchen waste is composted for fertilizer in order to reduce organic waste. To lower carbon emissions, the school's teachers and students eat vegetarian meals at school, which are carefully chosen to ensure a nutritional diet.

It was a very good example of how an eco-school can operate. It showed how important the management of the school is to getting everyone to support this vision.

ECO-HOMO's visit

ECO-HOMO is a well-known local environmental non-profit organization, which has made remarkable achievements in public advocacy, especially in promoting youth participation.

Infobox

Green Liberty Latvia

Green Liberty is a Latvian NGO, established in 1991. Its mission is to develop a society in which people live in harmony with each other and their environment. They aim to do this by informing people about the social and environmental implications of current trends in consumerism, trade and globalization; empowering people to participate more effectively. It focuses on climate and energy, resource efficiency, sustainable development and lifestyles.

Zanda Skuja

Ms. Zanda Skuja has been actively involved in environmental issues for a number of years. After working for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, she has been actively involved in Green Liberty Latvia. She splits her time between Green Liberty and studying for her Master in Sustainable Development at the University of London.

I gave a presentation on how my organization tries to encourage young people to participate in waste management and on how waste management works in Chengdu, as well as the challenges we encounter. Through the exchange, I found that we all face the same problem, namely, how to encourage young people to continue to participate in the topic and how to design attractive activities.

Due to a different social environment, ECO-HOMO has more freedom to carry out public activities and social media interaction.

NO-BUYING DAY

This event is hosted by Green Liberty, together with other non-profit organizations. This was the ninth year of the event. “NO BUYING DAY” is an annual environmental activity that takes place before Christmas. It encourages the public to exercise responsible consumer behavior during the holidays. This year’s event was divided into three parts, namely, an exchange among designers of environmental products, a DIY workshop and a “Minimalist life” movie night.

Latvian Waste Management Association

This association mainly works on coordinating agencies and departments related to waste management. It also functions as an environmental advice enterprise. During the visit, they introduced their views on waste management and showcased the cost of the transportation of waste, as well as some waste collection facilities. Waste management issues are emerging as a global environmental problem in more and more countries. Various organizations are working on the issue. As we all know, the mixed waste disposed of in landfills or through incineration causes problems. This is receiving more and more attention all over the world.

Outcome and Impact

- EU-China NGO Twinning reports
- Sharing activities at Roots & Shoots Chengdu
- Exchange of work methods



Zanda Skuja, Green Liberty

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

A follow-up project has not been planned due to the differences in the main focus of our organizations. Whereas Green Liberty Latvia is more focused on climate change, as well as future visions of a low-carbon or zero-waste society, Roots & Shoots focuses more strongly on waste issues. However, we plan to keep communicating about the common approaches we use in our work, such as game activities.

Infobox

Roots & Shoots Chengdu (R&S)

Roots & Shoots is the primary program of the Jane Goodall Institute in China. In 2008, R&S Chengdu registered in Chengdu. Our main concern is directed towards environmental issues, especially urban household waste management. We try to direct and propel the local government to improve urban household waste management and create a healthy and sustainable ecological environment. R&S has 6 employees.

Wei Wei

Ms. Wei Wei has a bachelor’s degree from Sichuan Normal University. She worked on the Sichuan Lehe program of Global Village Beijing, as well as for the Xiamen Greencross Association before joining Roots & Shoots Chengdu in 2011.

North-South Forum & Environmental Education Promotion Centre (EEPC)

The exchange between EEPC and North-South Forum Bremerhaven focused on analyzing existing problems in rural areas and on educational methods to raise environmental awareness in Germany and Shandong Province, China.



Twinners Meng Deliang and Firmian von Peez

Exchange topic – Environmental awareness in rural areas

During the last three decades, China has undergone significant changes which have caused over-urbanization and, above all, environmental degradation in rural areas. In order to stem the rural exodus, above all, livelihoods in the villages have to be improved.

The China-EU NGO Exchange program helped us to analyse the existing environmental problems in rural areas and educational methods to raise environmental awareness in Germany and Shandong Province, China.

In pursuit of these goals, we visited villages in rural areas in Shandong and the countryside in Lower Saxony, and paid visits to elementary schools and universities in our home towns, Jinan and Bremerhaven.

Kleine Schritte in einem Riesenland

Chinesischer Professor bei Nord-Süd-Forum – In Umweltbildung aktiv

Von Ursel Kikker

LEHE. Der Gast aus der chinesischen Provinz Shandong wirft einen neugierigen Blick in Materialkoffer und -kisten. Die werden vom Nord-Süd-Forum den Schulen angeboten, damit sich die Schüler Themen wie fairer Handel oder Klimaschutz erarbeiten. Solche Ideen interessieren Meng Deliang. Der Universitätsprofessor ist in der Stadt, um zu lernen.

Denn der Mitarbeiter der Shandong Jianshu University of China und Experte für Abwasserbehandlung engagiert sich für mehr Umweltschutz in seinem Heimatland. „Das Umweltbewusstsein ist bei uns noch sehr schwach“, meint Meng Deliang.

Er erzählt, dass sie mit ihrer Umwelterziehung in Grundschulen ansetzen. Sie – das sind Freiwillige, oft Studenten, die sich zum Umweltscout am Environmental Education Promotion Centre (EEPC) ausbilden lassen. Sie schwärmen in die Schulen aus und arbeiten mit den Kindern zu Themen wie Energiesparen oder Müllvermeidung. Die Schulklassen kommen auch zu ihnen, um Projekte zu bearbeiten und zum Beispiel Wasser zu untersuchen.

Firmian von Peez hat die Arbeit von Meng Deliang bereits kennen gelernt. Er war im August in China und nahm für das Nord-Süd-Forum an einem europäischen Workshop für Nichtregierungsorganisationen (NGO) teil. Dabei wurden das Nord-Süd-Forum und das EEPC zusammengebracht. Das Ganze ist eingebettet in ein Austauschprogramm, das nun Meng Deliang für sechs Wochen nach Deutschland geführt hat.

Von Peez hat viele Eindrücke von seinem China-Aufenthalt mitgebracht. Sein Gastgeber hat ihn auch in sein Heimatdorf geführt, wo die Bewohner beispielsweise die Hitze ihrer Öfen nutzen, um ihre Betten zu erwärmen. Auch Fotos von vom kleinen



Voneinander lernen: Jochen Hertrampf (links) und Firmian von Peez (rechts) zeigen Prof. Meng Deliang im Eine-Welt-Zentrum das Material für Umweltbildung, das das Nord-Süd-Forum Schulen anbietet. Foto Masorat

Öko-Markt oder diversen Windrädern gingen in seine Sammlung ein. Von Peez lebte bereits in China. „Ich habe den Eindruck, dass sich die Menschen mehr bemühen, umweltbewusst zu leben“, zieht er einen Vergleich.

Doch Meng Deliang weiß, dass es noch ein langer Weg ist für das Riesenreich, das weltweit mit den höchsten Anteil an Kohlenstoffdioxid-Emissionen verantwortlich ist und damit die globale Klimaerwärmung antreibt. Außerdem, sagt er, seien die NGOs in China stärker kontrolliert als etwa in Deutschland. Zu seinem Bremerhaven-Programm gehören unter

anderem der Besuch des Klimahauses, das Kennenlernen des Energiesparprogramms für Schulen „3/4plus“ und die Hochschule Bremerhaven. Untergebracht ist er bei Mitgliedern des Nord-Süd-Forums.

Auf einen Blick

» **Was:** Vortragsabend mit Prof. Meng Deliang (China) und Firmian von Peez (Nord-Süd-Forum) über China, Land und Leute, Umweltprobleme und Umweltbildung
» **Wann:** Dienstag 25. Oktober, 19.30 Uhr
» **Wo:** Eine-Welt-Zentrum, Lange Straße

News article in Nordsee Zeitung on the EU-China NGO Twinning Program

EEPC hosting Firmian von Peez in Jinan

Objectives

Our main goals were:

- to engage in knowledge transfer on fair trade and environmental education in our local communities
- improve our methods of teacher and student training
- develop learning materials for students and the rural population
- enhance our knowledge of drinking water safety and water purification management.
- establish and maintain collaboration networks

Challenges

I didn't face many challenges in China because I speak Chinese and know Chinese culture. The first problem that I did encounter was time constraints and red tape, as it always took some time to get introduced to the people in charge and make arrangements to visit the projects. The second was that August is the hottest month in China.

Activities

- Ji'nan Elementary School No. 2 Middle School attached to Shandong Normal University (Shandong Jianzhu University Campus). I conducted various interviews with the teaching staff, learning more about their teaching methods and current environmental education projects.
- Meng Village in Shandong Province. We paid a visit to several households. More than 300 toilets underwent reconstruction in this particular rural area.
- Hu Village in Shandong Province. We inspected several households and a drinking-water plant.

Outcome and Impact

We achieved many things through our exchange:

- Our exchange kicked off a collaboration between Bremerhaven and Jinan Jianzhu Universities.
- Both universities try to implement new approaches to sustainable sanitation in large cities and rural areas, as well as in areas that have no or only insufficient sewage systems and/or suffer from water shortages.

In addition to water conservation and recycling, the recovery of plant nutrients, as well as the decentralized use of the energy content of waste and wastewater also played a role. Of course, hygienic aspects, as well as health and safety have top priority when looking at new processes.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

We entered negotiations with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China in order to support future environmental education and fairtrade projects.

North-South Forum hosting Meng Deliang in Bremerhaven

Activities

We visited the KLIMAHaus BREMERHAVEN. This climate science and technology museum shows the changes in weather and the environment from north to south, from the perspective of a reporter. In this exhibition, visitors feel that the information they receive is accurate. They get to know the formation and changes of the earth in each period and get access to rich popular science knowledge. Each visitor can print out a list of the amount of their carbon emissions, reminding everybody to reduce their carbon emissions footprint. It is a very valuable place for kids' education.

During a visit at Bremerhaven University, Meng met with Prof. Mattiesen and Prof. Lompe of the Environment School. They exchanged their ideas about founding a partnership between Bremerhaven University and Shandong Jianzhu University. Both sides agreed to start the collaboration by exchanging master's students majoring in Environmental Protection, followed by a teacher exchange.

Infobox

North-South Forum

The "North-South Forum" in Bremerhaven was founded in 1989 as an alliance of groups, organizations and individuals dealing with North-South and environmental issues. Their networking activities are carried out efficiently through numerous North-South Forums, held in European cities. Activities include developing learning parcours for children, organizing events to illustrate problems in "one world" as well as establishing collaboration networks.

Firmian von Peez

Mr. Firmian von Peez studied history and sociology at Bremen University (MA degree), as well as Chinese language in combination with cultural studies at Tongji University in Shanghai as an Erasmus student. After graduating, he worked for several years as program coordinator for the French-Chinese-Organization Enfants du Ningxia, as well as at the Pedagogical Centre in Bremerhaven.



Environmental education at a school in Bremerhaven

Accompanied by Jochen, the head of North-South Forum, and Firmian, Meng was shown a small-sized sewage treatment facility. In some German villages where there are no public sewage treatment facilities, the villagers have to build their own sewage treatment facilities to treat the sewage from their buildings. They were shown two small sized facilities. One is a 3 cubic meter underground facility for one family. The other, built for a welfare house, takes about 10 cubic meters. Both facilities work using SBR processing technology. Waste recirculation in the pond is done entirely using an air pump. Thus, no water pump is needed. A small-sized compressor brings in

air. The facility for 3 cubic meters is worth EUR 6,000 and its running expenses per year are EUR 300. Thus, the cost is lower than that needed for connecting to the sewage system. The cleaning and checking of the underground facility is left to a special company through remote monitoring.

Meng attended an environmental protection class in a primary school. The local education bureau was carrying out a campaign on water-saving at VEELNS-CHULE. The trainers are teachers employed by the local education bureau. German people have a strong consciousness on environmental protection and are very active in this regard. Garbage classification, water conservation, energy and heating energy conservation have all been internalized by Germans, partly because of environmental education starting from a young age. The targets of this environmental protection activity were students in Grade 4. It is a small class with only about 20 pupils. The process of this activity is as follows: first, trainers gave an introduction to water resources, water pollution and water conservation. Then, the pupils were divided into groups to observe the models. One model showed the difference in water consumption between the common tap and the water-saving tap. They then compared the difference in water consumption between urine and stools. With the marks on the models, the pupils could analyze the composition of water consumption per capita from daily use.

Accompanied by Firmian, Sheng Bo from P8 and Meng visited the Bremerhaven Urban-planning Bureau. The head of the Bureau gave us a nice introduction on the changes and planning underway in Bremerhaven. One of the segments on planning caught our interest. It was the fact that some kids had been invited to imagine and plan out future cities in their minds and that planners would incorporate some ideas from the kids.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

During my visiting, North-South Forum set up a long-term communication and collaboration relationship with EEPC. I have also successfully helped bring about the cooperation between Bremerhaven University and Shandong Jianzhu University. I can say this trip has brought me quite a lot.

Infobox

The Environmental Education Promotion Centre (EEPC)

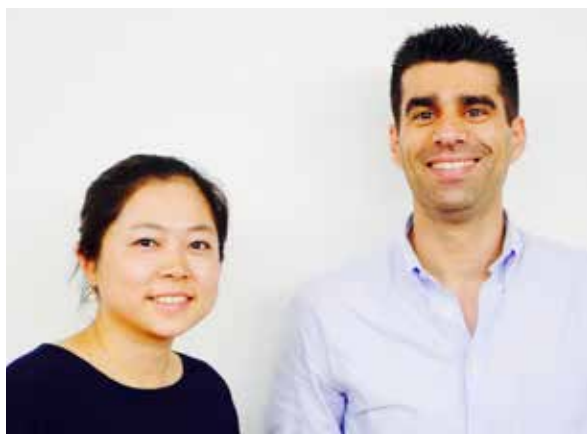
The EEPC, founded 2013 at Shandong Jianzhu University aims at improving the level of environmental consciousness of teenagers both in the city and in villages through various kinds of activities organized by EEPC volunteers. EEPC's focus areas are resource and energy conservation, and emissions reduction, as well as drinking water safety and wastewater drainage for villagers.

Meng Deliang

Mr. Meng Deliang is a Professor at Shandong Jianzhu University in the Department of Urban Water Management. He has over 20 years of experience in environmental work. Since 1994, he has been working with GIZ and Misereor. Meng has supervised several water projects in various parts of China.

QUERCUS & Friends of Nature

The exchange between QUERCUS and Friends of Nature focused on understanding the working methods of non-governmental organisations in the fields of low-carbon, sustainable development and climate change.



Twinners Wang Yuan and Luis Moreira

Exchange topic – Urban energy efficiency

- The objectives of QUERCUS and Friends of Nature were the following:
- Understanding the working methods of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in China/Europe,
- Understanding their work in the fields of low carbon, sustainable development and climate change,
- Establishing sustainable development relationships
- Enlarging horizons and capabilities.

Friends of Nature hosting Luis Moreira in Beijing

Challenges

Many examples could be provided of surprising facts about China and Chinese society. One of them is the level of public participation. Citizens appear to be highly engaged with non-government-organizations, contributing to the evolution of society.

Another example is concept implementation capacity. Concept and projects ideas are implemented very quickly. For example, online payment, which is still being discussed in other parts of the world, is fully implemented in China, making citizens' life easier.

The most challenging aspect was, and still is, understanding the Chinese legal framework so that an effective partnership between QUERCUS and Friends of Nature is possible.

Activities

Throughout my stay in China, it was possible to meet and engage with the whole team at the Friends of Nature office. Each department introduced its projects and activities.

In addition to the activities at the office, there were many field visits that gave additional insights about ongoing projects, activities and actions, such as the low-carbon household project, the Fongaya school, public participation actions and waste collection events.

Outcome and Impact

QUERCUS will try to obtain practical results after the EU-China Twinning Program. The following documents will be essential to reach that goal:

- EU-China Partnership Strategy Formulation,
- EU-China Partnership Legal Framework Analysis,
- EU-China Partnership Proposals.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

The EU-China NGO Twinning program provides valuable communication opportunities. QUERCUS and Friends of Nature are similar and can learn from each other on low-carbon family projects, zero-waste concerts and ecological tourism. QUERCUS is eagerly pursuing further partnerships in China. In the upcoming months

there will be a discussion on how to implement such partnerships.

Quercus hosting Wang Yuan in Lisbon

Introduction

My goal was to understand working methods of non-profits in Europe by:

- Understanding work in the fields of low-carbon development, sustainable development and climate change
- Establishing sustainable development relationships for the future
- Expanding horizons and capabilities

Challenges

- Language

The official language in Portugal is Portuguese. Although some colleagues in the QUERCUS office speak English, many activities and events are in Portuguese. Due to limited supporting translation resources, my understanding of these events was limited.

- Meeting Rituals

Portugal is a passionate country that has different meeting rituals than China. In China, people shake hands, while in Portugal people perform cheek-kiss rituals, which puzzled me for a while.

- Coordination with my own work

During the exchange in Europe, I still did my own work, which made me tired and anxious as a result of the time difference.

Activities

- Zero-waste concert

The zero-waste concert at a large grocery market in Lisbon is an annual event hosted by QUERCUS Nature Conservancy's solid waste team. The team uses waste to create instruments and play music, ultimately advocating for sustainable lifestyles. The drumming performance by cleaning workers using trashcans as musical instruments was stunning. Portugal produces 90% of the world's cork products and is also famous for wine. Thus, for me, the recycling of red wine corks is a special project. It involves making them into other soft-wood products so that they can continue to be used. Apart from classified recycling, the zero-waste team also helps improve the quality and design of recycled products. Friends of Nature is developing a zero-waste association which can draw inspiration from these innovative activities.

- The Portuguese NGO symposium

The NGO symposium is the annual Portuguese NGO congress. All the NGOs in Portugal sit together and discuss various social issues: environmental protection, environmental education, food safety, etc. Here, people discuss goals and common action plans for the coming year, and announce an annual award. The activity was in Portuguese, but although my understanding of the content of the meeting was very limited, I still got to understand how European civil society works and communicates with diverse Portuguese NGOs.

- Green talk at the University of Lisbon (Theme: COP22)

During the COP22 Green Talk at the University of Lisbon, I shared my experience at COP22, facing mainly college students, as well as government officials, Madalena, a colleague from Quercus, and climate change experts.

- Visiting environmental education courses

Quercus

Quercus – National Association for Nature Conservation is a Portuguese NGO, founded in 1985. Its main goals are to increase public participation, promote environmental education activities, raise awareness and support citizens with technical, scientific and legal information on environmental issues. Quercus has been extremely active in the areas of energy efficiency and climate change, from public awareness to political advocacy.

Luis Moreira

Mr. Luis Moreira has a Master in Civil Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto. He has been the non-executive Director of Energy and Climate Change of Quercus since 2016. In addition, he has been the managing director of several projects in Portugal and Angola.

Infobox

In a private primary school, colleagues from Quercus teach environmental education courses once a month. I saw the first environmental education course for pupils who are 6 years old. While they have the same content as the environmental education curriculum in central Europe, the teaching methods are different and I felt there was more freedom for design.

- The Quercus regional office and wildlife protection hospital

Quercus has two animal protection hospitals in Portugal, mainly for birds. When they find wounded birds, they work together with the national power company to modify electricity lanes nationwide. Thus, they have been able to largely reduce casualties among birds.

Outcome and Impact

- Reports

EU-China NGO Twinning reports

Internal Friends of Nature report

- Events

Friends of Nature – Member Sharing Salon

- Work methods

Quercus and Friends of Nature have both conducted low-carbon family projects since 2011, but work methods are different. While Friends of Nature delves deeply into cases, Quercus invites experts for consulting. The instrument courses at Zero-waste concerts that Quercus organizes, as well as membership management methods, are appealing to me.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

The EU-China NGO Twinning program provides valuable communication opportunities. Quercus and Friends of Nature are similar and can learn from each other on low-carbon family projects, zero-waste concerts and ecological tourism. Friends of Nature is in an innovative phase and hopes to use a business mindset to realize its nonprofit goals, inviting a growing number of green citizens to have accesses to environmental protection.



Wang Yuan learning how Quercus promotes themselves at public event

Infobox

Friends of Nature (FON)

Friends of Nature is a nationwide environmental NGO in China which was founded on March 31st, 1994 in Beijing. For more than 20 years, FON has built a team of more than 20,000 members. Through an environmental education program, low-carbon household program, ecological community program, policy advocacy program and other events, FON has been rebuilding the relationship between humans and nature since its founding.

Wang Yuan

Ms. Wang Yuan started working for Friends of Nature in 2011. She first joined the family energy-saving project “Low carbon Household Lab” as a participant, before starting to help other families do the same.

Transport and Environment & Greenovation Hub

The exchange between Transport & Environment and Greenovation Hub focused on emissions trading systems in the EU and China and the efforts by the International Civil Aviation Organization to adopt a global market based measure for international aviation.



Twinners Andrew Murphy and Guo Hongyu

Exchange topic – Climate change and emissions trading

The exchange focused on gaining a greater understanding of EU, Chinese and the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) efforts to mitigate aviation's climate impact. In particular, the exchange focused on emissions trading systems (ETS) in the EU



Andrew Murphy speaking at the public event on ICAO and China's role

and China, and efforts by ICAO to adopt a global market based measure (GMBM) for international aviation. The exchange took place before and after the triennial ICAO assembly which adopted an outline of this GMBM, and 12 months before China's ETS is due to come into operation.

Greenovation Hub hosting Andrew Murphy in Beijing

Introduction

China has a central role to play in mitigating aviation's substantial and growing climate impact. Firstly, it has stated its intention to include domestic aviation in its ETS, to be launched in 2017. The Chinese ETS will be the world's largest carbon market when launched, and China's domestic aviation sector will be the world's largest by the 2020s. Secondly, China is one of the leading voices in ICAO and has a central impact on the policies adopted by it.

Challenges

The Chinese policy making system is somewhat more complex than the EU's, with a lack of transparency and certainty as to how and when decisions are made. It's relatively easy to get meetings with officials, especially those from think-tanks, but more difficult to understand if they are speaking in an independent capacity or on behalf of the government. There is limited engagement by NGOs/environmental actors with the issue of aviation's climate impact.

Activities

Research on China's efforts to limit aviation's climate impact, for example in the 13th five year plan. Interviews with officials, experts and NGOs. Co-organized a public event with Greenovation Hub.

Outcome and Impact

The exchange raised the profile of aviation's climate impact among the climate and NGO community in

China. This included articles in online publications that sought to give a greater understanding of ICAO's possibility and limits.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

European/Chinese NGO cooperation has improved since the exchange. For example, a Chinese NGO, REEI, which I met during my exchange, attended the ICAO assembly in October. I also organized a meeting of aviation campaigners with Greenovation Hub at COP22. Cooperation will continue, in particular relating to the role that China will play in finalizing and implementing rules relating to the GMBM.

Transport & Environment hosting Guo Hongyu in Brussels

Introduction

As one of the rapidly growing sources of greenhouse gas emissions, aviation emissions are responsible for an estimated 5 % of climate change. By 2050, they are projected to grow by 300–700 %. Failure to address this sector would greatly undermine the Paris Agreement's goals. While China demonstrated political will to work



Guo Hongyu facilitating the public event on ICAO and China's role

with other countries to achieve a global market-based mechanism (GMBM) at the ICAO Assembly in October, 2016, there has been little engagement from Chinese civil society on this front. On the national level, China is launching its national carbon market in 2017, which will cover domestic aviation, based on the experience with pilot programs in seven provinces and cities.

Through the exchange project, Greenovation Hub seeks to enhance Chinese NGOs' engagement in ICAO policy advocacy, learn from the experiences and lessons of EU ETS in terms of top-level design and stakeholder engagement, and explore ways of communicating low-carbon transportation to promote effective emission reductions in aviation, in line with the Paris Agreement.

Challenges

In the EU, more space and channels are available for NGOs to conduct policy advocacy and it's easy to set up meetings with policy makers, think tanks and NGOs. Yet given the brief duration of the stay, the long process of EU policy making and the different positions of EU member states on climate policies, it was difficult, in one month, to gain a deep understanding of these issues. And, in some cases, it is difficult to adopt/translate the best practices of EU policy makers and NGOs into strategies/actions that are workable for their counterparts in China.

Infobox

Transport and Environment

Transport & Environment (T&E) is a Brussels-based environmental NGO with over 50 member organizations across Europe. It focuses on policy areas such as vehicle standards, transport policy, clean fuels, trade & better regulation and international transport (aviation and shipping). Since its foundation, T&E has an extensive track record of influencing European and international climate and environment policy.

Andrew Murphy

Mr. Andrew Murphy has a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science and Law and a bachelor of law from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He joined T&E in June 2014 having previously worked for the Green European Foundation and interning at the European Commission's transport directorate.

Activities

Greenovation Hub, Transport & Environment and China Carbon Forum co-organized a public event on ICAO and the role played by China in Beijing on August 15th, 2016. Speakers from government think tanks, local NGOs and international NGOs shared their insights on the ICAO process and international aviation emissions, as well as on the expansion of China's aviation sector and the taming of its environmental impact through the national carbon emissions trading market. The event also explored the challenges and opportunities for China as it seeks to better contribute to global efforts in tackling aviation emissions and achieving sustainable and climate-smart growth.

Over 50 participants from government think tanks, academia, NGOs, airlines, and foundations attended the event, generating lively discussions and exchanges among different stakeholders.

During my stay in Brussels, the ICAO Assembly had just adopted the CORSIA. The EU was discussing the amendment of the EU ETS. I conducted interviews with representatives from NGOs and the EU institutions on EU climate policies ranging from ICAO, EU ETS, and ESR to shipping and electric vehicles. I also attended a series of roundtables on the outcomes and interpretation of CORSIA, as well as on assessing the effectiveness of EU ETS on emissions reduction.

Outcome and Impact

Chinese civil society's engagement in policy advocacy around ICAO was enhanced as a result of a better understanding of the actors involved, including government think tanks, academia, NGOs and Chinese industry, as well as their positions on aviation emissions reduction.

Public discussion on the climate impact of aviation and shipping was facilitated through strategic communications. We published briefings on ICAO and IMO and their roles in climate governance on our social media

channels and among media outlets, resulting in Chinadialogue, a bilingual website, publishing a report on the topic.

Information sharing and communications between Chinese and European NGOs on clean transportation were set up, enabling further cooperation and collaboration on climate-friendly transportation in the future.

Future Plans and Sustainability of the Partnership

We will continue our policy advocacy on aviation and clean transportation, as well as on China's national carbon market, in cooperation with Transport & Environment and other organizations.

In light of "The Belt and Road" Initiative, we are exploring ways to work with our international counterparts to promote the green governance of the initiative.

Infobox

Greenovation Hub (G:HUB)

G:HUB is a grassroots environmental NGO with a global outlook. The G:HUB Policy Centre promotes the development and implementation of sound climate and environmental policies through conducting in-depth analysis and research, and fosters dialogue among stakeholders to drive China's green transition towards a sustainable, equitable and resilient future, thereby contributing to the reduction of our global ecological footprint.

Guo Hongyu

Ms. Guo Hongyu has a master's degree in English and American Literature from Beijing Foreign Studies University. She is a Program Manager at Greenovation Hub, mainly responsible for climate communication. She has two years of experience as Tree Editor China for The Tree project—a global initiative of Global Call for Climate Action, which promotes positive narratives of climate action. She also coordinates cross-sectoral dialogues.

3. Achievements and Highlights of the 2016 EU-China Twinning Exchange

The capacity building workshops held at the beginning and end of the program served not only as a strong foundation for the exchange, but also to provide a potent networking hub and creating extensive opportunities for cross-fertilization. Contacts were made, networks and expertise readily shared.

We are very grateful to all of our twinnings for keeping us updated on their activities. Yang Deng from CCSCP Wuppertal for example wrote to us: “The connection with the other NGOs in the Twinning program led to spontaneous cooperation. Jiaqi from the Friends of Old Villages and I tried to develop a joint proposal on sustainable entrepreneurship in China. CCSCP also teamed up with Wang Yuan from Friends of Nature for another proposal on behavioral change. We hope this will turn into an exciting project soon. I’ll keep you posted.”

During the exchange period, twinnings often made plans to meet with other program participants at conferences and events, strengthening partnerships and facilitating cooperation. The growing Twinning alumni network has also become an excellent information resource and a breeding ground for new collaborations.

Here, we would like to document the most impressive outcomes of the 2016 Twinning.

Expanding networks for cross-fertilization

- Sheng Bo, representing the Changsha-based NGO P8, travelled to COP 22 in Marrakesh, getting insights into the latest developments in climate policy.
- In Berlin, Sheng Bo (P 8) and his European exchange partner Yang Deng (Wuppertal CCSCP) discussed possible synergies and future collaborations with Katja Hellkötter and Bettine Marissen who run the City-maker project for the Robert Bosch Stiftung.



NGO twinner CSCP and P 8 meet Citymakers

- In the autumn of 2016, Stiftung Asienhaus partnered with the city of Cologne to organize a Sino-German symposium on “Urbanisation Processes and Participation in German-Chinese Partnerships”. Stakeholders active in politics and municip-

The connection with the other NGOs in the Twinning program led to spontaneous cooperation.

Yang Deng, CCSCP Wuppertal

pal partnerships, as well as academic experts and representatives from civil society initiatives met in Cologne to explore and discuss opportunities for civic participation in the context of Sino-German



Yang Deng speaking at the Sino-German symposium on “Urbanization Processes and Participation in German-Chinese Partnerships



A group picture from the Sino-German symposium on “Urbanization Processes and Participation in German-Chinese partnerships”



Cross fertilizing: three twinner organizations organize a workshop on sharing economies

exchange and cooperation on urbanization processes. Twinning fellow Yang Deng took part in the event as a representative of civil society stakeholders, reporting on innovative research happening in Germany on sustainable city development (a report on the symposium can be downloaded here: https://www.eu-china.net/uploads/tx_news/DocUrbanisParticip_conference_02.pdf)

- Every year, we witness the creation of new projects or spontaneous events between different Twinning pairs. Just to name one example: On August 23, 2016, four participants from the EU-China Twinning Exchange, namely, Laura De Jaeger (Netwerk Bewust Verbruiken), Monika Wirges (Wuppertal Institute), as well as Zhang Lingling and Zhao Chunyan (BlueSky-4Children), organized a sharing event. It was attended by more than a dozen people interested in simple, resource-saving, minimalist lifestyles, with group discussions focusing on environmental protection and other topics.
- During the Changsha workshop, almost all twinnings attended an exclusive workshop led by Zhang Lin-

gling, which used a biographical approach to teach participants how to “simplify your life”.

NGO perspectives on rural and urban sustainable development in China

On November 18th, 2016, Stiftung Asienhaus organized a workshop on sustainable development in rural and urban China with local NGOs and civil society representatives. Liu Jiaqi (Friends of Old Villages) and Deng Yang (CCSCP), two 2016 Twinning Exchange fellows, reported on new sustainable living trends in both rural and urban areas in China. They were accompanied by two further Twinning fellows, Susanne Fischer and Monika Wirges from the Wuppertal Institute, who had recently returned from their trip to China. A report on that event can be found here: http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Report-SAH-China-Salon-ruralurban-dev_final-3.pdf

Here are some more highlights from the 2016 twinning:

Cop 22 in Marrakesh: P 8, Friends of Nature and China Green Carbon Foundation

Following the capacity building workshop in Berlin, P8 NGO twinner Sheng Bo, along with some of the other twinners, travelled to Marrakesh to participate in COP22. He wrote: “It was a knowledge exchange on a global scale and an unforgettable part of my twinning exchange. China Green Carbon Foundation was admitted to COP 22 as an observer. During my stay, I assisted to host a side event in the Chinese Pavilion with as topic: ‘Ecological management to promote the welfare of human being’. Several best practices in which forest help to address climate change in China were presented and demonstrated to the audiences. More than 100 people from around 30 countries participated in the side event.”

During COP22, Wang Yuan from Friends of Nature attended several other side events and press conferences from the UNFCCC and different member countries. She networked with many experts from Europe and America who work in climate change and forestry background. She also talked with GIZ forestry experts about their forestry strategy in China and abroad, which was very helpful for the development of future



Youtube channel of the Twinning program

projects and future collaboration. With the CCAN 2015 national school climate change creative competition awarded postcards, she interviewed different participants, including young volunteers at university and NASA technical staff. It provided another perspective for her to look at COP22.

Lingnan Partner Community Support Centre & BalkanKids Foundation

From the 25th to 26th of August, Antoaneta Pophlebarova (BalkanKids Foundation) participated in a Train the Trainer seminar for sexual education professionals in Guangzhou, organized by the China program of Marie Stopes International. Antoaneta reports being “amazed

My personal highlight was going beyond the cliché of China as a severely disciplined, restrictive country and seeing a welcoming and flourishing environment for businesses, NGO work and personal well-being.

Antoaneta Pophlebarova, BalkanKids Foundation

at how open each speaker was about the issues they faced in their personal sexual life.” She learned that in China, people are more open than in Bulgaria when it comes to LGBT issues or discussing what might be considered “unhealthy ideas” about sex before the age of 21. “Most striking was the way people were speaking openly about their intimate life on stage, with an

audience of around 300 people applauding them”, says Antoaneta.

On the other hand, she learned about restrictions: “For example, there was a school director who said that his school severely fell in popularity rate because there was a reported case of a boy put his arm around the shoulder of a girl.”

Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV) & Instituto Internacional de Derecho y Medio Ambiente (IIDMA): A comparative study of environmental law

2016 was a significant year for NGOs in China, including CLAPV, as it was year two after the implementation of the new environmental protection law. This law clearly gives NGOs the right to act as plaintiffs in environmental public interest litigation (EPIL). These events were one reason why this exchange focused on analyzing differences between European and Chinese EPIL systems, a highly relevant topic in terms of timing, applicability and impact.

Through the exchange, both organizations were able to gain an excellent understanding of how the different EPIL systems in China and the EU function. IIDMA and CLAPV are now working on a joint policy paper comparing environmental law in China and the EU. Horst Fabian, a Twinning Exchange board member, is supporting their efforts by facilitating access to the organizers of the German-Chinese Rule of Law Dialogue, as well as Rachel Stern, author of “Environmental Litigation in China: A Study in Political Ambivalence” (Cambridge 2013). The focus of the joint policy paper will be on the effectiveness of the two EPIL systems. How potent are EPIL systems as a tool for environmental protection? Can they play a role in meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement, especially with regard to the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions? How can EPIL systems contribute to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals? Finally, the paper will provide recommendations for using public litigation to improve the implementation of environmental law in China and the EU.

Stiftung Asienhaus is happy to support this follow-up project as part of the Twinning Exchange.

Friends of Old Villages & Bund Heimat und Umwelt (BHU)

On August 23rd, 2016, Florence Nick from BHU participated in preparing an exhibition on traditional villages at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, featuring, among others, Liuzhou “beautiful village”, which had undergone a three-year period of reconstruction.

During the German leg of the exchange, Liu Jiaqi represented the Friends of Old Villages at the “China Salon” (see link to the event report above), organized by Stiftung Asienhaus, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of state programs to preserve cultural heritage. German NGOs gained insights on the various models for sustainable city and village development in China, including programs to create sharing communities, citizen-centered urbanization, rural economic development strategies and cultural heritage preservation. She explained how her NGO, which is dedicated to preserving cultural heritage, slowly grew into an organization with branches in the city of Shenzhen, as well as in Zhejiang Province, and with volunteers in more than 1,000 counties and cities. The audience learned that villages were originally integrated into sustainable local economies, producing small amounts of mainly organic waste, which could be safely buried.



Outreach

On April 4th, 2017, the Twinning program was introduced to an audience at the annual meeting of the China Center in St. Augustin, near Cologne. Following keynote speeches by the journalist Ruth Kirchner and the Director of the Stiftung Asienhaus China Program, Dr. Nora Sausmikat, Twinning alumni Luise Kistemaker talked about how her organization, A tip:tap e.V., has established ongoing partnerships and conducted numerous follow-up projects with Chinese NGOs.

Stiftung Asienhaus uses various channels to inform the German public about the necessity and meaning of the Twinning Exchange by highlighting the interconnectedness of developments in Europe and China. Most recently, we published the brochure “Bürgerengagement in China, Zivilgesellschaft auf dem Prüfstand” (Civic Engagement in China: Civil Society in Focus).

Finally, the Twinning Exchange now has its own Facebook, Youtube, Twitter accounts.

In the documentation 2015 we listed all the wonderful projects which developed after the original exchange. Again, this year we witness all the interlinkages between different projects and organizations. It fills us with joy to see all these blossoms bloom. We believe this will be the most promising development to secure a peaceful and sustainable future – for China, for Europe, for the world.



Twitter account of the NGO Twinning

My exchange with P8 gave me both a holistic view of the organization and an up-close look at its culture, vision, internal communication channels, team development, and organizational innovation. I believe that this is the beauty of the exchange – internalizing the experience into new ways of thinking and behaving, without me knowing it.

Yang Deng, CSCP Wuppertal

About the Authors

Nora Sausmikat

Dr Nora Sausmikat is the head of the China program at Stiftung Asienhaus, and is currently also responsible for the EU-China NGO Twinning program. Nora Sausmikat holds a post-PhD degree in sinology. She studied sinology, political science, anthropology, Tibetan language and drama at Sichuan University in Chengdu/China and at Free University in Berlin.

She works as a university lecturer for contemporary China, author and consultant for civil society projects, as well as China-related media reports and programs. In her research, she specializes in the topics of political reform and political memory, as well as civil society developments in China.

Joanna Klabisch

Joanna Klabisch just joined the China Program of Stiftung Asienhaus in April 2016. Her responsibilities in the EU-China NGO Twinning focus on the program implementation as well as the communication coordination between the organizers and the participants. After studying East Asian Studies with a focus on China and Intercultural Communications at the Ruprecht-Karls University of Heidelberg and the Nankai University in Tianjin, she worked at the GIZ Office in Beijing in the Public Policy field. She returned to Germany to work on Civil Society matters at Stiftung Asienhaus.

Stiftung Asienhaus China Program

The China program of Stiftung Asienhaus focuses on civil society initiatives in China and Europe as well as on analysis and background information on China. Our impressions of China are as conflicting and contradictory as the developments in China itself. The future of our world will depend on how the relations between Europe and China will develop. Therefore, proficient complex information, political dialogues and personal encounters can contribute to social and ecological justice.

Since 2008 the China Program engages in several exchange projects and dialogues. In 2010, the blog project "Voices from China" (SAC, www.stimmen-of-china.de) was launched. It translates Chinese online debates and blog posts for the German public. The latest projects are the "EU-China NGO Twinning Program" and the "EU-China Civil Society Portal". The twinning project offers NGOs the opportunity of several weeks of job-shadowing in Europe and China. The Civil Society Portal (eu-china.net) provides expertise on China for European NGOs.

Furthermore, the China program organizes workshops, publications, study tours for Chinese and European NGOs and foundations, exhibitions, lectures, and open forums.

eu-china-twinning.org
www.asienhaus.de/china

人本 Humane

公正 Socially just

环保 Environmentally sound



About Stiftung Asienhaus

Stiftung Asienhaus is committed to the implementation of human rights, the strengthening of social and political participation, as well as the protection of social justice and the environment.

The organization was founded in 1992 under the name “Asienstiftung”. Its founder, Prof. Dr. Günter Freudenberg, and several other associations working on Asia joined together in 1995 in Essen and founded the Asia House. In October 2012, the Asia House moved its headquarters to Cologne.



China Association for NGO Cooperation

The China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) is a non-profit membership organization operating nationwide. It was founded in 1992, and is registered with the Ministry of Civil Affairs since 1993 (reg.no. 3340). By the end of 2016, CANGO had 139 member organizations. In 2007, CANGO gained Special Consultative Status as an NGO with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. In 2010, CANGO was honored with the title of National Advanced Social Organization by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Since its founding 25 years ago, CANGO has developed project cooperation with 181 foreign NGOs and bilateral and multilateral co-operations. 2016, CANGO raised a total of RMB 960 million from 98 donor agencies for project implementation.



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's largest coalition working on climate and energy issues. With over 130 member organizations in more than 30 European countries - representing over 44 million citizens - CAN Europe works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable climate and energy policy in Europe.

About Robert Bosch Stiftung

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. In its charitable work, it addresses social issues at an early stage and develops exemplary solutions. To this purpose, it develops and implements its own projects. Additionally, it supports third-party initiatives that have similar goals. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested more than 1.4 billion euros in charitable work.

About STIFTUNG MERCATOR

Retail entrepreneur Karl Schmidt and his family from Duisburg established Stiftung Mercator in 1996, naming it after Gerhard Mercator, a cartographer and humanist. It is committed to equal rights and opportunities, to social cohesion, respect, tolerance and openness to the world, and to the protection of nature and the environment.

Robert Bosch Stiftung

German-Chinese relations at the Robert Bosch Stiftung

Since 2006, the foundation is focusing its funding in China on the fields of media, governance, civil society, education, and culture. With our "Media Round Table China – Germany – USA" we are bringing together high-ranking media representatives from three countries to discuss global challenges and enhance cross-border cooperation. With its exchange programs for judges and lawyers, the foundation wants to aid China in its judicial reform process, to promote legal certainty and to foster the German-Chinese (legal) dialogue. With its Lectureship Program in Asia, the foundation sends German university graduates to Chinese universities for one to two years to not only teach German but to run educational projects that link academia and society. With "Grenzgänger Asien" the foundation is also offering literary research fellowships for German- and Chinese-speaking authors and filmmakers. Since January 1 2012, the only official Chinese social media account of a German foundation is online at www.weibo.com/robertboschstiftung with almost 11.000 followers.

STIFTUNG MERCATOR

China Program at Stiftung Mercator

At Stiftung Mercator, China plays a key role. It is a country of significant global standing with which Germany can and must cooperate for the benefit of both countries and with a view to resolving global issues. Nonetheless, misperceptions and prejudices often play a major role, and Stiftung Mercator believes that deeper mutual understanding is the key to successful cooperation.

One central element of the China activities is "Mercator Exchange", which serves as the umbrella organization for all exchange programmes. The idea behind this is that international relations can only be forged through personal encounters. The aim is to give young people in particular the opportunity to acquire international experience and thereby to enhance their intercultural skills.

Our guiding philosophy in this context is for people to understand one another, learn from one another and jointly overcome international challenges.

<https://www.stiftung-mercator.de>