



EU-CHINA CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE ON THE ART OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10-13 July 2012

Performing arts during the EU-China Future Search Conference at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China, 11-13 July 2012



Social Entrepreneurship: Views from China and Europe

Major takeaways from the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on the Art of Social Entrepreneurship:

110 participants from Chinese and European NGOs, universities, and supporting organisations explored the issue of social entrepreneurship, shared good practices from Europe and China and engaged in joint action planning

15 representatives from the China Communist Youth League joined the first day of the dialogue forum in their capacity as Chevening Fellows

Practitioners from China and the UK investigated the concepts, principles and practices of social entrepreneurship during the first day of the dialogue forum

During the subsequent two-day Future Search Conference all dialogue participants discussed the past, present and future of social entrepreneurship

in China, found common ground and developed four action plans for future Sino-European civil society collaboration

Participants provided comments on the dialogue proceedings on social media such as Xinlang Weibo

13 student volunteers provided personal interpreting services and acted as student ambassadors of the dialogue forum

A team of professional videographers conducted in-depth video interviews with dialogue participants and co-produced a ten minute bilingual documentary on "Principles and Practices of Social Entrepreneurship. Voices from China and Europe" (available on Tudou.com).

Two follow-up projects have been identified: a first follow-up which will strengthen the cooperation between one British and two Chinese social

enterprises in the field of inclusive performing arts and a second follow-up which will produce ten short documentaries of female social entrepreneurs from the UK and China.

Dr Rosaria Franco (Lecturer in Modern European History, University of Nottingham Ningbo China) is the Follow-up Action Teams Coordinator for the two chosen action plans She can be reached by Email: Rosaria.Franco@nottingham.edu.cn

In this newsletter FACTS Coordinator Dr Patrick Schroeder informs about the implementation of the first two follow-ups of Dialogue 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 6th EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Information Disclosure will be held in Beijing from 26-28 September 2012.

For more information please contact Ms Wang Lu from the China Association for NGO Cooperation (wanglu@cango.org).



This project is funded by The European Union



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

The time is ripe for social enterprises

By John Bennet

In the UK and indeed Wales particularly, I believe that this is the decade when the social enterprise sector could come into its own. With government looking to cut back on state-run public provision, there is an expectation among some politicians that social enterprises will be able to step into the place of a shrinking public sector.

Whether that is realistic remains to be seen. If the sector does assume a greater role in our economy and communities, then there will be a myriad of different socially entrepreneurial individuals who will have helped that process along.

Following my recent visit to the 5th EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC), it's evident that there are many young, socially entrepreneurial individuals who share, with considerably vigour, the energy, passion and values that are so much at the core of what we understand to be social enterprise.

I've had some very interesting experiences in combating and dealing with the perceptions of the capabilities of a mixed ability workforce as well as those pre-conceived ideas that those both within the third sector and the business world have about the whole concept of social enterprise.

It was with these experiences, I was delighted to share my ideas about future priorities in China and discuss issues that may well affect the development of the Chinese social enterprise sector.

Whilst there may be 6000 miles between us, my business experience tells me that wherever you may be, one of the prime ingredients of any successful social enterprise is that that success is very much dependent upon the capabilities and the passion of the "driver" of that enterprise, whoever he or she may be.

Social entrepreneurs are visionaries and have some excellent ideas for change. They are risk takers and innovators and instinctively they push at the boundaries of accepted norms of behaviour or knowledge or business practice.

However, levels of business closure amongst the social entrepreneurial community are nearly twice those in the general UK population. This suggests that mentoring and coaching as well as access to finance through the growth process are important as is the need to recognise that social enterprises have similar financial needs to their mainstream counterparts.

All this resonates with me and is fairly reflective of my years in running a social business.

Together with the mentoring and coaching I've been fortunate to deliver in the UK and overseas, I've been privileged to work with aspiring social entrepreneurs and help shape and develop new and successful social enterprises; those experiences have proved to be invaluable and I have learned much.

Prior to establishing the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition in 2010, I was the long-time chief executive of the award-winning Cardiff-based social enterprise Pack-IT, running a social business, successfully replicating that business model and establishing social value through the company's Social Return on Investment research. I have experienced the vagaries of running a social business and the high and low points within that journey!



So . . . where do we find these budding social entrepreneurs? Those individuals who will eventually become the backbone of the Chinese social enterprise sector?

Well, I reckon I met a lot of them in Ningbo!

Seeking those entrepreneurs very much ties in with a number of action points set out during the EU-China Dialogue conference and as part of the follow up to three thoroughly interesting and inspirational days, there is now I feel, a need to do a number of things:

- Identify social enterprise “Pathfinders” or Ambassadors – whatever you choose to call them
- The promotion of young entrepreneur achievements
- The promotion of social enterprise to young entrepreneurs through various campaigns such as perhaps an “Enterprise Week”
- and particularly in this context, the establishment of a peer-to-peer mentoring and coaching scheme as proposed at the conference by Anna Smee (Young Foundation) and Cliff Prior (UnLtd) – in my opinion, absolutely critical to those aspiring entrepreneurs.

This action point has the potential to be of great benefit in helping individuals, in partnership with the University of Nottingham and their mentors, to advance the development of Chinese social enterprise.

Discussion points

Much is to be gained from learning of the first-hand experiences of running a business, the issues surrounding finance for start ups, the pressures and expectations of the customer and the market place, social or not!

As part of a mentoring process, there is a need to listen as well as inspire and motivate, but always with a realism that often is lacking at “start-up” stage. There needs to be a clear understanding at all levels, that social enterprises are not charity cases.

Social business (social enterprise) or not, there are three drivers of business success:

Make - Products

Sell - Customers

Money - Count the beans

If we can't focus on those in hard times, we won't win in good times, however “social” we are.

As we discussed at length in Ningbo, one of the first problems identified was to define just what a social enterprise is; it's not a straightforward matter. The problem with social enterprise is it doesn't have a legal structure per se. I call it a state of mind as much as anything else.

The real challenge is getting people to understand that if you want to be a social enterprise in its truest form, i.e. an organisation that strives for profit and sustainability just like anyone else you are going to experience the vagaries of the business world just like they do.

Equally, we have to make sure that all our stakeholders in public and private sectors understand that this is a business model. It still has that fluffy image that somehow we've got to get bury!

As we discussed at the conference, so much of this is about the individuals that are involved in running these social businesses. There has to be somebody who understands the business implications, the need to make sure the numbers balance.

Social enterprises can deliver, there's no question, but this broader idea of social enterprises being the panacea for all of society's ills is just not the case; it doesn't work like that.

Ultimately you need financial sustainability, you have got to make profits; there is nothing wrong with profit, it is what you do with those profits!

Then there's the social bottom line – at Pack-IT we employ some very disadvantaged people – and the environmental bottom line, which in Pack-IT's case meant we recycle as much of our board and all our polythene as we can.

I believe passionately that not only should social enterprises make every effort to be financially viable and sustainable, but that when they do receive public funding they should be able to justify all the money that is given to them.

I believe the time is ripe for social enterprises and whilst we recognise and understand that social enterprise is not going to solve everything, there are opportunities out there that can be created but there has to be the will to do it.

We spoke on the third day in Ningbo about attitude and reality; that is what it is all about.

Have **passion** and **values** and turn that into **action**.

Oh, and by the way, expect late nights and early mornings!

John Bennet is the Chief Executive of the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition and Chair of the Pack-IT Group, a Welsh multi-award winning social enterprise. John is experienced in working in the UK and internationally helping to develop social enterprise for disabled and disadvantaged people and is a founding member of Social Firms Wales.

Lv Zhao's candid comments about social enterprises in China initiate a lively debate

By Zhang Jiawei

Thanks to the support by the University of Nottingham and Global Links Initiative, I was very honored to participate in the Civil Society Dialogue in Ningbo presenting our organization Social Enterprise Research Center in Shanghai. I was very impressed by the participants' passion and wisdom in how to drive more systematic changes and what can social entrepreneurs do. I recalled two important parts during the conference.



During one of the morning speeches Mr Lv Zhao from NPI addressed quite a controversial topic when he questioned whether or not social entrepreneurs and innovators are making a real impact in China. The audience's reaction seemed to be one of frustration. To me, it is a very realistic picture about the state of civil society in China and most of the civil society professionals mindsets. These professionals have a very high vision and expectation but within the Chinese institutional system, much of their potential has not yet been released.

The other point I would like to mention is the UK's social enterprise role model Chickenshed Theatre. I was very touched by it's well-made promotion clip and commitment to inclusive performance. In most modern cities, art industry will play critical role in citizen's life, so we will see big opportunities for artists to leverage the social enterprise model to realize their artistic ambition.

I feel grateful to join this dialogue and wish that insights generated during this dialogue forum can be shared with more participants from the UK and China and beyond.

Zhang Jiawei is Secretary-General of the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics Social Enterprise Research Center.

#2012展望未来论坛#@吕朝 的发言非常不认同。他称地大多数的从业者没有资格对这个行业乐观。也没有资格谈论乐观。因为大家都知资深股民被套牢。所有的社会创新者都只能卑微地活着。对这样的价值观感到气愤。在这样的价值观驱动下，别说解决社会问题。从业者自己已然成为社会问题！真是负能量！

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陈朝朝: 回复@讨债小天后: 也有可能被折磨得不轻。 @陈朝朝 (7月11日 13:25) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@讨债小天后: 他没有向往高富帅, 只是在这样的场合说无谓的尖气话是很不负责任的。因为逻辑 (包括内容) 都是在吐槽。没有看到作为行业最具标杆的人物之一的建设性思考, 也没有看到他的视野和使命。 @陈朝朝 (7月11日 12:11) 查看对话 | 回复

何鸣: 有人地方就有左中右, 呵呵呵呵 (7月11日 12:04) 回复

讨债小天后: 回复@陈朝朝: 我认同你对他向往“高富帅”的分析。如果按照这个逻辑, 他一定是对社会企业的创办目的理解有误。好吧, 作为这个行业最早的进入者, 做出这样的言论实在有点令人遗憾! (7月11日 11:42) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@讨债小天后: 从小创复述的卑微地活着这点上来看, 我觉得他本身对这个社会创新, 社会企业以及公益背后的价值观有点误解。人家还是向往“高富帅”的, 有点可惜自己入错行的况味。 (7月11日 11:40) 查看对话 | 回复

讨债小天后: 回复@陈朝朝: 好的, 等你回来, 啥时候有空我们聊! (7月11日 11:38) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@讨债小天后: 不是的, 你太善良了, 回头继续。 (7月11日 11:37) 查看对话 | 回复

讨债小天后: 回复@陈朝朝: 不是他的表达问题? 我的感觉是社会企业, 社会创新比传统企业面临的挑战更大, 商业模式相对更不清晰, 所以需要更多的危机意识! 由于不在现场所以语境理解可能有误, 但是我觉得如果按我上面的说法似乎还真说得通。 (7月11日 11:35) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@陈朝朝: 不知道他的团队听到作何感想。一个社会企业家如果不为自己的行业骄傲, 而是以一种被羞辱的心态带领团队, 这个damage太可怕了! 最重要的是, 这样的吐槽有何建设性呢? (7月11日 11:34) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@讨债小天后: 我觉得他指的是公益领域, 社会企业, 社会创新的中国人没有资格乐观。好在现场的观众大多不赞同, 讨论很热烈。 (7月11日 11:28) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@陈朝朝: 汗, 好失望。他自己不是也在做这个事情吗? (7月11日 11:22) 查看对话 | 回复

陈朝朝: 回复@陈朝朝: 公益和社会创新, 社会企业。他还说这个领域的麻烦太多了, 建议大家不要投身进来。这种割韭菜性质的言论出自自称的行业先锋口中真是掉价。 (7月11日 11:21) 查看对话 | 回复

讨债小天后: 什么意思? 社会企业不应乐观还是创业者不应乐观, 可能没有上下文, 有点理解不过来 (7月11日 10:41) 回复

陈朝朝: 哪个行业? (7月11日 10:37) 回复

YingqinZheng: #2012展望未来论坛#@吕朝 为中国社会创新环境提供了现实主义的讨论。“社会创新由一连串的麻烦组成”, 且效果不明显。他提到很多草根组织宁可选择接受政府资助, 因为比较容易拿到钱, 而不愿成为需要考回报的社会企业, 导致基金会有钱却难以找到好的项目, 引人深思。@明日中国基金

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The power of social documentary

By Dr Andreas Fulda

During the fifth civil society dialogue a team of professional videographers conducted in-depth video interviews with dialogue participants and co-produced a ten minute bilingual documentary together with UNNC student volunteers on “Principles and Practices of Social Entrepreneurship. Voices from China and Europe”. Since the video has been made available to the public on 27 July 2012 it has been viewed more than 1,400 times. The video has been widely circulated and commented upon on Weibo, China’s leading micro-blogging service. The video is indicative of the power of social documentary in civil society work. The team of videographers were tasked to ask dialogue participants three questions:

1. What is your understanding of social enterprises?
2. Can you give us a specific example of social entrepreneurship?
3. Why are you passionate about your work?

These open-ended questions prompted dialogue participants to reflect on their own understanding of social enterprises and social entrepreneurship and link their insights with the keynote speeches they had heard on Day 1 of the dialogue forum. The documentary group including Wenying Bao, Yangyang Chen, Andreas Fulda, Yuantianzi Jiang, Xukun Jin and Jinchu Zhang reviewed 48 minutes of interview footage and chose the most representative and informative answers for the 10:30 minute long video.

Consortium partners China Association for NGO Cooperation (CANGO) and the Great Britain-China Centre (GBCC) will continue to document the remaining three EU-China Civil Society Dialogues in Beijing by employing professional videographers. While the cost of hiring such professionals is low the return of investment is immense: they help unearth the wealth of knowledge and expertise of Chinese and European practitioners working at the frontline of social innovation in China and Europe.

Dr Andreas Fulda manages the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Program on behalf of the China Policy Institute, School of Contemporary Chinese Studies, University of Nottingham, UK. The video is available online on Tudou.com <http://www.tudou.com/programs/view/qL1TOYc72Ck/> as well as on Scoop.it <http://www.scoop.it/t/social-entrepreneurship-in-europe-and-china>

Principles and Practices of
Social Entrepreneurship
VOICES FROM CHINA AND EUROPE



Volunteering for the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Programme

By Crystal Chen, Ivy Jiang, and Vennia Bao

As interns working for dialogue four and dialogue five of the EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Programme we really appreciated that this internship offered us a chance to contribute our efforts to benefit society and to enhance our society responsibility. As members of the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) dialogue preparation team, we engaged in information sharing, discussed problems and sought solutions to problems. The internship provided us with a wonderful platform to expand our vision. Besides, the dialogues employed a creative conference model which allowed to deliver and collect ideas from everyone. During the dialogue discussions we reflected on the past, brainstormed about present challenges and envisaged the future. This process was a good way to work out more creative and feasible programmes to improve society. Moreover, the dialogues have made us aware of the necessity to build up a more mature civil society. Preparing materials and equipments developed our ability to analyse, engage in problem solving as well as teamwork. During the dialogues, we interacted with European and Chinese experts and practitioners from NGO and thereby expanded our networks.

The EU-China Civil Society Dialogue Programme has given us an excellent opportunity to improve our practical abilities and to enhance our understanding of civil society. “Dialogue in the Dark” is a good example of a social enterprise. It makes profit by training other enterprises’ employees. At the same time it provides jobs for the visual impaired. Moreover, through trainings given by those visual impaired, training participants learn how to empathise with their trainers. The more they can relate to their life situation, the less the discrimination will happen in the future towards vulnerable people.

Until now, most Chinese people have more of a subject consciousness than citizen consciousness. To nurture civic awareness is in urgent need if we want to make China a country with more democracy and freedom, as suggested in the report of the 17th party congress by Hu Jintao. The EU-China Dialogue is a good example of such enlightenment. Its deep impact is reflected by the popularity of the social documentary which we helped produce after the fifth dialogue (see report on page 7). As for the people who care about public affairs in China, most of them just complain about problems, e.g. on the micro-blogging website Weibo. But only a few netizens try to constructively solve problems. In stark contrast, the dialogue programme puts more emphasis on follow-up action after the meetings. By

virtue of practice, participants make contributions to improve our life in society.

On a more personal level we have always been perplexed by why people live? Now, after the fifth dialogue forum, through communicating with social entrepreneurs from Europe and China who dedicate themselves to public undertakings, we are learning that in order to lead a meaningful life, we need to live up to our own values in this materialistic age. It is one way to harvest the happiness through acting benevolently and to meet the needs for self-actualization as suggested by Abraham H. Maslow. Or as Lung Ying-tai has put it: Do not wait for any hero for salvation, since each of us has the power to pull down the walls. Needless to say, EU-China Civil Society Dialogue not only set up a platform for information sharing and learning from two different regions, but also offered a great chance for students to learn more and think more about society.

This was also the case during the fourth dialogue forum which focused on left-behind children. European participants showed how efforts were made to prompt a greater involvement of public institutions for the assistance of left behind children. One case study was on strategic partnerships and collaborations for bringing the issue to the attention of Romanian parents abroad, to the attention of European institutions and for assessing the European dimension of the phenomenon. As part of this effort Alternative Sociale Association is member of the European network Children Left Behind: <http://www.childrenleftbehind.eu/>

The dialogue forums offered a space for discussions and an opportunity to connect with other people. Future actions will be based on mutually beneficially cooperation and networking. A lot of great ideas were drafted in the last days of the forums, as collaborations were initiated on several levels. From raising awareness on the issue to research and document key points of interest, teams of participants worked to draft collaboration plans between EU and China civil society representatives. As such the two dialogue forums have succeeded not only in bringing European and Chinese academics and practitioners to talk to each other but they have also created the foundation for future communication and collaboration.

Crystal Chen, Ivy Jiang, and Vennia Bao are students at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. They helped prepare and conduct both the fourth and fifth EU-China Civil Society Dialogue held in Ningbo in February and July 2012 respectively. Email: Childwelfare@nottingham.edu.cn

Chinese NGOs evaluate the Agenda21 implementation over the last 20 years

By Dr Patrick Schroeder

As part of the inaugural EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Climate Change & Sustainable Consumption and Production in July 2011 this follow-up project focused on the evaluation of China's efforts for sustainable development and implementation of Agenda21. In preparation for the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012, a coalition of Chinese NGOs carried out an evaluation of the implementation of Agenda21 in China over the last 20 years.

The Rio+20 working group consisted of several Chinese environmental NGOs, including Greenovation Hub, China Association for NGO Cooperation, Shanshui, Friends of Nature, and Institute for Environment and Development. Greenovation Hub coordinated the working group and evaluation activities while IED coordinated research activities of volunteer organisations, and Shanshui carried out desk research. The main activities included desk research, expert interviews, writing up of the Agenda21 evaluation report and the release of the report. The Rio+20 working group also cooperated with the international NGO community in providing recommendations for the Rio+20 conference themes on “Environmental Governance” and “Green Economy”.

This project was timely and necessary since no independent assessment by Chinese civil society organisations of China's sustainable development over the last 20 years existed.

The main outputs of this follow-up project were

- a) an evaluation report of efforts for sustainable development (with policy recommendations) in Chinese. The report will be presented in Beijing on 18 September 2012.
- b) consultations with experts and stakeholders
- c) an English executive summary of the evaluation report;
- d) input to the process leading up to Rio+20 and the agenda for the summit in Rio 2012.

This project was timely and necessary since no independent assessment by Chinese civil society organisations of China's sustainable development over the last 20 years existed. As an independent evaluation the report now complements existing evaluation reports by government and research organisations. The funding of 10,000 Euro enabled several Chinese NGOs to kick-start this evaluation project of China's sustainable development over the

last 20 years. The funding was used to pay for staff costs of Greenovation Hub, Institute for Environment and Development and Shanshui Conservation Centre to coordinate and motivate other NGOs to participate in this project and leverage additional funding. As a result of successful acquisition the main bulk of funding for the research work of this evaluation project was subsequently provided by the Chinese Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE), in total about 300,000 RMB. Some further funding was provided by the French embassy in Beijing for research work and printing of reports while the Rockefeller Brothers Fund enabled Chinese NGOs to participate in the Rio+20 conference in June 2012. With this additional funding the project has over-achieved its initial purpose. The completed report is the source of evidence. In addition to creating the evaluation report, 15 Chinese NGOs submitted input and recommendations to the Rio+20 Zero Draft document (available here: <http://www.c-can.cn/en/node/688>)

The project enabled collaboration among Chinese NGOs while the participation of European NGOs was rather limited. European NGOs (ANPED) provided some support by providing information about participating in the international Rio+20 preparation processes.

The following Table of Contents of the report shows the successful cooperation and networking among Chinese NGOs in putting this report together (<http://rio20china.org/en/?p=68>).

Chapter 1 - Introduction. 1.1 Reflection and hopes for the environment and sustainable development (by Zheng Yisheng)

Chapter 2 - Social and Economic Affairs. 2.1 Poverty alleviation (by Liu Yan), 2.2 Sustainable consumption and production (by Patrick Schroeder), 2.2 Public health (by Cai Lingping)

Chapter 3 - Environment and Resources. 3.1 Climate change (by Hou Yanli), 3.2 Land use and planning (by Deng Bing and Fan Mingxiao), 3.3 Combating desertification (by Wang Shuwen), 3.4 Forest protection: the practice of community forestry (by Tang Caifu, Gang Tingyu, and Wang Xiaoyan), 3.5 Nature reserves (by Zhang Liming), 3.6 Biodiversity (Zhu Ziyun), 3.7 Water resources management (by Zheng Ping), 3.8 Addressing air pollution (by Peng Yan), 3.9 Municipal solid waste management (by Cai Chao), 3.10 Energy reform (by Zhao Ang).

Chapter 4 - Implementation and approaches. 4.1 Fiscal policy and green finance (by Bai Yunwen and Li Xiao), 4.2 Environment-friendly technology transfer (by Chen Jiliang), 4.3 Public participation (by Chang Cheng), 4.4 Gender (by Cai Yiping), 4.5 Sustainable industry and the green transition (by Zhang Xubiao and Xu Jiayi), 4.6 National capacity building and international cooperation (by Huang Haoming).

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

Each of the chapters includes an independent analysis of existing policies as well as policy recommendations. The overall conclusion of the report is that China is at a critical crossroad to make decision on its development model for the future 30 years. Enabling China to achieve a transition to

sustainable development or green economy faces a set of great challenges in institutional formulation, capacity building, technology innovation and many others. This report demonstrates the various problems, challenges and policy suggestions in each field.

A meeting with the EU's environment councillors at the EU Delegation in Beijing on April 27th

2012. Representatives from CANGO, Friends of Nature and Shanshui presented the report and its findings, including policy recommendations, to 15 representatives of various EU embassies.

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

From the various authors which have participated in the writing of the report it can be seen that networks between domestic Chinese NGOs, international NGOs operating in China and research organizations have been strengthened.

Through the work on providing inputs to the Rio+20 Zero Draft, Chinese NGOs established stronger links with NGOs from Europe and other countries.

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

Indirectly, the project facilitated three Chinese NGO representatives from CANGO, Friends of Nature and Shanshui to participate in a Rio+20 preparation event titled "Towards new global governance for the environment" organized by the French government in Paris on 31 January 2012. Although the funding for participation was provided by the French government, without having started the evaluation work Chinese NGOs would not have been familiar with Rio+20 related issues. Participation in the Paris event gave Chinese NGO representatives the opportunity to engage with government delegates, including from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Environmental Protection.

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

How the report will help to operationalise China's policy implementation for sustainable development remains to be seen. Policy impacts might take several years to materialise.

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

The report provides policymakers and the public an independent assessment and feedback on of what China has already achieved and the challenges for the next decades for sustainable development.

Dr Patrick Schroeder is International Advisor at CANGO where he supports coordination and international cooperation of the China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN).



Building the foundations of a Chengdu-Bonn low-carbon city partnership

By Dr Patrick Schroeder

The second follow-up of the inaugural EU-China Civil Society Dialogue on Climate Change & Sustainable Consumption and Production in July 2011 established a collaboration mechanism between European NGOs, local Chengdu NGOs, research institutes and the Chengdu and Bonn municipal government authorities for low-carbon city development. It has also served as a model for collaboration between local NGOs, research institutes and city municipalities in other Chinese cities.

developed and willingness to pay higher prices for low-carbon products or low-carbon solutions.

Representatives of Germanwatch visited Chengdu twice to engage in face-to-face communication with relevant stakeholders in Chengdu. Furthermore, Germanwatch engaged in close dialogue with the municipal government of Bonn to successfully promote the idea of low-carbon city cooperation with Chengdu. As conclusion of this follow-up project a final multi-stakeholder

dialogue was organised on 17 April 2012 in Chengdu. Germanwatch, E3G and local Chengdu stakeholder developed an “action plan” for future Bonn-Chengdu low-carbon city development which was submitted to the German Mercator Foundation as a project application. The project was approved in July 2012. This success exemplifies how a small follow-up project can act as the seed funding for a major cooperation project.

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

A stakeholder dialogue between local stakeholders from Chengdu including the Chengdu Development and Reform

Commission, Sichuan University, the

Shuangliu Low-carbon Development Centre and local NGO representatives was held on 17 April 2012 at the Chengdu Urban Rivers Association. Among the 30 Participants were representatives from the German Consulate in Chengdu, the NGO Germanwatch and Mercator Foundation.

The dialogue provided opportunity for discussion with local government representatives on Chengdu's low-carbon development plan. Representatives from Sichuan University had the opportunity to present the outcomes of the research study which was financed through the follow-up, and present recommendations how to collaborate with local government on low-carbon development. Furthermore, Germanwatch had the opportunity to present their project proposal on low-carbon city cooperation between Bonn and Chengdu. The representatives from Chengdu DRC provided an account of some of the challenges the municipal government is facing and welcomed future cooperation with the other participants.

The follow-up project was coordinated by the China Association for NGO Cooperation and implemented in close cooperation with the Chengdu Urban Rivers Association (CURA), the College of Architecture and Environment of Sichuan University and Germanwatch. The project has achieved the main purpose to bring together stakeholders from Bonn and Chengdu to work towards a low-carbon city partnership between the two cities.

The local Chengdu NGO CURA in cooperation with the College for Architecture and Environment of Sichuan University carried out a research study about low-carbon community development in Chengdu. Overall, the study identified a number of deficiencies in Chengdu's current low-carbon development path, but that residents show a great enthusiasm for low-carbon development. And the vast majority of local residents surveyed expressed support for low-carbon



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

The follow-up project brought together a number of organizations and individuals which have not previously cooperated. All these organizations will continue to be involved in the low-carbon city cooperation between Bonn and Chengdu.



How has the follow-up raised additional material and ideational resources in policy implementation, e.g. by raising ideational resources (ideas, expertise) and material resources (money, volunteers etc)?

The follow-up project has been used as opportunity to develop a project proposal to Mercator Foundation to initiate long term Bonn-Chengdu low-carbon city cooperation with concrete activities to achieve emissions reductions. The project will start in the second half of 2012.

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

The research report could provide guidance to policymakers on low-carbon policy implementation on community level (if and how they will use it is, however, beyond the scope of this project). The newly established Bonn-Chengdu cooperation has the goal to support low-carbon policy design and implementation over the period from 2013-2015.

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

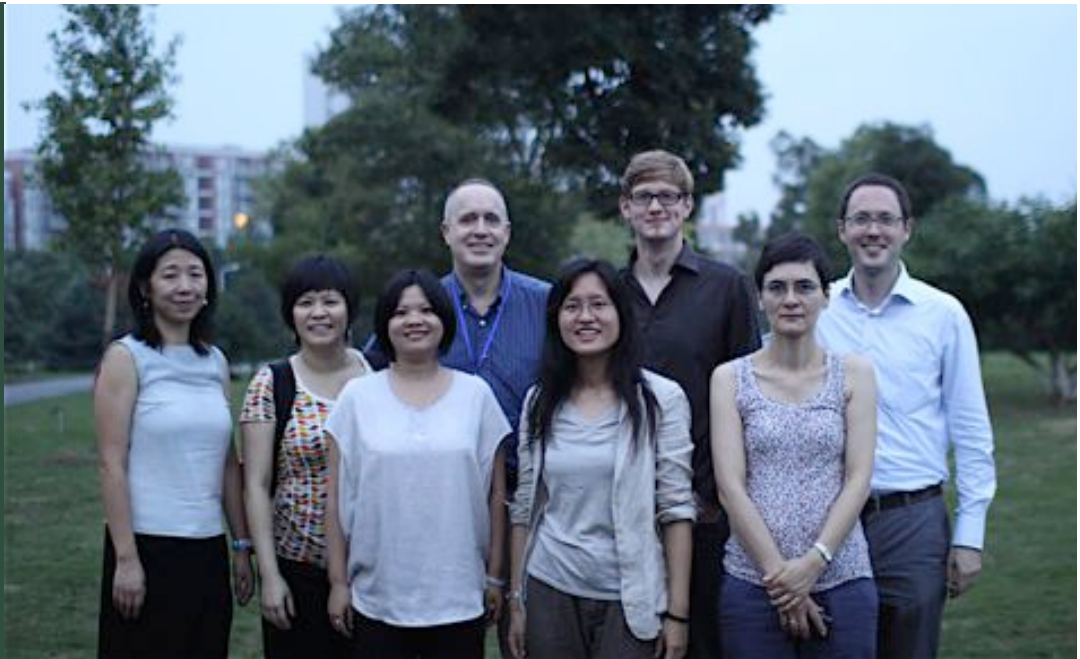
The follow-up project has engaged policymakers in both cities Chengdu and Bonn on the issue of low-carbon urban development. Several dialogues have already taken place during the follow-up period, more in-depth dialogues will be organised in the coming years from 2013-2015 through the Bonn-Chengdu cooperation project funded by the Mercator Foundation.

Dr Patrick Schroeder is International Advisor at CANGO where he supports coordination and international cooperation of the China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN).



The fifth consortium board meeting was held on 13 July in Ningbo.

Participants from left to right: Li Fan, Karen Lim, Ivy Luo, Mark Pixley, Christine Ding, Roman Serdar Mendle, Rosaria Franco, Andreas Fulda.



CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

University of Nottingham

School of Contemporary Chinese Studies
China Policy Institute
EU-China Civil Society Dialogue
Program Manager Dr Andreas Fulda

E: Andreas.Fulda@nottingham.ac.uk

University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Professor Nabil Gindy

E: Nabil.Gindy@nottingham.edu.cn

China Association for NGO Cooperation

Ms Wang Xiangyi
Ms Wang Lu
Mr Patrick Schroeder

E1: wangxiangyi@cango.org

E2: wanglu@cango.org

E3: patrick@cango.org

Institute for Civil Society, Sun Yat-sen University

Ms Li Yan
Professor Bettina Gransow
Professor Zhu Jiangang

E1: liyan.cop@gmail.com

E2: gransbbm@gmx.de

E3: jiangang2010@gmail.com

German Asia Foundation

Dr Nora Sausmikat
Dr Klaus Fritsche

E1: n.sausmikat@asienhaus.de

E2: Klaus.Fritsche@asienhaus.de

Global Links Initiative

Mrs Li Fan
Ms Christine Ding

E1: fanli@glinet.org

E2: yfding@glinet.org

Great Britain-China Centre

Mrs Katie Lee
Ms Jiang Bing

E1: katie.lee@gbcc.org.uk

E2: Jiang.Bing@gbcc.org.uk

FACILITATION BY

Leadership Inc.

Mrs Karen Lim and Mr Mark Pixley

E1: karen@leadershipinc.com.cn

E2: mjpixley@gmail.com



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