Background and aims of the program

The political, economic and cultural relations between Europe and China have been growing substantially over the last few years. We consider it equally important to involve the level of civil society of in this process of providing solutions for global issues.

To develop sustainable partnerships and cooperation between non-governmental or non-profit organizations and think tanks from Europe and China the Stiftung Asienhaus in cooperation with CAN Europe/CANGO/CCAN in 2015 organizes the EU-China NGO Twinning exchange program. The program is supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftung Mercator. This program gives European and Chinese NGO staff the opportunity to work and study in a Chinese or European organization for 4 to 8 weeks.

The program comprises two thematic areas for cooperation:

**Environmental and social justice (lead by Stiftung Asienhaus)**

The program will accept 14 (seven European and seven Chinese) participants representing organizations from all thematic areas dealing with environmental and social justice (for examples of issue areas of past exchange participants please view: [http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2014-twinner/](http://www.eu-china-twinning.org/2014-twinner/)).

**Climate Change & Low-carbon Development (lead by CAN Europe & CANGO)**

In addition, the program will accept 10 (five European and five Chinese) participants representing organizations focusing on climate change and low-carbon development. Examples of issue areas associated with the climate change theme:

- Renewable Energy
- Energy Efficiency
- National/International climate policy
- Fossil fuels – coal, oil, gas
- Climate change adaptation
- Carbon pricing and the emissions trading scheme
- Climate finance
Exchange structure

- The program is designed as a twinning exchange, i.e. two organizations working on similar thematic issues exchange a member of their staff. Participants will be able to work part time for their own organization during the exchange period.
- The exchange cost will be covered by a scholarship. It includes international return flight, visa, basic travel insurance and workshop participation as well as a living allowance for accommodation, local transport and daily expenses. The living allowance is 40 EUR per day; the total amount disbursed to each participant is calculated according to the number of days he or she spends abroad as part of the exchange.

*Please note:* Each participating organization is asked to contribute a participation fee of 100 EUR or 800 RMB. This is to ensure commitment to the program and to facilitate any unexpected activities that are not foreseen in the budget. This fee should be submitted within two weeks of confirming participation in the program.

Timeline

- 15th of August to 15th of October 2015: Exchange period for European participants in Chinese partner organizations for a period of 4 – 8 weeks
- First week of September 2015: 2-day thematic workshop in China
- 10th of October to 10th of December 2015: Exchange period for Chinese participants in European partner organizations for a period of 4 – 8 weeks
- First week of November 2015: 2-day thematic workshop in Europe

*Please note:* Participation in both workshops is mandatory. Applying participants should therefore make sure they are available during the time period stated above.

The participants will be provided with

- Exchange preparation
- Thematic trainings/capacity building seminars on topics relevant for their work, e.g. political and societal backgrounds of and civil society development in the respective region (participants can use the exchange opportunity to engage in activities around the COP21 in Paris, November 30 – December 11).\(^1\)

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\(^1\) Participation in the COP itself requires UN accreditation through a formal system. However, numerous activities will take place across Paris during the COP so organizations will have the option to take part.
How to apply

Please send your application to: eu-china-ngo-twinning@asienhaus.de

**Deadline** for single applications: 12th of April, for joint applications: 26th of April 2015.


**Important:** If applying for the climate change & low-carbon development program please specify in the email subject! (“Focus Climate Change - Application for the EU-China NGO Twinning”)

Applications should ideally be submitted jointly by one European and one Chinese organization including a jointly developed proposal for a topic/project for the exchange. Please note that joint applications will be preferred to single applications.

**Joint application:** For a joint application of a European and Chinese organization please fill in the attached application form (in English).

**Application without partner organization:** If you would like to apply and do not yet have an exchange partner organization in the respective other region we can assist in finding a suitable twinning organization. In this case, please fill in the form for single application/request for twinning partner search (in English)

**Requirements for application**

Participating organizations should:

- be able to provide an English-speaking and interactive working environment or contact person with English language skills.
- be able to provide a desk, a PC and a telephone and a contact person who can support the exchange fellow.
- help with the travel preparation (visa application, flight booking) and help finding accommodation/guest families.

Participants should:

- be able to communicate at work in English.
- have at least 2 years of working experience, ideally in the NGO sector.
- be available for both workshop events as stated in the timeline.