



Asienstiftung

Responsible:

Dr. Nora Sausmikat
Hohenzollerring 52
50672 Köln

Nora.sausmikat@asienhaus.de
Telefon: (49) 221- 716121-12

Aim of the program

Background

Gefördert durch die
Robert Bosch Stiftung

Press release

Connecting Europe and China NGO Exchange Program formally kicks off

In order to strengthen alliances between civil society organizations in Europe and China the German Asia Foundation supported by the Robert Bosch Foundation launches a first-of-its-kind EU-China NGO exchange program. In the context of the program one European and one Chinese NGO will be paired up as “twinning-partners”. They will develop a joint project for cooperation and each send one fellow to work in the respective other organization for 4 to 8 weeks. A total of ten organizations can participate in 2013.

The goal of the exchange is to embrace a broader, more international scope of the organizations’ thematic areas and to discover new aspects and opportunities for collaboration. The program also aims at refining the European image of civil society in China, and at establishing a long-term dialogue between civil society stakeholders from Europe and China.

Among the working focuses of civil society organizations there is a long list of cross-national topics, with China playing an increasingly important role: from climate change, environmental protection, fair trade and production to sustainable tourism. Therefore NGO organizations from a wide range of thematic focuses are welcome to participate.

Given the growing importance of the EU-China relationship, exchange and cooperation in the fields of science and culture, as well as between state institutions and businesses from both regions have deepened. But exchange between civil society organizations is still in its infancy. With the launch of this program the German Asia foundation and the Robert Bosch Stiftung aim to fill a gap in this important area of social development.

The feedback of the pilot phase’s (Sep. 2012 to Mar. 2013) first two participants about their experience also underlines the significance of such an exchange. Wang Jian, junior researcher at the Beijing „China Youth Climate Action Network“ reports positively about her 10-week fellowship with the project „Heiße Zeiten“ in Düsseldorf: „In Germany, I saw with my own eyes what difference well implemented environmental and climate protection can make. Also, with a perspective from the outside of the country, I developed a better understanding of the role China is playing in international issues, for example climate change.“

His job shadowing stage at CYCAN on the other hand has helped Daniel Worrings, project leader of the youth climate campaign “Heiße Zeiten”, to dispel some prejudice about civil society in China.

“Before I heard about the exchange program, I wasn’t aware there were youth organizations combating climate change in China, too. But then I realized: of course, it’s of major importance to involve China, especially in our field of work. I was amazed to find the CYCAN volunteers no less informed and committed than we are in Germany. I think, exchanging ideas about concrete action was especially meaningful. In my view, personal encounters are an indispensable precondition for long-term cooperation .

bitte wenden

German Asia Foundation

The German Asia Foundation has rich experience in facilitating dialogues, information campaigns and policy consulting. The focus of the foundation's China program is on environmental protection, consumer's rights, social justice and fair labour. In achieving its goals the foundation draws on its cooperation with numerous European and Chinese organisations.

Robert Bosch Foundation

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company. The foundation holds 92 percent of Robert Bosch GmbH's capital stock of 1,2 billion. Founded in 1964 it has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for more than 40 years.

The foundation engages in the areas of science, health, international relations, education and culture.

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

Contact and Information

China-Program of the German Asia Foundation

Nora Sausmikat,
nora.sausmikat@asienstiftung.de

Inga Gebauer
inga.gebauer@asienhaus.de

www.asienhaus.de

The exchange period is scheduled for September/October 2013 (in Europe) and November/December 2013 (in China). Deadline for application is June 15th 2013. For more information or any queries related to the formalities of application please contact the addresses above.

Contact at Robert Bosch Foundation

Oliver Radtke
Projektleiter China
Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH
Heidehofstr. 31, 70184 Stuttgart
Tel: +49 (0) 711/460 84-154
oliver.radtke@bosch-stiftung.de