



Stiftung  
Asienhaus

## Press release

### First five EU-China NGO twinningers selected

#### Responsible:

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#### Selection committee decided for the first five twinningers for 2013

In order to strengthen alliances between civil society organizations in Europe and China the Stiftung Asienhaus 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 will participate in 2013.

The EU-China NGO Twinning program received more than 30 applications for the first round of the NGO exchange between Europe and China. We are very pleased to see that the applications cover a wide range of topics: from climate change, organic agriculture, labor rights to green credit policies.

The overall feedback to the program which we listened to during our phone consultations with the applicants is extremely enthusiastic: "This program comes right in time. Personal contacts are the most important element to understand the other culture and build up cooperation".

The selection committee decided for the following five twinningers:

- Green Watershed, Yunnan Province/BothENDS, Netherlands
- Yunnan Environmental Development Institute, Yunnan Province/ Grüne Liga, Germany
- CHEE Productions, Guangdong Province/Berlin Massive, Germany
- Public Interest and Development Law Institute, Hubei Province/The Rights Practice, United Kingdom
- Hunan Aimier, Hunan Province/Chickenshed, United Kingdom

#### Topics of exchange

**Green Watershed and BothENDS** will both focus on the Green Credit Policies. In 2007 the Chinese government declared a Green Credit Policy to regulate the lending activities of Chinese banks. However, many Chinese banks have not implemented the policy yet. The twinning is an opportunity to reflect on the effectiveness of safeguards and green credit policies and how they might be improved. It aims at providing civil society organizations in China and Europe with an understanding of the different policies' implications for their development project monitoring.

**The Yunnan Environmental Development Institute and the Grüne Liga** both focus on water policies. The exchange aims at fostering a better understanding and application of holistic and sustainable solutions in the context of safe water utilization and protection.

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**CHEE Productions and Berlin Massive** would like to exchange on urban youth cultures. During their stay, the exchange partners aim at getting to know the structures and opportunities of working in the field of cultural youth education, culture and intercultural work in their respective area. Both partners focus on social and cultural initiatives with a grassroots character and try to use this opportunity for the establishment of long-term partnerships.

**The Public Interest and Development Law Institute (PIDLI) and The Rights Practice** wish to explore the NPO management in the area of criminal justice. They wish to understand operations and practical functioning of the others' NPO as well as concrete operations of the criminal justice system in the others' area. They also aim to use the exchange as a valuable networking opportunity to enable the participants to train in legal and cultural matters. The PIDLI has developed out of the public interest law movement, the "law and development" movement, and the "developmental law" campaign in Southeast Asian countries. The institute is affiliated with Wuhan University School of Law.

**Hunan Aimier and Chickenshed** focus on inclusive theatre. The participants aim at improving their cooperation in providing inclusive theatre workshops in China.

The Chinese exchange fellows' stay in the European NGOs is scheduled for September/October 2013. Their visit will be followed by the European exchange fellows' work-and-study stage in the Chinese partner organizations in November and December 2013.

## Stiftung Asienhaus

The 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 "(German) Asia Foundation". 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.

## Contact and Information

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