



Stiftung
Asienhaus

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**Selection committee
decided for seven new
Twinners for 2014**

Topics of exchange

Supported by the
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**Press release
EU-China NGO Twinning:
Seven Twinners selected for 2014 round of exchange**

For the second year the German Stiftung Asienhaus supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung organizes the exchange program *EU-China NGO Twinning*. This first-of-its-kind program aims at strengthening alliances between civil society organizations from Europe and China. In the context of the exchange one European and one Chinese NGO are paired up as “Twinning-partners”. They will develop a joint project for cooperation and each send one fellow for a job-shadowing stage in the respective other organization for 4 to 8 weeks.

Due to the positive feedback the initial launch received, the program has been established as an annual exchange, and the number of participating organizations has been raised from 10 to 14.

“We are happy to work with Stiftung Asienhaus on this very timely initiative”, says Christian Hänel, Head of Department International Relations America and Asia at Robert Bosch Stiftung. “Strengthening and connecting civil societies internationally are key goals of our program activities. The EU-China NGO Twinning Program is a great and successful initiative in this field. We are impressed by the quality and the broad range of applications ranging from environmental protection to waste management and social innovation.”

The EU-China NGO Twinning received applications from more than 60 organizations from 10 different countries for the second round of the NGO exchange, up 30% from last year. In addition, the organizers were able to establish contact between numerous Chinese and European organizations who ultimately submitted a joint application. The applications offered a great overview of the diversity of both the European and Chinese civil society sector, with working areas reaching from environmental protection and low carbon development to agriculture, waste management, capacity building and rights advocacy.

The selection committee decided for the following seven Twinners:

- ◆ Arnika Association, Czech Republic & The Nature University Fund, Beijing
Exchange topic: Chemical safety, industrial pollution, chemicals in products
- ◆ CEE Bankwatch, Czech Republic & Global Environmental Institute, Beijing
Exchange Topic: Monitoring Chinese investments in Europe
- ◆ International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), Germany & Beijing Farmers’ Market, Beijing
Exchange topic: Participatory Guarantee Systems
- ◆ Let’s Do It, Estonia & Wuhu Ecology Center, Anhui Province
Exchange topic: Waste management issues
- ◆ Pro Bono Lab, France & Beijing Huizeren Volunteering Development Center
Exchange topic: Social Innovation and Probono Model
- ◆ Sandbag, UK & Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV), Beijing
Exchange topic: Emission trading schemes/carbon markets
- ◆ Save-Our-Seeds, Germany & Pesticide Eco-Alternatives Center, Yunnan Province
Exchange topic: Small-scale farming

The program will start off with preparatory seminars for the exchange fellows. The exchange period is scheduled from September to December 2014, and will be supplemented with workshops on civil society topics in the respective region.

Arnika Association & The Nature University Fund have been cooperating on a joint project focused on strengthening the capacity of pollution victims and NGOs to increase chemical safety in China and Europe. With the exchange Arnika and Nature University aim to increase experience with practical and legal aspects of their work, such as tools for access to information on environmental pollution and their legislative consequences. Arnika, which serves as a secretariat for IPEN's Heavy Metals Working Group, will use this opportunity to learn more on local specifics and problems of Chinese communities affected by industrial pollution.

CEE Bankwatch & the Global Environmental Institute focus on monitoring the environmental and social impacts of major bank's investment projects. During the exchange the participants wish to explore different social and environmental risk assessment methodologies that are applied by European and Chinese investment and development banks. They also hope to gain a better understanding of Chinese Investment in European countries, especially in high environmental and social impact industries. Another objective is to compare and develop working knowledge on European and Chinese regulations or policies governing energy consumption, investment, environmental measures and the participation of CSOs.

IFOAM & The Beijing Farmers' Market aim to exchange on the so called Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), a quality assurance system for agricultural products, based on active participation of stakeholders. The participants wish to deepen their understanding of the model but also reach a broader perspective on how the PGS is implemented in different regions. IFOAM established the world wide recognition of PGS and wants to learn more on the local conditions in China. Beijing Farmer's Market is a pioneer in experimenting with PGS, and hopes to directly help more than 100 producers and thousands of consumers to benefit by implementing PGS. This could be a big step forward in the food movement in China and worldwide.

Let's Do It & Wuhu Ecology Center With a common mission to resolve waste pollution, the two NGOs will focus on community activities to promote Clean-Up Events, urban/countryside waste management, and activities around waste prevention, reuse and recycling. With the exchange they hope to gain insight into each other's working environments, strategies and plans. The exchange is planned to involve skill-sharing and training on event organization and waste management best practices.

Beijing Huizeren & Pro Bono Lab aim to exchange on social innovation models in the pro bono field. They would like to share both their specific regional experience with pro bono and practical knowledge such as operations and organizational management, and team development. The exchange also aims at promoting the concept of pro bono for NGO capacity building in China. Furthermore they plan to build a global pro bono network with other international NGOs and intermediaries.

Sandbag & CLAPV will collaborate on a detailed analysis of how the trial carbon markets will work in China, looking at available trading data and bringing together media and analysis on the topic. They will then use CLAPV's expertise on Chinese law, and Sandbag's knowledge as a carbon market watchdog in the EU, to plan for further Non-Governmental Organisation involvement in ensuring China's carbon markets run smoothly. As a concrete outcome they plan to plot out a structure for how NGOs across China can ensure that China's carbon markets truly act to reduce emissions and protect the environment.

Save-Our-Seeds & PEAC The principle topics of this exchange will be agriculture (especially sustainable agriculture), genetically modified organisms (GMO), food safety and agriculture policies. The participants not only wish to develop joint solutions for global issues through comparing and sharing different cases, they also aim to build a communication mechanism for European and Chinese farmers for the purpose of experience sharing.

For more information on this year's round of Twinning and on the program in general, please visit our website: www.eu-china-twinning.org



Stiftung
Asienhaus

The Stiftung Asienhaus was founded in 1992 to promote the dialogue with Asian countries and to support the initiatives and organizations participating in it. It is politically and economically independent, working here and in Asia for human dignity and against oppression, for overcoming prejudices and the realization of social justice. In 2013, German Asia Foundation changed into Stiftung Asienhaus.

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is one of the major German foundations associated with a private company and has managed the philanthropic bequest of company founder Robert Bosch for 50 years. Indeed it was his entrepreneurial vision, political farsightedness, moral fortitude and charitable initiatives that set the standards for the work of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Contact and Information

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