

Twinner-Experiences for Chinese public

From the 22nd to the 26th of September, the twinnings were holding four special events in Beijing to share their experiences with the Chinese public. The topics are “Participatory Guarantee Systems for organic agriculture”, “Waste pollution and the European civil society's participation on local waste incineration” and “Social Innovation and Pro Bono Model in Europe and in China” as well as a conference about “Chinese-European NGO exchange program for capacity building and public sharing”. Following is an introduction to the content of the events.

22nd September: Participatory Guarantee Systems for organic agriculture



In the last ten to twenty years, due to diverse considerations about protecting the environment, protecting their own health, raising the quality of products, guaranteeing food safety, more and more agricultural producers started to abandon chemical agriculture and engage in ecological agriculture, thus try to draw support from “community supporting agriculture” and other methods, try to get out of the dangerous market-environment, try to produce agricultural products of excellent quality and look forward to obtaining excellent prices in return.

However, according to each country’s legislation, the “organic” products on the mainstream market have to pass the governmentally approved (regular and also commercialized) authentication by the “third party authenticated organization”, only then they can mark organic products to enter the market. In 2004 IFOAM and MAELA discussed authentic methods of “replacement” organic agriculture beside the recognition of the independent third party organization, and finally became the concept frame of the Participatory Guarantee System, short “PGS”.

In China, from being a small organic farmer town, Beijing became the representative of a new kind of agricultural distribution organization methods, and also started to try using the method of PGS to inspect the producing circumstances of farming households, aiding the establishment of a relationship of mutual trust between consumer and producer.

In the Public Sharing Conference on the 22nd, Cornelia introduced PGS, regarding the importance of organic agriculture and livelihood of little farms as well as international experience, and also share her understanding of this Chinese exchange of people of the same profession and farmers. Chang Tianle on the other hand introduced the experiences and lessons of the Beijing organic farmer town from the aspect of using PGS, as well as the results of the “PGS localization” workshop.

23rd September: Waste pollution and the European civil society's participation on local waste incineration



In the recent years, waste incineration became the most preferred solution of waste management for many governments. It can not only reduce the pollution to air, earth and water caused by landfill, it can also generate electricity at the same time. However, its location selection and operation provoke the most active and conflict-causing civil Not-In-My-Backyard movement.

On the 23rd at the Public Sharing Conference, Jitka Strakova, the International Project Manager of Toxicant Waste's Management from Arnika Association, Czech Republic, introduced how waste management works in Europe, the trend and regulations on waste incineration in EU and Czech Republic, and how the Czech citizens take part in discussion and decision making of waste incineration.

Jitka's Chinese partner Mao Da, the representative of Pollution Controlling Project, Beijing Natural University, updated our knowledge in the following fields: the current situation of waste in China; how waste incineration influences the environment and health; what kind of separation is needed if waste incineration is unavoidable; the discussions and debates on waste incineration and Dioxin of Chinese scholars; and the necessities of reaching a consensus of sustainable waste management.

25th September: Chinese-European NGO exchange program for capacity building and public sharing conference



26th September: Social Innovation and Pro Bono Model in Europe and in China



Pro Bono? What is Pro Bono? What is its idea and concept? Pro Bono is an effective way of helping NGOs' capacity building, especially for the yet small-scale NGOs. It is a worldwide professional volunteering service, which provides professional skills, knowledge and experiences for public good.

Pro Bono Lab is a French ORG, which aims to work with future orienting commonweal organizations, citizens and companies to solve the most urgent social challenges.

Antoine Colonna d'Istria is the co-partner of French Pro Bono Lab and currently works on the Building of "NGO Diagnosis Mode" to assist NGOs selecting appropriate professional volunteering service. He shared his knowledge and experiences in volunteering service and its management process, and how they help commonweal organizations.

Ye Ying from Beijing Huizeren Commonweal Development Center, introduced the Pro Bono operation in China and discussed with us how Pro Bono can play a constructive role in commonweal organizations.