

European Environmental Bureau & China Green Carbon Foundation

Report on EU-China NGO Twinning program

Roland Jöbstl, European Environmental Bureau, Brussels, Belgium

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Overarching topic:

European Environmental Bureau & China Green Carbon Foundation collaborated on the vision of a 2030 – 2050 low carbon society and of the link of environmental sound renewable energy, the role of energy efficiency and the opportunities to increase carbon sinks with the developments around sustainability criteria for bioenergy.

Roland Jöbstl, European Environmental Bureau, Brussels, Belgium

13.08 – 16.09 2016 in Beijing

Main Activities in China

Roland came to China by mid August 2016 before the Changsha workshop and stayed for five weeks until mid September 2016 visiting organisations in Chengdu and Beijing.

During his stay he was based in the office of the China Green Carbon Foundation (CGCF) in Beijing and learned about the work of CGCF. The main event of the activities in China was a lecture at the State Forestry Administration that was hosted by CGCF and jointly prepared by EEB and CGCF, as well as a public event with the twinner of the German Environmental Aid (DUH) as part of the networking-event series Green drinks. Furthermore Roland participated in an excursion in the Beijing area and conducted several meetings with Chinese experts and organisations working in the area of climate protection, renewable energy and energy transition towards low-carbon economy.

• Seminar on "Future Energy Policy, Forestry, Biodiversity Conservation and Biomass Energy Prospects"

The China Green Carbon Fund invited Mr. Roland Jöbstl to give a lecture on "Energy Policy, Forestry, Biodiversity Conservation and Biomass Energy Prospects" in the State Forestry Administration. The lecture was hosted and chaired by Ms. Li Nuyun, Deputy Director and Secretary-General of CGCF and attended by Su Zonghai, Deputy Secretary-General of the Carbon Sequestration Foundation.

Roland gave a detailed account of the work carried out by the EEB and its role in the formulation of climate, energy, forestry and biodiversity conservation policies under the EU legislative and legal

framework. The lecture covered the current climate and energy targets for Europe in 2030 and the next 2050 as well as prospects for the development of biomass energy and the development of future policy standards.

[Press release](#)

- **Green Drinks Beijing Event: Stories of Change—Climate action and grass-roots initiatives in Europe**

On September 13th Roland Joebstl and Peter Feldkamp shared their stories of change as speakers at the GreenDrinks Beijing, September Event in the Bookworm. Roland Joebstl told the story how new alliances between local governments, industry, consumers, and NGOs shift the narrative for ambitious climate action and Peter Feldkamp talked about the Bike Referendum Berlin, a local initiative driving the local government to increase the overall investment in bicycle-infrastructure and give bicycling a new role in Berlin's urban environment.

[GreenDrinks September Event](#)

- **Excursion: Visit of the Younainenghuan Tech. Co Ltd. demonstration facility for woody biomass boilers and discussion of bioenergy in the energy system for 2030 and 2050.**

Mr. ZhanBin, President Younainenghuan Tech Co Ltd., has been developing woody biomass burners and machines to produce pellets from wood and woody biomass like shrubs since more than 19 years. During the meeting they also discussed the contribution of shrubs to low-carbon economies and the introduction of the carbon market in China. So far no CDM/CER methodology to calculate carbon impacts and savings from shrub use has been developed. This has been an obstacle to promote shrub afforestation projects.

What I have gained from the Exchange

During my stay in China, my twinning partner Daniel was my ears and my voice to learn and understand how Chinese organisations contribute to climate protection, renewable energy development and energy efficiency in their rapid process of urbanisation.

We spend many hours discussing and explaining each other the words, concepts and context of our work to fully understand what makes each other tick. In the last week of my stay Daniel and I had our final workshop with many participants of the State Forestry Administration including the China Green Carbon Foundation, the Beijing Forestry University and many other organisations and institutes we had met during the exchange in China. We had an intense discussion and in the end I was exhausted, but also very happy when Daniel and his colleagues came up to me and said, I really understood what you said, at least 80%.

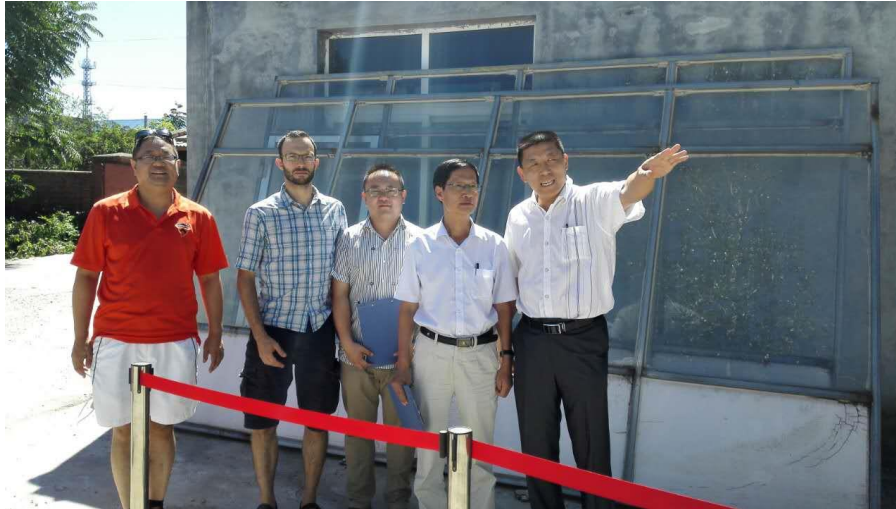
I really enjoyed the possibility to meet and get to know the other Chinese and European twinning partners in the exchange programme and share our understanding of both the social and environmental developments

but also the implications for the personal live and the role of each individual contributing to the civil society voice.

It was fascinating to see how the alumni network develops further and additional organisations and cooperation's can be established and integrated in the exchange.

Pictures:





Daniel Yuanqing HOU, China Green Carbon Foundation, Beijing, China

10 October – 10 December 2016 in Brussels

Introduction

The topic of exchange is Climate Change & Low-carbon Development, civil society perspectives on the 2030 – 2050 low-carbon society. The objectives and expectations of Yuanqing's exchange are as following:

- Overall view and understanding of Europe efforts and actions for climate change
- Understand and learn missions and activates of NGOs in Europe, especially in Brussels and Berlin on Climate Change, Forestry and Biodiversity topics
- NGO running experiences and fund raising channel in Europe
- Public awareness and engagement in Climate Change, low carbon development and conservation

Challenges

For me, it was easier to adapt to live, work in Europe. The most surprising thing was the efficiency way of working in European NGOs. During the short time of the exchange period, I had to get used to the appointment system and way of working, which was not always easy . I had to plan at least two weeks in advance to make an appointment and wasn't always successful. I had to change my visiting strategy, and directly go to their office or call them. Another challenge I never thought of before is the diversity of accents in Europe. I had to spend more than one week to adapt to French, Dutch and Germany accents in English.

Main Activities in Europe

During my time in Brussels, I mainly learnt about EEB 's work and visited local NGOs in Brussels. Later I went to Koln and Berlin visiting project donors' offices and participated in the twinning workshop.

During the first week of COP 22, I went to Marrakech participated in the conference and organized CGCF side event in Chinese Corner. After coming back to Europe from COP22, I visited some NGOs based in Berlin and learnt about how they fundraise to do projects relevant to climate change, forestry and biodiversity conservation. Back from Berlin, I participated in several meetings and discussions in Brussels about EU's climate change policy. Together with my twinning partner Roland, we hosted a presentation in EEB to summarise the EU-China twinning project outcomes, China's environmental agencies and how to work in China as an international NGO. Some of the activities are highlighted as following:

- **Visit EU Parliament and meet EU ETS expert from Carbon Market Watch**

On Oct 13th, Roland Joebstl arranged our visiting trip to the EU Parliament and meet the EU ETS expert from Carbon Market Watch. During the visit, we discussed the decision making processes of the European Parliament for environmental and climate change issues. Later we met the EU ETS expert from Carbon Market Watch, Agnes Brandt who worked for the European Parliament for years. Ms. Brandt briefly introduced the current status of the EU ETS revision. Hongyu Guo from Greenovation Hub and I introduced China's 7 pilot carbon emission trading market achievement and next year national carbon emission trading market plan to her.

- **Participate in Europe's Climate and Energy Outlook**

Invited by Friend of Europe, the leading think tank in Brussels, Roland and I participated the Europe's Climate and Energy Outlook. This high level event was one part of Europe Energy and Climate Summit. We saw positive signals sending from EU political leaders about post Paris Agreement and next step EU actions.

The EU has set up clear targets for 2030 carbon reduction. Next period challenge is implementation. The EU ETS is under the process of reforming, but it has already been the best instrument to deliver emission reduction in the most effective ways. In 2017, China will launch the domestic carbon market, more cooperation and exchange are welcome.

To achieve the EU 2030 goals, the greenhouse gas emissions shall decrease at least 40%. To achieve Paris Agreement goals, Europe will have to cut its emissions by at least 95% by 2050. Energy efficiency and renewable energy will be the best approach in EU. Also innovation and low carbon techniques shall be implemented. EU has long term investment and researches on low carbon technologies, which should be transfer to developing countries to take actions together.

- **Participate COP22 and host a side event in China Pavilion**

China Green Carbon Foundation was accepted as the observer of COP22. In this capacity we organised a side event in the Chinese Pavilion. The topic of the side event was ecological management to promote the welfare of human being. More than 100 people from around 30 countries participated in the side event. The best practices of forest addressing climate change in China were demonstrated to the audiences. The experts from INBAR and CIFOR introduced their works about bamboo and forest management in China and Asia. The side event was successful and got participants' consistent high praise.

During the COP22, I participated several side events and news press events from UNFCCC and parties. I met many experts from Europe and America who works in climate change and forestry background. I talked with GIZ forestry experts about their forestry strategy in China and abroad, they give me many constructive suggestion on fundraising and project design.

Outcome and Impact

The main outcomes and concrete results from the twinning project as following:

- **Working with international view and acting in an international way**

During the exchange period in Europe and working in EEB office, I met the people with different background and diversity of culture. Friendly, professional, respect and understanding is important to living and working in highly internationalised cities. This twinning project provide the precious opportunity to test the abilities of rapid entering and adapting the local life. Meanwhile, participated the high-level events of EU parliament meetings, COP22, and German parliament workshops, let me involve into the current hot topics decision making progress, opened my view.

- **Understand EU's policy and decision making process with transparency and cooperativeness**

During the exchange period in Brussels, Berlin, I understand and learn how NGO participate into the EU policy and decision making process. The transparency and cooperativeness are sound.

- **The main EU Conservation and Climate Change NGO's and governmental agencies priority areas**

Before I participated the twinning project, I know little about EU's NGOs and Governmental agencies work. Thanks to the two-month exchange period in EU, in climate change, forestry and biodiversity conservation I learn the government system about these topics. By visiting many local and international NGOs, I set up connection with them and learn their work field and priority areas. It will help me back to china and learn more about their project best practice, hope to develop next step cooperation.

- **Learn the European NGO's fundraising and international cooperation perspective**

Besides public and private funding, I learn European NGOs also get supporting from EU Commission and governmental financial fund, especially in policy. In EU and German institutions, there are fund to support certain topics, such as climate change, biodiversity, and forestry and developing countries

sustainable development. Local NGOs and think tanks and international partners can joint application for carrying out policy research and on site pilot project.

Future plan and Sustainability of the Partnership

- **Continue the EU-China exchange**

China and EU are most important parties lead the world facing crucial issues, such as climate change, biodiversity, sustainable low carbon development. Same goals, but diversity approaches. Both parties have been taken a lot efforts on mitigation and adaptation on climate change, low carbon development and reform, and conserve our precious planet. Both got achievement on certain areas and have gain lots of experiences and best practices can be share, but the exchanges and communication is rare.

Yuanqing and Roland are working in different field, but all focus on the climate change mitigation and adaptation. Roland mainly works on the European energy perspective, and Yuanqing mainly works on China's forestry addressing climate change. Both of us during exchange period learn a lot from each other. These information exchanges about EU-China climate change, forestry and biodiversity conservation will continue.

- **Further cooperation on topics of forestry, biodiversity, low carbon development**

EU and China did lot of efforts on Biodiversity Conservation and addressing Climate Change. The globe issues need globe cooperation and take actions together. NGOs in EU and China has important role in the decision make process and also contribute to the method design to solve the problems. Both of us will promote the further cooperation between China and EU.

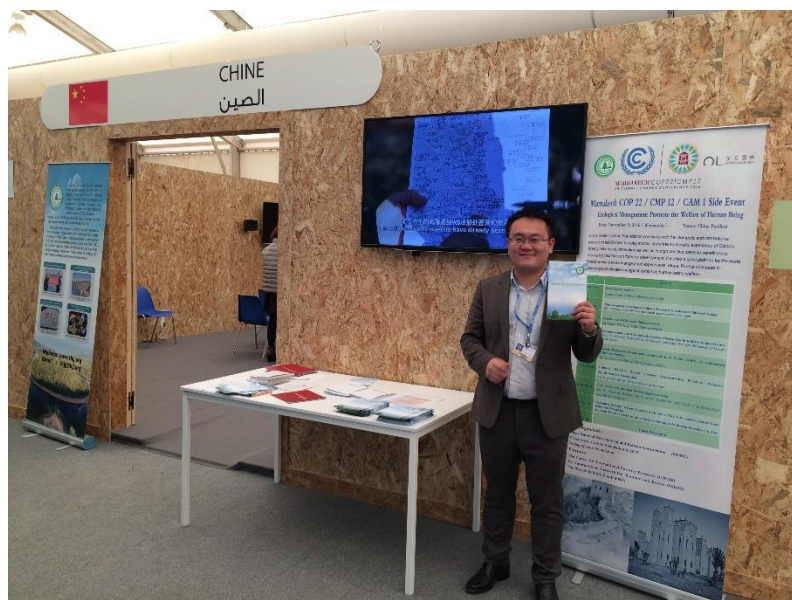
- **Enlarge our network both China and EU**

The NGOs twinning project are running many years. The existing network are precious. CGCF and EEB will assistant to CAN-Europe and CANGO to build up a bridge between China and EU NGOs. Enlarge our network for further cooperation.

Please add your 3 favourite pictures/media coverage of your work



Working in EEB office



At COP22 in Marrakesh



Visiting in German Parliament