



The China-Europa Forum : When the Chinese and European societies get together

The meetings gathering the workshops of the China-Europa Forum took place from the 22nd to the 24th of July 2009, at the Cité Internationale Universitaire of Paris.

Press release

The meetings between the Chinese and European workshops' primes movers and representatives successfully ended on the 24th July 2009. These meetings took place at the Cité Internationale Universitaire of Paris and aimed at turning the postponement of the third biennial of the Forum to July 2010 into a good account. These meetings gave the opportunity to the Forum to concretely become a collective venture equally carried by the Chinese and European primes movers, social and intellectual animators of the 80 workshops. These meetings have also been the starting point of a distant work that will set the basis to deepen the dialogue for the workshops of the third biennial in July 2010.

250 Chinese and European have participated, divided in groups of 3 to 5 persons, representing around 70 workshops and reflecting the diversity of the Chinese and European societies. In addition of the primes movers, the meeting gathered assistants and mediator, essential to link the two societies, as well as participants ready to contribute to the dialogue. During the opening ceremony of the 22nd July, Mr Pierre Calame, president of the *China-Europa Forum Foundation* and Mrs YU Shuo, *general coordinator of the Forum*, have underlined that these meetings have been designed for a better knowledge within each workshop, to deepen the working methods and to establish an action plan from July 2009 to July 2010.

These 4 half-days of meetings emphasized the exchanges and the discussions within each workshops, gave the possibility to strengthen the preparation of the Plenary Sessions of July 2010 and initiated a collective appropriation of the tools and methods used in the frame of the Forum. The workshops had very rich discussions about common concerns between China and Europe and about the priority actions they have to undertake regarding their own issues. These meetings have shown the interest of each workshop to conceive a specific way of organization and its main steps.

Around each table gathering the primes movers, the wish of a deep dialogue, the mutual respect and the seriousness of the work, were emerging. But the main contribution of these meetings is the fact that a decisive step have been made in the collective steerage of this new but essential venture.

After these meetings, the texts presenting the common issue for each workshop will be accessible on the Forum web site (www.china-europa-forum.net). This will be the beginning of one year of views exchanges, open to a large audience and displaying the dialogue between the Chinese and the European societies. Also the Forum wish to promote this dialogue through debate platforms on the web.

Even if the third biennial has been postponed, as initially planned 11 workshops have been maintained in July 2009 in China. The primes movers of 5 on 11 workshops had the possibility to join the meetings in Paris to share their experiences and preoccupations.

The China-Europa Forum was born thanks to the initiative of Chinese and European intellectuals. The first biennial meeting of the Forum took place in October 2005 in the Chinese city of Nansha. The second one has been held in October 2007, in Europe and gathered about a thousand of Chinese and European participants. The results of all the workshops of this second biennial offered the possibility to identify four challenges common to China and Europe :

1. The construction of a harmonious society and sustainable development
2. Values, opening up and identity
3. Participative and integrated governance
4. China and Europe in the world

The aim of the third biennial meetings of the Forum is to give the opportunity to the workshops to consolidate their dialogue and to contribute to answer to these common issues.