



CHINA-EUROPA FORUM



The China-Europa Forum

The CHINA-EUROPA FORUM (CEF)'s ambition is to create a forum in which society-to-society dialogue can take place, where debates on ideas can be organized and exchanges can be fostered to seek solutions to common problems and challenges.

Fostering dialogue on challenges faced by China and Europe in a new and changing world context

While new emerging powers such as India and China overturn the traditional positions of Europe and other Western countries, citizens the world over are questioning the future of society, and theirs in particular, within the context of

globalization. Questions such as what society can do in the face of dwindling natural resources, climate change or amid the financial crisis raise doubts as to the value placed on the notion of progress, the sense of economic development and the solidity of our social relationships as we are confronted by rapid and unprecedented change. Without being overwhelmed by China's impressive growth, nor blinded by those who toll the death knell on Europe's decline, the Forum's members, citizens, NGOs, local government offices and University academics are engaged in a multi-faceted reflection on the environmental, social or management challenges to which we seek answers.

Who Are We?

The CEF was founded in 2005 on the initiative of the Charles Léopold Meyer Foundation for Human Progress, the Association of Chinese Intellectuals Living in Europe and with the support of the Henry Fok Foundation and the Macau Foundation. The College of Founders is made up of Chinese and European personalities and is the guarantor of its founding Charter.

The CEF is supported in Switzerland by the China-Europa Forum Foundation and in France, from 2011, by the Foundation for China-Europe Dialogue, under the auspices of the Academy for Moral Sciences and Politics. Its Board of Administrators is presided over by the Permanent

Secretary of the Academy and composed, among others, of Marianne Bastide-Bruguière, Mireille Delmas-Marty, Pierre Calame, Paul Trân Van Thinh and Michel Rocard. Its Brussels Liaison Office ensures relations between the CEF and the European Institutions, Chinese representations and representatives and the European regions.

In China, prestigious Universities such those of Beijing, Wuhan and Hong Kong have been both long-standing and more recent partners to the CEF. They house the Chinese offices of the CEF, which organize meetings and support various ongoing projects.

History and Background

In the seven years since its founding in 2005, the CEF has been fostering society-to-society dialogue

In 2005, the initial meeting of CEF took place in Nansha, city of the southern Chinese. In the presence of statesmen, diplomats, experts and journalists, the meeting presented and opened up discussion on the construction of the European Union and relations between China and Europe.

In 2007, the 2nd General Meeting was held in Brussels, with 800 participants. 46 workshops were organized in 23 cities in 9 countries across Europe before the main meeting, giving the Forum a role in global debate, with key European and Chinese institutions taking part.

In 2010, the 3rd edition of Plenary Meetings was organized around sixty or so workshops, which took place across China and culminated in a Plenary meeting held in Hong Kong, bringing together 700 participants.

The challenge of stimulating dialogue on a large scale and organized alternately between China and Europe has been met. The CEF has been able to generate a "cultural capital", create relationships built on mutual confidence and produce a multi-faceted network which has had an undeniable impact both in China and Europe.

During 2011-2012, the CEF is reaching the end of a cycle, with a consolidation of its partnerships and independent structures in China and Europe. The time has come to review its achievements and their outcome: the rich social dialogue that it has fostered has been put to the test and overcome considerable obstacles that had often been judged insurmountable.

The time has also come for the CEF to move forward, on the basis of its Nine Poles of Dialogue, in support of the workshops and series of workshops intended to respond to the new and evolving challenges facing China and Europe, within their context and with the means available.

Current Themes and Activities

The activities of the CEF are centered on work carried out in and by independently organized workshops, theme-based conferences and plenary assemblies. The priorities for 2012 and 2013 follow up the work carried out in the workshops organized by collective initiatives with the aim of accentuating its work in:

Support to Civil Society at the Rio+20 Conferences

The CEF has organized an ongoing dialogue between Chinese, European and Latin American NGOs to coincide with the forthcoming World Summit to be held in June 2012. By creating conditions favourable to exchanges and creating a reciprocal dynamic, the CEF hopes to bring greater visibility to Chinese NGOs on an international level and allow Europeans to understand better a growing civil society as it learns to express itself. Unprecedented three-party talks have been arranged in Rio for this reason, with the participation of Chinese, European and Latin American NGOs. This is the first of the many events which will take place over the next two years and serves to bring out the themes of this conference, focusing on sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Urbanisation for the 21st Century

One of the major challenges of the 21st century for China, in its search for sustainable development, consists of absorbing huge influxes of people in a

context of environmental pressure from problems of water supply, energy and waste management, the movement of people and vehicles and the redistribution of land etc. Europe is well placed to transmit the fruit of its experience in this situation, both in its successes and failures, acquired since the 1950s, to a China caught in the midst of the biggest urbanization upsurge that the country has ever experienced. This dialogue will allow those involved to go back over past experiences, share ideas and reflect on the future.

The Debate on Ideas around the Nine Poles of Dialogue

The CEF is organizing debates on ideas with the help of its network of professionals, partners, University professors and journalists. Held annually, these international debates will be organized on major topics such as world governance, social models, sustainable development and the social responsibility of companies, nationalism, religions, and questions such as education, youth, migration and cross-cultural management, the role of the Internet and the media and responsible tourism.

The Europe-China Conference scheduled for 2013 with the support of the Macao Foundation, will be organized around the theme of exchanges between Chinese and European civilizations, looking in particular at the role of Macao.

The Forum in Brief

- **The Workshops** bring together participants from diverse socio-professional and geographic origins and reflect the challenges and responsibilities of both societies
- **The CEF Website** is a platform for dialogue and the Forum's window to the public
- **Tools**
- **A Comparative e-library** with free uploads

Nine Poles of Dialogue:

1. Regional Planning and Sustainable Development
2. Social Development and Changing Lifestyles
3. Economy and Corporate Social Responsibility
4. Local and Global Governance
5. Humanity and the Biosphere
6. Science and Society
7. Rethinking Education
8. Law and Justice
9. Arts and Culture

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