



The London Preparatory Meeting for the Third Biennial of the Forum

27 - 28 October, 2008



The London preparatory meeting on 27 and 28 October co-organised with the China in Comparative Perspective Network (CCPN) at the London School of Economics was a great success. More than 70 participants representing universities, research institutes, foundations, associations and media from the UK, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Sweden and Lithuania attended the two-day meeting at Bankside House.

Professor Stephan Feuchtwang, Director of the LSE's China in Comparative Perspective Programme and co-organiser of the meeting, welcomed those present and Pierre Calame, President of the China-Europa-Forum Foundation, spoke of the spirit and independent initiative of the Forum as well as the success of the second biennial of the Forum in Europe last year. Pierre Calame outlined the process and organisation of the third biennial of the Forum that will take place in Hong Kong in July 2009 and encouraged everyone to play an active role in the dialogue between the societies of Europe and China. He added that the London meeting would be a prototype that would inspire two more European meetings.

The meeting took place in two phases. The first day was based on collected workshops' proposals and the 70 participants worked in eight small groups, exchanging information and looking for potential partners. After four hours of dynamic discussion they proposed 10 new workshop themes which will now be added to the current list of 46 proposals.

On the second day Pierre Calame analysed the proposed new workshops based on the four pillars of Forum workshops and said he appreciated the positive spirit, the intensity of the exchanges and the outcome of the sessions. He also noted that it was necessary to become increasingly mobilized concerning two of the pillars – geographical and mediator.

At the end of the session, Pierre Calame and Eglantine Jastrabsky, Europe Coordinator for the Forum, answered questions concerning the final process and the deadline for establishing a workshop, as well as on how to use the Forum website, contribute to the Forum Wiki and how to stay informed about the next steps towards the Forum.

The London meeting is one of three European preparatory meetings organised with the Committee of the Regions and the financial support of the Directorate General for External Relations of the European Commission. The second meeting will take place in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November in partnership with the Secretariat for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Catalonia, and the third in Saarbrücken on 5 and 6 December in partnership with the ASKO EUROPA-STIFTUNG.