

**EU-China urbanisation workshop, 30-31 May 2013 (including field visit 29th May)
Foshan city, Guangdong province:**

"Towards Innovative Joint Solutions for Common Urbanisation Challenges"

Background information and tentative schedule

1. Aim and scope of the workshop

Two recent EU-China high-level initiatives provide a strong political background for the workshop:

- The signature, on 3 May 2012, by the European Union and the People's Republic of China of the Joint Declaration on the **EU-China Partnership on Sustainable Urbanisation**. This declaration recognises that urbanisation is an issue of crucial importance for the future of societies, in Europe and in China. Through this declaration, both sides commit to increase their cooperation, particularly in the field of research and innovation which is a pillar of this partnership.
- The signature, on 20 September 2012, of the Joint Declaration on **European Union–China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue**. This High-Level Dialogue intends to constitute an official platform for exchanges and cooperation on innovation between both Sides. Under this mechanism, the two sides will discuss innovation strategies, jointly encourage and support cooperation on research and innovation activities, and fully involve industry, universities and research institutes, so as to complement mutual strengths and deliver 'win-win' results in the areas of human resources, skills, technology, research infrastructures, financing of innovation, exploitation of research findings, entrepreneurship and framework conditions for innovation.

The general aim of the workshop, co-organized between the European Commission and the Chinese Centre for Urban Development (CCUD, affiliated to National Development and Reform Commission), is to foster the bilateral EU-China relationship on sustainable urbanisation. It will serve to create a joint vision and lead the way towards a mid-term collaboration between the EU and China on research and innovation on urbanisation. This should include the definition of a new common strategy, the identification of joint priorities leading to joint targeted actions, mobilising all relevant stakeholders: public authorities, academia and industry. The deliverables of the workshop should be valuable input for the Innovation Cooperation Dialogue and the Sustainable Urbanisation Partnership.

The expected outcomes of the workshop are:

- Exchange of information and good-practices on on-going bilateral EU, Member States and associated countries joint activities with China in the field of urbanisation R&I;
- Identification of potential research & innovation themes and flagship projects (R&D demonstration projects, etc) that could be endorsed at the first meeting of the EU-China High Level Dialogue on Innovation; the research topics could be included in European research & innovation funding programmes (Horizon 2020/Member States and Associated Countries and China)

- Identification of obstacles in relation to the framework conditions of research and innovation and how to overcome them.

Around 150 European and Chinese participants working on urbanisation, research and innovation including academia, industry, mayors and policy-making will attend.

The participants will include:

- European and Chinese scientists and researchers from relevant disciplines working on urbanisation and involved or interested in Sino-European cooperation;
- European and Chinese experts from industry and business involved in urbanisation;
- European and Chinese policy-makers from the relevant research funding organisations and representatives of research and innovation funding agencies;
- Officials from the European Commission, EU Member States and Chinese national and province administration.

2. Tentative workshop programme

The workshop itself will take place on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 May 2013, with field visits in Foshan to take place on Wednesday the 29th.

On the 30th -31st, the time will be divided between plenary sessions during the first morning and second afternoon, and panel sessions, according to the following 3 topics:

- (1) Urban Planning
- (2) Green Urban Mobility
- (3) Sustainable energy solutions for cities

Each thematic round-table session will be split into different parts, including:

- Short presentations or interventions on subtopics
- Discussion of potential joint research topics
- Discussion of support mechanism (funding possibilities and relevant framework conditions)

The format will consist of a number of experts, identified by the organizers, sitting around a table (around 20 per session in total: 10 Chinese, 10 European), and a number of participants and observers in addition. The sessions will be led by two co-moderators, and the results of the parallel sessions will be reported in the final plenary by the co-rapporteurs.

3. Session introductions

Below is an introduction of the EU perspective on the three main topics currently under discussion. This is a general introduction—a final programme of the parallel sessions, including subtopics and discussion priorities will be made available soon.

Session 1: Urban Planning

The future of our globe will be decided in its cities. A majority of the population both in China and Europe lives in urban areas which generate a large portion of the economic welfare. They are engaged in a world-wide competition for quality of life, productivity and communications;

they compete for investments and the “best brains”. At the same time, the cities confront us with major challenges: urban sprawl, environmental damage, problems of urban traffic and transport, aging population and social cohesion issues including segregation of migratory groups, security problems and the need to adapt to the climate change. In Europe, urbanisation is expected to rise to more than 80 per cent by 2050. In China, the magnitude of urbanisation and the exodus of the rural population to cities pose a major challenge. In this regard, the year 2012 was historical for the country: for the first time the Chinese urban population exceeded the rural population. Against these developments, it is a necessity for both Chinese and European cities to find new ways for sustainable urban development and planning where synergies, as well as integrated and innovative solutions for urban environments, are developed.

The session will focus on those pre-selected themes that represent the main challenges on which the cooperation between China and Europe could prove to be most fruitful: urban administration issues (e.g. relations between central and local government in the urban administration); Finance, innovation and entrepreneurship at the local level; impact of urbanization patterns on urban infrastructures and services, migration and demographic change, etc. The session will build on and address the cornerstones of these developments between China and Europe and it will bring together leading experts from both sides for a science-policy debate.

Session 2: Green urban mobility

Chinese and European cities are facing growing challenges regarding the mobility of people and goods. Transport is suffering numerous difficulties such as congestion and safety issues. Further EU-China collaboration on transport should aim at fostering the deployment of innovative transport solutions, both in Europe and in China, to address global challenges and contribute to reach common objectives in terms of sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency and fight against climate change.

The specific objectives of this thematic session are related to two High-Level Dialogues (HLD) that are scheduled to take place in relation to the EU-China Summit in autumn 2013. The deliverables of this thematic should be valuable input for the HLD on Innovation (European Commission, Directorate General for Research and Innovation (EC DG R&I) and the HLD on Transport (EC DG MOVE).

Regarding the *High Level Dialogue on Transport*, the workshop will aim at implementing a number of items from the list of already identified topics on urban mobility, including the aim to develop the policy framework for the development of hybrid and other clean vehicles. The topics on urban mobility are, in particular, demand management and influencing user behaviour of mode choice in urban mobility (how planning and policy can nudge more people to use more sustainable modes of transport), supply of transport services (public transport, city logistics and network management), clean vehicles for (near to) zero-emission urban mobility (including batteries). Intermodality is a necessary component of a well-functioning future transport system. The session should be concrete and specific by identifying projects and cities already engaged in or earmarked for cooperation.

Session 3: Sustainable energy solutions for cities

Rapid urbanisation and climate change mitigation targets require integrated urban energy planning and innovative technology solutions. In a city considered "smart", the different aspects of land use and resource management, energy generation, storage and distribution,

environment protection and economic and social needs are integrated into a single design process. Intelligent energy systems are created empowered by cutting-edge ICT technologies, which can handle the volatilities of demand and integrate renewable energy sources of supply; which can store and redistribute local energy surpluses to districts in shortage; which has interfaces for electronic vehicles and other applications. Buildings, which at present both in the EU and China, are responsible for more than 40% of energy consumption and are major contributors to GHG emissions (around 30% in EU) start producing their own energy, limit their CO₂ emission close-to-zero and feed the eventual surpluses back into the grid.

Both the EU and China need to support large R&D programmes to address these issues. During the session, experience and knowledge could be discussed and shared on topics of common interest covering the different energy aspects of developing sustainable cities: from integrated planning, through advanced supply-side solutions, including grids and storage, till the demand side with energy efficient buildings being in the front sight. Besides technologies, the session will also discuss social aspects of buildings like user behaviour and user interaction, in particular by identifying key parameters linked to cultural differences.

Finally, exchanges could take place on non-technological issues that are very critical for the market uptake of the most innovative low-carbon technologies and the large-scale deployment of Energy Efficient buildings: policy and market instruments (including finance), building regulations and standards, energy performance certification and quality in the construction. Sustainable urbanisation requires dedicated and pro-active local policy-makers, the application of state-of-the-art modelling and technology solutions delivered by science and the commitment of industry to urban development. This session on the energy dimension of sustainable cities should therefore bring together the representatives of these three communities.