

## **Third biennial of the China-Europa Forum**

### **Converse to converge: Forging a common vision between Europe and China**

*China and Europe share common challenges that need common answers. This is the objective of the third biennial of the China-Europa Forum which will take place in China in July 2010. Researchers, political, business and religious leaders, artists... Over 1 000 participants, from different socio-professional and geographical backgrounds, will attend workshop-debates and round tables, with the aim of building together a harmonious and plural world community.*

#### **Press release**

The China-Europa Forum is a permanent dialogue process, punctuated every two year by meetings held alternately in China and Europe. The 2010 edition will take place in several Chinese cities and will be centred around two main events :

1. Over 52 thematic and socio-professional workshops
2. Plenary sessions aiming to build common proposals

#### Workshops

From July 8th to 11th, some 52 workshops will simultaneously take place in Beijing, Harbin, Changchun, Zhengzhou, Shanghai, Ningbo, Chengdu, Wuhan, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macao. The workshops, thematic or socio-professional, will cover a wide range of issues: the role of the internet in social change, the relations between China, Europe and Africa, and also Post-earthquake reconstruction and sustainable development. A complete list of the workshops is available on the Forum's website <http://www.china-europa-forum.net/article332.html>.

The participants represent the academic world, local authorities, NGOs, businesses or ordinary citizens. The workshops will benefit from a common participative working method and focus on the sharing of thoughts and issues. They are freely organised by their animators, whose only aim is a will to share and a mutual enrichment.

#### Meetings and personalities

From July 12th to July 14th, the plenary sessions will take place at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The debates' objective is to synthesise the workshops' results and to propose answers to the four common challenges between China and Europe, as defined during the 2007 biennial in Europe.

1. Rebuilding value systems
2. Rethinking economic development models
3. Initiating a participatory and integrated governance
4. The Role of China and Europe in the era of globalization

Several high-level personalities will give talks during the plenary sessions such as Michel Rocard, former Prime Minister of France, Pat Cox, former Chairman of the European Parliament or Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of Regions (CoR).

#### A permanent debate

After the meetings, the outcomes of the workshops, reference documents and plenary sessions' contributions will be available on the Forum's website ([www.china-europa-forum.net](http://www.china-europa-forum.net)). Accessible to a wide audience and displaying the dialogue between European and Chinese societies, the China-Europa Forum wishes to promote these exchanges through the use of online forums where everyone can participate.

#### A collective adventure

The China-Europa Forum started in 2005 out of two converging ambitions. The Association of Chinese Intellectuals in Europe was looking for ways to deepen the understanding between China and the western world. The Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation aimed at contributing to the emergence of a world community based on new social, political and institutional regulations. Initially conceived as an occasional meeting, the China-Europa Forum became a platform for constant exchange between societies, a prototype for dialogue between regions of the world.

The first China-Europa Forum biennial took place in Nansha, south of China, in 2005 and the second one in several European cities in 2007. Because of a health alert in 2009, the third meeting had to be postponed to July 2010. This biennial meeting is jointly organized by the People's University of China, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Asian Cultural Forum and the China-Europa Forum Foundation.

It also receives the support of the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation, the Fok Ying Tung Foundation, the City of Chengdu, the Government of Hong Kong SAR, the European Union Delegation to Hong Kong and the European Chamber of commerce in Hong Kong.

Press contact :

For more information you can visit the China-Europa Forum website [www.china-europa-forum.net](http://www.china-europa-forum.net) or contact Patricia Gombert/Farida Semmoudi – 0033 6 08 98 28 59