

Summary Report of the Symposium

Urbanisation Processes and Participation in German-Chinese Partnerships

On the 27th of September 2016, 73 Chinese and German participants gathered together for the Sino-German symposium “Urbanisation Processes and Participation in German-Chinese Partnerships”, hosted by the City of Cologne and Stiftung Asienhaus. Stakeholders active in politics and municipal partnerships as well as representatives from civil society initiatives and academic experts met in Cologne to explore and discuss the prospect of civic participation in the context of the Sino-German exchange and cooperation on urbanization processes.

As an example for a solid framework of action the symposium focused on the twin city partnership between Cologne and Beijing, established in 1987

The conference was organized as a joint event by the China Program of Stiftung Asienhaus and the International Affairs Department at the city of Cologne. The conference was part of the project “China matters” (eu-china.net), supported by the Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung NRW. The city of Cologne received additional support by Engagement Global and their Service Agency Communities in One World.

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Introduction & Background

China's urbanisation plans are highly ambitious: During the next 10 years, 250 million people are to be "urbanised" - nearly half of the population will live in metropolitan city clusters by then. In Germany, too, urbanisation processes impact everyday life directly and they are at the center of local politics.

In 2013, governments of both countries decided to cooperate on integrated, sustainable and climate friendly urbanisation, establishing the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership.

Cities in both countries are facing challenges resulting from demographic changes, urban concentration and segregation, migratory movements and the question of how to use public space. Governance today requires active citizen participation if it is to be successful and sustainable.

Against this background, the symposium offered those active in politics and municipal partnerships well-founded insights into global urbanisation processes. At the same time, it used specific examples to explore how various forms of participation in German and Chinese cities are shaped and how they can be encouraged.

The aim of the conference was to flesh out the subject of participation in the new Sino-German Urbanisation partnership, but also to integrate the agreement on the national level with specific activities on the municipal level, such as city twinnings.

The question of opportunities for citizen participation in its different forms, both in Germany and China, was at the centre of the symposium. It aimed at highlighting the civic

dimension in the development of the Urbanisation Partnership, to raise awareness of opportunities and challenges, and to create impulses for the practical implementation of Sino-German cooperation.

Key Findings

- Civic participation in urban development in many cases has proven as an effective means to improve citizens' livelihoods, provide mutual trust between the administration and the public and motivate citizens to cooperate in the building of sustainable cities.
- Civic participation should also be a topic in Sino-German cooperation on urbanization on all levels.
- Although civic participation procedures may delay decision making in urban planning projects, it oftentimes results in a more efficient urban planning, as it takes people's needs into consideration, provides more acceptance for decisions and avoids protests or reclamation.
- To guarantee effectiveness and sustainability of civic participation:
 - citizens need to be involved in urban planning processes from the start of a project to its completion
 - results of the consultation must be integrated into final planning decisions
 - The willingness for dialogue must exist on both sides.
- In order to motivate people to participate, civic participation needs formats that are both attractive and provide for willingness to cooperate.



Welcome Addresses

Frieder Wolf (Head of the Department on International Affairs at the City of Cologne)

“Municipalities, with their proximity to urban population, are born partners for the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership”

In his welcome address, Frieder Wolf underlined the desired outcome of the conference to better understand the dynamic urbanization processes taking place in China at the moment.

Moreover, he stressed that municipalities constitute ideal partners for the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership, and they are very willing to contribute to the development of the Partnership.

Third, the conference aims to bring to the fore the topic of participation in the context of the Urbanisation Partnership, an aspect that has previously often been sidelined by more technology-centered exchange issues. Urbanisation touches directly upon the relationship between city governments and citizens. Therefore, the “hows” of participation in Chinese and German cities will be the core topic of this conference.

There is no panacea for integrating civic participation into municipal administration processes, but an exchange on participation best practices and also negative experiences in Chinese and German cities will hopefully contribute to a mutual learning on all sides.



Nora Sausmikat (Stiftung Asienhaus, Head of the China Programme)

“How can we promote livable, just and resilient cities?”

Dr. Nora Sausmikat highlighted that civic participation is a peace and stability promoting momentum in any political system. Germany’s historical development would not have been possible without citizens’ active aid in reconstructing destroyed cities after World War II.

Civic participation is at the core of creating solidarity and engagement and thus a vibrant city environment. Therefore, exchanging on the relevance of citizens’ participation in urban planning and mutual learning on how to develop vibrant and sound cities constitutes the key aspects of this conference.

Stiftung Asienhaus has been involved in participatory processes in Asia and dialogue programs between Asia and Europe for more than 20 years. The symposium is partly the concluding conference of the two-year project “China matters”, supported by Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung NRW. However, it had become clear that not only these organizations and municipal administrators had to be involved in an event on this issue, but also entrepreneurs, architects and researchers. The diverse audience of this symposium can be regarded as success for the project’s efforts to promote the topic of participation in urbanisation processes.



Wilson Budde-Iser (Foundation Development and Environment North Rhine-Westphalia)

“Civic participation is vital to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”

Wilson Budde-Iser underlined that the topic of the conference touches directly upon the core aspects for implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal #11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

With the global population estimated to reach 10 billion within the coming decade and the majority living in urban regions, this poses a challenging task. Fair sharing of public goods, housing, urban planning, low carbon development and mobility will prove vital for a sustainable urban development. Civic participation will be an essential prerequisite for this process. He stressed that the Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership and an exchange on city twinning level can provide an important contribution to foster discussion on this issue.

Doreen Eismann (Engagement Global/Service Agency Communities in One World)

On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global, founded in 2001, provides municipalities from Germany and the Global South with several services regarding their relations with each other.

The topic of participation is very much in line with the focus of their work, for example providing a platform for exchange on participatory budgeting or working on different aspects of participation in a network together with the Konrad Adenauer foundation in Marrakesh, Morocco.



The conference was facilitated by moderator, trainer and founder of the consulting company VIS!ON Ludwig Weitz.

Architect and photographer Dr. Alexander Beck kindly provided pictures from his photo exhibition “The Chinese way: Migration and Urbanization in China”.



Session I: Urbanisation Processes and Participation

Luidger Dienel (Institute for Labour, Technology and Participation at the Berlin University of Technology)

„Public participation provides for an early recognition of potential conflicts in urban planning projects, citizens' acceptance of the system they are governed by, and an improved sense for common ground.“

The opening keynote presentation by Prof. Luidger Dienel introduced his research on urbanization processes and participation from a global perspective.

According to his findings from numerous academic projects in Asia, civic participation is a topic of high interest in MegaCity research projects, and was also a focus of the HABITAT III conference (17-20th October 2016 in Ecuador). Prof. Dienel, who participated in a conference on civic participation in Shanghai in 2007 and has extensive experience on methods of civic participation in other countries, highlighted that in the context of China the issue of migration is central for stability. Without channels for participation stability would be endangered.

Civic participation

- offers administration the chance to profit from local knowledge and gather information about citizens' motivation. This contributes to finding more efficient and often cost-saving solutions.

- can assist the administration to recognize potential conflicts from an early stage on.
- helps to legitimize decisions by, and a political/social system itself.

In German municipal politics, sensitive topics are often not tackled by local politicians, as they fear an unpopular decision may cost them the next election. However, if citizens are involved in elaborating proposals, decision making processes gain transparency and thus acceptance within constituencies. This also leads to a greater legitimacy of the system itself, enabling an efficient future planning.

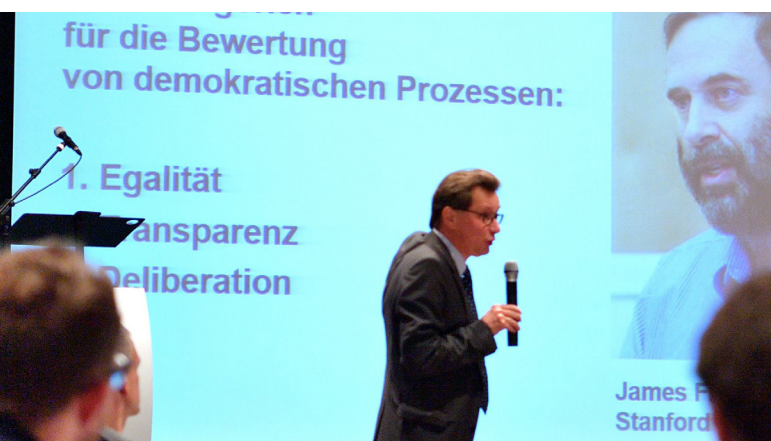
A tripartite dialogue between the political level, administration and citizenry can lead to a better understanding for the other side's perspective and backgrounds of decisions. But: participative processes need both a culture of debate and a culture of agreement and understanding. Only then can it produce mutual trust.

When citizens are given the chance to participate in decision making processes they will more likely identify with their place of residence and local urban planning projects. They may also be motivated to take on responsibilities in the process of urban development.

However, there are also challenges and limits to civic participation. This is the case if work results of a civic consultation process are ignored by the administration. Moreover, most infrastructure projects are decided behind closed doors. Participation then mostly takes place in the form of protest.

Although there are mostly positive experiences with civic participation, city governments have also faced problematic cases. One of them is the Tempelhofer Feld, a former airport area in Berlin. A citizen initiative that led to a referendum in 2014 prohibited the city's land development plans. As the referendum decision was legally binding, the area is still deserted, although there is a need to expand the bordering infrastructure.

The cited case and other research findings



prove that a better alignment of parliamentary, participatory and direct democracy elements is needed for the further development of civic participation processes. This would also benefit the cultivation of *égalité*, transparency and deliberation in urban planning. Possible schemes include a deliberation process that may result in a referendum if citizens do not agree with the administration's decision, but continues with further deliberation.

Netzwerk Bürgerbeteiligung

Prof. Dienel also introduced the "Netzwerk Bürgerbeteiligung", a Germany-wide network of those municipalities who have introduced guidelines for a formalized civic participation into their legal regulations. Founded in 2012, the network already counts more than 600 members. They have also established an inter-municipal working group for the departments responsible for civic participation management. Their website features an interactive map where each city's guidelines can be downloaded and compared.

www.netzwerk-buergerbeteiligung.de

Discussion

In the discussion some participants felt that participation should not be allowed to be abused for legitimizing infrastructural decisions. Prof. Dienel replied that democracy is not a "talking shop"-there must be credible methods and techniques of participation. The methods used today in the participatory democracy models are often simply consultative and need improvement.

Another question posed by Chinese participants concerned the problem how to deal e.g. with the protest of Chinese citizens against incineration plants in their neighborhood. It was highlighted that consultative processes have to go hand in hand with innovative technologies to increase acceptance.

Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership

Sandra Müller (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

Sandra Müller, in charge of the Liaison Office Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership introduced the Joint Declaration of Intent on the cooperation on integrated and sustainable urbanization and discussed the role of public participation in the partnership.

She reiterated the chances of civic participation for an integrated and sustainable urban planning and development. Civic participation, perceived as a communication process in urban development can foster a better acceptance of projects and policies and finally make urban planning more efficient – with regard to both time and expenses. Citing German Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks, she highlighted social cohesion as a major building block for urban development. Participatory processes can help promote citizens' identification with a locality, a vital aspect of social cohesion.

The Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership incorporates the issue of public participation. As a cooperation on an equal footing, the organizers aim at mutual capacity building effects through exchange. China can learn from Germany's existing participatory mechanisms and best practice examples, both informal (e.g. working groups, city quarter deliberations) and formalized (participation as official part of plan approval procedures) ones. But in China as well, public participation is increasingly paid attention to. It is one of the lead principles in recent environmental legislation. Moreover, inspiration can be drawn from the Chinese administrations' frequent use of online platforms and social media as viable means to increase citizens' engagement.

In the field of civic participation, the Urbanisation Partnership hopes to foster an exchange on best practice but also lessons learned from negative examples. It also hopes to train experts specifically from municipal governments in

successful participation measures with the aim of contributing to an increased acceptance, a stronger social cohesion and more transparency in urban planning policies.

As the project implementation is only in its initial phase, Ms. Müller stressed that ideas and best practices brought up at the symposium and beyond are highly welcome as an impulse for future activities of the Urbanisation Partnership.



Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership

The Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership was decided by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in May 2013, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed in 2015 by German Federal environment Minister Barbara Hendricks and the Chinese Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Chen Zhenggao. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MoHURD) are the political partners of the Partnership.

Since June 2016 the project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The partnership forms the basis for the cooperation on integrated and sustainable urbanisation, and emphasises the important role of cities in reaching climate protection goals.

The project supports the Sino-German inter-ministerial working group on urbanisation through political dialogue. In addition, the exchange of practical experiences and expertise between provinces and municipalities contributes to a climate friendly, integrated, and sustainable urban development.

Capacity development, technical education and training for German and Chinese experts will be conducted, as well as jointly organized workshops on themes of common interests. The project will also serve to disseminate examples of best practice at the national, subnational and local level in China and Germany. The exchange activities will focus on the topics of environmental and climate protection, sustainable energy and urban transport, biodiversity in urban areas but also questions of local financing and governance.

http://www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language2/downloads/SGUP_Brochure201610.pdf

Session II: Urbanisation and Participation in German and Chinese Cities

Impulses, dialogues and discussion

Saskia Hieber (Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing)

In her reflections on the role of public participation in Chinese reform processes, Dr. Saskia Hieber pointed out that the policy of reform and the plans for urbanisation currently are the two most important sociopolitical developments in China. It is crucial for Germany to understand the revolutionary potential of these developments, especially since China is emerging as a powerful global player in energy and economic policy, transnational investments, but also as a controversial power in foreign and security policy.

At the same time there are new social groups emerging in China: new and old political elites (e.g. young patriots), as well as influential private entrepreneurs and families, and social media provide opportunities to partake and influence policies from the local to the global level. Therefore, it is important to ask which social groups will have a share in participatory processes, and who will influence the distribution and access to public finances and shape fiscal systems in China. This will impact policy not only on a local but also on a regional and global level.

“The future of the reform process in China is likely to be decided on a local level. The overarching questions of where and how to live contain potential issues for civic participation”

It is likely that the future of the reform process in China will be decided on a local level. It therefore is likewise crucial to observe the long list of domestic challenges that China is facing: security threats through terrorism and instable neighboring countries, environmental pollution and public debts of cities. In Xinjiang for example the urbanization process is relying strongly on the military as new agents of the state.



The rising demand for energy, urban renewables, the supply and waste disposal in cities, in a nutshell the question where and how to live are all potential issues for civic participation. The question remains if participation in China will stay rather selective and limited to a local level or may become a more formalized process. It is of course less cumbersome to involve citizens in the planning of a dearly needed hospital than of a large infrastructure project.

Participatory budgeting would also be potential scenario for China, allowing citizens to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects. This would not only strengthen people's trust in the system with trust being one of the most important features that hold societies together. It would also strengthen the system's attractiveness and ensure citizens' long-term engagement and cooperation, and thus ultimately China's capacity for innovation.

For Dr. Hieber, the question remains whether residents will lay claim to participation, and if this will lead to new participatory societies within the newly established urban centers.

Discussion

The general image of Chinese cities implies that public space is not officially controlled,

but utilized by residents, in fact major parts of citizens' life actually takes place in public space: people get a haircut in the street, they use spare plots to grow vegetables just next to a sidewalk etc. Moreover, the role the neighborhood committees in city quarters to convey citizens' interest and manage mutual neighbourly help should not be underestimated.

Dr. Hieber replied that while these activities constitute one of many different means of public participation, they are traditional, institutionalized ways of utilizing public space. Moreover, new social groups such as the nouveau riche are beyond the reach of neighbourhood committees. Different levels and contexts of participation need to be distinguished. Involving residents in care for the elderly is different from allowing them a say in the construction of a new transport connection. There is a need for standards who can participate on which level, and the rules of participation are also dependent on the context.

Moreover, it was pointed out that it is necessary to differ between engagement/ mutual neighborhood help/ or utilizing public space and decision making processes. A balanced mixture of top-down and bottom-up processes is needed - in China and in Germany.

Other (German!) participants pointed out that Germany can learn a lot from Chinese practices concerning traditional mutual neighbourly care and assistance. In the city of Chongqing for example, some city quarters with more than 40.000 inhabitants had organized shopping assistance from the for elderly people right from the moving-in of dwellers.



Pictures of the exhibition „The Chinese Way“

© Dr. Alexander Beck, Blaufelden

Participation in Chinese and German Cities

How do citizens in Chinese and German cities utilize their opportunities for participation, and how can city administrations wisely integrate civic participation into their urban development planning? Finding answers to this question was the focus of discussions within the second part of session II.

Yan Ying (Beijing Municipal Government, Deputy Director-General of the Development and Reform Commission)

Mrs. Yan Ying highlighted that within China's accelerated urbanisation process, Beijing, as the capital is an important role model for the development of all Chinese urban centers. By the end of 2015 the city's population has reached 21,7 million with an urbanisation rate of 86.2%.

The urbanisation process in Beijing is aimed at building a world-class livable and harmonious city. To reach this goal, the administration has taken different measures, among which civic participation is one important principle.

In the course of the formation of the new 5-year-plan, representatives from all parts of society were consulted in bottom-up hearings. This included academics and entrepreneurs, but also migrant workers representatives.

In striving towards a livable and harmonious living environment and with the involvement of the residents, the city administration has for example worked out a list of polluting industry branches that are banned from production within the core city borders. More than 1000 manufacturing factories of these industries have been shut down. Instead, the city is opting for an innovation-driven development of the service industry to maintain jobs and economic growth. To reduce environmental pollution, the city has also limited coal burning and started a wide-scale afforestation program with 7 million hectares of inner city forests and leisure parks to be created. Moreover, citizens are consulted in which rivers should be environmentally restored first.



Beijing is also aiming at securing a high level of social security, with new medical facilities being built, plans for more affordable housing and the development of educational facilities.

Moreover, the city is pushing the implementation of a rail transit-oriented public transport strategy in order to ease traffic congestion and pollution through traffic.

Structure-wise, the main challenges are the typical metropolitan illnesses such as traffic jams, environmental degradation and so on. Beijing aims to integrate both urban and rural development patterns. While the city as the capital will have a strong, highly functioning center, this center will be surrounded by sub-centers and city parts with functional characteristics of small towns. The ultimate aim is to create ecological cities – by 2017 coal-fired electricity will be banned in all sub-centers.

„People need to feel a benefit from urban development efforts.“

Mrs. Yan pointed out that it is important to the city administration that residents feel a benefit from urban development efforts. By this they hope to motivate the residents to cooperate and participate.

Two examples:

One topic for more direct participation and needed cooperation of the residents is the challenge of waste management. According

to the government's plans, by 2020 Beijing will stop to use landfills for waste disposal. Instead, the recycling rate of urban household waste is planned to reach 60%. This of course requires recycling efforts by each single household. The city is currently working on an improved communication with the residents to engage residents in waste management.

Another example where citizens cooperation is needed is the preservation of the historical parts of the city. The protection of its regional cultural heritage, such as the Old City, the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Bell and Drum Tower and other ancient cultural sites is another important topic of Beijing's urban planning and design. Integrating ancient sites with traditional villages, the city's industrial heritage and modern architecture, two cultural axis are planned, running from North to South and East to West.

Yan Ying emphasized that citizens are involved in all these activities and stages of Beijing's urbanisation process. The city also commissions independent civil society organizations and institutions to e.g. evaluate the development efforts. The administration does its best to adhere to the concept of the people's construction of the people's cities and the people's management of the people's cities.

Mrs. Yan highlighted that both China and Germany have their own successful experiences and cases in promoting urbanization. They need to strengthen exchanges and cooperation and learn from each other. Quoting an old Chinese proverb, she said that for like-minded people neither oceans are too deep nor mountains too high. She is therefore very optimistic that the Urbanisation Partnership will help to build more livable and sustainable cities in both countries.



Anna Luise Müller (City of Cologne, Urban Planning Office)

Anna Luise Müller elaborated on civic participation within the urban planning process in the city of Cologne, elaborating on the development of the new quarter "Parkstadt Süd". A general project plan for the restructuring of the city gave reason to rethink participatory processes in urban planning.

It was clear that rebuilding major parts of the city could not be accomplished by urban planning experts only and behind closed doors, but that city residents had to be involved to find transparent solutions that would draw a consensus.

Over the course of one year an urban planning agency developed a dialogic procedure, involving three levels: a working level (administration), a discursive level with expert groups (city planners, chambers of industry and commerce, churches, creative industry etc), and the citizen level as information level. The entire planning procedure foresees feedback between the levels, as to keep them tightly interlaced. This process was designed to analyse the city's "talents" and potential for development, and at the same time integrate residents' interest and concerns.

One of the seven areas for restructuring was the so called "Parkstadt Süd", a 110 ha large area with the not yet completed southern part of the inner city green corridor. The development of a new quarter in this locality was designated a testing ground for participatory processes in urban planning. On a large scale, residents were

involved in the question of how to live and work in this quarter in the future, how and what to develop and design the area.

The locality had as a main feature a major foodstuff wholesale market and other small industrial real estates, an animal shelter, sport facilities but also undeveloped areas.

Over the course of another year, a concept for the development of this area was developed. The process kicked off with an inspection of the area, with experts as well as the interested public compiling “building blocks” and resources of the area. They also organized residents gatherings on the topics of e.g. the architectural and infrastructural design of the new quarter, access to real estate, the creation of leisure facilities and basic values of urban planning.

An expert gremium attended each meeting to evaluate and consult on the feasibility of raised ideas. Based on the findings and ideas for utilization generated during the resident gatherings, five town planning agencies were commissioned to elaborate five different concepts for the new quarter. They were then asked to build “walk-in” mock-ups of their concepts. This way citizens were able to check whether their ideas had actually been included in the planning.

„The participatory planning of an inner city park and relocation of a former industrial estate has been a long process, but it has resulted in a holistic solution that comprises residents’ and business people’s interest and a lot of good ideas generated by Cologne’s citizens.“

The final concept now features a relocating of the wholesale market, large leisure park areas, the building of housing for 3-400 residents, the creation of around 5000 new job opportunities, schools, kindergartens and other relevant infrastructure.

Mrs. Müller asserted that this pilot project is a milestone for developing a functioning civic participation process in urban planning. The political level has already given its consent to further develop and formalize a public



participation concept for the restructuring of other city parts. However, there is still a long way to go, municipal planning legislation has to be rewritten and the question of budgeting remains.

The specific Parkstadt Süd project will take around eight years to complete. In this course, residents will continuously be given the opportunity to participate. To facilitate this, a drop-in center where residents can obtain information and generate new ideas during meetings is currently being built.

Questions

How does the administration in Beijing actually reach people for the participatory procedures? And, besides experts, are ordinary citizens invited as well?

Government agencies in China have an expert data base at their disposal. If experts are invited they usually participate in the consultative process. Citizens participate via their representative organizations, e.g. the youth federation, women’s federation or resident committees. This includes interest groups such as migrant workers.

Community Participation and Sustainable Cities

Song Qinghua (NGO Shining Stone Community Action)

Song Qinghua introduced the work and selected participatory projects of her organization, the Shining Stone Community Action.

Shining Stone focuses on mediation work, offering public platforms for dialogue, consulting on community issues as well as capacity building workshops as their main services. So far, they have conducted workshops and trainings in 38 Chinese cities with government departments involved in some cases. According to Song Qinghua, societies need to create a culture of participation. In China this culture is still underdeveloped. Therefore, civic participation procedures need to come in where residents feel their interests are directly concerned or cut.

Beijing as a vast city with its almost 22 Million residents currently faces major challenges. Two of them are the high traffic density and the question of who controls the public space and a failing waste management system. These two issues are two of the focal areas for Shining Stone's work.

Who "owns" the public space?

There are currently more than 5 million private cars on Beijing's streets, at the same time the city lacks roughly 2 million parking spots. Car owners simply place their vehicles in small Hutong streets or anywhere in public spaces, resulting in conflict with residential interests. Through their mediation workshop, Shining Stone creates a dialogue between car owners and residents on questions such as "who owns and controls the public space in our community". These workshops oftentimes materialise in a constructive debate and potential solutions.

Participation in waste management conflicts

The majority of Chinese cities does not have a well-functioning waste management system. City administrations raise fees for waste disposal services and run landfills. Waste workers are



oftentimes underpaid and refuse to take care of the piles of urban garbage. In return, residents fail to see why they should pay for the bad service. In these cases, Shining Stones mediates between citizens and the government.

Dialogue meetings have in many cases resulted in a solution for the local waste problem. Through the dialogue, municipal governments realize that they are in fact responsible for the waste management. On the other hand, the workshops foster self-management of local communities.

"The concept of a citizen and individual interests that are different from "the peoples'" interest is comparatively new in China. When, on the other hand, they experience that their participation does have an effect, it is easier to raise an awareness for broader problems."

Shining Stone also engages in rebuilding old, deserted communities. There are multiple quarters in metropolises such as Beijing or Shanghai where buildings and infrastructure is deserted. Together with the remaining residents, Shining Stones gathers ideas and develops concepts on how to revive these quarters. Concepts deriving from these ideas are then presented to the relevant urban planning departments.

Innovative dialogue formats can foster a participatory process

Shining Stone has learned from experience that the methodological dimension of their workshops should not be underestimated. Different formats for dialogue and debate can create a platform for information, one prerequisite of participatory processes. They have successfully applied methods such as Open Space, Future Search Conferences and World Café. This has ensured debates on an equal footing. The methods have also proven successful in building consensus and dealing with conflict. Last but not least, the involvement of different interest groups has enabled them to analyze the actual causes of issues such as environmental pollution.

Song Qinghua also stressed that only the willingness to cooperate will make us capable to act.

Anna Ditges (Director of the film “Who Owns the City – Citizens in Action”)

Anna Ditges elaborated on the idea, process and results of her documentary on a civic participation project in the Cologne quarter Ehrenfeld.

Mrs. Ditges came up with the idea for the documentary when she read a newspaper article about a new shopping mall to be built in the quarter Ehrenfeld in 2010. The 40.000 sqm large building area and its surroundings until then featured housing units and small businesses, a colourful mix of old-established residents and trades, but also students, migrants, artist cafes, bars and new creative businesses.

She started shooting the film at an information event organized by the city administration and continued to film throughout the two-year long civic participation process that followed.

Ditges aimed at depicting the complex procedure of how to establish civic participation in urban planning. How can residents actually get involved in the design and development of their city, which expert knowledge do they have to acquire, which bureaucratic roads do citizens but also city administrators have to take.



A valuable consensual process, despite diverging interests

The film also aimed at depicting the different interests of players involved in the process. It wanted to and create an understanding for the individual perspectives: The citizen level included small business owners who were worried the mall might impair their business, but also residents concerned the shopping mall might change the whole character of the quarter for the negative.

There were a lot of particular interests, but in general they opted for retaining the character of the quarter, and at the same time getting involved in developing it in a creative way. The city administration and municipal politics were tasked with establishing the participatory process and managing a dialogue that would have a feasible solution as an outcome. The investor, a Cologne citizen himself, besides pursuing his commercial interest was also committed to a consensus – not least because he owned several real estates in the city and was interested in maintaining a good working relationship with the city administration.

Last but not least the documentary wanted to prove that despite myriads of different interests and motivations, a consensual participatory process is very valuable for all parties involved. Society and social cohesion is created where people socialize and debate. Civic participation procedures can make a valuable contribution to this goal.

Questions

As an NGO, does Shining Stone face conflict-laden situations sometime, or find themselves caught between citizens on the one and the government on the other side? And how do they handle it?

Shining Stone is only called in when conflict between the government and citizens has already gotten out of hand. The municipal administration then commissions their mediation service. However, Shining Stone only agrees to mediate under certain conditions. First, all citizens affected by an issue need to be invited to the meetings, and second, it has to be an open-ended process with citizens and city representatives having the same rights.

Assuming that among Chinese citizens there is often little awareness for larger societal issues, how does this affect Shining Stone's work? And can they help to cultivate such an awareness?

Song Qinghua: The term "citizen" is a comparatively new term and concept in China, before citizens were mostly referred to as "the people". Along with the concept of "citizen" comes the notion that people do have individual interests. The starting point for Shining Stone's work is mostly to address situations where people feel their particular interest has been cut. If citizens then get interested and motivated in a participatory process, they may at the same time develop a stronger awareness for larger societal issues.

Yang Deng added that sustainable solutions need to be enjoyable for the people who shall use them to foster acceptance of them. Ms Skriver added that citizens need to be informed from a very early stage onwards, otherwise they cannot enjoy participation. Cooperation with the city administration is better than confrontation.



Yang Deng, Collaborating center for Sustainable Production and Consumption (CSCP)

Yang Deng introduced her organisation's people-centered design approach and how public participation is applied in their projects.

According to the think tank's understanding, the design of infrastructure, cities and services can only be sustainable if solutions are accepted and utilized by the citizens they were designed for. The sustainability of cities therefore can not only be measured in e.g. the reduction of CO₂-emissions. It also needs to take into account whether measures comply with the urban resident's way of life and needs.

Redefining "sustainable city": from low carbon city to livable city

For example, if a city aims at reducing emissions and easing traffic density it can not simply extend its public transportation system. Residents need to also change their behaviour, they need to leave their car at home and actually take the train or bus.

The CSCP therefore advocates a redefinition of the value of a sustainable city: Redefine value of sustainable city: from a "low carbon city" with reduced emission and resource consumption to a livable city enabling sustainable living to sustain systematic change.

If people are given the chance to participate in innovation processes, this enhances the acceptability of the solutions by citizens and their readiness to adapt their behaviour. Solutions

found through a participatory procedure prove to better meet demands.

“Both in Germany and China, urban planning project are very efficient when citizens are involved from an early stage on”.

The CSCP applies a several stage process to develop their projects. An ideation stage with gathering ideas, needs, and concerns from all people involved is the starting point. Concepts are tested in pilot or prototype settings.

In Germany, they have for example helped several urban planning offices to find out about needs and future visions. They gathered information about which quality standards citizens have for their lifestyle, and how they imagine their future life in terms of food, housing, infrastructure, clothing etc.

One of the CSCP's testing grounds for the concepts developed in the process is the “living lab” P8 in Changsha, Hunan province. Yang Deng had just returned from a job-shadowing stage at their partner organization P8 who runs the lab. CSCP and P8 are exchange partners in the Stiftung Asienhaus' EU-China NGO Twinning, an exchange program for European and Chinese NGOs.

P8's eight story building with housing units, workshops, offices, shops and community space was built as a prototype of the future shared community. Residents in the lab jointly decide on their infrastructure, food, community communication, mobility but also on ways of working, food, clothing and so on. Moreover, they collaboratively built the means for the desired vision. The living lab is also a testing ground for developing sharing economy solutions and concepts. As a sharing economy relies on people sharing idle resources, participation is a prerequisite for the development of this innovation.

EU member states already share a common vision for shared economies, with the hope of increasing resource efficiency, creating employment opportunities, building community involvement and promoting social innovation.

Albeit with some delay, sharing economy in



China has also risen to a national strategy level. Based on digital platforms, successful practices, the sheer size of the potential user groups and its innovation speed could put the country in a future leading position for share economy models.

Almuth Skriver (NGO Köln mitgestalten e.V)

Almuth Skriver is one of the most involved persons in the public participation project to develop an alternative concept for development of the Helios area, the project depicted in Anna Dittges' documentary. Mrs. Skriver described how a specific case of civic participation became a larger movement of engaging citizens in urban planning in the city of Cologne. The case of the planned shopping mall for the Helios area had initially led to an outcry and protest by the concerned residents. What followed was a phase of self-initiated training in matters of urban planning: they organized lectures, research the impact of new shopping malls in other cities, discovered the terrain by themselves.

“Ultimately, the whole culture of planning and decision making in the communities' urban planning offices has to change. They need to provide real alternatives, the participation processes themselves also need to be open for co-design” by citizens”

However, the initiative soon realized that just protesting the erection of the shopping center was not enough, they also had to present

alternative ideas for the development of the area. Through different creative activities, such as exhibitions, walk-in city mock-ups and direct conversations with residents they gathered ideas for a future development of the Helios area. The building of the shopping center is off the table now and the area will be utilized in an alternative way.

From a local initiative to a city-wide urban planning mechanism

The successful intervention by the citizens' initiative, all the more against the plans of an influential investor, went viral, and soon the organizers found themselves in a consultant role for other similar initiatives. 30 citizens' initiatives decided to join for the alliance "Köln Mitgestalten" and to establish a platform to discuss how civic participation can be integrated into the city's overall urban planning procedures.

In March 2014, they published a position paper which defined the basic and crucial elements for citizens participation. The reason for this publication was that on a national level more and more communes started to develop structures which integrate citizens participation into the decision structures of the communes. They further developed this concept into a basic guideline agenda together with the city administration of Cologne, the urban planning office and other political stakeholders.

In a dialogue process together with the city administration and the political level the association are currently developing guidelines for civic participation in matters of urban development in Cologne.

Mrs. Skriver also elaborated on her most important findings of what makes a public participation process successful:

- 1) In urban planning citizens have to be involved from the very start. If infrastructure projects are only presented to the people after they are already decided, they will likely react with protest.
- 2) A civic participation procedure needs to be open-ended, with room for changes and



alternative ideas by the citizens. Simply wanting people to only nod a decision through is not a solution.

3) Civic participation procedures provide learning opportunities for all parties involved. Citizens will obtain knowledge on urban planning, administrators will learn how to explain in simple terms, but will also experience that citizens are actually interested in a constructive debate. In Cologne, the involvement of all political parties that have a seat in the municipal government has led to a more open culture of debate and less tension between the parties.

4) Participation needs to be fun. Not everyone can endure lengthy lectures and meetings, there also have to be on-the-ground activities. Especially children and young people have to be involved through creative activities.

5) It is crucial that solutions decided upon in participatory processes are actually put into reality. Politicians should therefore not give promises they can not keep. Otherwise, it will be almost impossible to motivate people to put time and effort into participatory procedures in the future.

To sum up, civic participation in Cologne has proved a very constructive process. One of the most positive effects was citizens becoming active. This is dearly needed in times of dwindling municipal budgets. A vivid city is partly based on the activities and the co-creation of its residents. Public participation can create the necessary space for them to do so.

Key Findings

1) Civic participation in urban development in many cases has proven as an effective means to improve citizens' livelihoods, make urban planning projects more efficient, provide mutual trust between the administration and the public and motivate citizens to cooperate in the building of sustainable cities.

- Examples of successful participatory projects exist in both Germany and China: : In Cologne: Köln mitgestalten e.V. successfully changed plans for a shopping mall into an alternative concept for land use in a traditional city quarter, long-term dialogue scheme for citizens' participation in Cologne's infrastructure planning, „Parkstadt Süd“ project. In Beijing/China: projects to involve both civic actors and the city administration on use of public space, waste management, rebuilding communities, more efficient use of resources, low carbon initiatives, sharing municipalities, etc.
- Academic research reveals that public participation provides for an early recognition of potential conflicts in urban planning projects, citizens' acceptance of the system they are governed by, and an improved sense for common ground. Allowing people to take part in specific decision-making also leads to a greater enthusiasm for volunteer community work.



„Parkstadt Süd“ project: Consulting on development alternatives with the public © City of Cologne



Creating public dialogue © Shining Stone

- If citizens are provided with opportunities to create their visions and form their own public spaces citizens start to identify with the quarter/ city they live in, play a vital role and contribute (Köln mitgestalten, P8 project)

2) Civic participation should also be a topic in Sino-German cooperation on urbanization on all levels, not just because it contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #11 to “Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

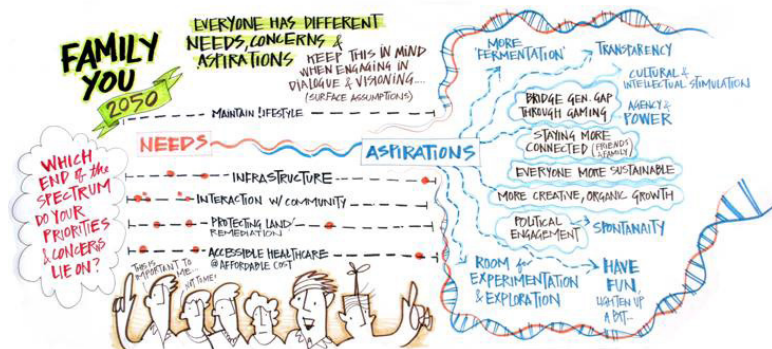
- For this end, knowledge exchange and network building between city governments and citizens organizations of both countries, but also between municipalities, organizers of city twinnings and the organizers of the German-Chinese partnership on urbanization was seen as vitally important.

- The newly established Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership is grateful for information on how participation is applied in communities in China and Germany. The projects introduced may also be part of a visitors' program for Chinese and German delegations.

- Learning about the positive civic participation experiences Chinese and German city administrations and about the applied methods was highly valued – this will be an inspiration for further integrating participation into urban planning.

3) Although civic participation procedures may delay decision making and infrastructure projects and prolong urban planning, it oftentimes results in a more efficient urban planning, as it takes people's needs into consideration, provides more acceptance for decisions and avoids protests or reclamation.

- When participation is genuine and trust-building, citizens are likely to put their own "egoistic" interests on hold for the sake of a larger group's interest
- According to experience both in Germany and China, results of a city planning project are very efficient when citizens are involved from an early stage on.
- The participatory planning of an inner city park and relocation of a former industrial estate has been a long process, but it has resulted in a holistic solution that comprises residents' and business people's interest and a lot of good ideas generated by Cologne's citizens.
- Dialogue projects in China, involving both citizens and the administration have resulted e.g. in agreements on how to divide public space between cars and other usage or cooperation of residents in urban waste management.
- However: Civic participation can also result in infrastructure projects that are needed by certain social groups but block other citizens' interests (example: Berlin Tempelhofer Feld: Muslim cemetery cannot be extended/Frankfurt: commuter's train line cannot be extended to 4 tracks because residents block the decision)



What is a "good life"? Bringing citizens' vision into urban planning
© CSCP

4) To guarantee effectiveness and sustainability of civic participation and to motivate people to participate and contribute on the long run,

citizens need to be involved in urban planning processes from the start of a project to the completions of it.

The administration also needs to be open to alternative proposals from the public.

Most importantly, results of the consultation process cannot be ignored but must be integrated into final planning decisions

The willingness for dialogue must exist on both sides.

- If citizens feel exploited to only nod decisions through, civic participation projects may be considered as merely serving the purpose of calming protests, upkeeping stability and in the end only benefitting investors or politicians.

- Ultimately, the whole culture of planning and decision making in the communities' urban planning offices has to change, and they need to provide real alternatives when there is objection from the public. The participation processes themselves also need to be open for co-design by citizens.



5) Reaching major parts of the public, finding out about their needs and involving them in decision making processes and assistance in the implementation of projects still proves to be a challenge for administrations and organizations managing participation.

- People can most likely be motivated to take part in participatory processes when their immediate interests are affected. This phenomenon is also due to cultural backgrounds: The concept of a citizen and individual interests that are different from “the peoples’” interest is comparatively new in China. When, on the other hand, they experience that their participation does have an effect, it is easier to raise an awareness for broader problems.
- The urban planning department in Cologne aims to involve the broader public in civic participation projects, but most of the times it is only the already engaged, educated ones who take part. Migrants or people from less educated and lower income classes are hard to integrate. Beijing administration’s approach to organize phone-based or social media surveys was considered a good idea.
- People need to be aware, that taking part in the urban planning process does mean they have to make themselves familiar with specialist knowledge on urban planning. It is also not enough to just say “no”, they also have to come up with alternative ideas e.g. on how to develop their quarter.

6) In order to motivate people to participate, civic participation needs formats that are both attractive and provide for willingness to cooperate. Also, information platforms and public communication are necessary. In this field, civil society organizations and the media can play an important role. Both the Chinese and German conference participants were very interested in an exchange on this topic.

- Civic participation needs to be fun and easily understood by everyone. New, innovative concepts need to be developed continuously and



Walk-in city mock-up © City of Cologne

appropriate for the context. One of their most successful methods is the “walk-in city mockup model”. One other important aspect was their well-designed and informative website.

- Lessons can be learned from China regarding the use of social media for drawing attention and informing/ motivating people
- Also, civic participation is a learning process for urban planning officials and politicians, as they are asked to explain their projects in very simple terms.
- Cologne: “Trialogue mechanism”: Urban planning department/city government, members of citizen organizations, individual citizens.
- Documentaries such as “Who owns the city” could also work in China to report on successful participation stories. Shining Stone has successfully applied workshop formats such as “Open Space” and “World Café” into their mediation projects.
- Projects such as the Wuppertal Institute’s surveys on people’s visions for the future are highly interesting and may be an inspiration for Cologne’s urban planning.

Related Information

Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership

The Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership was decided by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in May 2013, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed in 2015 by German Federal environment Minister Barbara Hendricks and the Chinese Minister of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Chen Zhenggao. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the Chinese Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development (MoHURD) are the political partners of the Partnership.

Since June 2016 the project is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. The partnership forms the basis for the cooperation on integrated and sustainable urbanisation, and emphasises the important role of cities in reaching climate protection goals.

The project supports the Sino-German inter-ministerial working group on urbanisation through political dialogue. In addition, the exchange of practical experiences and expertise between provinces and municipalities contributes to a climate friendly, integrated, and sustainable urban development.

Capacity development, technical education and training for German and Chinese experts will be conducted, as well as jointly organized workshops on themes of common interests. The project will also serve to disseminate examples of best practice at the national, subnational and local level in China and Germany. The exchange activities will focus on the topics of environmental and climate protection, sustainable energy and urban transport, biodiversity in urban areas but also questions of local financing and governance.

http://www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language2/downloads/SGUP_Brochure201610.pdf

Service Agency Communities in One World

The Service Agency Communities in One World of Engagement Global is Germany's competence centre for local development cooperation. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, they have been providing advisory and other services to municipalities and other local actors since 2001.

They currently focus on climate change, sustainable partnerships, migration and development at the local level, participatory budgeting and professional exchange among local government. They support the development activities of local actors by providing them with training, information and advisory services. To strengthen municipal partnerships, They provide municipalities from Germany and from countries in the South with a platform for dialogue that enables them to exchange experiences, and jointly develop local solutions to global issues.

<https://skew.engagement-global.de/home>.

Exhibition "The Chinese Way"

The architect and photographer Dr. Alexander Beck kindly provided pictures from his photo exhibition "The Chinese way: Migration and Urbanization in China". Having explored China from an urban planning and sociological perspective during his work with Chinese partners, Dr. Beck exemplifies Chinese migration processes in pictures of typical architectural structures: From rural villages to arrival cities, integration of migrants into urban areas and their passing through different social environments.

The exhibition will be shown in November and December 2016 in the Haus der Architekten, Stuttgart. The exhibition will be available for lease afterwards. For more information and Dr. Beck's contact details please view

www.01art.org

Collaborating Center for Sustainable Production and Consumption (CSCP)

The CSCP was founded in 2005 by the Wuppertal Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The think tank provides scientific support to clients from the private and the public sector, in the field of sustainable consumption and production. Their projects have an international scope. It is committed to transform sustainable lifestyles and “good living” by strengthening governments’ and entrepreneurs understanding of people’s visions for their future lifestyles.

<http://www.scp-centre.org/>

Netzwerk Bürgerbeteiligung

Prof. Dienel also introduced the “Netzwerk Bürgerbeteiligung”, a Germany-wide network of those municipalities who have introduced guidelines for a formalized civic participation into their legal regulations. Founded in 2012, the network already counts more than 600 members. They have also established an inter-municipal working group for the departments responsible for civic participation management. Their website features an interactive map where each city’s guidelines can be downloaded and compared.

www.netzwerk-buergerbeteiligung.de

Cycling referendum Berlin

Berlin’s population is growing by approximately 40.000 people every year. Therefore transport capacities will be exhausted in the near future. Bicycle use in city traffic reached an average of 13 % for the entire city and around 18 % for the central districts in 2013 and is still on the rise.

On the other hand, the construction of safe and comfortable cycling roads has been quite slow and city investments in this area have been rather inadequate.

These factors led to Berlin’s first referendum initiative on the development of better bicycle infrastructure. In August 2015 the efforts of different initiatives converged into the “Volksentscheid Fahrrad” coalition and first meetings were held. The entire process has always been open, participative and transparent. The initiative demands safe and sufficient cycling infrastructure for the

whole city of Berlin. The announcement of the initiative’s plans for a referendum alone resulted in quite a lot of political attention. However Berlin’s municipal government has been downplaying the insufficiencies in the city’s biking infrastructure. However a first small triumph has been city hall’s promise to raise the investments in this area.

The recent years have seen many attempted and completed referenda in Berlin. Many of the initiatives behind these referenda have benefitted from a growing network of campaigns and associations which encourage citizens to take part in the urbanization development of their city actively.

www.volksentscheid-fahrrad.de/english/

China Program at Stiftung Asienhaus

The China Program at Stiftung Asienhaus aims at conveying a more differentiated knowledge on China, while at the same time fostering exchange and cooperation between European and Chinese civil society organizations.

For more than 10 years, the China program has been offering different programs and projects, e.g. the web translation project Voices-from-China.

www.stimmen.-aus-china.de

Since 2012 the China Program runs the civil society exchange "EU-China NGO Twinning"

The EU-China NGO Twinning program is an exchange program for the staff of European and Chinese NGOs. It aims at establishing sustainable partnerships and cooperation between non-governmental or non-profit organizations and think tanks from both regions.

A program of the Stiftung Asienhaus in cooperation with CAN Europe/CANGO/CCAN supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung and Stiftung Mercator.

www.eu-china-twinning.org

From 2014-2016 the China Program organizes the project "China matters", supported by Stiftung Umwelt und Entwicklung NRW.

With an information platform and related events on social justice and environment issues in China the project aims at promoting China related issues within the work of German/European civil society organizations. At the same time it aims to strengthen the voice of these organizations in Sino-German city twinning exchanges.

www.eu-china.net

All activities of the China program of Stiftung Asienhaus can be found at:

www.asienhaus.de/china/

Interesting Reads

Stadt als System. Trends und Herausforderungen für die Zukunft urbaner Räume. Klaus Burmeister, Ben Rodenhäuser, Oekom Verlag München, 2016.

<https://www.oekom.de/nc/buecher/gesamtprogramm/buch/stadt-als-system.html>

Wurzeln für die lebende Stadt. Wie wir die Eigenverantwortung von Stadtteilen stärken können und warum diese mehr Wertschätzung verdienen.

Harris C.M. Tiddens, oekom verlag München, 2014.

<https://www.oekom.de/buecher/vorschau/buch/wurzeln-fuer-die-lebende-stadt.html>

Quartiere kooperativ entwickeln, Initialkapital für eine chancengerechte Stadtteilentwicklung, Montagstiftung, 2016.

<http://www.neue-nachbarschaft.de/2016/08/18/quartiere-kooperativ-entwickeln-der-neue-programmbericht-montag-stiftung-urbane-raeume/>

Was ist neu an Chinas Programm für „neuartige Urbanisierung“? Elena Meyer-Clement Background Paper No. 1/2015.

http://regiereninchina.uni-wuerzburg.de/uploads/media/Background_Paper_No.1_2015_01.pdf

Magnet Stadt- Urbanisierung im Globalen Süden. Einhard Schmidt-Kallert, Peter Hammer Verlag, 2016.

Partnerschaften zwischen NRW und China. Die Rolle der Zivilgesellschaft stärken. Nora Sausmikat, Köln 2012.

http://www.eu-china.net/uploads/tx_news/2012_12-partnerschaften-nrw-china_13-04-06_01.pdf

German-Chinese Intermunicipal Relationships. Motives, Structures, Activity Areas. Ulrich Held, Rita Merkle, InWEnt 2008.

https://skew.engagement-global.de/publikationen-archiv.html?file=files/2_Mediathek/Mediathek_Microsites/SKEW_EN/Publications/Archiv/Dialog%20Global/skew_dialog_global_No.19_german_chinese_intermunicipal_relationships_study.pdf

Positionspapier Bürgerbeteiligung in Köln

http://www.koelnmitgestalten.de/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/14_Positionspapier-K%C3%B6ln-mitgestalten-Netzwerk-f%C3%BCr-Beteiligungskultur.pdf

Regional Policy in China and the EU. A comparative perspective. European Union, 2011.

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

Humanity on the move: Unlocking the transformative power of cities. Frauke Kraas, Claus Leggewie, Peter Lemke, Ellen Matthies, Dirk Messner, Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Sabine Schlacke, Uwe Schneidewind, German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU), Sept. 2016.

www.wbgu.de

Conference Agenda

Programme Tue, 27th of September 2016, 1.30 – 7.00 p.m.

Moderator: Ludwig Weitz (ViSiON)

1.30 p.m. – 1.50 p.m.	Welcome addresses by the organisers and donors
Part I: Urbanisation Processes and Participation from a Global Perspective German-Chinese Urbanisation Partnership	
1.50 p.m. – 2.10 p.m.	SANDRA MÜLLER (Liaison Office Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership/GIZ) German-Chinese Urbanisation Partnership
2.10 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	PROF. DR. HANS-LIUDGER DIENEL (Technical University of Berlin) A Global Perspective on Urbanization Processes and Participation
2.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Questions and Discussion
3.00 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	Short Break
Part II: Urbanisation and Participation in German and Chinese Cities / Impulses, dialogues and discussion	
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	DR. SASKIA HIEBER (Academy for Political Education) Reflections on the Role of Public Participation in Chinese Reform Processes
3.30 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.	Participation in Chinese and German Cities (short statements, each 10 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAN YING (Beijing Municipal Government, Deputy Director-General of the National Reform and Development Commission) • ANNA LUISE MÜLLER (City of Cologne, City Planning Office) • SONG QINGHUA (NGO Shining Stone) • ANNA DITGES (Director of the film [Who Owns the City – Citizens in Action]) • YANG DENG (CSCP WUPPERTAL, NGO TWINNER OF P 8/CHANGSHA) • ALMUT SKRIVER (Köln mitgestalten e.V) <p>Plenum discussion</p>
5.45 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	Short Break
Part III: Panel Discussion and Final Remarks	
6.00 p.m. – 6.55 p.m.	Participation in the German-Chinese urbanisation partnership and the Cologne-Beijing twin city partnership: Recommendations and perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAN YING (Beijing Municipal Government, Deputy Director-General of the Reform and Development Commission) • ANNE LUISE MÜLLER (Director of City Planning Office, City of Cologne) • SANDRA MÜLLER (Liaison Office of the German-Chinese Urbanization Partnership)
6.55 p.m.	Closing remarks by the organisers
7.00 p.m. – 08.30 p.m.	Get-together (finger-food and drinks)

Participants

Dr. Ralf Heinen	Mayor of the City of Cologne
Anne Luise Müller	City of Cologne, Head of City Planning Department
Michael Josipovic	City of Cologne, Office for Business Development, Director Location Marketing
Eva Herr	City of Cologne Department for City Development, Planning, Construction and Traffic
Heike Welter	City of Cologne, Foreign Acquisition, China-Offensive, Economic Ambassador
Mareen Bindel	City of Cologne, China Desk
Li Yi	City of Beijing, Division Director of Foreign Affairs Office, Beijing Municipal Government
Chen Dai	City of Beijing, Deputy Division Director of the Reform and Development Commission
Wang Ruomeng	City of Beijing, Deputy Division Director of the Reform and Development Commission
Wang Jianzhou	Deputy General Manager of Beijing Municipal Engineering Consulting Corp.
Dr. Sebastian Bartsch	Amnesty International, Köln
Dr. Ing. Alexander Beck	Architectural office Beck, Dr.-Ing. Alexander Beck
Stephanie Beeres	NRW.INVEST GmbH, Service Center Greater China
Wilson Budde-Iser	Foundation Development and Environment North Rhine-Westphalia
Juliane Dammann	Business Office, Board of Trustees Partnership Minden-Changzhou
Felix Döhler	Governance and Human Rights Advisor, Policy Advice for Urban Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Ulla Eberhard	Kölner Freiwilligen Agentur e.V.
Horst Fabian	Former CIM-Coordinator / GIZ
Matthias Falke	Research Fellow, Urban and Metropolitan Studies, Ruhr-University Bochum
Dr. Hermann Halbeisen	Board of Trustees, Stiftung Asienhaus & Research Institute for Political Science and European Affairs, University of Cologne
Eduard Hechler	City of Frankfurt am Main Director, Department for International Affairs
Roland Hentschel	City of Oldenburg, Department for Business Development
Uwe Hoering	Chairman of the Board, Stiftung Asienhaus & Freelance Journalist
Heinz Kipp	City Twinning Gießen-Wenzhou
Katharina Kohlmeier	City of Minden, Department City Twinning
Lennart Kümper-Schlake	Federal Office for Environmental Protection (Germany)
Dipl.Ing. Hannes Langguth	Department for Architecture, TU Berlin
Beatrice Lange	Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V. (DUH), Local Environmental Protection
Prof. Jörg Leiser	Architecture Office BeL Sozietät für Architektur Bernhard & Leiser
Lue Jin Sheng	Asia Representative, Association of German Cities
Sabine Pakulat	The Green Party, Member of the City Council, City of Cologne
Denis Petri	Lebenswerte Stadt e.V. / Cycling Referendum Berlin
Renee Rentke	Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e.V.
Theresa Reyman	City of Düsseldorf, Department for International, European and Regional Cooperation, Mayor's Office
Daniela Schultehink	City of Essen, EWG Economic Partnerships, Partnership Essen - Changzhou
Fan Yi Stepputtis	Association of Chinese students in Cologne
Florian Thünken, M.A.	Research Fellow, University of Würzburg
Petra Taubach	City of Bocholt
Tanja Tyrann-Weyers	Federal State North Rhine-Westphalia, Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Nature and Consumer protection (International Relations) of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia
Yu Wang	City of Oldenburg, China Office
Georg L. W. Weber	Member of the Working Committee on Citizen Participation
Volker Zimmermann	Mayor of Bad Wildungen
Iris Zorn	City of Bonn, International Office
Prof. Dr. Hans-Liudger Deniel	TU Berlin
Sandra Müller	Liaison Office Sino-German Urbanisation Partnership
Dr. Saskia Hieber	University of Duisburg
Song Qinghua	Shining Stone, Beijing
Prof. Dr. Yan Ying	City of Beijing, Deputy Director General of the Reform and Development Commission Beijing
Deng Yang	P 8, Changsha, VR China / Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production, Wuppertal
Almut Skriver	Köln mitgestalten e.V.
Anna Ditzges	Director and Author
Herr Lambertz	Gesellschaft Chinafreunde e.V.
Ludwig Weitz	VISION-Beratung, Moderation, Training für Menschen und Organisationen, Bonn
Jonas Werdes	University of Münster
Liu Yingzhu	School of Marxism, Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C.(CCPS)
Dr. Li Nan	Department of Culture and History, Party School of the Central Committee of C.P.C.
Anja Goette	Freelance cultural scientist/ sinologist, currently writing an update on Sino-German city twinings
Inga Gebauer	Sinologist
Celina Hughes	City of Cologne
Werner Keil	Köln mitgestalten e.V.
Nina Kaveleshvili	National Network for Civil Society
Mirko Schwärzel	National Network for Civil Society

Organisers

Frieder Wolf	City of Cologne, Head of Department, International Affairs
Dr. habil. Nora Sausmikat	Director of China Programme, Stiftung Asienhaus
Gabriele Voss	City of Cologne
Doreen Eismann	Engagement Global gGmbH
Joanna Klabisch	Stiftung Asienhaus
Bastian Lindenbauer	Stiftung Asienhaus

Imprint

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