

## **Joint Statement of EU and Chinese Youth Organizations on EU-China Year of Youth**

10 May 2010, Shanghai

Strongly welcoming the initiative of the EU and China leaders to celebrate the EU-China Year on Youth in 2011, as a historical recognition of the role of youth and youth organizations in promoting EU-China relation;

Recalling the significance of existing dialogues based on the principles of the Tianjin Declaration of Asia-Europe Young Leaders Conference, signed in 2005, and further confirmed in the Joint Statement between the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF) and European Youth Forum (YFJ) in 2006;

Emphasizing the timely coincidence of the EU-China Year on Youth with the European Year of Volunteering, the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Year on Volunteering 2001 and contributing to the celebrations of the UN International Year on Youth 2010/2011.

We, the participants agree that the EU-China Year on Youth should aim to:

- Enhance the mutual understanding and friendship between the young people of EU and China;
- Encourage young people to actively engage and support the development of EU-China relations;
- Raise EU-China people to people contacts to a new level, and promote its sustainable development.

We further propose a structure of the activities of the year consisting of flagship events with high visibility and partnership events to promote dialogue, exchange and co-operation among youth organisations, focusing on issues of common concerns as reflected in the annexes.

Flagship events with high visibility would run throughout the year, such as: celebrations on Youth Volunteering in Europe and China; Youth/Culture Weeks across China and Europe; Young Leaders Summit; and Youth Festival linked to the 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Universiade in Shenzhen.

Partnership events for strengthening co-operation among youth organisations could

also be organised, such as: Joint initiatives between schools and youth organizations; EU-China training courses for youth leadership; and youth ambassadors videos for the year.

We call for a mobilisation of all the actors in Europe and China to make this a successful year with a long-lasting legacy in the future of the relations between the people of Europe and the people of China. We believe:

- **Youth organisations** should work together to mobilise and use their creativity in implementing processes for the year;
- **Governments** must support the initiative and to contribute with resources to the planning and implementation of processes;
- **Private sector** should become involved in the entrepreneurial and innovative dimensions of the Year of Youth;
- **European Institutions and Chinese government** must fully integrate youth in the planning and implementation of the year as well as provide additional resources. The youth policy dialogue should be advanced, recalling the decision of the EU-China Summit 2007 for a coordination mechanism including all stakeholders.

## **Annex I:**

### **Education and Youth Working Group Summary**

We see education, in its entirety as a starting point to enable youth in China and the EU to have intercultural dialogue, exchange information and ideas and promote a common understanding.

#### **Summary of exchange programmes:**

- Needed at several different levels
  - a) youth organisations, both national and local
  - b) schools and universities
- Should cover wide geographical areas, eg. city, rural

#### **Summary of topics relevant to cover within priority areas:**

- Volunteering
- Climate Change
- Innovation and Creativity
- Youth Rights
- Education

#### **Activities summary:**

- EU-China film festivals held in universities across EU and China
- Twinning opportunities:
  - a) City-to-city
  - b) Institution-to-institution
  - c) National Youth Councils-to-Regional Youth Councils
  - d) Between youth centres
- Create opportunities in events already taking place eg. Youth sports events, youth organisation gathering

#### **Institutional Support:**

- Important for information exchange
- Draw on best practice already in place
- Youth organisations to link with national and local institutions

#### **Role of youth organisations in EU-China Year of Youth**

- Important role in ensuring youth participation
- Promotion of the year through member networks
- Sharing of best practice from those organisations already working on intercultural cooperation
- Grant making proposals for EU-China year of youth projects
- Communication to its partners and members

-Human Resources for event organisation

**Role of media tools:**

-Participation of campus media and young journalist organisations

-Need for common media platform to allow for EU-China youth exchange

a) Creation of online exchange tools , which can be used as an education tool eg. language practice, design sharing

b) Also database for youth organisations in China and EU wanting to create exchange opportunities

-Creation of a 5-minute advertisement video which can be shown at youth events eg. sporting events.

**Link to European Year of Volunteering**

-Encourage youth organisations already participate in European Year of Volunteering to include an EU-China perspective.

## **Annex II:**

### **International Politics and Youth Working Group Summary**

#### **Type of exchange programmes and participants:**

- twinning for schools and youth organisations
- political exchange programmes among youth leaders discussing different policy-making and decision-making processes and the role of youth organisations / youth voice in these processes
- youth exchanges among young people from Europe and China along the lines of YiA programme focused on intercultural learning
- participants should be aged 16-30 and the focus should be on fostering cooperation between regional and national level on both sides (EU-China)

#### **SUMMARY of agreed priority topics during the EU-China Youth Year:**

- volunteering
- climate change/environmental protection and sustainable development
- education (from the NFE point of view and intercultural learning)
- active participation
- innovation and creativity
- youth employment and youth entrepreneurship

plus try to mainstream the topic of EU-China relations as well as mainstream gender equality when ever possible as sub-topics;

#### **Types of activities:**

- youth encounters, youth exchanges, trainings and conferences; long-term voluntary service between EU and China plus training activities for European and Chinese youth organizations undertaking the voluntary service and design joint voluntary service projects
- plus have a list of potential partner youth organizations from both sides (EU-China) with short description and contact persons in order to foster potential bilateral exchanges

#### **Best practices on institutional partnership:**

- On the European side we mentioned the best practices of existing institutional partnership between YFJ and CoE, YFJ and the EP (youth intergroup) and YFJ and European Commission (DG EAC);
- On the Chinese side ACYF is involved in many decision-makings when it comes to youth issues

#### **Role of youth NGOs in ensuring youth participation:**

- involve ACYF (already done) and YFJ in the planning and implementation
- “youth organisations should be the engine and institutions the fuel”

**Role of media tools in enhancing and promoting the EU-China youth year:**

- Both sides (EU-China) agree to do their utmost to use all forms of media, especially new media tools, to promote the EU-China youth year and make it as participatory as possible for young people, especially those that cannot make it to a physical meeting but still interested in taking part;
- A suggestion was to explore the possibility to have a common website with a common newsletter in the relevant languages;

## **Annex III :**

### **Culture, Sports and Youth Working Group Summary**

#### **Objectives and Outcomes**

- Co-production for the flagship events to reflect the spirit of cooperation and understanding
- Emphasize the sustainable long-term partnership
- Geographical diversity for implementing different programs (both central and regional)
- Culture and sports not only for entertainment but also for increasing the awareness of social issues (environment, climate change etc.)

#### **Institutional Support**

- Organizing committee (comprising relevant Ministries and organizations)
- Organize events for matching different youth organizations into new partnerships
- Utilizing the new media tools to help youth organizations establish contacts

#### **Media Strategy**

- A good slogan is needed
- Try to make full use of all media resources to increase the publicity
- Encourage student journalists to get involved in the media outreach (e.g. Students News Agency of China Youth Daily)
- To promote exchange and experience sharing among the media professionals during this process

#### **Recommended flagship events**

- To combine the EU-China Year of Youth with the EU Year of Volunteers (1 event in Europe, 1 event in China)
- To combine the EU-China Year of Youth with the 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Universiade (Eu-China Youth Festival in Shenzhen)
- Culture Festival (week long) comprising performances (music, opera), films, exhibition of photo taken by EU-China youth, competition of new design and innovation (emphasis on co-production)

#### **Partnership Events**

- Special fund for supporting EU-China Year of Youth events (GuangHua Science and Technology Foundation)
- Youth city/village (Nanjing)
- Youth exchange to increase in depth understanding of traditional culture – e.g. Confucius in Shandong Province and Shao Lin temple (martial arts) in Henan Province

-Guest speakers and experience sharing programs and trainings

### **Initial Partnership Establishment**

-China-Europe: CYCIE, JMI, YEU

-Within China: Federation University Sports of China, CYCIE, GuangHua Foundation, Students News Agency of China Youth Daily

### **Positive and Far-Reaching Social Impact**

-Enhanced people to people contact

-Higher level of social influence and public support

-To lay a strong foundation for sustainable development of EU-China relations