

## "The Impact of the Multi-faceted Researchers' Mobility on the Development of the Sino-European Research Cooperation and Overall Relationship"

18 April 2013 – Beijing  
(French Embassy to China - 60, Tianze Lu, Chaoyang)

### *Invitation*

***Share experiences and identify best practices on how to maximize the positive effects of researchers' international mobility and people-to-people exchanges on the development of the Sino-European research & innovation cooperation and overall relationship.***

***Registration to [china@euraxess.net](mailto:china@euraxess.net)\****

The role of researchers moving and working outside of their home country is often stressed as one of key importance for the progress of scientific cooperation and, from an even broader perspective, for the development of relations between different regions and civilizations of the world.

**For its first event in 2013, EURAXESS Links China invites researchers in all fields, administrators and policy-makers engaged in Sino-European scientific cooperation to take part in an afternoon-seminar, to discuss the impact of the various forms of researchers' mobility and exchanges on the development of the Sino-European research cooperation and overall relationship.**

The idea behind this short seminar is to reflect on the assumptions that mobility and exchanges of researchers are crucial to bring the scientific cooperation as well as the overall relationship between Europe and China forward, discuss to which extent they might be true or not, and based on the participants' own experiences and best practices, what needs to be done to make them come true.


**The seminar will be hosted at the French Embassy in Beijing on Thursday 18 April afternoon and followed by an "Easter" cocktail dinner at the Residence of the French Ambassador to China.**

**Professor Thierry Meynard SJ**, director of The Beijing Center, will first share with the audience his erudition on the historical beginnings of knowledge exchanges between China and Europe.

Participants will then be divided in three parallel roundtables according to their general area of activity (Social sciences researchers, "hard" sciences researchers, research diplomats and administrators) to discuss the topic, based on their particular experience.

The conclusions of each roundtable will then be shared, compared and discussed during a plenary closing session.

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 *Indicating name, position, organisation and research field.*

## Programme

13h45 - Registration

**14h – 15h - Introduction Session - Auditorium**

### Welcoming words

*by Mr. Norbert Paluch, Science Counselor, French Embassy to China, Dr. Philippe Vialatte, Science Counselor, EU Delegation to China, Mr. Jacques de Soyres, Country Representative, EURAXESS Links China.*

**"Exchanges of Scholars and Knowledge between China and Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries"**

*by Prof. Thierry Meynard SJ, Professor at Sun Yat Sen Philosophy Department, Director of The Beijing Center – Q&As*

15h – Group Photo

**15h15 – 17h00 - Roundtables Session - Auditorium and Meeting rooms**

**Roundtable 1: "Hard" sciences researchers**

**Roundtable 2: Social sciences researchers**

**Roundtable 3: Science diplomats and administrators**

Discussion among each roundtable's participants on  
**"The Impact of the Multi-faceted Researchers' Mobility on the Development of the Sino-European Research Cooperation and Overall Relationship"**

*See discussion guidelines hereafter*

17h00 - Coffee Break

**17h30-18h30 - Reporting of the Roundtables' conclusions & Open discussion - Auditorium**

**18h30 Closing**

**"Easter Cocktail Dinner"**  
*at the Residence of the French Ambassador to China*

## ***Roundtables Session: Discussion Guidelines***

**The aim of the roundtables session is to give the opportunity to all the participants to express their views and share their experiences on being or having been a researcher working abroad in China or in Europe, discuss with the other roundtable's participants the impact their mobility has had or might have had and try to identify best practices to maximize the positive impact, first on the scientific cooperation and second on the overall Europe-China relationship.**

**The questionnaire below should act as a guideline to steer the discussion toward this aim.**

- **Impact of mobile researchers on the EU-China scientific cooperation and best ways to bring this cooperation forward**
  - Do exchanges of researchers and international mobility make a difference in bringing research forward compared to other forms of cooperation? In what ways and to which extent?
  - What are the most efficient form(s) of mobility and exchange of researchers between Europe and China? (institutionalized, individual, reciprocal, long term/short term etc.)
  - Under which conditions can these kinds of researchers' exchanges thrive?
  - What changes need to take place from the current situation to establish these conditions and optimal researchers' mobility between Europe and China?
  
- **Impact on the overall EU-China relation**
  - Do researchers abroad have a role to play beyond carrying out their research and bringing the research cooperation forward?
  - What would make researchers particularly influential in bridging Europe and China compared to other categories of people?
  - What would be the challenges faced by researchers in fulfilling this role?
  - Are all researchers equal in front of this task? Are there for example differences depending on the seniority of the researcher? Or on the field the researcher is active in?
  - To which extent are/can/should exchanges of researchers be instrumentalized to steer relations between Europe and China in one particular direction?
  - Is/Could science diplomacy be an operative concept in the case of Europe and China?
  
- **Concluding questions:**
  - Are the expectations put on researchers' exchanges between Europe and China too high? (regarding their impact on both the progress of the scientific cooperation and the progress of the overall EU-China relation)
  - Do exchanges of researchers bring Europe and China significantly closer?