

China Philanthropy News
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China Philanthropy News is produced by Grantmakers Without Borders (Gw/oB) for grantmaking organizations, donors and individuals interested in philanthropic engagement with China. It provides current news on giving, useful resources, people and books to provide a better understanding of the landscape of philanthropy in the country. For more information about Grantmakers Without Borders, visit www.gwob.net.

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□Current NEWS –

1) New money, big agenda

A new group of young, progressively minded philanthropists in China are emerging. Moving away from more traditional philanthropists that have tended to follow government priorities, this younger generation has favored more socially minded projects, with some becoming more active in speaking out against policies they see as harmful. Shi Zhenrong, head of Suntech Power, has spoken out against the one child policy and has given funding for building homes for low income or disabled residents. Last year, Chinese charities took in nearly \$12 billion, and by the end of 2007 there were over 1,000 charities. As reported by Forbes.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2008/0324/122.html>

2) Founder of China's Mengniu Dairy Group, on corporate philanthropy
Mr. Niu Gensheng, founder of China's biggest milk industry and one of its leading entrepreneurs, in a speech to Harvard Business School, discussed the responsibilities of corporate philanthropy and citizenship. He strongly advocated a sustainable giving approach to corporate philanthropy, noting that simply "writing a check" is not equal to shouldering social responsibility. Mr. Niu broke ground in China when he set up his own Laoniu Foundation and giving all of his shares to the charity. The foundation has used its funding to support education and the medical and agricultural industries. As reported by Antara News.

<http://www.antara.co.id/en/arc/2008/3/11/founder-of-chinas-mengniu-dairy-group-on-corporate-philanthropy/>

3) Killing the chicken to scare the monkey

Nick Young founded China Development Brief in 1995 to report on efforts to achieve fair and sustainable development in China. Twelve years later it has been closed down by the Chinese government and Young's visa cancelled. What does this tell us about Chinese government attitudes to the country's fledgling NGO sector? The picture Mr. Young paints is of a government that is on the one

hand wary of pluralism and oppositional attitudes and on the other keen to promote charitable giving and service delivery by NGOs. As reported by Alliance magazine. At <http://www.alliancemagazine.org/online/html/aofeb08a.html>.

4) Pollution turns river red in central China

In central China, pollution has turned a major river system red and foamy, forcing authorities to cut water supply to thousands of people. Some communities in Hubei province were using alternative water sources, including emergency water and bottled water. In some towns, families were getting water from fire trucks. As reported by the International Herald Tribune.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/02/27/asia/china.php>

5) China: rich 'culprits' on climate change

Rich countries have been targeted by China in negotiations on a new treaty to fight global warming. China notes that developed countries have a "historical responsibility" due to their unrestrained emissions in the past. The US has argued that it should not make emission cuts that would harm its economy when similar constraints have not been made by China. In December, delegations from nearly 190 countries agreed at a U.N.-sponsored conference in Bali, Indonesia, to adopt a blueprint for controlling global warming gases before the end of next year. As reported by the Associated Press.

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jTjewaSVBHqU3bSz_EksG-1TNolwD8URAEFO2

6) China mulls 'one-child' policy shift

An authority from the National Population and Family Planning Commission has said that China is considering slowly raising the limits on the number of children a family can have. Around 30 to 40 percent of Chinese are permitted to have two or more children. While analysts have advocated for reforming or abolishing the policy, officials have stressed the need for continuity and note that any relaxation will be gradual and cautious. As reported by the Financial Times.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4dbeca68-e62e-11dc-8398-0000779fd2ac.html>

7) China denies plan to scrap one-child policy

Following comments made by the National Population and Family Planning Commission, China has said reports that it was considering changes to the policy are false. Beijing News reported that the government intends on sticking with the policy, and that the policy has prevented several hundred million of births. As reported by Reuters.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080302/wl_nm/china_population_dc_1

8) One child policy must be overhauled

Renmin University president has spoken out for a change in the one child policy, pointing to the social problems such as gender imbalance and an ageing society. He advocates for families to be encouraged to have one child but allowed to have two. As reported by the South China Morning Post.

<http://www.ippf.org/en/News/Intl+news/One+child+policy+must+be+overhauled.htm>

9) AIDS: Anger and recrimination block progress in Henan

AIDS activists in China remain angry at what they see as the culpability and inaction of authorities in Henan Province, while government officials there remain implacably hostile to people they see as troublemakers. Nevertheless, things are changing in Henan, but the stand-off between government and citizen activists seems to be delaying the kind of progress that has been seen in neighboring Anhui. As reported by China Development Brief.

<http://www.chinadevelopmentbrief.com/node/1276>

10) China reports rise in sexually transmitted diseases

China reported a large percentage rise in diseases transmitted sexually or by blood, including AIDS and syphilis. While the exact figures are unknown, AIDS cases rose by 45 percent in 2007 from the previous year, and syphilis cases by 24 percent. As reported by Reuters.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20080222/hl_nm/china_health_sex_dc_1

11) China reports bird flu outbreak in poultry in SW province

An outbreak of bird flu in poultry was reported in Guizhou province in southwest China. It has killed over 3,000 birds and over 200,000 have been culled to bring it under control. It is the fourth outbreak this year. As reported by Xinhua.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/25/content_7668970.htm

12) WHO plays down bird flu threat in China after three human deaths

There were three fatalities from the bird flu reported thus far this year in China. China is regarded as a potential flashpoint in this regard because it has the largest number of poultry in the world. However, the WHO points out there is no indication that it is becoming a bigger problem in the country. As reported by Agence France Presse.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20080227/hl_afp/healthfluchinawho_080227190257

13) China not ready to end death penalty

A senior judge was reported as saying China will not abolish the death penalty given the country's level of development and that it was needed to deter criminals. He argued that China does not yet have the conditions necessary to abolish it and that it was in accord with the country's need for social order. China executes more people a year than any other nation. As reported by the Associated Press.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080308/ap_on_re_as/china_death_penalty_1

14) China rights record poor despite some reforms

In a report by the US, China's human rights record was one of the worst, yet China managed to stay off the list as one of the world's worst offenders, as it had been in previous years. The state department pointed to increased controls in

certain areas, including media and internet, as well as religious freedom in the Tibet and Xinjiang regions. As reported by the Guardian.

<http://sport.guardian.co.uk/breakingnews/feedstory/0,-7376508,00.html>

15) China's human rights rating upgraded by US State Dept

This report looks at the removal of China from the State Dept list of worst human rights offenders, but notes that their record is still "poor" and that there are still serious concerns. Many organizations have criticized this move, questioning whether it is linked to the upcoming visit of Bush to the Olympics. Others, however, see this as a move to encourage China to continue with the improvements they have been making. As reported by the Christian Science Monitor.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0313/p03s05-usfp.html>

16) Chinese envoy: China to provide more humanitarian aid to Darfur

China has pledged more humanitarian assistance to Darfur, reports Xinhua news. Already, five batches of assistance have been delivered for a total of \$11 million. The Chinese envoy reinforced their concern to internally displaced persons; in addition, it has spent about \$50 million on development projects such as water wells, pipelines and containers. As reported by Xinhua.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-02/26/content_7669108.htm

17) This land is my land

In recent years there has been an increase in rural uprisings, and even more recently, groups in different parts of the country have begun claiming land as their own individual plots. While China's constitution claims that land is owned by "collectives," who these collectives are remains unclear. The government has claimed that there is no prospect of privatizing land, and the passage of the new property rights law last March may quell such debates for now. As reported by the Economist.

http://www.economist.com/world/asia/displaystory.cfm?story_id=10696084

□ Useful RESOURCES –

18) Report: "Fiscal Decentralization, Chinese Style: Good for Health Outcomes?"

This study analyzes the effect of fiscal decentralization on health outcomes in China. It finds that counties in more fiscal decentralized provinces have lower infant mortality rates compared to those counties in which the provincial government retains the main spending authority, if certain conditions are met. Spending responsibilities at the local level need to be matched with county government's own fiscal capacity. For those local governments that have only limited revenues, their ability to spend on local public goods such as health care depends crucially upon intergovernmental transfers. The findings of this study thereby support the common assertion that fiscal decentralization can indeed lead to more efficient production of local public goods, but also highlights the

necessary conditions to make this happen. At <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/61/26/39800742.pdf>.

19) Report: “Troubled Transitions: The Politics of Social Harmony in China”
China is today riding the tiger of complex transitions in its society as new faultlines emerge and old ones get reinforced. This constitutes China's 'Glass Curtain'- the visible divide between the rural and the urban; coastal and the inland; the wealthy and the vulnerable. Many of these fault lines run along social, economic and gender dimensions with distinct spatial patterns. While China is clearly unwilling to sacrifice growth, there is a growing consciousness to reorient socioeconomic priorities towards a more sustainable growth paradigm. The paper argues that the critical question China needs to debate is whether it can get the politics of social harmony right. It proposes a set of evaluative criteria against which China's responsiveness to mounting social pressures can be judged. At http://www.cprindia.org/faculty_pub_list.php?id=69&author=Nimmi%20Kuri%20an&found=0.

20) Report: “Women Migrant Workers under the Chinese Social Apartheid”
This report aims at identifying how the combined results of the one-party state and the capitalist reforms since the 1990's has deeply affected women rural migrant workers, and how these women workers have responded to these changes. The reason for focusing on women workers is because they account for the overwhelming majority of the labor force in EPZs (Export Processing Zones), and as an oppressed sex are more vulnerable. What makes China's case different from that of the USSR is that in China the one-party state has been kept intact and it is the Chinese Communist Party that has led the reforms up to the present moment. The report shows that the combination of the one party state and its earthshaking market reforms have come at the expense of the workers. At http://www.cawinfo.org/pdf/final_10.pdf.

21) Report: “China in Africa: lending, policy space and governance”
China has had bad press regarding its involvement in sub-Saharan Africa. Its lack of aid conditionality – particularly in the field of human rights and environmental issues; its apparent disregard for transparency in the loan contraction processes and its general lack of adherence to international standards in responsible funding has caused alarm in the donor community. The report ends with a case study of the Zambian aid experience with China in order to illuminate the impact of large Chinese involvement in an African nation. A number of recommendations are presented for both civil society and parliament – for instance Zambian public should have a right to know about all borrowing before loan agreements are signed; Zambian oversight and watchdog institutions must have clear mandatory authority over the borrowing process. At <http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=17521>.

□Upcoming EVENTS –

22) “Green Asia: Moving Towards Win-Win Through Changes,” Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2008, April 11-13, Hainan, China

The 8th annual Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference will be held from April 11-13, 2008 in Hainan China. This year’s theme will be centered around environmental challenges and opportunities for China and the trajectory of the country’s environmental future. Over the three days of the conference participants will debate the move towards energy efficiency, how to secure Asia’s future through renewable energy sources, and how the private sector can contribute to improving the environment. More at

<http://www.boaoforum.org/html/home-en.asp>.

□Latest BOOKS □

23) *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?* Randall Peerenboom, Oxford University Press, December 2007

(This review was written by Nicholas Bequelin, and taken from the China Digital Times in the February 2008 online edition. Only a part of the review is shown here; please click the link to review the full text.)

Is China proving that developing countries are better off under an authoritarian regime that focuses on developing the economy, rather than under a democratic regime that gives emphasis to political participation? And if the enjoyment of human rights improves with economic prosperity, isn’t it wiser to restrict them in the short term and allow them only once income levels take off?

According to Randall Peerenboom, a law professor at University of California, Los Angeles and the director of China programs for the Oxford Foundation of Law, Justice and Society, the answer is a resounding “yes” on both counts. World Bank and United Nations Development Program data, he says, show that China is doing better on health, education, women’s rights, and law and order compared to most countries at comparable income level, and in particular compared to countries that have democratized at a lower level of wealth, such as India, Indonesia or the Philippines. Economic disparities may have shot up, but this is normal and they will eventually come down (although this might take “several generations”).

Civil and political rights might be curtailed, but this actually helps economic development and in any case these rights would not “magically solve” China’s developmental and human-rights problems. Further proof that political authoritarianism works best is to be found in the experience of other East Asian countries such as Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, whose course, says Mr. Peerenboom, China has largely been following so far, and may lead in the future

to democratization also of the “elitist nonliberal type.”

If China still enjoys a poor reputation for human rights despite these achievements, Mr. Peerenboom tells us, it is mainly because of a “bias” by Western countries against one-party states; a traditional emphasis on political and civil rights overlooks other indicators of human-rights development (and in particular the benefits of law and order for personal rights); the playing up of exceptional “heart wrenching” cases by human-rights organizations (whose work relies mostly on accounts of “disgruntled parties”); and sensationalist media editors who prefer to “sink one’s teeth in ... reports of dissidents being arrested, newspaper editors being sacked, prisoners being tortured ... as opposed to dry statistics about Gini coefficients.”

In other words, China is held to a “double standard” on human rights. This is particularly hypocritical, Mr. Peerenboom asserts, since democracies themselves don’t have an immaculate human rights record (think of Guantanamo Bay) and “liberalism tends to benefit the more talented, smarter, or already well-off individuals in a society at the expense of the vast majority.” Asians, who according to him have more of a “communitarian” ethos, favor stability more than individual freedoms. This is reflected in Chinese opinion polls showing high levels of satisfaction with the present government.

For full text of the review, click <http://www.feer.com/forum/?p=85>.

□China Grantmaker PROFILE□

24) Global Fund for Women

This month, CPN profiles Dechen Tsering, Asia Program Officer for Global Fund for Women (GFW), an international grantmaking organization that supports gender-based NGOs around the world. She manages the organization’s regional portfolio and spoke with us about GFW’s grantmaking strategy and practices in China. The following is a transcript of the discussion.

Q: How long has your organization been involved with funding in China?

A: GFW made its first grants in China (Hong Kong) in 1991 and in Mainland China in 1992.

Q: How did you first get involved in China? What was the original interest behind your involvement?

A: GFW’s grantmaking has traditionally been responsive to the requests coming from women’s groups in different countries around the world. We also have had a very diverse Board of Directors. In late 1990s, one of the GFW Board Members

was Wu Qing from China, who introduced groups in China to the GFW and vice versa.

Q: Before you began funding in China, what were some preparatory steps you took? That is, how did you prepare to begin funding in China?

A: Part of GFW's grantmaking involves a due diligence process that involves close communication with a) Board members (from the specific country – in this case in China), b) network of Advisors in the region who are women (and men) activists working on women's rights issues, and c) other grantees and international funders with contacts in the countries. Our decision-making process includes feedback/endorsements from these different contacts so before making a grant in the country (e.g. China), we explored our network of contacts in the country first. We also anticipated that funding inside Hong Kong would be larger than in mainland China given that the 'women's movement' inside Hong Kong would be far more developed than in the Mainland. When we began funding inside HK or China, we strengthened existing networks and built new contacts.

Q: What is your organization's strategy behind funding in China? For example, are there specific regions where you concentrate your funding, specific topics and/or themes of interest, particularly populations that you target, etc?

A: As noted earlier, GFW's grantmaking in China started both in Hong Kong and the Mainland. However, over the years, our grantmaking inside Hong Kong has exceeded the grantmaking (both in terms of numbers and amounts) inside the Mainland. Since the founding of GFW in 1987, our total grantmaking in China (HK included) is as follows: 116 grants to 54 groups and totaling approximately \$1.6 million with a median grant of \$10,000/group. Of this, the total grants in Hong Kong alone are as follows: 59 grants to 24 groups totaling approximately \$954K with a median of \$10,000/group. The rest are spread out between Mainland provinces ranging from Inner Mongolia to Beijing.

Most of the grants in Hong Kong have focused on groups working around the theme of "Ensuring Economic and Environmental Justice" (EEJ) – although most of these groups are working on labor rights issues, particularly of women migrant workers, sex workers, etc. The second largest funded theme in Hong Kong is "Advancing Health and Sexual & Reproductive Rights" (AHSRR) with some groups working on the rights of sexual minorities and sex workers alike. The focus of the themes ranks the same among grants made to Mainland-based groups with EEJ ranking highest (31% of the total \$614K in grants) and AHSRR with 26% of the total grant amount.

Many of the grants in Mainland China have also focused on "Increasing Access to Education" (11 grants and almost 13% of the total grant amount). It is clear that access to education is more of an issue in Mainland China than it is for girls in Hong Kong; whereas, migrant workers' rights and labor rights are more

prominent issues in HK. Inside the Mainland, most of the EEJ grants have focused on small rural women's programs for income-generation training and skills development.

Q: Do you typically fund individuals, projects/programs or organizations? What do you typically look for when you make grants?

A: GFW makes grants to women's groups/organizations (not individuals). Unlike most funders, GFW provides general support grants and does not require project-based proposals. Our grantmaking criteria are as follows (for more information, please visit our website www.globalfundforwomen.org). We welcome proposals that may fall into, but are not limited to, the following broad thematic areas:

- Building Peace & Ending Gender Based Violence
- Advancing Health and Sexual & Reproductive Rights
- Expanding Civic & Political Participation
- Increasing Access to Education
- Ensuring Economic & Environmental Justice
- Fostering Social Change Philanthropy

In general, GFW supports groups that are based in a country outside the United States; that focuses on advancing women's equality and human rights, with these goals clearly reflected in its activities; that are a group of women working together; and that are governed, directed, and led by women, that is, women must fill all or most of the leadership roles.

Because the organization receives over 3,500 proposals each year and awards about 600 grants annually, GFW does not have the resources to provide funding to all the groups that meet our criteria. It does, however, give priority to women's groups that might particularly benefit from our support. Some of these include groups that are in the first five years of existence, which have limited funding resources and access to these resources, are organized by women from marginalized populations, working on controversial issues in their communities, and actively include perspectives of those benefiting from the group's activities. For more information of GFW's funding criteria, please visit the webpage.

Q: What is the range of grant size? Do you make general support grants? Do you make multiyear grants?

A: Our grants range anywhere from \$500-\$20,000 each year per group. We do give general support grants and offer MY grants (these are grants to groups that have received 3-4 subsequent grants from GFW).

Q: How is your China program managed; do you work with local partners/advisors, do you have staff in the office, are there site visits, etc?

A: GFW has one office in San Francisco and no country offices. We have Advisors inside China and utilize the expertise of other women's groups (former/current grantees) and a wide network of informal contacts among the women's groups and international funders. Program staff make occasional visits to the country and in 2006, we held our first regional Advisory Council Meeting in Xi'an, China to increase the exposure among our regional Advisors to China and China-based grantees to women's issues in the rest of Asia. The Asia and Oceania region has two staff members – Program Officer (myself) and Program Associate (Naishin Fu).

Q: What have been some of the challenges either you have faced as a grantmaker, or you think could be potentially challenging for other grantmakers?

A: China is a challenging place for women's rights activism (or any human rights activism in general). As a grantmaker that is 'responsive' to women's issues, we are challenged by the lack of 'rights-based approach' to the activities of women's groups, but understand that the local environment may not be conducive to the full-out rights-based activism. Thus, we have to remain open to the level of 'activism' women in the local context are comfortable with. Also, the dire poverty of women in the rural sector leads to a prioritizing of small income-generating activities as a mode of survival.

The political climate in China discourages (if not suppresses) organized protests, thereby making it very difficult for women's groups to organize around issues such as land/inheritance rights, health rights, labor rights, etc. We hear very little from women's groups inside Mainland China that are organizing toward legal reform and advocating for changes in the social structure that continue to deny women the basic rights to health care, higher education, among others. In Hong Kong, however, we face the challenge of many women's groups working on similar issues (e.g. labor rights) but less collaboration among them than would be expected.

The difficulty with funding for women's rights issues is also a challenge in China overall. Language is a major barrier to grantmaking in Mainland China – most grassroots groups have no English capacity and although GFW accepts requests in local languages, it takes time and resources to get the documents translated appropriately.

Last but not least, China is an enormous and complex country, so grantmaking in that country may require a long-term commitment with a particular focus in order to make a dent in the kinds of issues women face in that country. While there is a sharp growth in wealth inside China, there is much less growth for women's rights groups, and social philanthropy for rights-based work is almost negligible.

Q: Do you think there is a particular grantmaking landscape that is specific to the China context that makes it different than funding in other regions?

A: The politics and socialist structure that is not working, and the move towards capitalism but with a strong centralized political hold on social activism all make it different and difficult. Moreover, there is little to no space for rights-based activism.

Q: Do you engage with the government in your grantmaking activities, either on national, provincial or community levels? Have the changes in political climate impacted your programs at all?

A: GFW does not engage much with governments except the Women's Federations, which are semi-governmental at the local levels if the groups are networking with them. GFW does not implement any programs in the countries we make grants in.

Q: Has your grantmaking changed over the years since you started funding in China? If so, why and how?

A: Just more grantmaking in China over the last five years, and growing networks as a result of that and our visits.

Q: From your point of view as a grantmaker in China, why do you think it's important, at least for your organization, to be involved in funding in China?

A: China is the largest country in the world with a mass population of women that are lacking in rights. There is a potential to make a huge impact if we can facilitate the mobilizing of women's activism in that country. It is a major influence in the world, particularly in the Asia region, so gains made there can impact other women's movements around the region.

Q: What do you think the impact of foreign philanthropic support to China has been to date, and how do you see this shifting?

A: This is hard to say since we are not right in the thick of the international funding landscape in China. One thing is clear – there are a growing number of funders in China, and at least in some parts of China – donors are frowned upon suspiciously particularly if they are hiring mostly expatriates to run the offices.

Q: What resources have you found to be most helpful for your work in China?

A: Some useful resources have been our partner funders, grantees, personal visits, and proposals.

Q: If you could offer some advice to funders interested in working in China, what would it be?

A: Be ready for a long haul and have a lot of patience! It will take a long time to see social change in the country, especially at the level of human and women's rights.

ABOUT GRANTMAKERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Grantmakers Without Borders, a philanthropic network, is dedicated to increasing funding for international social justice and environmental sustainability and to improving the practice of international grantmaking. Our membership, currently numbering some 325 individuals from roughly 150 grantmaking entities, includes private foundations, grantmaking public charities, individual donors with a significant commitment to philanthropy, and philanthropic support organizations. Availing of this wealth of experience and expertise, Grantmakers Without Borders provides capacity-building support to international grantmakers both novice and experienced. We offer a space for education, community and collaboration among international social change grantmakers. We advocate before policymakers on behalf of social change grantmakers, and we work to leverage the philanthropic sector to increase funding to the global South. In all our efforts, Grantmakers Without Borders is committed to the ideals of justice, equity, peace, democracy, and respect for the environment. We value and respect the wisdom and experience of local communities in all their diversity, and we are dedicated to amplifying the voice of the global South in international philanthropy. Founded in 2000, Grantmakers Without Borders is a project of the Tides Center.

www.gwob.net

Grantmakers Without Borders- Headquarters
PO Box 181282
Boston, MA 02118
P: (617) 794-2253