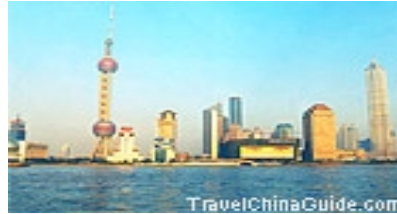


CHINA

Global Society and Sustainable Development

Experiences, questions and base lines for research in China

An expert panel in Shanghai (summer 2005).



General idea

Shanghai is a significant place making evident how global trends are pushed by foreign companies. However the impacts of these trends on local contexts and societies are unclear although a myriad of exchanges and contacts between the host-country and the home-countries are taking place since years. Besides the scientific insights into the effects of investments of Western companies in China, in Shanghai, managers and employees involved have made and are making their own experiences. The workshop aims to explore „bottom up“ what these experiences of people living in local contexts and situations in the host country are. These interactions (or separations) are basic for people of both the home- and host-country of a company. Evidently a two-way approach is necessary - how people of both countries and contexts are coming into contact and how do they experience the new relations? From these experiences the workshop goes ahead to the impacts of a company: how are they perceived and assessed, mainly the creating of labour, winners as well as losers, changes of mentality, value orientations or life styles, impacts on local societies and contexts. Which of these are manifest or hidden, are included into the official reporting of firms and of the community or are black sheets? The key principles of the entrepreneurial culture: economic performance, ecological, social sustainability and the local relations of a firm articulated and manifest in annual reportings for the share- and stakeholders are taken as reference. In the workshop the experts compare this entrepreneurial norms with the experiences and insights collected by the participants of the panels before. The workshop elaborates an agenda of problems, possible measures and further steps specific to the contexts where the interactions between companies and their contexts are taking place. The results of the panel are discussed within a frame describing and forecasting the middle- and long termed developments of the global-local interactions in different places of the international society (North-South, East-West).

Targets:

- > experiences: exchange of experiences of interactions and impacts between foreign companies and local contexts
- > questions: what are the unknown or hidden aspects and impacts of these interactions?
- > agenda of problems: What are the main problems?
- > possible measures and further steps for research and practical approaches
- > executive summary

Invited groups

- Representatives from Chinese communities and diplomacy (consulate, seco)
- Chinese social scientists (experts)
- Swiss social scientists (WORLD_DRIVES/WSF)
- Representatives from Swiss or other European companies

Organisation

WORLD_DRIVES. International Competence Center for Practice and Social Research (Asian Branch).