GOVERNANCE FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT (GED)
Strengthening Rule of Law and Civil Society Participation in China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>2007-2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficiary countries</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC Grant</td>
<td>6,000,000 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNDP Contribution</td>
<td>1,680,000 EUR</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRC Contribution</td>
<td>400,000 EUR</td>
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<td>Implementing Agency</td>
<td>China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>Beijing and selected areas throughout China</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU Delegation Contact Person</td>
<td>Xiaolin Yi</td>
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Project Objectives

Governance for Equitable Development (GED) is a joint action between the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Chinese Government that aims at supporting the Chinese Government in its efforts to develop an open and equitable society based on the rule of law. The project's specific objectives include the promotion of good governance, increased access to justice, enhanced public participation in decision making, civil society involvement in equitable development.

Main Project Activities

The project is divided in three components:

Component A aims at increasing the access to justice by improving the capacities of the Chinese judiciary to deliver a fair and transparent justice and upgrading the transparency in court decision making and judicial personnel appointment. The implementation of this component has been entrusted to the Supreme People's Court (SPC).
and involves introduction of European and international best practices through series of workshops, seminars, research studies, pilot projects and study tours for members of the Chinese judiciary to selected European countries.

Component B, implemented by the National People's Congress (NPC), strives at improving China's law and policy-making systems. Through various activities under this component, such as workshops, seminars and pilot projects, the NPC is supported in institutionalising the participatory character of the lawmaking process and the capacities of the Chinese legislature for lawmaking are enhanced in general. The issue of law harmonisation among various Chinese provinces and levels of government is also addressed.

- Component C, the implementation of which is being carried out by the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs (MoCA), aspires to broaden the involvement of the civil society in decision making processes. The project seeks to increase the recognition of the positive role of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) among various Chinese government institutions and the society at large. Furthermore, the policy and legal environment for CSOs is improved, communication among CSOs themselves and between the CSOs and the government is upgraded, and the CSO's institutional and professional capacities are increased.

**Current Progress**

- At November 2010 hundreds of activities have taken place across the three components including international study tours, seminars, conferences, websites, research and documentation. At different levels these activities have informed the reform process in China in the areas of civil society development and legal processes.

- Specifically the project has assisted with new policies and regulations on the state compensation for victims of crime, retrial and parole system, guidelines for open trials, case guidance, court efficiency, regulations for lay assessors, and post legislative review and law harmonisation.

- With GED assistance a system of filing and review has been established in all 31 provinces. Twenty nine provinces promulgate local regulations on filing and review and 2 provinces issued internal guidelines.

- In the area of civil society development work has progressed specifically on preferential tax and support policies for CSOs and awareness of CSOs role in society. A website has been set up www.cnpozhijl.org managed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs which provides information on regulations and informs CSOs about developments.
16 grass-root CSOs across China have received grant funds from the GED funded Social Organisation Development Fund. More local CSOs will receive funding in 2011.

Piloting activity has been carried out in Wuzhong on the people assessor system and pre-trial mediation in Jilin and Pudong. A judicial efficiency guide will be piloted in Nanjing. Open trials will be piloted in selected provinces in the future.

In total over 8000 officials, NGO managers and lay persons have been trained or attended workshops and seminars supported by the project.

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