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Introduction
In July 1999, the NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of China's foremost institutions of higher education, hosted an International Conference on the Non-Profit Sector and Development in China, the first conference of its kind ever held in China. With financial and planning support from The Asia Foundation and the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, the conference brought together 131 Chinese and international academics, non-profit organization (NPO) leaders, government
officials, and representatives of international NPOs, foundations, and multilateral development banks. The conference was organized around four panels, each with Chinese and international participation: on the role of the non-profit sector in periods of reform and transition; their role in social and economic development; needs and issues related to building NPO capacities; and the international dimension of the sector, including sources of support and assistance.

The NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University was established in October 1998. The Center "aims to become an innovative, open, and intermediary agency, as a bridge and service medium to organize and coordinate academic activities related to NPOs." Its activities include

- organizing academic symposia, seminars, and international conferences on NPO issues
- conducting research on the activities and performance of Chinese and international NPOs
- providing suggestions and consultations related to Chinese NPO legislation, regulations, and their enforcement
- conducting commissioned research
- providing lectures and training; and
- promoting domestic and international academic exchanges.

Professor Zhao LiQing is the Research Director of the new NGO Research Center and along with Professor Wang Ming, Center Director, was the principal conference organizer.
1. Are NGO's part of a new global reality?

Lester Salamon, one of three keynote speakers, made a deep impression when he noted, “We are in the midst of a global associational revolution that may prove to be as significant to the late 20th century as the rise of the nation-state was to the late 19th century."

The director of the Institute for Policy Studies at Johns Hopkins University said his results -- collected by a team working under his direction -- showed that the “global associational revolution” got underway within the last two decades in a number of countries. Today, according to his Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-profit Sector Project, the non-profit sector in 22 industrialized and developing countries supports 19 million paid employees. “Non-profit expenditures in these countries thus average 4.6 percent of the gross domestic product -- and non-profit employment is nearly 5 percent of all nonagricultural employment, 10 percent of all service employment, and 27 percent of all public sector employment,” Mr. Salamon reported.

Similarly, the non-profit sector's emergence is reflected in the amount and level of research that is underway worldwide. In 1970s, there were only a few scholars researching issues that related to NPOs in the world. Today, a number of centers and institutes in the United States and Europe focus entirely on the non-profit sector, as do centers in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Training and university-based education programs are being developed worldwide, particularly in industrialized countries. Similarly, there are an increasing number of publications that are coming available and meetings organized to address issues of concern,
according to Kathleen McCarthy, director of the Center for the Study of Philanthropy at the University of New York, and Michael O'Neill, professor at the University of San Francisco. For example, the NGO Research Center at Tsinghua University's 21st Century Development Research Academy, was set up in October 1998 to promote research and practices that concern NPOs.

This level of interest also was demonstrated by the number of prominent scholars and researchers who attended this International Conference on Non-profit Sector and Development. The size of the gathering underscored the momentum that is underway today in academic development of the subject, according to Xue Lan, vice president of the 21st Century Development Research Academy at Tsinghua University, and Wang Ming, director of the University's NGO Research Center of the 21st Century Development Research Academy. Indeed, it can be said that the veil that hid China's non-profit sector has been lowered with the attendance of so many Chinese people and the number of papers they presented.

The situation as it really exists for Chinese NPOs today also became clearer for foreigners who attended the conference. That is in part because there was considerable openness about these realities. For example, the fact that there are two formal categories of Chinese NPO was made quite clear. One category involves social organizations that are organized voluntarily by citizens. These NPOs have membership relations. The other category involves private non-enterprise units that are created with non-state assets. Their main function is to provide some sort of social services, according to Chen Guangyao, the deputy director general for the Bureau of NGO Administration in the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs. Mention here also
must be made of the state-organized, non-enterprise units that are to some extent treated as NPOs. Universities and hospitals are examples.

Generally speaking, the number of NPOs in China has increased rapidly in the last two decades. Prior to 1965 and the Cultural Revolution, there were fewer than 100 nationwide social organizations. In 1996, there were 1,800. In 1965, there were 6,000 local social organizations, compared to 200,000 in 1996. In 1996, there were 700,000 private non-enterprise units. Furthermore, voluntary activism also has been thriving since the 1980s, according to "Volunteerism in China," a survey report that is based on research by a team under the direction Ding Yuanzhu, professor at the Institute of Social Development in the State Development Planning Commission.

Several explanations frequently are offered about the emergence of the non-profit sector worldwide. One concerns the NPO's ability to perform certain essential functions that neither the market nor the state mechanism can provide. This reasoning suggests that two fundamental tools are applied to the allocation of resources and the process of development. They are the market mechanism and the state mechanism. Both have limitations, and both have the potential for failure. Worse, neither the market nor the state is able to eliminate its own or the other side's flaws. It therefore falls to the third sector, the NPO sector, to perform certain other essential tasks. Indeed, this should be reason enough to legitimate the emergence of the non-profit sector.

The fact that NPOs are thriving globally also reflects that a range of favorable conditions exist and are conducive to their success. According to Mr. Salamon, these include an enhanced awareness among citizens that
NPOs add value when it comes to economic growth; the fact that civil society is a growing force; and the technology revolution, especially in the arenas of information and communications.

The emergence of an NPO sector in China therefore would seem inevitable, especially given the country's transition from a centrally planned system to one that is endeavoring to open up to the outside world. Hu Shoujun, professor of the Division of Social Development at Fudan University, asserted that the emergence of China's non-profit sector was indeed inevitable. He based his finding on an examination of the traditional centrally planned system made while exploring ways to resolve China's more serious social problems.

2. What role can NPOs play in sustainable development?

Is it a fact that NPOs contribute to social-economic development and environmental protection? If so, to what extent are they succeeding? Indeed, the fact that NPOs play a positive role in promoting greater environmental sustainability would seem to be a sufficient reason for legitimating their existence but also to go so far as to designate them as a necessity. Indeed, many of the conference presentations referred to the significant role that NPOs play when it comes to development and then, by extension, just how NPOs might operate better. Presentations also evaluated how effective NPO activities are and, in the process, provided any number of compelling cases. Several thoughtful points were drawn from these presentations.

A number of the international participants enumerated fact after fact as evidence that seemed irrefutable that NPOs play a significant role in
matters of development. For example, Michael Edwards, a World Bank senior civil society specialist, offered insights and presented evidence based on cases in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He focused on an examination of the role NPOs are playing in the social and economic development in these countries. Meanwhile, Erna Witoelar, executive director of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, pointed out that despite the diversity of NPOs, they are vital in order to meet basic human needs and when it comes to promoting participation in development in Asia. According to Darwin Chen, chief executive of the Community Chest of Hong Kong, NPOs are essential actors in Hong Kong when it comes to providing a variety of social services on a voluntary basis. They also can expect to retain their leading role in the delivery of social services, he added.

Meanwhile, Soo Shin Hie, co-representative of the Korea Women's Associations United, described the role of women's NGOs in promoting development of Korean women and women worldwide.

In China, the transformation of the NPO's role from the time of a centrally planned system to this current period of opening up has sparked particular interest in the sector. Indeed, during the last two decades, a variety of NPOs have been created specifically to operate in the area of development. Environmental protection is just one of the more dynamic arenas. For example, Jiang Xiaoke, president of the Beijing Environmental Protection Foundation, talked about the positive role two Chinese NPOs played in development. The two NPOs are the Beijing Environmental Protection Foundation, where he serves as president, and the Beijing Society for Environmental Sciences. At the same time, The Friends of Nature is one of the few privately-organized environmental
NGOs in China and, as such, provides good evidence of just how essential and useful an NPO organized by citizens and not government officials can be when it comes to mobilizing ordinary citizens on behalf of the environment, said Liang Chongjie, Friends of Nature president.

The Global Village of Beijing, established in 1996, is yet another distinctly privately organized NGO. Unfortunately, this NGO is registered as a commercial, for-profit company in accord with strict requirements that are applied to NGO registration in China. That said, the Global Village should qualify as a real NGO because of the number of really significant activities it undertakes on behalf of environmental protection, said Liao Xiaoyi, Global Village of Beijing president.

Rural development is another important field when it comes to NGOs. Here, Amity Foundation, a Chinese NGO with a Christian background, is of certain note. In fact, its efforts on behalf of health care, education, social welfare and rural development have netted the organization a number of achievements, according to Qiu Zhonghui, Amity Foundation deputy secretary general, and Cui Yu from the China Association of Science Foundations. Another effort, the Heifer Project International, which is a U.S.-based, rural development NGO, is also responsible for a number of rural development programs in China, particularly in the more backward regions and in villages with ethnic minorities. According to co-authors Chen Taiyong, Pu Jiabi and Robert K. Pelant, the work of the Heifer Project International demonstrates just how much a foreign NGO can do to further development in rural China.

Meanwhile, non-profit organizations that represent Chinese women's interests also are attracting attention as they relate to social and economic
development. The government-appointed National Women Federation has held a monopoly in this area since the 1980s -- and continues to do so. At the same time, there some newly formed non-profits, both within the Federation and outside it, that more and more are offering women's services. According to Liu Bohong, director of the National Institute of Women, even the National Women Federation operates on occasion more like a non-governmental organization than a governmental body.

Some non-profits also have become very active in the area of family planning, which is an important issue given the size of the population in China. The two that are the most outstanding are the China Family Planning Association and the China Population Welfare Foundation. Both operate primarily in the countryside and provide services to women of child-bearing age, according to Li Baozhong, secretary general of the Chinese Family Planning Association, and Miao Xia, vice president of the China Population Welfare Foundation.

Meanwhile, Liu Huaping, a Ph.D. at the Institute of Diplomatism, suggested that non-profits could further sustainable development by working for nuclear arms control.

Clearly, there is a huge potential for non-profits to have an impact in the area of development despite -- or perhaps because of their diversity. For example, the non-profits and their representatives attending the conference came from various backgrounds. Some were government appointed, and others represented non-profits organized by citizens. Some were focused on domestic issues, while others were international in their orientation. Some were secular, and others were concerned with a religious dimension. Yet together, they demonstrated that non-profits indeed could
make a difference. There is also no doubt that they influence development, including in China where the non-profit sector still is in its infancy. Chinese non-profits are succeeding in their efforts to resolve or at least alleviate a number of serious problems in areas where the government and for-profits lack the motivation or the ability to deal with them.

3. How important are enabling environments to a thriving non-profit sector?

It is clear that the non-profit sector is an essential part of contemporary society today. However if non-profits are to continue to foster growth and to secure their position, they must make sure first, that they are able to distinguish what they do, their merits and their characteristics from what the market and state sectors do. Second, they must justify how they can strike an effective three-way relationship with the market and state sectors; and third, they must make sure they are in a position to contribute to an environment that is politically, legally and socially viable for their purposes.

Each of these three issues was discussed at length by conference participants and resulted in our reaching some very basic agreements and understanding.

First, independence and self-governance are intrinsic characteristics of NPOs. This is how the sector positions itself as separate from the state and from the for-profit sector yet in the company of a number of other organizations. NPOs must distinguish themselves by placing an emphasis on remaining self-governing and voluntary organizations. As a result, they also have a number of advantages, particularly when compared to
government and for-profit organizations. They can be flexible, innovative and run with much less bureaucracy. They can achieve a close relationship with ordinary citizens, respond quickly to the public's demands and provide an intermediary belt where civil society can be connected to the state and market sectors.

NPOs also should exemplify the values of solidarity and the effectiveness of individual initiative on behalf of the public good. NPOs that are based on the principles of a civil society can promote democracy, good governance and citizens’ participation in public affairs, said Kumi Naidoo, secretary general of CIVICUS, Salamon and Witoelar. But the key is self-governance and independence from the government. Without these, the NPO's ability to act in accord with their merit, their advantages, values and multiple roles would be impaired severely.

The phrase “big society and small government” came up frequently during the conference. The idea that non-profits can reduce the scale of government and therefore enhance government efficiency is important. At the same time and perhaps more importantly, the fact is that non-profits succeed at establishing a dynamic sector when they are self-governing, said Peter Geithner, advisor at Harvard University's Asia Center.

Indeed, China offers a good case when it comes to examining these issues. China is still in transition from a planned system to a market-based system and so most civilian organizations remain affiliated with or subordinated to governmental agencies or governed and controlled directly -- or indirectly by government officials or former officials. In fact, the common feature for most Chinese NPOs is a lack of independence and self-governance. This state of affairs frequently prompts foreign observers
in particular, to ask whether there are any real NPOs in China, said Barnett Baron, executive vice president at The Asia Foundation, headquartered in San Francisco. This state of affairs explains, in part, the inherent weakness of China's non-profit sector.

As a consequence, non-profits in China should be distanced from the administrative and command system traditions that they inherited from the past -- like everyone else in China. Thus, a major goal of China's non-profit sector should be finding a way to distance themselves from the administrative traditions that were inherited by virtue of having once been a part of a planned system. Sector representatives also should strive to make their operations more compatible with the market system, said Professor Zhao, of Tsinghua University.

Meanwhile, Mieko Okamuro, junior program officer with The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, suggested that the development of Chinese NPOs is a major accomplishment that is related to economic reform and then discussed the issue of how best to separate Chinese social organizations from government agencies. Making sure non-profits are able to survive after their separation from the old support system is vital for the independence of Chinese NPOs and their ability to govern themselves. Such a separation from government will benefit not only NPOs but also private enterprise and the government, too.

That said, the non-profit organization still is not capable of living strictly alone in society. Instead, it is a part -- even an essential part of any society, and so it must learn how best to co-exist with both the market and the state sectors. In fact, a successful external relationship is essential for the non-profit sector's survival and growth. With that as a given, how then
should the non-profit sector go about getting independence and seeking self-governance? What is its appropriate relationship with government and the non-profit sector? With other sectors, the non-profit sector's relationship can be conducted on a variety of levels. It can be a relationship that is distant, even somewhat alienated. It can be antagonistic. It can be subordinated or co-opted or by contrast, on an equal footing. The experiences of non-profit sectors in other countries provide an array of different outcomes. The alienated or hostile relationship between the non-profit sector and the state can be harmful to both sides, as well as to society at large. A subordinated status vis a vis the state can result in the NPOs losing all their properties. Only when an NPO achieves and then keeps its autonomous status can it expect to deal with the state as an equal partner. Only then will non-profits succeed in contributing in a positive way to the greater good of society.

At this point, Baron provided an analysis of corporations and corporate citizenship pointing out their importance in the life of the non-profit sector as well as the potential for NGO-corporate partnerships. Both the market and the state sector are essential if NGOs are to realize development that is centered on citizens. Indeed, all three branches are essential. Without any one of the three, sustainable development can be pushed seriously off course. Consequently, an important prerequisite for sustainable development is establishing a sound partnership among these three elements. It also is an appropriate goal for anyone who really cares about the success and achievement in the non-profit sector. Most conference participants were in agreement on these points.
The environment where the non-profit sector operates is a critical factor if the sector is to grow and play an effective role. The environment is also important for achieving an effective, three-way relationship. Therefore, because the non-profit sector tends to be weaker than either the market or the state sector in virtually every society today, efforts advancing the development of the non-profit sector are that much more critical. The non-profit sector has to be able to continue making a contribution to the creation of an enabling environment for its partnership with the other two key sectors to succeed.

Here, the legal and regulatory environments that are concerned with NPOs are especially critical. These environments address issues such as required registration procedures for NPOs; which agencies and government officials get involved in NPO regulation; mechanisms for accountability and transparency; and taxes -- as well as the ability to receive and make donations. Leon E. Irish, a senior legal consultant at the World Bank's NGO Unit, and co-author Karla W. Simon explored this topic, taking care to examine the major aspects of the legal environment that can affect NPOs. Their analysis also focused on newly promulgated regulations and laws for NPOs in China. Here, they discussed the rationale for a strong NPO sector and the necessity of an environment that is conducive to NPO development. They raised the importance of international standards in order to successfully measure the effectiveness of legislation affecting NPOs.

Thomas Silk, president of Silk, Adler & Colvin, identified eight key issues that are related to a successful legal environment for the development of NPOs. He also provided a reasonably practical comparison
of ten Asian Pacific societies. Mr. Silk's analysis attempted to use a comparative research approach to probe the legal structure that affects non-profits in these ten extraordinarily diverse societies. The creative common analytical tool used by his research team focuses the inquiry, guides data collection, and provides a core framework for analysis and recommendations.

Myles McGregor-Lowndes, associate professor at Queensland University of Technology in Australia, contributed a more theoretical analysis when he introduced his definition of "nondistribution constraint." Kee-Ho Yang, dean of academic affairs at Sungkong Hoe University in the Republic of Korea, discussed his comparative study of civic groups in Korea and Japan, taking care to explain how various social and political environments affect the development of a civil society. One outcome of his study is that NPOs in Korea distinguish themselves from their counterparts in Japan in terms of operation and manner. Won-Soon Park, secretary general of the Peoples Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, examined the severity of the limitations on Korean NPOs under the existing legal infrastructure and offered suggestions for reforms in Korea and in other Asian countries.

Here, inquiries from scholars with international experience working on these same issues also focused on the legal environment in China.

The rule of law is necessary for China's non-profit sector to function and grow. Such an understanding has not always been the case. During the period when China was run based on a centrally planned system, the Communist Party governed without laws. Policy was involved as was the "rule of man." After reforms got underway, the Party was committed to
establishing a rule of law and to try to strengthen the country's legal systems. Concerning NPOs, the Communist Party and the government proposed a policy in 1998 of “fostering and promoting NPOs while strengthening supervision and regulation.” Since then, an effort has been underway to establish legal systems specifically to benefit China's non-profit sector. For example, three sets of regulations were promulgated in 1998: the Regulations for Registration and Administration of Social Organizations, the Provisional Regulations for Registration and Administration of Private Non-Enterprise Institutions and the Provisional Regulations for Registration and Administration of Public Non-Enterprise Institutions. In 1999, the Donations Law was enacted, according to Mr. Chen of the Ministry of Civil Affairs' Bureau of NGO Administration.

Still, the rule of law means much more than creating legal systems that affect NPOs. According to Zhao, of Tsinghua University's NGO Research Center, effective rule of law insists on openness and transparency; covers the behavior of both ordinary citizens and government and party leaders; contributes to a positive environment for developing an NPO sector; encourages amending or modifying existing laws and regulations to reflect the same; and bars officials from willful intervention and abusing the rights of citizens.

Obviously, the legal environment in China is not perfect for NPOs. Several important laws still need to be promulgated and existing regulations and laws must be amended or revised. Here, participants with an international background along with a number of Chinese participants asked questions and offered suggestions about how to facilitate setting up a
legal system that is favorable for NPOs in China. Similarly, Chinese participants made suggestions, drawing on their own experiences.

Chai Shouqiu, professor at Wuhan University, offered an explanation for a number of policies and laws that affect non-governmental associations concerned with environmental protection in China. He started by introducing the circumstances that generally affect NGO development in relation to environmental protection and then suggested guiding principles for laws and regulations that apply to NPOs. Shang Yusheng, secretary general of the Chinese Associations of Science Foundations, pointed out the urgent need to revise current regulations that apply to Chinese foundations. He drew on an analysis of the flaws of existing legal measures by way of proposing ways to improve the legal environment that surrounds Chinese foundations.

Yang Tuan, associate professor at the Institute of Sociology at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, argued that the emphasis of community-based social security should be on cultivating and promoting NPO growth. Such an emphasis would contribute to an environment that enables NPOs to register comfortably and gives them room in which to be active. Other participants also had thoughtful suggestions. For example, the strict control regarding both the registration and regulation of NPOs should be loosened to allow initiatives on the part of ordinary citizens. Meanwhile, legal appeal procedures should be set up for those citizens who are not registered with a non-profit organization. Regulations and laws should be written in a way that reflects a more positive stand generally toward NPOs and that encourages their independence and self-governance. The division of powers between registration and regulation
authorities should be made clear and distinct. Steps should be taken to make sure that authorities have oversight that is appropriate to the function of the NPOs. Effort should be made to ensure that government officials do not interfere without just cause in the affairs of NPOs. They also should not be allowed to abuse the rights of citizens who work with NPOs. Competition within the non-profit sector should be encouraged.

Participants made clear that some progress has been made but that there remains a long way to go before China has established the necessary legal systems and rule of law that will enable non-profits to function and then to flourish.

Public support and the non-profit sector's social base are one and the same, according to Kenji Otsuka, a researcher with the Japanese Institute of Developing Economies who did a comparative case study of the social base of environmental NPOs in Japan and NPOs in China. The impetus for emerging NPOs in both societies came from a public awareness about environmental problems and a motivation to participate as citizens on behalf of the environment. Zhu Chuanyi, professor of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out that the formation of "supporting social organizations" as well as "partnership" between government, business and the non-profit sector, are the decisive factors in developing the non-profit sector. But because there is no society-based tradition in China for certain kinds of participation, philanthropic institutions, foundations and other types of NPOs have a difficult time being accepted and supported.

As a general rule, NPOs should be based on the principles of a civil society. Michael Frolic, professor at York University in Canada, and
Lynne Elizabeth Russell, at the University of Toronto, argued that China has two types of civil societies, one that is a state-led civil society and the other that is a private civil society. The former is much stronger and gets more support from the state than the latter but lacks in autonomy and independence from the state.

4. What is the capacity building of NPOs?

While many agreed that a favorable environment is a key to NPOs' success, their very survival and growth also comes down to their own internal capacity to grow. Consequently, how to build up that capacity was another hot topic for conference participants. Mark Lyons, associate professor at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia, and Nick Young, editor of the *China Development Brief*, outlined the elements that relate to capacity in connection with an NPO's ability to deliver programs with high quality; to have a clearly stated mission; to exhibit the ability to initiate and innovate as well as to identify and respond to urgent needs; to adapt to changing circumstances; to do fundraising and strategic planning; to provide for institutional management, personnel training, accountability and transparency; and to operate according to standards of professionalism.

Because the experiences and lessons that have been learned by foreign NPOs can be instructive, including for Chinese people with an interest in NPO capacity-building, Lyons reviewed the existing resources and arrangements for building NPO capacity in Australia. He reported that resources there are improving for the delivery of services; for managing organizations; fundraising; representing interests; improving training and support for capacity building; and for improving public awareness of
NPOs. He also examined a number of structural factors that are affecting the future development of NPO capacity in Australia.

Meanwhile, developing NPO capacity has the strong support of certain foundations, which by themselves are an important part of the NPO sector. Yoshiko Wakayama, program director for The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), provided examples of activities that the Peace Foundation supports and included program guidelines that are designed to strengthen internationally oriented, private non-profit activities. The SPF assists non-profit activities in three primary ways: with surveys and research on behalf of private non-profit activities; capacity-building that is designed to enhance private non-profit activities; and institutionalization of non-profit initiatives and activities. David Winder, director of programs for the Synergos Institute in the United States, examined the roles that foundations play in support of the non-profit sector and suggested that there are lessons for China in the experiences of Southeast Asia and Latin America. A survey by the Synergos Institute analyzed the origin of certain foundations, the size of their full-time staff, their sources for funding, and their programmatic focus. The survey also reviewed the significant role played in the channeling of financial resources to the non-profit sector, which in turn, helped release new energy, employ new skills, and promote service on behalf of greater community well being.

Meanwhile, L. David Brown and Archana Kalegaonkar, scholars at the Institute for Development Research in the United States, spoke about the framework they developed for identifying the challenges that face civil society organizations, particularly non-governmental organizations that are focused on development. They described the “support organizations” that
are emerging to deal with those challenges and identified four issues that can threaten the effectiveness of civil society when promoting sustainable development. The four issues are restricted focus, amateurism, material scarcity, and sector fragmentation. To resolve these problems, Brown and Kalegaonkar suggested that civil society seek out independent, values-based organizations that can provide technical services, including training, research, information, advocacy and networking on behalf of capacity building for NPOs and a civil society generally.

Networks are one way for NPOs to join together in an effort to enhance their individual capacities. Maria Aurora Francisco Tolentino, executive director of the Ayala Foundation, Inc., drew on her experience with the highly networked non-profit sector in the Philippines. She suggested that networks offer structure and mechanisms whereby issues of common interest are discussed and joint efforts for development can be undertaken. Networks also provide an opportunity for NPOs to learn from one another and to work together creatively in specific areas, for example, with government, to ensure that mechanisms for transparency and accountability are put in place. Networks also provide an opportunity for the non-profit sector to conduct effective advocacy with both the public and the state.

Taxation and tax exemptions are vital if NPOs are going to grow, let alone survive. An example, again from the Philippines, illustrates how government can empower a private-sector NPO with authority to evaluate applications within the sector for institutional donee status. According to Victoria Garchitorena, president of the Ayala Foundation, the Philippine Council for NGO Certification has established systems, procedures, forms,
and criteria for the purpose of determining tax exemption. The experiment is, in fact, a push for self-governance and self-regulation within the NPO sector.

The rapid progress of information and communication technologies also provides NPOs with a unique opportunity for expansion. Meanwhile, globalization and more social openness are occurring in tandem with the leaps and bounds of the information age. Shin Hie Soo, co-representative of the Korea Women's Associations United, explored ways of using these technologies to strengthen the NPO sector and, in turn, to promote a globally networked society that can benefit all peoples.

While the Chinese NPOs are in their early stages of capacity building, their experiences still attracted a lot of attention. A number of scholars and NPO leaders provided results of their research as those results related to Chinese NPO capacity building and activities. The pictures they were able to draw were quite plain, on the one hand, but very promising, on the other. Some of the outstanding examples are as follows:

- The Chinese Society of Environmental Sciences (CSEC) has been relatively active since its formation in 1989, according to Huang Changxiong, senior engineer with the Chinese Association of Environmental Science. But since China began its shift from a planned to a market-based economy, CSEC has groped along in the process of capacity building. At one time, it relied on the state for funding, but a short time ago, a new government policy declared that state funding for non-enterprise units and social organizations engaged in science would begin
tapering off. Consequently, the CSEC had to begin to find new ways to pay for its operation as well as to survive. So far, fundraising, novel ways to create income and fee collections have been tried -- and the results are positive. Although the CSEC still is affiliated administratively and regulated by the National Bureau of Environmental Protection, it is gaining financial independence and is able to conduct more autonomous activities than ever before.

- The China Family Planning Association (CFPA) is a big national organization that is affiliated with the State Family Planning Commission. According to Li Baozhong, the Association's secretary general, the organization is keenly aware that it must address a variety of management and organizational issues in the context of a rapidly changing China. So far, solutions include building the Management Information System and establishing facilities that are designed to strengthen research and resource development functions. Also underway are plans for a national intranet to improve internal exchange and promote professional development via distance learning.

- The Chinese Environmental Protection Foundation is another example of an agency swept up by China's transition from a planned economy to a market-based economy. According to Zhou Zhizhong, the Foundation's deputy secretary general, the
organization, which is affiliated with the State Bureau of Environmental Protection, can survive and also build its capacity in this new context. That is because it is treated as a social group under Chinese regulations. Still, the government does not give it any monies for its budget, and it is solely responsible its own support. This means it has to raise funds. But in the process, it also has put in place systems and disciplines that promote value-oriented efficiency on the part of its small staff.

- The Charity Foundation of Shanghai is exploring an incremental method for securing social funding for public welfare projects. According to Ma Zhongqi, the Foundation's deputy secretary general, low interest rates is one of the funding risks the Foundation faces when it has to rely on bank savings for incremental charity funds. Instead, Ma suggested that part of these funds be used to purchase treasury bonds or equity shares. The key, he added, is that the money has to be managed in a way that ensures that investments are made safely and effectively. The money also has to remain accessible. A justified fund capital structure and other related facilities would let funds enter the capital market.

- The Chinese Women Federation (CWF) is a kind of NGO and as such, has developed novel approaches to dealing with the effects on women of China's transition to a market-based economy, according to Liu Bohong, the National Institute of
Women director. The Federation is affiliated directly with the Communist Party and hence the state. Its membership is large, and its organization relies on its ability to network across the whole of China. To meet its needs for greater capacity building, the CWF is endeavoring to overcome its traditional ideological bias by recruiting more young, educated and professional women. It has set up service and entertainment centers as well as clubs for women and children. It has established the Chinese Women College and other educational and training facilities with the objective of enhancing Chinese women’s ability to participate in development projects and moreover in political activities.

The successes are considerable. But the weaknesses and the disadvantages that Chinese NPOs are having to work under also are considerable. Both Chinese and a number of the international participants offered their thoughtful concerns in this regard. Following is a selection of their comments:

- In China's non-profit sector, there is no structure or means for distinguishing NPOs from one another. It is true that there are fewer kinds of NPOs in China than elsewhere and, indeed, in some areas, there are no NPOs even in an acting capacity. Most of the existing NPOs are affiliated with government agencies and, as a consequence, their autonomy, activities and functions are limited and in some cases, extensively controlled. Moreover, some are subjected to administrative demands on the part of the
government. This means that competition among NPOs is severely restricted, if not outright prevented. Also, some government-organized NPOs enjoy monopoly status in certain areas. Consequently, it is necessary to create a wider variety of NPOs that engage in a diverse number of fields.

According to Mr. Young, *China Development Brief* editor, a structure that distinguishes specialized NPOs from one another should satisfy the demands for development that focuses on people and at the same time remains compatible with the workings of a market economy. Likewise, competition between NPOs should be encouraged.

- Missing is a system that can provide for financial support on behalf of NPOs. Under the traditional planned system, the state controlled virtually all resources. Today, NPOs that used to be dependent on the state for funding, are having to wean themselves by finding new sources of revenues. But the NPOs that suffer the most tend to be those that already are more or less independent. A pressing need, therefore, is the setting up of a system that can promote and coordinate foundations, donations, international aid, fundraising, private donations and other elements that could help free NPOs from any financial dependency on the government and at the same time, sustain their activities.
There is a lack of adequate mechanisms for Chinese NPOs to govern, manage, and supervise themselves. Because there are no traditions and organizing techniques ready for Chinese NPOs to use, many NPO leaders do not know how to run an NPO, particularly under new circumstances associated with a market system. Most of them are former or still officials of the government and are mostly familiar with the government's administrative methods. As ordinary Chinese citizens, they have neither the experience nor the knowledge about how to organize and manage a new type of organization like an NPO. Furthermore, if Chinese NPOs comprised an independent sector in China’s society, some mechanisms of self-regulation and self-supervision would have to be constructed in order to enable NPOs to have their own standards for accountability and transparency and to win the trust of the government and of the public, too.

A big problem for virtually every Chinese NPO is insufficient human resources. There is not enough staff to dedicate to the NPO cause, nor is a stream of educated practitioners available who are experienced and of high enough quality. A pool of educated and competent people is needed if China is going to succeed at setting up a satisfactory NPO sector. Now, most qualified persons remain inside the government or with its affiliated institutions. To attract these people, NPOs must be able to offer economic security, status and enhancements to their
professional reputation. In addition, there is an urgent need for basic professional training for those who are engaged in the activities of NPOs or of potential NPOs.

In addition to the efforts of the NPOs themselves, international support and collaboration is also important to building the capacity of Chinese NPOs.

5. To what extent is there international support and cooperation in the non-profit sector?

The emergence of NPOs is a global phenomenon. Even though they are based in one country or another, a number of NPOs carry on with activities that are international in scope and that cross national boundaries. As a result, the international relationship that is springing up among NPOs and their respective networks is one of the essential characteristics of NPOs today. This exchange, mutual support and ability to act jointly within a global non-profit context, by extension, makes NPOs that much more powerful and influential than if each operated on its own.

More importantly, the global non-profit sector is getting increasingly stronger and stronger support from national governments, public organizations and the corporate sector as a result.

Dr. Baron, executive vice president, The Asia Foundation, provided an overview of the international funding resources that are available for Asia-oriented NPOs and non-profit community organizations that are interested in development activities. He reviewed the programs and policies of major bilateral development assistance agencies, major U.S. foundations
and the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium. His analysis of the advantages and achievements of NPOs proved to be convincing arguments on behalf of increased support for NPOs from international donors.

Likewise, international donors can be especially helpful to development agencies of national governments and multilateral international organizations that are interested in improving the non-profit sector's fiscal and regulatory framework. They also can help provide training and technical assistance to increase the effectiveness of NGO strategic planning, management, financial accounting, and fundraising capabilities. They can promote research that involves many aspects of the NPO sector’s organization, management, governance, financing and impact as well as provide support for establishing national databases and information clearinghouses. They likewise can help enhance public interest in and awareness of the NPO role and contribution.

The World Bank is another international organization that is pioneering in its collaboration with NGOs in development activities. Two researchers from the World Bank described the relationship between the Bank and NGOs. John Clark indicated that the World Bank's interest in the work of non-profit organizations has grown increasingly over the last decade. The Bank believes that NGOs can be helpful in reaching the Bank's goals as well as their own, he said. Indeed, the involvement of NGOs in the Bank’s activities has increased rapidly during the 1990s, he added. Accordingly, the Bank credits the NGO efforts with a share in the Bank's successes, particularly in those instances where providing opportunities for the participation of the poor and marginalized is involved.
To promote NGOs involvement in development and capacity building, the World Bank also advocates that its members adopt a more positive attitude toward NGOs, to the extent that they can provide a more nurturing environment for NGOs. Also, the Bank has initiated various studies of national NGO sectors in an effort to examine and then help resolve major problems that arise in the development of NGO sectors. After examining a number of factors that can determine whether an NPO is successful, Michael Edwards, a senior civil society specialist at the World Bank, pointed out that NPOs in collaboration with their donors, should stress innovation rather than actual delivery of projects and services. They also should develop more balanced systems of accountability rather than donor-dominated accountability.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is another important international agency that collaborates with NGOs in development activities, particularly in the Pacific Rim region. Gordon Wilkinson, senior social development specialist and NGO coordinator for the ADB, discussed this ongoing cooperation with NGOs. While the ADB has looked favorably on cooperating with NGOs ever since 1987, it is in the last decade that the Bank began developing actual strategies, policies, and approaches for cooperation. The objective of this cooperation is to integrate NGO experience, knowledge, and expertise into ADB operations and therefore to more effectively reach ADB goals for development.

In certain countries, ADB's cooperation with NGOs is a dynamic process that also involves governments, according to Wilkinson. This means the ADB works hard to foster a sort of tripartite relationship. At the
same time, the ADB gives NGOs strong support in their institutional development and their own capacity building.

International cooperation as it applies to China and NPOs also was addressed. Yuan Hanping, director of the Center of International Cooperation Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, described an international exchange that related to NPOs and China's sustainable development in the area of agriculture. She explained the achievements of a variety of Chinese government NPOs in collaboration with foreign NPOs and official development agencies and in the process suggested that China's sustainable agricultural objectives could be promoted extensively by involving domestic and international NPOs.

Aileen Pablo-Brviera, executive director of the Philippine-China Development Resource Center, drew on experiences of NPOs in the Philippines to discuss this issue of cooperation and partnership between Chinese NPOs and NPOs from developing countries. This cooperation is particularly meaningful because both the Philippines and China are developing Asian countries, she said. Their cooperation works because of their dialogue about development, study visits, conferences and training. This South-South cooperation also has provided benefits for the people in both countries. However, a serious problem could lie ahead because there is no institutionalized framework for the cooperation currently in place.

Critical for international exchange and cooperation with China is adapting to and becoming compatible with the conditions in China. Failure to pay adequate attention to China's unique context in this regard most certainly will result in barriers, if not failure on the part of foreigners who are interested in engaging in NPO activities in China. Cultural
differences can make a great deal of difference. But if there is a satisfactory effort to deal with these differences, the opportunity for cooperation is significant. Huang Haoming, secretary general for the Chinese Association of Promoting Cooperation of International Civilian Organizations, examined this issue and then offered a number of suggestions.

However, it was Professor Zhao, of Tsinghua University's NGO Research Center, who suggested three fundamental factors. First, he pointed out that the Communist Party through the state mechanism, plays a leading role in almost every arena of Chinese society. Since the 1970s, the Party has begun to adopt positive policies that are oriented to development and market reforms as well to establishing the rule of law. Although limitations remain, this means greater room and more promise for NPOs to develop.

Second, major change has been underway during the past two decades. As a result, China's transition to a market economy has pushed forward steadily, with one of the consequences being a greater demand for NPOs. Another consequence has been more resources for NPOs. In fact, the setting up of the non-profit sector should be regarded as one of the essential parts of China's overall reform. The opening up of China to the outside world enables Chinese NPOs to receive information, funding, knowledge about techniques and other resources from international supporters.

Third, China remains a developing country with a large poverty-level population and increasing deterioration of its natural environment. Clearly, great progress has been made with the economy and with social welfare. But to turn China into a developed country still requires a great
deal of effort and represents the most arduous of tasks for any kind of organization.

It is imperative that these three factors be kept in mind by all those who wish to promote the NPO cause in China.

**Conclusion: The Significance of the First International Conference on Non-Profit Sector and Development**

The number of positive outcomes during the course of three days of intense discussion means that the First International Conference on the Non-profit Sector and Development in Beijing, China is of profound significance. Wang Ming, director of Tsinghua University's NGO Research Center of the 21st Century Development Research Academy, echoed the sentiment during his summing up at the closing plenary session. The Beijing NPO Conference represented the first joint effort on the part of Chinese and international scholars and practitioners to promote the NPO movement in a focus on China. Its success is sure to influence the future development of NPOs in China and internationally as well.

One of the more important outcomes was an understanding that relevant knowledge about Chinese society is important if rejection and frustration are to be avoided and encouragement and support are to be received appropriately. One direction that was identified as correct for China is linking the NPO movement with socio-economic development and environmental protection. Here, there is a huge potential, particularly when promoting people-centered sustainable development. Most NPOs around the world see their mission as being dedicated to development.
At the same time, the non-profit sector around the world has many varieties and colors. Indeed, some of their features, their values, manners and characteristics would suffice as adequate, legitimate and tolerable in other societies -- but probably not in China. China has its own unique national conditions -- and the Chinese non-profit sector can survive and grow only if it meets certain specific requirements.

That means NPOs in China must stress certain features at the expense of others if they are to suit Chinese society. The point is that China's non-profit center is distinctly Chinese, but it also can adhere to certain common principles that are embraced by the non-profit world globally. Consequently, an orientation to development should be one of the sector's most essential characteristics. If every effort is made to adhere to this, the non-profit sector has a bright future in China.

The conference also helped establish a good model for future dialogue and partnership in the non-profit sector, among academics and with government officials as well. As mentioned previously, the meeting's success is due to the combined effort of Chinese government officials, scholars, leaders of NPOs that are both government and citizen organized, and representatives of international organizations. Participants who represented other parts of Chinese society and the international community also sat down with us and exchanged ideas freely.

This helped dispel some of the doubts and fears that had existed among representatives from various social segments and in the process, promoted mutual understanding among those who were present. As a result, China's non-profit sector should feel quite positive about
establishing an equal partnership with the government and the business sector, but especially with government.

Clearly, there is no hope for NPOs that prefer alienation from government or who are anti-government in a country like China -- certainly not in the foreseeable future. Instead, introducing the non-profit sector in China should be regarded as something that is purely beneficial to the welfare of people and to social harmony, not confrontation, conflict and upset. And so the style of dialogue that prevailed during this conference established a helpful and instructive foundation for further development of a co-equal and tripartite relationship between China's non-profit sector, the government and the business sector.

Throughout the entire conference, the enthusiastic support of the international NPOs for the Chinese non-profit sector was quite apparent to all who shared China's interest in the subject. Leaders of NPOs, government officials and academics all made friends and, in the process, established contact with their international colleagues. As a result, Chinese participants come away with a broader vision of the outside world. They know more about how to get information and resources from those in the international community who want to support their work to build up China’s non-profit sector.

NPO leaders in China now have more opportunity to try for funding, advice on governance and strategy making, training and education from their foreign counterparts. They even can attempt joint projects. Meanwhile, Chinese government officials also can draw on the experience of other countries and international organizations when it comes to making laws and writing regulations. Likewise, Chinese scholars
have greater opportunity to get better educated and to conduct research into NPOs in collaboration with their foreign counterparts and with relevant institutions.

International participants, too, learned firsthand about the realities that are in place in contemporary China and the circumstances that are determining the future of the still nascent non-profit sector. Clearly, people who come from other countries and who represent various organizations can have different values, visions and cultural backgrounds. And unless they understand that China, too, has its own national condition, many who intend great gestures of good will and who would like to improve China's chances for happiness and social progress, will be disappointed. Their gestures will be rejected and create the opposite to their intentions if they do not tailor their intentions to today's realities.

These things were made clear to foreign participants -- including the state of affairs as it applies to the legal system, the regulatory framework, a structure of both private and government-created non-profits, the sectors financial resources, and especially the attitude and desires of various circles of people within Chinese society. Indeed, the conference enabled foreign people and their organizations to understand with greater certainty how they best can contribute to China's non-profit sector by helping to improve the legal system and the rule of law; by choosing the best Chinese collaborators; by conducting development activities; training personnel; and conducting research. To achieve success in China’s non-profit sector and civil society, idealism and kind motives are necessary but also the requisite understanding about feasibility and effective activities.
All in all, the Beijing NPO Conference represented a milestone for the development of China's non-profit sector in the midst of overall reforms. Clearly, difficulties and obstacles lie ahead. Fortunately, the ground has been broken and a path is clear. There is every promise that the non-profit sector and thus civil society will be a part of China's future.

Appendix

List of Participants and Presentations

**Barnett F. Baron**, Executive Vice President, The Asia Foundation, United States
*International Donor Support for the Non-profit Sector in Asia*

David L. Brown and Archana Kalegaonkar, Institute for Development Research, United States
*Civil Society Support Organizations and Sector Challenges*

Cai Shou-Qiu, Professor, Wuhan University, China
*Non-Governmental Associations of Environmental Protection in China*

Darwin Chen, Chief Executive, The Community Chest of Hong Kong, China
*Hong Kong NPOs in Transition -- Meeting Social Expectations*

Chen Taiyong, Pu Jiabi, and Robert K. Pelant, Heifer Project International/China Office, China
*Heifer Project in China's Rural Development*

Chen Guangyao, Deputy Director-General, Bureau of NGO Administration, Ministry of Civil Affairs, China
*The Current Situation and the Development of Chinese Civilian Organizations*

Allen C. Choate, Director for China Programs, The Asia Foundation, United States
*Plenary Speech*

Ciu Yu, China Association of Science Foundations, China
*On the Mission of Amity Foundation*

John D. Clark, Principal Social Development Specialist, the World Bank
*The Role of NPOs in Development: the Experience of the World Bank*

Ding Yuanzhu, Professor, Institute of Social Development, State Development Planning Commission, China
Volunteerism in China

Michael Edwards, Senior Civil Society Specialist, The World Bank

The Role of NPOs in Social-Economic Development: An Overview and Some Unanswered Questions

Michael B. Frolic, Professor, York University, Canada and Lynne Elizabeth Russell, Toronto University, Canada

NGOs, Reform and Transition in a Comparative Perspective

Victoria P. Garchitorena, President, Ayala Foundation, Philippines

The Philippine Council for NGO Certification: Empowering the Non-Profit Sector

Peter F. Geithner, Advisor, Asia Center, Harvard University, United States

Summary Speech

Gong Ke, Vice President, Tsinghua University, China

Plenary Speech

Hu Shoujun, Professor, Division of Social Development, Fudan University, China

NPOs and Chinese Social Transition

Huang Changxiong, Senior Engineer, Chinese Association of Environmental Science, China

The Reform and Development of Non-Governmental Scientific Organizations in Chinese Market Economy

Huang Haoming, Secretary General, Chinese Association for Promoting Cooperation Among International Civil Organizations, China

Cooperation with International NGOs and Cultural Differences

Hur Sang Soo, Adjunct Professor, Institute of Human Rights and Peace, SungkongHoe University, Republic of Korea

Changing Roles of NPO Sectors in Information Society: Korean Experiences

Leon E. Irish, Senior Legal Consultant, NGO Unit, the World Bank and Karla W. Simon, Professor of Law, Catholic University of America, United States

Economic Growth, Transition, Reform in China: The Role of a Legal and Regulatory Enabling Environment for NPOs

Li Baozhong, Secretary General, Chinese Family Planning Association, China

The Capacity building of China Family Planning Association

Jiang Xiaoke, President, Beijing Environmental Protection Foundation, China
Give Full Play to Non-Government Environmental Organizations for Promotion of Public Participation and Sustainable Development

Liang Congjie, President, Friends of Nature, China
*Chinese NGOs: The Important Resource of Environmental Protection*

Liao Xiaoyi, President, Global Village of Beijing, China
*Viewing the International Activities of Chinese Environmental NGOs from the development of the Beijing Global Village*

Liu Bohong, Director, National Institute of Women, China
*Studies Development of Women's NGOs in China*

Liu Huaping, The Institution of Diplomatism, China
*NPOs and Nuclear Disarmament*

Myles McGregor-Lowndes, Associate Professor, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
*NPOs and Reform and Transition in a Comparative Perspective: Chinese and International Experiences and Views*

Mark Lyons, Associate Professor, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia
*Structural Challenges to Building NPO Capacity*

Ma Zhongqi, Deputy Secretary-General, Charity Foundation of Shanghai, China
*No Time to Delay to Keep and Increase the Value of Social Charity and Commonweal Foundation*

Kathleen D. McCarthy, Director, Center for the Study of Philanthropy, City University of New York, United States
*The International Dimension of the Non-Profit Sector: Chinese and International Experiences and Views*

Miao Xia, Vice President, China Population Welfare Foundation, China
*The Happiness Program: Action to Help Impoverished Mothers*

Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General, CIVICUS, United States
*Building Global Civil Society: Reflections on a Movement and Discussion of the Role and Contribution of CIVICUS*

Mieko Okamuro, Junior Program Officer, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
*Development of Chinese Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations: One of the Accomplishments in Economic Reform*

Michael O'Neill, Professor, University of San Francisco, United States
International Trends in Non-profit Management Education

Kenji Otsuka, Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan
People’s Awareness and Participation: The Social Bases of Environmental NGO/NPOs in Japan and China

Aileen San Pablo-Baviera, Executive Director, Philippine-China Development Resource Center, Philippines
Prospects for Cooperation between Chinese NPOs and Asian NPOs: The Philippine Experience

Park Won Soon, Secretary General, Peoples Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Republic of Korea
The Limits of Legal Infrastructure Surrounding Korean NPOs

Qiu Zhonghui, Deputy Secretary General, Amity Foundation, China
Amity—An Active Role in Rural Poverty Reduction

Lester D. Salamon, Director, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, United States
Toward Civil Society: the Global Associational Revolution and the New Era in Public Problem-solving

Shang Yusheng, Secretary General, Chinese Association of Science Foundations, China
Some Ideas on "The Managing Methods" and the Development of Chinese Foundations

Mark Sidel, Professor, University of Iowa, College of Law and Doberman Center for Advanced Studies, United States
NPOs and Reform and Transition in a Comparative Perspective: The Cases of Vietnam and Cuba

Thomas Silk, President, Silk, Adler& Colvin, United States
Philanthropy and Law in Asia: Summary and Further Reflections

Soo Shin Hie, Co-Representative, Korea Women's Associations United, Republic of Korea
The Role of Women's NGOs for the Advancement of Women in Korea and in the World

Maria Aurora Francisco Tolentino, Executive Director, Ayala Foundation, Philippines
NPOs and Socio-Economic Development in Comparative Perspective--The Philippine and Asian Countries

Yoshiko Wakayama, Program Director, Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan
Building NGO Capacity: Some Examples of Activities Supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation
Wang Ming, Director, NGO Research Center of the 21st Century Development Research Academy, Tsinghua University, China
Plenary Speech

Gordon Wilkinson, Senior Social Development Specialist/NGO Coordinator, Asian Development Bank
*Cooperation between the Asian Development Bank and Non-government Organizations*

David Winder, Director of Programs, The Synergos Institute, United States
*The Roles Played by Foundations in Support of Non-Profit Organizations and Socio-Economic Development: Lessons for China from Southeast Asia and Latin America*

Erna Witoelar, Executive Director, Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, Indonesia
*The Role of Non-profit Organizations in Meeting Human Needs*

Xue Lan, Vice President, 21st Century Development Research Academy, Tsinghua University, China
Plenary Speech

Yan Mingfu, President, China Charities Federation, China
Plenary Speech

Yang Kee-Ho, Dean, Academic Affairs, SungkongHoe University, Republic of Korea
*A Comparative Study of CIVIS Groups in Korea and Japan*

Yang Tuan, Associate Professor, Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China
*Community Social Security and NPOs*

Nick Young, Editor, China Development Brief, China
*Innovation, Flexibility and Diversity: the Potential and Constraints upon Chinese Non-Profit Organizations Working in Social Welfare*

Yuan Hanping, Director, Center of International Cooperation Service, Ministry of Agriculture, China
*International Activities of Non-profit Sector Related to Agricultural Development in China*

Zhao Liqing, Chief Researcher, NGO Research Center, Tsinghua University, China
*The Building of China’s Non-profit Sector and Sustainable Development*

Zhou Zhizhong, Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Environmental Protection Foundation, China
*Moving Along the Road of Development in the Self-restricted and Self-perfect Way*
Zhu Chuanyi, Professor, Institute of American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

The Role of the Non-Profit Sector and Its Development in China