

October 27, 2006

Respected Organizing Committee of “Gender Equality for State and Local Governments” Workshop

Overview of Process in Beijing:

According to the requirements of the meeting organizer, we invited Ms Zou Xiaoqiao, member of Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to China, and representatives from National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council (organ of China’s national government), All-China Women’s Federation (non-governmental organization), Women Study Institute, and International Exchanges and Cooperation Center (public institution) to have a serious discussion on eleven areas from self-assessment framework, the outcome of the meeting as follows:

Part A Self-assessment

1. Gender Sensitivity/Awareness

Marked 4; we gathered gender disaggregated data and educate the municipal administration on gender disparities in our community. We provide irregular training on gender issues according to our financial resources.

2. Participation in Electoral Politics

Marked 3+; Our State Council has promulgated the “program for the Development of Chinese Women ” and “PRC Law on Protection of Women’s Rights”. At present, women have taken up 20.2% of the seats of the National People’s Congress; the rate in some provinces has reached 30%.

3. Employment and Appointments by Local Government

Marked 3-; Our local government has recognized the importance of gender equality, we have women represented at some levels in local government and promote to give women priority in promotions when men and women have same qualifications. This, however, still need more efforts to be put into practice.

4. Collaboration, Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations & Institutions of Higher Education

Marked 4; There are 22 Gender Research and Training Centers in China, for example, in Xiamen University and Fudan University.

5. Establishment of a Gender Policy

Marked 4; Our government have constituted the “program for the Development of Chinese Women ” and “PRC Law on Protection of Women’s Rights”, and the local government have their own women development program accordingly, but the implementation effect is different among the regions.

6. Provide Mentoring for Women Leaders

Marked 3+; we provide irregular training to women leaders.

7. Gender Budgeting

Marked 3+; All-China Women's Federation and Women Study Institute raised fund to provide capacity building training courses on gender mainstreaming.

8. Economic Inclusion

Marked 3+; we monitor, enforce existing labor laws, equal opportunity policies and advocate gender equality.

9. Provide Gender Sensitive Services **Marked 4**

10. Access to Equitable Education

Marked 4; our government practices nine-year free compulsory education and support poor young women in their higher education.

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

Marked 3+; we gathered and evaluated data to develop methods of improvement.

Part B Three areas from self-assessment framework that community would like to improve:

1. Participation in Electoral Politics (Domain 2)

2. Employment and Appointments by Local Government (Domain 3)

3. Gender Budgeting (Domain 7)

Part C Three areas community can share its experience:

1. Collaboration, Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations & Institutions of Higher Education (Domain 4)
2. Gender Sensitive Services (Domain 9)
3. Access to Equitable Education (Domain 10)

Part D List of Participants:

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