

SM 151116



Karl Schlecht
Stiftung



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CCT- at a glance

- qualitative ? – innovative ? – prepared ? – flexible ? – competent ? – value conscious ? -

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Stand 150122stk

China Center Tübingen (CCT)

Institute of Tübingen University

CCT - in its earlier Version CIT - has been initiated by Karl Schlecht in 2012 parallel to his idea to start World Ethics Institute Beijing (WEIB) at Beijing University. During its starting period, CCT is fully sponsored by the Karl Schlecht Foundation KSG. Later on, it should become attractive to further sponsors for realizing its challenging expansion plans.



Role of CCT (earlier CIT)

The astounding economic rise of China is associated with the establishment of an extensive international network and integration of the country – especially with Germany. In this process there is a growing need for us to deal with the moral concepts, which characterize contemporary China since information deficits and distorted views of the other still prevail and they can negatively affect the collaboration between both countries. Against the background of the globalization driven „global village“ we are to create the conditions for better dialogue and sympathetic coexistence of civilizations. This mutual responsibility demands the building of trust in each other.

China today is in a stage of identity formation in which it is reviving its traditional values Confucian thought which dominated China for thousands of years plays a key role – together with many other philosophical traditions. An important research topic is the question to what extent these values can explain the re-emergence of China as a world power. In the confrontation with the values of China the general public in Germany can not only be informed about them, but may find matching counterparts in its own cultural heritage and evoke them. The fact that Confucian thought has been an important source of enlightenment thinking has to be brought to the attention.

MISSION: Research, Teaching and Knowledge Transfer

The China Center Tübingen (CCT) operates at the junction of science, business and the general public. It is **primarily** a center for research on values, ethical standards and current intellectual trends in China. Here China includes not only mainland China, but also Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Chinese diaspora - that is „Cultural China“. CCT is to be the central hub for trans-disciplinary knowledge transfer within the university and beyond. It is a part of an international network starting with the World Ethos Institute Beijing (WEIB) at Peking University, and research facilities at Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Tongji University and Zhejiang University in China and strategic partners of the University of



Tübingen of National University of Singapore and the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. The results of this research will be published in conferences and publications by its group of researchers, but they are not only meant for academic specialists but are intended to have an effect on business elites as well.

The **second task** of CCT is to serve as an **information platform** for the general public to obtain knowledge about current China. For instance we plan to invite outstanding entrepreneurs, scientists, artists and other professionals from China to give lectures in which they present their own experiences and ideas of business ethics, sustainability, global responsibility and humanity through the example of their work.

The **third task** of CCT is to offer **cultural competence** consulting for companies in Germany as a form of application of its research. With this it can supplement the first class research on China which traditionally exists at the University of Tübingen. This will include in-house seminars, leadership courses and specific manuals. Also, the research findings, which were obtained from the analysis of cultural factors in the failure of economic cooperation with China, will be used in order to identify potential points of conflict in collaboration with Chinese partners and find ways to avoid them.

Developments

In June 2014 an Assistant Professor Position for "**Chinese Studies with a Special Focus on Ethics in Business**" was created at Tübingen University. Dr. Matthias Niedenführ of Beijing was appointed to fill this position. In his research he collaborates with Professor TU Weiming, a leading scientist at Peking University and former director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute as well as with Professor Klaus M. Leisinger, head of the Global Values Alliance and internationally renowned expert and consultant on sustainable development and ethics in business.



In autumn 2015 the plans of creating a China center were expanded with the plan of eventually including the Erich-Paulun-Institute, a platform for the advancement of understanding between China and Germany especially for students at schools and university which was initiated by Prof. em. Dr. Dr. h.c. Paul Gerhardt (Technical University of Munich) and the Sino-German Business Association (DCW) created in 2013.

The China Center Tübingen (CCT) is now envisioned as an even broader research and communication platform. The former head of the Herzog-August-Library Wolfenbüttel and renowned China-scholar Prof. Dr. Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer was won to become the director of the center with Prof. Niedenführ as vice-director. Prof. Schmidt-Glintzer will also take over the role of president of the Erich-Paulun-Institute, which will retain its brand identity within CCT.

In late April 2016, the center will be inaugurated in Germany. A China-related Lecture Series ("Ringvorlesung") for students of all disciplines and the broader public spanning the summer term will be the first project of the center. The home of CCT will be directly adjacent to World-Ethic Institute in Tübingen (WEIT), and the Erich Fromm Institute Tübingen (EFIT). Synergies between the three KSG-funded organizations can be developed.



CCT – Founder-Team –from right Prof Dr. Sievert, Prof. Dr. Schmidt-Glintzer 3.; Prof Dr Assmann 4. und von links die Profs. Mittag (2); Gerhardt (3); Niedenführ (4) und K. Schlecht in middle.