

**ANNEX 4**

**Linkage with country strategy**

**EU-CHINA 2000 SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME**

## **Linkage with country strategy**

Linkage of the programme with country strategy is already mentioned in the financial proposal, in particular

- The programme aims to contribute to improve mutual understanding and better knowledge as a condition to enhance economic co-operation as stated in the New Strategy for Asia of July 1994.
- Co-operation in training and human resources is one of the priorities enhance in the most recent document on EU-China relations "Building a comprehensive partnership with China", June 1998.
- The aim of the EU-China partnership is summarised as follows: to support the country's sustainable economic growth and development, to integrate China further in the international community. The document states that scientific and technological co-operation is one of the cornerstones to support China's economic development and to strengthen European position on the Chinese market.
- The programme is a natural complement to the existing programmes EU-China in the field of training. While existing programmes reach particular groups of people in particular fields (higher education programme: EU Studies, vocational training: industry related training, basic education, public administration programme, Chinese officials, Junior Management. . . ) present programme is aiming at reaching large groups of academics, scientists, engineers, managers and student in a large range of fields.
- The programme arrives at an appropriate moment when Chinese authorities wish to enhance international co-operation in university relations.
- The programme has been particularly welcomed in China within public and academic circles as corresponding to Chinese own politics.
- For Europe the programme represents an opportunity to contribute to balance the privileged relations and orientations that China maintains with Japan and the US in the field of university exchanges.

The most appropriate description of the linkage between this programme and the country strategy has been explained by President Santer during his visit to China in November 1998. The quotation is the following:

"Co-operation in these fields of human resources has had a special role since the European Commission's Communication of July 1994, which defined the political strategy for relations between the European Union and Asia.

This policy has put training right at the heart of the EU's economic co-operation. The starting point of any co-operation must be to improve mutual understanding between peoples, particularly the younger generation, their future leaders, their educators, and between different actors in civil society.

Since 1994 the European Union has strengthened this objective. This has happened most recently through our new strategy paper entitled 'towards a global partnership between Europe and China'.

Co-operation on human resources is now one of the top priorities of our relations. There can be no co-operation of a purely economic kind unless we take account of people, of the individuals who make up society.

High-sounding words are not enough, however. The European Commission has been supporting a series of initiatives aiming to facilitate mutual understanding through exchanges between target groups of society.

To give some pertinent examples, you will know of the Junior Managers' Programme, which places European managers on internships with Chinese enterprises, including the pursuit of language training. There is also the Higher Education programme which facilitates the continuous training of academics from European studies centres in China, keeping them in touch with European experts from similar centres in Europe.

We are currently preparing a sequence of new projects to complete the picture. These include co-operation between the China National School for Administration and either European schools of administration or civil services at national or European level. This programme promises to be one of our main contributions to China's domestic reform programme.

Let me speak now of perhaps the most visible and ambitious new project under preparation: a major Scholarship Programme that will enable some 2000 Chinese students to complete their studies or conduct research in Europe. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. This programme will infuse younger generations of Chinese with a first-hand knowledge of Europe's countries, institutions, government, history and culture as an active part of their studies. In so doing, it will go a long way towards creating the mutual understanding on which Europe and China's future relations must be built.

This programme is living proof, too, of Europe's desire to learn from China. The approach we are taking here steps far beyond the mould of traditional cooperation or one-way assistance. It operates on the basis of partnership and mutual benefit, with both sides learning from each other and enriching their own understanding in the process.

The time is ripe for an approach based on equality between China and Europe. You, here at the EU-China Business School, have already become a hard act to follow. I am confident that with the new Scholarship Programme, as well as with other initiatives under way, we will follow your fine example and exceed our highest expectations."