The Development of NGOs in China

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This article presents an analysis of the development of NGOs in China. It is comprised of six sections — the concept of NGOs in China, the history of their development, relevant legislation, current status, existing problems and academic research on NGOs. Chinese NGOs are divided into two broad categories: social associations (shehui tuanti) which have legal status and (2) private non-enterprise organizations (minban feiqiye danwei). The latter do not have legal status but are more analogous to the concept of NGOs widely accepted by the international community. Chinese NGOs can also be distinguished by whether they were established by either a “top-to-bottom” or “bottom-to-top” process. The development of China’s NGOs has gone through three unique stages in modern Chinese history and their current status has been heavily influenced by the China’s rapid economic development since the 1980s. The legal system monitoring the registration and administration of NGOs is evolving. The current system is based on the concept of “dual management” (Shuangchong guanli) that places restrictions on their development. Recent reforms in China have loosened the monopolizing role of the government in providing social services and have created greater operating room for Chinese NGOs. In addition, the dedication of Chinese NGOs to resolving social problems has won them greater acceptance by both the Chinese government and the public. The most active organizations among them often focus on social development. In general, Chinese NGOs are at an early stage of development and are challenged by many organizational problems and financing difficulties. Chinese scholars are devoting themselves to analyzing and evaluating information networks and policy developments in hopes of better understanding and increasing the role of Chinese NGOs. A recently formed research team at the NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University has been applying itself to a large-scale investigation of China’s NGOs since 1999. It is also working on establishing a NGO Evaluation System and educating NGO leaders through a series of short-term training seminars.

Key words: NGOs, Top-to-bottom NGOs, Bottom-to-top NGOs, Dual management system, Reform

1. Definition

This article holds view that NGOs and NPOs are of the same conception. It uses generally accepted of NPO used by CNP Project. CNP is a large-scale international comparative researching project carried out by John Hopkins University.\(^1\) At the first stage of this project, seven essential attributes\(^2\) of NPOs were addressed, including: 1) formal organization; 2) nongovernmental; 3) nonprofit-distributing; 4) self-governing; 5) voluntary; 6) nonpolitical; 7) nonreligious.

Legally speaking, In China, there are two kinds of organizations in accordance with above essential attributes provided by CNP — social organizations (shehui tuanti) and private non-profit organizations (minban feiqiye danwei). Social organizations refer to those NPOs voluntarily formed by citizens, developing activities according to their charter to realize common will of their members (Ministry of Civil Affairs 1999), which generally include guilds, joint associations, chambers of commerce, foundations, academies, research societies, sodalities, etc. Such social organizations carry out member system\(^3\). Up to now, China has 165,000 social organizations of different kinds at all levels (Wu 1999). Private non-profit organizations, mass organizations undertaking non-profit social services, refer to those established by enterprises, non-business units (shiye danwei), individuals and other social forces through using non state-owned property (Ministry of Civil Affairs 1999), mainly include private schools, hospitals, welfare facilities (homes for the aged, apartments for the aged), community service centers, professional training centers, employment agencies, research institutes, culture, arts and sports facilities, etc. Main distinguish between the above two is that the latter

\(^1\) The title of this project is “The Johns Hopkins Comparative Non-profit Sector Project”, directed by Prof. Lester M. Salamon. Since 1990, CNP has worked in more than 40 countries. For detailed information, please read Salamon (1994, 1999).

\(^2\) In CNP’s later work, there are two essential attributes canceled and what usually quoted is the revised one.

\(^3\) Foundations are not only serving for their members’ benefits though they are still belongs to Shehui Tuanti It is a special social organizations.
one has no member system. It is estimated that now there are 700,000 private non-profit organizations in China (Wu 1999).

NGOs with the above essential attributes actually exist in various aspects of China’s economy and society. Following is a table of China’s NGOs’ activity distribution according to results of our questionnaire investigation in Beijing (Table 1).

From above, it can be found that NGOs are active in every aspect of China’s economic and social life. On the bases of the above investigation, main activity fields of national NGOs and local NGOs of Beijing in proper order shall be: guilds, chambers of commerce, academies and alumni association (50%); investigation and research (32.69%); social services (22.12%); international exchange (22.12%); policy consultation (20.19%), poverty alleviation (18.2%) and environmental protection (16.34%).

When looking into China’s NGOs, two kinds of NGOs should be distinguished from each other. One is “from top to bottom” and the other is “from bottom to top”. The former refers to those organized by the government and directly or indirectly get funds and other supports from the government. The government also defines operation scope of such organizations while giving them special support. They gain resources (funds, information, intelligent resources, etc.) in way of “top-bottom”. The later refers to those organized by the non-government forces. It is often the case that they cannot get special support from the government. As a result they are more independent compared with the former ones. As a kind of grass-roots organizations, Bottom-to-Top NGOs are liable to keep close relationship with ordinary citizens because of their loose relationship with the government. They gain their resources (funds, information, volunteers, etc.) in way of bottom-to-top, including ordinary citizens and financing bodies of international NGOs.

2. History

What’s the time of the first emergence of China’s civil organizations? What is their developing process? In my opinion, China is a country with a long history of civilization. Primary form of civil organizations in modern sense can be found throughout such a long history. In Xian Qin Period (China’s history before Qin Dynasty), there were words like “Party (Hui Dang)” and “society”. Forming associations was very popular in common people during the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period. In the Eastern Han Dynasty, there was a new kind of political tong — clique and famous Yellow Turbans Uprising. In Song Dynasty, there were a lot of mutual aiding and charitable associations, such as credit union (He Hui) and friendly society (Shan Hui). At the end of Yuan Dynasty, the Red Turbans Uprising, with White Lotus society as its center, helped Zhu Yuanzhang become founder of Ming Dynasty. After that, all kinds of secret religions, corporations and organizations such as Luo Society, Dacheng Society, Tiandi Society, Gelao brotherhood society, Hong Society and Qing Society, constituted a civil society known from feudal government at that time. As to historical sources and cultural and historical significance of China’s ancient associations in common people as primary form of NGOs will be discussed in other articles in detail.

From the perspective of modern Chinese history, development of China’s NGOs has undergone three stages. The first stage is from 1911 to 1949. Various NGOs emerged in this period since all kinds of social forces fought with each other. At least six types of social organizations existed at that time: 1) Gild, such as guilds, institutions; 2)
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By the late 1940s, the number of intellectual groups increased to 6000 by 1965 (Wu 1999). The Culture Revolution started in 1966. It disrupted China’s democracy and legislation while broke off development of China’s social organizations.

The third stage is from 1978 to now. The Reform has brought great change in almost every aspect of China, such as economy, politics, social life, and culture awareness, which also can be reflected by development of China’s social organizations. In 1980s, social organizations emerged and developed rapidly. According to research of Ying Wang and others experts, social organizations in Xiaoshan, Zhejiang province increased by 24 times in the period of 1978–1990 (Wang et al. 1993:34). The rapid development of China’s social organizations in 1980s can be attributed to the loose social environment created by the economic development and reforms. In 1990s, market economic system was confirmed and the government set “small government, big society” as the reform goal, which provides a larger space for NGOs’ development. In 1990s, the development of China’s NGOs came to a new climax and it is said that there are more than 1800 national social organizations and 165,600 local social organizations in 1998 (Wu 1999). The rapid development of private non-profit organizations is an epoch-making event since the middle of 1990s. With development of market economy, more and more individuals, social forces began to sponsor schools, hospitals, social welfare institutions, research academies, etc. Number of various private non-enterprises units has reached over 700,000 (Wu 1999). Since the legislation framework formed in 1950s cannot meet social organizations’ needs in today’s China, Regulations on Registration and Administration of Social Organizations was adopted in October 1989, which is the second legal document on social organizations since establishment of the People's Republic of China. Measures on Management of Foundations and Interim Rule on Management of Foreign Chambers of Commerce were adopted respectively in August 1988 and June 1989. In October 1998, Interim Regulation on Registration and Administration of Private Non-profit organizations was promulgated while Regulations on Registration and Administration of Social Organizations was amended. In August 1999, the Law on Donation of Public Welfare was also promulgated. The macro-management of China’s NGOs has been on its way of legislation system construction through adoption and implementation of a series of law and regulations.
3. Legislation Framework

Laws and regulations on NGOs in China mainly include the above two regulations, one measure, interim rules and one special law. Two obvious characteristics of these laws and regulations are as following: firstly, issuing different regulations on management of NGOs of different kinds; secondly, strictly controlling and limiting number of NGOs by “dual management system” (which will be discussed later) and its corresponding registration system, as well as strengthening management of NGOs’ routine activities. Some tax-remitted policies of NGOs have been adopted because of public welfare activities carried out by them.

3.1 Dual Management System

Dual management system was affirmed by the regulation adopted in 1989 and then stipulated as a rule by the regulation adopted in 1998. Dual management system refers to a system that two independent departments respectively are in charge of registration and administration of routine activities of social organizations — one is administration of registration, the other is supervisory administration. The new Regulation stipulates that, “The registration and administration department should be the Ministry of Social Affairs and its local department at all levels, which is responsible for registration of social organizations, modification and cancellation, annual examination, supervision of enforcing situation of the new regulation and giving penalty to those violating it.”

According to the regulation, the related departments of State Council, the local government department above county level, institutions authorized by the State Council or the local government above county level can be selected as the supervision departments. Supervision departments are responsible for examination before social organizations’ registration, modification and cancellation, supervising social organizations in order to make them act in accordance with the Constitution, laws and regulations, policies and their charters, first check of annual examination, co-operating with Registration and Administration Department for dealing with the social organizations’ illegal activities, and supervising the social organizations’ clearing accounts together with other departments.

The dual management system strengthens government’s supervision, management and controlling of NGOs and avoids direct conflicts between the government and NGOs through decentralized responsibilities, which makes NGOs in China be demanded by the Government and in accordance with the Government before they get legal registration. Obviously, such kind of management system limits development of China’s NGOs since it is designed with a view to help the Government to control and manage social organizations that is obviously characterized by planned-economy.

3.2 Level-to-Level Management and Non-Competition Principle

Principle of level-to-level management and noncompetitive principle are another two important ones in registration and administration system of NGOs in China.

Principle of level-to-level management is the one that NGOs shall register and be managed by different levels according to scope and level of activities carried out by them. It was firstly advanced in 1950s and further confirmed and perfected by two new regulations promulgated in 1998. The new regulations prescribed that: Administration of registration of nationwide NGOs and NGOs operating in more than two provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the central authority shall be civil administration directly under the State Council; correspondingly, their governing administration shall be central Party and government organizations and organs authorized by the Central Government. Local NGOs shall register in administration of registration under local people’s government of their locus and supervised by local Party and government organizations and organs authorized by local People’s Government of their locus. Local NGOs cross-administrative region shall register in administration of registration of common people’s government at the next higher level of such administrative regions and supervised by their common Party and government organizations and organs authorized by people’s government at the next higher level.

Noncompetitive principle refers to the prohibition of establishing NGOs of similar or same business scope in the same administrative region in order to avoid competition.

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Footnotes:
1. It is called “gua kao dan wei” in the old regulation.
2. Stipulated in the regulations and other related law documents, those authorized to be eligible for Yewu Zhuguan units includes Chinese Academy of Social Science, All-China Women’s Federation, Federation of the Disabled, Federation of Culture and Education, the Writers’ Union, etc, together 20 organizations.
3. See Article 6 and Article 7 of Administrative Regulation on Registration of Social Organization and Article 5 and Article 6 of Interim Administrative Regulation on Registration of Private Non-Profit Organization.
between NGOs. The new regulations prescribed that: With regard to those social organizations and private non-profit organizations going to be registered in “an administrative region where have NGOs of similar or same business scope”, administrations of registration at all levels are entitled to give no permission of their registration while reaching a judgment of “being unnecessary to be established”.

Above two principles are closely associated with traditional administrative system of planned economy, or, in other words, they are duplication of planned economy system in administration of NGOs in China. Along with further development and perfect of China’s market economy, planned economy has vanished gradually and such kind of administrative system derived from it has also been faced with a series of problems. The noncompetitive principle is pinched: on the one hand, it protects existing top-to-bottom NGOs through man induced methods; on the other hand, it sets restriction on establishment of bottom-to-top NGOs which makes legal obstacle and hinder healthy development of NGOs.

3.3 Preferential Policies

Among the law and regulations on NGOs in China, the Law of Donation adopted last year shall be paid great attention, which is the first legal document directly concerning donation activities, tax abatement in China and will promote development of public welfare activities. This law stipulates that donations on social work and public welfare should be encouraged, activities of both donors and receivers should be conformed to standard, legal right of donors and receivers should be protected, so that to improve the development of China’s public welfare. According to Article 24 and Article 27 of this law, those including companies, other business units, individuals and private industry and commerce entities can get the preferential treatment of enterprises income tax and individual income tax when they giving donation to public welfare. Oversea donations can also enjoy the preferential treatment of rebating or exempting import duty and increased duty of import according to this law.

Above three main aspects constitute basic content of China’s current legal system of NGOs. It is learned that Administration of Civil Affairs and other relevant administrations of China’s State Council are working on consul-

4. Activities and Role of NGOs in China

This section will elaborates on two problems: one is main active aspects and characteristics of NGOs, the other is activities carried by NGOs and their role taking example of environmental protection and supporting and development of the poor.

4.1 Main Active Aspect and Role of NGOs

As the product of China’s social transforming period, China’s NGOs form their own Chinese characteristics not only in formation of organization, but also in active aspect. In former planned-economy period, main social resources were entitled as “public-owned” under uniform controlling of the state. Social public welfare activities were under unitive arrangement of the state. The Government and its affiliating organs was the only subject monopolizing and supplying public welfare service. Along with the Reform, especially transformation from unified planned-economy to multi-market economy, the situation of the Government’s monopolizing social and economic resources has been broken out while its monopolizing public welfare resources has also stepped into collapse. The government’s gradually losing monopoly of public welfare resources and exiting some public welfare aspects form important systematic base of development of NGOs since the Reform. However, spirit of mutual helping, charity and popular social responsibility form spiritual background of bottom-to-top NGOs’ endeavoring on resolving social problems. Those earliest NGOs, both top-to-bottom and bottom-to-top, are associated with China’s macroscopical strategy of adjusting of resources allocation when gradually losing monopolizing capability of public welfare as well as social responsibilities of relevant social problems popularly existing in Chinese society.

China’s rapidly increasing population is the first restriction encountered by China since its Reform. As to this
problem, Chinese Government firstly realized limitation of state machine and tried to call for participation of the public and make full use of resources provided by the international society. It is also the earliest social problem been recognized by the public — popular sense of crisis and strong social responsibilities made people paid great attention to resolving population problem. Under such kind of circumstances, a large number of NGOs in population aspect came into being and won their later great development.

Problems of environmental pollution and lacking of natural resources are also important issues faced by China since its Reform. Although Chinese Government has long been endeavoring on such two problems, its practice soon presented its weakness. To the contrary, directing idea of “development takes priority” has brought great pressure on protection of environment. On the one hand, the Chinese Government mobilizes participation of the public while on the other hand, a lot of people concerning with environmental protection voluntarily organize to protect natural resources and harnessing pollution resources. Then, a large group of environmental protection NGOs have emerged in China.

It is the same to resolving a series of other problems, such as poverty, children’s incapability of going to school, disable person, women, and social relief and community development. Disparity between the increasing social demands of public welfare and services provided by the state produces condition of mobilizing public participation and development of public welfare. In addition, keenness, concern, enthusiasm and social responsibilities of active participation of such social problems form great social pressure and spiritual resources to promote development of public welfare in such aspects. Then, the Government support some NGOs to carry out activities through top-to-bottom pattern while a lot of pioneers with devoting spirit develop independent activities by making use of individual influence and international support through bottom-to-top pattern.

It shall be paid special attention that NGOs in China are easy to win understanding and support of the Government and the public due to above special backgrounds. Sometimes, the Government not only gives no restriction on activities of NGOs, but also gives financial support to found some organs of semi-official and semi-private to resolving social problems in some aspects. Moreover, it will actively develop cooperative relationship with existing NGOs in China to promote resolving of some social problems, which is also a cause of China’s having many top-to-bottom NGOs. Beijing Environmental-Protection Bureau’s a series of activities to actively promote public participation is a typical example. In other words, from their beginning, China’s NGOs have established good relationship with Chinese Government, which forms a vivid comparison of long-term conflicts between NGOs and government in Korean, Philippine and Japan.

In the U.S.A., Japan, West Europe and other developed countries, most NGOs are concentrated in health care, medical treatment, education and social service though they are acting in various aspects. Although our investigation is at its preliminary period and thus cannot gain detailed data to reflect whole distribution characteristics of NGOs, China’s NGOs are most active in above aspects relating to development, among which include environmental-protection, supporting the poor, family planning, education support, protection of disable person, welfare of aged people, protection of women benefits, development of community. It can be evidence of above views.

It is certain that China’s NGOs, similar to those in other countries, have characteristics of obvious diversification. Besides those active aspects enumerated above, a lot of NGOs exist in almost every aspect of Chinese society. Their existing itself is an issue worth attention though many a NGOs among them have not attract attention of the public till now and even registered in illegal pattern or imperfect method.

4.2 NGOs and Their Roles Active in Aspects of Environmental-Protection and Supporting the Poor

According to above analysis, NGOs are active in every aspects involving development, especially those having strict social problems, and play a role difficult or unable for neither the Government nor enterprises to undertake, which accelerate development of the whole society. Here, it will take environmental-protection and supporting the poor as examples to illustrate activities and role of NGOs in China.

(1) NGOs in the field of environment protection

Industry Society, China Botany Society, China Natural Resource Society, China Environment Science Society, China Undergraduate Green Camp & Green Forum, Tsinghua University Green Association, Peking University Green Life Association, Beijing Forestry Sano Association, Shanghai Teenagers Environment Association, Legal Aid Center for Casualties of Environment Pollution and so on.

The main activities of these organizations include:

Firstly, dissemination, education and propagation of the environment awareness: many NGOs are engaged in these activities, such as environment protection promoting activities and practicing activities; education activities as giving lectures, training, speech; holding a variety of conferences, symposiums on environment protection. The recent representative activities includes: Earth Day 2000-China sponsored and organized by Global Village and other five NGOs in April, 2000; Tibet Antelope Protection initiated by Friends of Nature; Project Green Hope promoted by China Youth Development Foundation. Many undergraduate association have also play an active role in this aspect.

Secondly, promoting public participation in the environment protection: in many cities in China, especially in Beijing, the capital of China, public participation are encouraged as an important mechanism of the partnership between government and NGOs in environment protection. The Publicity and Education Center of Beijing Environment Protection Bureau is the forerunner in this aspect. They began to research and promote the establishment of public participation mechanism in environment protection in 1997. Now, Green Community Program in Beijing has been the paragon of the collaboration between Government and Chinese NGOs.

Thirdly, imbursement for environment protection: the main involvers are international or foreign NGOs and institutions, related Chinese Foundations that are bound up in natural resources and environment protection. The main activities include providing money, equipments and technologies for environment protection.

Fourthly, projects on natural resource and environment protection: various projects are developed by many NGOs, including biology variety protection, natural zoology maintenance and protection, planting, water purge, control and deal of air pollution, desert prevention, community environment protection, garbage sorting, resource recycle and so on.

Fifthly, research, development and dissemination of environment science and technology in which a lot of societies, research associations are engaged. The foregoing societies and research associations, which have pooled many academic authorities, promote the development of environment science and technology in China by related research, development and application.

Sixthly, production and promotion of green products, which is sponsored by related chambers of commerce and industry associations, including promoting development, production, circulation and consumption of green products.

Seventhly, legal aid for the victims of environment pollution who have attracted attention as weaker group.

Eighthly, international exchange on environment protection in which many environmental NGOs are engaged in order to get related support such as information, imbursement, equipments and technologies from international society, as well as promote international exchanges by attending international conference, training and visiting.

The eight aspects play an unique role in alleviating the environmental crisis in recent years, which can not be replaced by government and enterprises. These contributions to the development of both China and the world must be acclaimed. Ms. Liao Xiaoyi, the director of Global Village and the distinguished representative of NGOs, has gained Sufi Scholarship — the highest honor in the global environment field. There is the following paragraph in the news release by Norway chamber Sufi Foundation:

"At the beginning of New Millennium, the earth faces the unheard-of resource catastrophe and environmental press by the worse and worse pollution and people face the survival crisis. Because China population is 22% of total population of the world and China economy grows at the record-breaking rapid rate, the decision of China on the environment protection will affect greatly on the future of the world. Never underestimate the individual abilities of changing the world." (GVB 2000b)

I believe that the speech is not only to encourage Liao and her Global Village, but also to evaluate and encourage all the China NGOs engaged in the field of environment protection.

(2) NGOs in the field of poverty alleviation

Just like in the field of environment protection, many Chinese NGOs are engaged in the field of poverty alleviation, such as China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, China Association of NGOs Cooperation, China Population Welfare Foundation, China Family Plan Association, China
Sixthly, poverty alleviation by culture, including cooperating with mass media; no benefit performance for poverty alleviation; promoting culture education in rural areas; choosing the Very Best in poverty alleviation by public appraisal. China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation plays an effective role in this aspect.

Seventhly, poverty alleviation by donations, such as money and materials for basic life and production.

However, these are concluded by some typical cases. Not all of NGOs can run effectively in these aspects. We must regain consciousness that NGOs play only a limited role in environment protection and poverty alleviation. Facing worse and worse environment crisis and so many impoverished people, China is in great need of a variety of NGOs that are able to play an effective role by exerting their professional advantages and cooperate with each other. None but the good mechanism for public participation in environment protection, which encourages effective publicity, supervision, control, management and cooperation, and NGOs system in poverty alleviation based on grassroots and professional capacity has been set up, China can control environment pollution and poverty in substance.

5. Challenges

In generally, many difficulties and problems are still challenging China’s NGOs. They suffer from an inherent shortage in the organizational scale and activity ability, especially the seven basic principles that we mentioned above, and simultaneously the essential factors such as legislation framework, social support, culture background and economic base are relatively weak and insufficient. And NGOs don’t have an advantage in getting resources, harmonizing with other organizations, taking use of their energy, etc, which can be expressed in the following four points concretely.

Firstly, the responsibility and right between social organizations and the government are not separable clearly, which nurtured the special relationship and dependent. This is the reason that the government doesn’t play its role utterly and the social organizations are lack of autonomy.

Secondly, not having enough funds for activities is a serious problem challenging China’s NGOs, which is the reason that they can’t develop activities regularly, and also is the reason that some NGOs work for profit.

Thirdly, not having enough capacity is the general weakness of China’s NGOs. The reason is as follows: on one hand, for the top-bottom NGOs, most of their staffs are from the government and their management shares the basic features with the government administration departments inevitably. On the other hand, for the bottom-top NGOs, the organizational structure is immature, and the management is unscientific and patriarchy still takes effect. The barrier
of personnel system stops the mobility of qualified persons between NGOs and the outside, further preventing NGOs’ development.

The fourth one is the defect of legislation system. The law and regulations on NGOs in China don’t give impetus to NGOs’ development although the government is working for establishing regular legislation framework on NGOs’ registration and administration. Because the tone of passed law and regulations on NGOs is for controlling and limiting NGOs, the numerous and trivial procedures of registration will restrict NGOs’ development in a long period of time. Moreover, the conflict and inharmonious factors caused by the different law and regulations and various executives are not to be ignored in the future.

6. Research Work

Main works on NGOs in China are as follows: “Investigation on NGOs in Xiaoshan Zhejiang Province” by Ying Wang and others (one fellow of Chinese Social Science Academy 1990–93); “Investigation on NGOs in Nantong, Jiangsu Province” by Jude Howell (one fellow from UK 1991–93); “Study on the Hope Project” by Xiaoguang Kang (one fellow of Chinese Science Academy 1997–99); “Evaluation Research on Hetong Old People’s Home in Tianjin" and “Evaluation Research on Luoshan Guild in Shanghai” by Tuan Yang (one fellow of Chinese Academy of Social Science 1998–99), volunteer and volunteerism research by Yuanzhu Ding (one fellow of State Plan Commission 1998–2000), Shoumin Mao’s work on environmental NGOs in China (1998–99) and investigation on foreign NGOs in China by Nick Young, the Chief Editor of China Brief.

The following is the main research institutes working on NGOs in Beijing.

1. The NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University. Its work will be introduced in the coming part.

2. The Social Policy Research Center of Chinese Academy of Social Science, directed by Ms. Tuan Yang, mainly works on case study and evaluation, and some important papers have been published based on the evaluation on “Hetong Old People’s Home in Tianjin”, “Luoshan Guild in Shanghai” and some other researches on community problems.

3. Research Committee of Chinese Youth Development Foundation, directed by Xiaoguang Kang, a professor of Chinese Science Academy, mainly works on Hope Project, Civil Society and other related basic theory problems, and a series of books have been published last year. It attracts several scholars from Peking University, China Remin University, School of the Central Committee of the Party, etc. in the way of concurrent post.

Besides these, Social Development and Public Policy Institute was founded on April this year in Beijing Normal University, in which some young researchers graduating abroad work on NGOs and social development.

Please allow me to say something about NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University in the left time. NGO Research Center of Tsinghua University was founded on October 1998 and its brief introduction can be seen in the following. I focus on some projects NGORC did or is doing here.

1. “Investigation and Evaluation on China's NGOs”, started from October 1998, will survey the main NGOs in China and its activities systematically in three years. This project is funded by Ford Foundation and the Japan Foundation. The first year work focuses on NGOs in Beijing and those national NGOs, taking the method of questionnaires and case-investigations. The research achievement of the first year includes three books, “Survey of China’s NGOs — Case-centered (Chinese)” that will be published this August, “Research on China’s NGOs — Theory searching” that will be published by the end of this year, and “China’s NGO/NPO” (Japanese) that is at the stage of investigation.

2. “China NPO Information Network Center”, started on October 1999 and planned to finish in three years. This network, funded by Himalaya Foundation, Taiwan, comprises of eight basic databanks on China’s NGOs and provides on-line service. The present work is to develop the databank and input the data. It is expected to be put into use by the end of this year.

3. “Research on China’s Voluntary Organizations and Management Mechanism”, which is the continuing work of last year’s on volunteerism, mainly funded by UNDP. This year it aims at China’s main voluntary organizations, and tries to explain the inter mechanism and their management system.

4. “The Comprehensive Plan on the Capacity-building and Policy-Consulting of NPOs in China of 21st Century” is a large-scale cooperation project, funded by UNDP. The participants are NGORC, NGO Management Bureau of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, CANGO, ILO, etc. and the main
contents are training program, lectures, conference, organizing for overseas investigation, etc. This project is scheduled to finish in 5 years and some parts have been started since last November.

5. Evaluation System of Public Welfare and Related Research on Public Policy is a project under applying to Sasakawa Foundation, Japan. It plans to establish China’s evaluation system on NPO both from theory and empirical aspects, composing of Project Evaluation, Organization Evaluation and Activity Evaluation, which try to establish the quantitative index system and democracy evaluation system of participation and opening in order to improve the development of China’s evaluation. Some preparatory work of this project has been carried out since last August, but the formal starting time is this October.

What I introduced above are our main projects. Besides these, NGORC insists on academic seminar twice to three times every month since October 1998, and by now we have held 45 academic seminars. Short-term training class was open focusing on NPO managers since last November and evoked nice repercussions. Since this January, working papers began to be published in NGORC and by now the 6th issue has been published. There are 3 professors and associate professors in NGORC, 3 Post-PhD researchers, 6 master course students and two secretaries. Welcome to visit NGORC and cooperate with us.

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