

COMPONENT 1:

Country: **People's Republic of China**

UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):	Social and economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically-based and human-centered for sustainable and equitable growth
Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator(s):	Capacities to pursue gender-equity efforts enhanced through advocacy, gender sensitive analysis and implementation Enabling environment for civil society participation and its effective engagement in Xiaokang ¹ priority issues supported
Expected Output(s)/Annual Targets:	Women's participation in decentralized governance as decision makers, implementers, and managers increased
Executing Entity:	China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)
Implementing agencies:	Relevant national research institutes and civil society organisations

The project aims to promote good governance and gender equality, by strengthening the role of women in the decision-making process at community level. This will be achieved by building capacities of women elected to the village committees, by improving their leadership skills, strengthening their networks, bringing them together with local women' organizations, activists and experts, and engaging in a policy dialogue with key government institutions at central and local level on the issues related to more balanced participation in local governing structures, justice and human development.

Programme Period: 2006 - 2010
Programme Component: Achieving the MDGs and reducing human poverty, Fostering Democratic Governance
Project Title: Promoting Women's Equal Rights and Participation in Local Governance
Project ID: 00054242
Project Duration: 2007- 2008
Management Arrangement: National Execution

Total Budget \$150,000
Allocated resources:
DGTTF: \$80,000
TRAC: \$20,000
UNDP contribution (11888): \$50,000

¹ "Xiaokang" is the Chinese government's vision of an all-around well-off society

Agreed by:	Signature	Date
CICETE:	Wang Yue	16/02/2007
UNDP:	Alessandra Tisot	22/02/2007

COMPONENT 2: SITUATION ANALYSIS

China has demonstrated its political will to implement its commitment to gender equality through the adoption of a number of national plans and programmes on the advancement of women, as well as through following the reporting requirements under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The cornerstone of regulatory framework for gender equality, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, declares: "Women in the People's Republic of China enjoy equal rights with men in all spheres of life, in political, economic, cultural, social and family life". There is also a specific Law on the Protection of Rights and Interests of Women that was adopted in 1992 and has been revised and amended recently.

Despite formal commitments and efforts at central and local level, gender inequalities persist in the country and overcoming inequalities are essential if China is to achieve its goals. While China has been successful in attaining most of the MDGs in the past few years, China's National MDG Report indicates that progress in achieving the Goal 3 on gender equality and empowerment of women has been mixed.

Women's participation in labor market is 46 % of total workforce, which is greater than in many other countries. However, women's employment tends to concentrate in low-wage sectors such as farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, trade and catering, education, culture, arts and broadcasting. The income gap has been increasing with the labor market liberalization, and currently the women's salary is generally 74% of that of men. In the field of education, be it urban or rural, education level of China's population has been rising. The gender gaps have been closing and already diminished to relatively small extent, although gaps still exist between male and female in terms of indicators such as illiteracy rate or years of school attendance. Education for girls is still a central concern however in poor and low income areas. According to the last census data (2000), men outnumber women in China, comprising 51.5%, while women constitute 48.5% of the population. China's national sex ratio at birth was 117 male live births for every 100 female in 2000, above upper limit of the normal range.

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, China occupies 47th place in the world ranking in percentage of women represented in national assembly (20.3%), after Monaco, Nicaragua and Poland. The Green Book released by the Women Study Institute of China points to discrepancies in other areas of women's participation: only 8.1 % of ministerial and 12.6 % of all Director General' positions have been occupied by women.

General trends around the world tend to show a higher proportion of female representation in local government councils than in national government, although in few places has gender balance actually been achieved. However, women in China experience low political participation at all levels, especially at the village and township level. Article 8 of the Organic Law on Villagers' Committees states that the Village Committee should include "an appropriate number of women". However, statistics from 2000 indicate that only 1% of village committee chairs are

women and only 16% of village committee members are women.² At village level, women's participation declined from 16.1 % to 15.1 % in 2004. Even though rural women shoulder much of the primary farm work, they are prevented by traditional male-oriented cultural values from access to and control over productive resources such as land, credit, technology, information and training.

In August 2006, the UN CEDAW Committee reviewed China's combined 5th and 6th reports. In the CEDAW recommendations, rural women's access to leadership positions has been emphasized as one of the areas of concern that need further improvement. It was also noted that women NGOs had not fully participated in the drawing up the 5th/6th report.

COMPONENT 3: STRATEGY

This project will, at the national level, support women activists, gender experts and CSOs to engage the government in policy dialogue on good governance, gender equity, and how to follow up on the CEDAW Committee recommendations. At the local levels, it will build the capacities of women elected to the village committees, by improving their leadership skills, strengthening their networks, and bringing them together with local women's organizations, activists and experts. It will aim to increase gender awareness amongst local leaders and decision makers to create an enabling environment for women's participation in local governance.

Seminars will facilitate a dialogue on good governance, gender equity and China's improved compliance with the CEDAW recommendations regarding women's participation in local governance among CSOs, line ministries and other stakeholders. Local-level pilots will provide lessons for increasing the level of female participation in local governance. Activities will aim to create an enabling environment for increased women's participation through gender sensitization training and awareness-raising of village leaders and civil administration in two pilot sites, and to strengthen the leadership skills of current and potential women leaders through targeted activities and trainings. Women's village head networks will be established in the pilots areas, supported through the project's activities and linked up to other networks. Such networks will bring together women leaders for mutual support, exchange of contacts and advice, and the dissemination of knowledge and skills. The findings of the two pilots will feed into the national level dialogue on increased female participation in local governance, and will serve as a potential model for further replication. Local-level participation will be included at all seminars.

The project will review existing training manuals, materials and training programmes for women's political participation and gender awareness, and modify them for the use in the pilot sites. In cases where the implementing agencies work with other donors, efforts will be made to ensure that UNDP efforts are synchronized.

Most activities will be carried out by civil society organizations, thereby strengthening their capacity in this area and bringing them into close cooperation with government ministries. A leading national institution will carry out research and policy recommendations, and link the

² Howell, Jude: *Women's Political Participation in China: in whose interests elections?*, Journal of Contemporary China, Vol 15, Number 49, November 2006

pilots projects on the ground with the policy dimension and with nationwide efforts to increase women's role in local decision-making.

Local media, and in particular journalists already trained in covering gender aspects, will be actively involved in all project activities to ensure visibility and disseminate the experiences of the project, as well as awareness of the importance of women's participation in governance.

The main outputs will be:

- Increased dialogue on how China can implement the CEDAW recommendations, especially with regard to increased female participation in governance, between government ministries, CSOs and other stakeholders;
- Policy recommendations on women's participation in governance submitted to the relevant authorities
- Over 100 women leaders at local levels trained in gender awareness, good governance and leadership skills;
- Over 100 local level decision makers trained in gender awareness and good governance;
- Two local level women leaders' networks established.

COMPONENT 4: RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

PROJECT RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

Complete the table below for the outcome that the project is designed to address.

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country/ Regional/ Global Programme Results and Resource Framework:				
5. Capacities to pursue gender-equity efforts enhanced through advocacy, gender sensitive analysis and implementation				
3. Enabling environment for civil society participation and its effective engagement in Xiaokang priority issues supported				
Outcome indicators as stated in the Country/ Regional/ Global Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets.				
2.6.3 Women's participation in decentralized governance as decision makers, implementers, and managers increased				
Applicable MYFF Service Line: 2.6 Decentralisation, local governance and urban/rural development				
Partnership Strategy: NEX implementation, see component 6 for details				
Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID): Promoting Women's Equal Rights and Participation in Local Governance Atlas Award ID: 00054242				
Intended Outputs	Output Targets for (years)	Indicative Activities	Responsible parties	Inputs
1.1 Local, national, and international dialogue on China's compliance with the CEDAW recommendations regarding women's participation in local governance among CSOs, line ministries and other stakeholders facilitated	2007	National seminar for CSOs and relevant government ministries/officials to discuss the concluding observations/recommendations of the CEDAW Committee with regards to women's participation in local governance	Civil society organisations	\$15,000
	2007	International seminar to learn how other countries have implemented the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee, including the experiences		\$25,000

<p>1.2 Policy recommendations to promote gender equity and equality and women's participation in local governing bodies formulated through consultative workshops between CSOs, line ministries and other stakeholders, and submitted to the relevant legislative body</p>	<p>2008</p>	<p>from the piloting areas with regards to increasing the role of women in local governance</p>	<p>National institution</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>
<p>1.3 Enabling environment for increased female participation in local government enhanced in two pilot sites</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>	<p>A leading national institution to ensure consultation, research and policy recommendations</p>	<p>Civil society organizations</p>	<p>\$30,000</p>
		<p>Seminars in pilot sites on gender, good governance, and participatory community development in the new socialist countryside, targeting village leadership, civil administration and decision makers</p> <p>Training on gender awareness, good governance, participatory development planning, and leadership skills for village leaders, Village Committees and civil administration in pilot areas</p>		

<p>1.4 Leadership skills for women politicians strengthened in two pilot sites</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>	<p>Establishment and functioning of a Female Village Head Network</p> <p>Course on gender awareness, good governance, participatory development planning, and leadership skills for current and potential women village heads in pilot areas</p>	<p>Civil society organizations</p>	<p>\$50,000</p>
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COMPONENT 6: MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) is nominated by the Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM) as the Government Coordinating Agency and Implementing Partner directly responsible for the Government's participation in each annual work plan (AWP) of this project. The AWP's describe the specific results to be achieved and will form the basic agreement between UNDP and the Implementing Partner on the use of resources. CICETE as the Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing the project, achieving the project outputs, and for the effective use of UNDP resources. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency (ies)" as used in the SBAA.

Since one of the objectives of the project is to increase the cooperation and consultation between government ministries and CSOs, the implementing agencies will be a consortium of CSOs with a strong basis in the area of gender, governance and capacity building, as well as a national leading agency in order to ensure governmental support and the availability of policy channels. A National Project Manager (NPM) will be assigned within CICETE, and the project will have two National Project Directors (NPDs) from the two implementing agencies. Local Project Management Offices will be based in the offices of the two implementing agencies. The Steering Committee will be made up of representatives of UNDP, CICETE and the two implementing agencies.

COMPONENT 7: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the project will be undertaken in line with the UNDAF results matrix and monitoring and evaluation plan.

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be conducted with focus on outcomes and outputs of interventions, institutional results and partnerships, policy advice and dialogue, advocacy and coordination. The M&E should focus on results at two levels: at output level, the specific products and services from the Project; at outcome level, in which the Project has contributed to enhanced capacities to pursue gender-equity efforts in rural governance, and an enabling environment for civil society participation in the CEDAW deliberations. Furthermore, the Project will not only focus on the assessment of progress in itself, but also on experiences and lessons learnt to support more informed decision-making and dissemination of project results.

The project will receive funding from the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund, which must be spent within the year of 2007. Therefore, the timely production of outputs is especially important, and project progress will thus be closely monitored. The project will be subject to audit according to UNDP rules. The project will produce a mid-term review report and a final progress report in due time as required by UNDP's 2007 DGTTF Guidelines. CICETE and all responsible partners will assist UNDP's preparation of such reports by providing necessary information with regards to project activities, outputs and expenditure.

Monitoring progress towards achievement of programme outcomes and outputs will be undertaken at both the level of the overall project, and at the pilot level. Monitoring visits will be conducted by UNDP and CICETE to assess project progress and results through consultations with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries. The Project Manager/implementing agencies will

prepare quarterly project updates to support day to day monitoring and implementation, as well as information sharing among concerned parties. Peer reviews will be conducted on views and experiences of project participants and beneficiaries regarding demonstration results and capacity building activities. Case studies on lessons learned should be collated and shared regularly during project duration and at the end of the project to scale up.

CICETE will provide periodic reports on the progress, achievements and results of their projects, outlining the challenges faced in project implementation as well as resource utilization as articulated in the AWP.

COMPONENT 8: LEGAL CONTEXT³

This program document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Development Programme signed on June 29, 1979. The host country implementation agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government cooperating agency described in that agreement.

³ This is the List of SBAA and Non-SBAA Countries