

2009 China-U.S. Relations Conference
Building on 30 years of China-US Relations: Looking Ahead

ISSUE FORUMS

The China-US Relations Conference presents a unique opportunity to engage critical issues in the political, commercial, and cultural exchange between the United States and China. At the 4th biannual *China-U.S. Relations Conference* scheduled for October 21-23, 2009, in Beijing, China, the conference will feature a number of forums which will help to highlight cooperation in critical contexts and issues, and engage policy-makers, commercial interests, and educators, and facilitate dialogue on these issues. The conference hosts are Texas A&M University, the George Bush School of Government and Public Service, the George Bush Presidential Library Foundation, and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

The China-U.S. Relations conference held in November, 2009 in Washington, D.C., featured a series of forums which enabled participants from the People's Republic of China and the United States to discuss emerging commercial, educational, cultural, and political issues. The forums involved multiple participants from a variety of positions to engage their counterparts in issues of importance for further international cooperation. For more information about these activities, please see the conference Web site at <http://china-us-conference.org/>.

The 2009 conference will recognize the thirtieth anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic ties between the US and China, and will once again provide an opportunity for political, commercial, and academic leaders from the two countries to discuss issues of mutual concern. A number of high-ranking Chinese and U.S. policymakers and international business leaders will be featured at the event, which will be an important opportunity to review and advance issues of public and foreign policy involving the two countries. In addition to promoting an immediate dialogue on selected topics, the forthcoming conference, like its predecessors, is intended to promote the development of cooperative relationships between Chinese and U.S. institutions.

The purpose of the portion of the conference is to identify and develop specific areas of interests for potential collaborations among policy makers, commercial enterprises, academic institutions, and other organizations from both the United States and China. Proposals for forums that reflect the shared interests of the governments and publics of both nations are particularly welcome.

1. PROPOSAL FORMAT

- a. Title – Forum session title.
- b. Chair(s) – Name, title, and contact information of the person(s) who would serve as the chair(s).
- c. Other Organizers – Name and address of other organizers who would be associated with the proposed forum. (The chair may be the sole organizer of the forum, but if others are involved in arranging the session, they should be identified here. Specify role of each organizer. As an appendix, please attach a brief statement of the qualifications of the organizers for assuming a leading role in the proposed forum. Limit appendix to two pages, not included in the three-page maximum.)
- d. Description – Brief description (750-word maximum) of proposed forum. Include rationale and purpose consistent with the theme of the conference. (*If proposal is accepted, this brief description will be used on the conference Web site and in printed conference materials*).
- e. Relevance – Indicate the session's relevance to mutual interest in China-U.S. relations. Are there any societal or public issues that the forum addresses that might be recognized by policy makers in China and the United States? How might this research impact these issues?

- f. Format – Forums will be conducted on final day of the conference. Organizers should design the roundtable schedule recognizing a maximum of eight hours for all activities. Briefly describe the format of the session (e.g., keynote talks, paper presentations, panel discussion, etc).
- g. Participants and Collaborators – Names and affiliation of leading experts in the United States and China who will be invited to participate in the proposed forum. Qualified experts from other universities or research centers are strongly encouraged.
- h. Forum Renewals – New proposals are actively sought, although previously sponsored organizers may apply again if they can demonstrate advancement or new initiatives beyond their prior effort. If the proposal is a request for continuation of a prior forum, briefly describe the activities that have taken place since these conferences and how they will contribute to the effectiveness of the proposed forum.

Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a committee based on the following criteria. The review committee may request additional information when necessary.

- 1. Scholarly and/or public policy merit,
- 2. Relevance to the theme and goals of the conference
- 3. Potential for future collaboration opportunities for Texas A&M University, including funding potential
- 4. Qualifications of participants
- 5. Participation by a balanced group of China- and U.S.-based participants
- 6. Potential for inclusion in conference proceedings

Please contact Randy Kluver (rkluver@tamu.edu; 979-845-3099) if you have any questions. Proposals should be submitted to Dr. Kluver via e-mail (MS Word or text file preferred).

For further information about the China-U.S. Relations Conference, please visit the conference Web site at <http://china-us-conference.org>.