

**OECD-CHINA MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SYMPOSIUM ON CHINESE AND OECD
GOVERNMENT APPROACHES TO ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT**

26-27 JUNE 2008

OECD CONFERENCE CENTRE, PARIS

26 June 2008

08h30-14h00 Registration in CC lobby

09h00-13h00 Preliminary break-out sessions

- Business CC 13
- Labour CC 16
- Civil society CC 18

14h30 Main Symposium begins

14h30-15h30 Plenary session: Welcome speeches + participant briefing

CC Auditorium

15h30-16h30 Discussion 1 in three breakout groups to discuss **the main objectives of encouraging responsible business conduct**. * Moderator and rapporteur roles to be elected by each group, with the roles shared to the extent possible between Chinese and OECD participants.

- Group A Room to be confirmed
- Group B CC 16
- Group C CC 18

16h45-17h00 Tea and coffee break.

17h00-18h30 Discussion 2 in three breakout groups to discuss **the means by which enterprises can organise themselves to ensure responsible business conduct**. * Moderator and rapporteur roles to be shared to the extent possible between Chinese and OECD participants.

- Group A Room to be confirmed
- Group B CC 16

- Group C CC 18

27 April 2008

09h00-10h45 Discussion 3 in three breakout groups to discuss **essential measures to be taken by government to encourage responsible business conduct.*** Moderator and rapporteur roles to be shared to the extent possible between Moderator and rapporteur roles to be shared to the extent possible between the OECD and the Chinese government.

- Group A Room to be confirmed
- Group B CC 16
- Group C CC 18

10h45-11h00 Tea and coffee break.

11h30-13h00 Plenary session: report back from breakout group rapporteurs; concluding remarks by co-chairs.

* The breakout group discussions will be based on (but not limited to) the Background Report circulated before the meeting by the OECD and the questions in the Notes section below. Rapporteurs will record the proceedings of breakout groups for presentation at the final plenary session. Breakout group consensus opinions will be included in the published version of the breakout group, without attribution to person or organisation represented (i.e. The Chatham House Rule will apply to breakout group discussions, therefore the media will not be allowed to attend the discussion groups).

Notes

These notes are intended to stimulate, not limit, discussion in the short time available.

Discussion 1 – Main objectives of encouraging responsible business conduct

The aim of this discussion is to reach consensus on the reasons for encouraging business conduct.

Some suggested questions to be examined:

- What should be the responsibilities of business towards employees?
- What should be the responsibilities of business towards society at large?
- What should be the responsibilities of business towards the future?
- Does responsible business conduct involve benefits as well as costs to enterprises?
- What specific benefits may enterprises gain from responsible conduct?
- Is there a business case for responsible business conduct?
- Is responsible business conduct a “green trade barrier” or “disguised protectionism”?
- Is responsible business conduct a certificate of entry to overseas markets?
- Should responsible business conduct go beyond compliance with the law?
- What does society require from enterprises?
- Is responsible business conduct the same as corporate philanthropy?
- Is there a role for charitable donations by enterprises in efforts to be socially responsible?
- How do the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises help China?
- Which international norms/standards do Chinese companies currently apply (Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative, United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment)?

Discussion 2 – How enterprises can organise themselves to behave responsibly

The aim of this discussion is to gain perspectives on how enterprises can ensure responsible behaviour on a regular basis.

Some suggested questions to be examined:

- To whom should enterprises be accountable for their conduct, and how should this accountability best be exercised?

- How do Chinese companies manage their efforts to be responsible (e.g. involvement of the members of the governing body; internal information and monitoring systems; external audits; employee training; hotlines and whistle-blowing facilities)?
- What can and should be the role of monitoring organisations or ratings agencies in measuring corporate behaviour?
- What is and should be the role of workers in ensuring responsible business conduct?
- How can enterprises improve transparency?
- Is it enough for enterprises to write annual RBC/CSR reports?

Discussion 3 – Essential measures to be taken by government to encourage responsible business conduct

This discussion focuses on the crucial role of government in encouraging enterprises to behave responsibly.

Some suggested questions to be examined:

- Why should governments be responsible for promoting responsible business conduct?
- What have Chinese and OECD governments done to encourage responsible business conduct?
- How can government ensure that enterprises comply with the law?
- Is there a set of behavioural norms that the government can recommend enterprises to observe?
- What framework conditions (e.g. by means of labour, social and environmental policies) does the government need to set to encourage responsible business conduct?
- Can and should the government set an example of responsible conduct?
- How are responsibilities for encouraging responsible business shared and co-ordinated between various government bodies? How well does this work?