

SM 120827

CIT Short Description



Karl Schlecht
Stiftung



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China Institute Tübingen (CIT)

Center for Chinese Business Ethics

Role of CIT



The astounding economic rise of China is associated with the establishment of an extensive international network and integration of the country – especially with Germany. In this process there is a growing need for us to deal with the moral concepts, which characterize contemporary China since information deficits and distorted views of the other still prevail and they can negatively affect the collaboration between both countries. Against the background of the globalization driven „global village“ we are to create the conditions for better dialogue and sympathetic coexistence of civilizations. This mutual responsibility demands the building of trust in each other.

China today is in a stage of identity formation in which it rediscovers traditional values that are to be utilized for the present. This is where Confucian thought, along with other currents of thought, which dominated China for thousands of years, plays a central role. To what extent these values can explain the emergence of China as a world power will be an important research topic. In the confrontation with the values of China the general public in Germany can not only be informed about them, but may find matching counterparts in their own cultural heritage and evoke them.

Mission

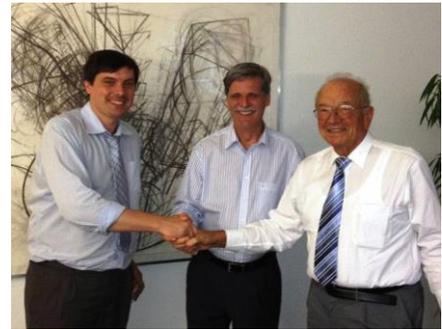


The China Institute of Tübingen (CIT) operates at the junction of science, industry and the general public. It is **primarily** a center for research on values, ethical standards and current intellectual trends in China. Here China includes not only mainland China, but also Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Chinese diaspora - that is, the „Cultural China“. CIT at Tübingen University is part of an international network. Starting from the famous Peking University, the CIT is also linked to research facilities, such as the National University of Singapore, the Academia Sinica in Taiwan and other strategic partners of the University of Tübingen. The results of this research will be published in conferences and publications by its group of researchers, but they are not only meant for academic specialists but are intended to have an effect on business elites as well.

The **second task** of CIT is to offer cultural competence consulting for companies in Germany as a form of application of its research. With this it can supplement the first class research on China which traditionally exists at the University of Tübingen. This will included in-house seminars, leadership courses and specific manuals. Also, the research findings, which were obtained from the analysis of cultural factors in the failure of economic cooperation with China, will be used in order to identify potential points of conflict in collaboration with Chinese partners and find ways to avoid them.

The **third task** of CIT is to serve as a platform for the general public to obtain knowledge about current China. For instance we plan to invite outstanding entrepreneurs, scientists, artists and other professionals from China to give lectures in which they present their own experiences and ideas of business ethics, sustainability, global responsibility and humanity through the example of their work.

On the occasion of the „China Festival Tübingen“ in October 2012 Rector Prof. Dr. Bernd Engler announced the plans for the establishment of the center with the commitment of the Karl Schlecht Foundation. The Chinese Ambassador and the Minister of Education of the State of Baden-Wuerttemberg were present at this event.



For this purpose, in June 2014 an Assistant Professor Position for "**Chinese Studies with a Special Focus on Business Ethics**" was created at Tübingen University. Dr. Matthias Niedenführ of Beijing was appointed to fill this position.

A central part of the work of Jun.-Prof. Dr. Niedenführ, the holder of this KSG endowed chair, is the creation of the China Institute Tübingen. He collaborates with Professor TU Weiming, a leading scientist at Peking University and former director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. In the summer of 2015, the CIT will be inaugurated in Germany.

The CIT completes the network of institutes initiated by KSG - Global Ethic Institute in Tübingen, WEIT, and Global Ethic Institute Beijing, WEIB - that all aim to make business ethics a focus in their research. The CIT is addressing the attention on the German-Chinese perspective and fills a gap that was previously not yet closed by the other two institutions. As future home of CIT we currently look for suitable office space in the vicinity of WEIT and the Erich Fromm Institute Tübingen, EFIT, another initiative of KSG.

