

## **WT11 – Chinese and European views of the individuals and society**

### **Session 1**

#### **The Chinese vision**

- There is a natural difference in point of views for individuals and society between Chinese and Europeans
- Chinese should build up a point of view of society which may be suitable or corporate with the increase of social economy
- Chinese would need to discover the true spirit of Confucianism
- There are existing points of views for individuals and society as individual and society resp.
- The point of view of Confucianism is actually an extension being
- There should be a difference between Chinese and Europeans due to their respective cultural backgrounds

#### **The European questions addressed to Chinese**

- What is the position of Buddhism in the dichotomy of familie vs. state
- What is the deeper meaning of the phrase 'to leave one's house' (chu jia) in the context of the traditional Chinese society.
- In what way is the self-representation of Europeans and Chinese embedded in the different traditions as they exist now
- Is the previous mentioned phenomenon not merely a superficial one.

## WT11 – Chinese and European views of the individuals and society Session 3

### Similarities

- The point of views for individuals and society has evolved along with the change of the world in both China and Europe.
- In present-day China and Europe, moral value is part of the consumerial behavior.
- Philosophical theory and moral value are the products of social and economic development.
- In both societies the absence of hierarchical system influences moral values.
- Economic development can change superficial ideology.
- The cultural identity on family relations is expressed in the same way in both east and west.
- With the development of technology, traditional moral values and cultural identity have been changing.
- The young generation is seeking a second life through modern technology but not through actual social contacts, which is the same problem in China and Europe.
- The changes in reality accelerates the changes of the people's moral values.

### Differences

- The same concept can be explained or described differently in China and Europe on the basis of the individual cultural histories.
- Consumerism may lead to the current cultural trend in China.
- The traditional cultural concept has also been used as a tool in China by the leading class for political movement.
- In Europe, the effort in gaining individual profits may lead to a maximization of social benefit of these social benefits.
- In China, the individual values can only be reflected through society.

## **WT11 – Chinese and European views of the individuals and society Session 4**

### **How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?**

- The dialogue between China and Europe should be focussed on specific topics or on a concrete base.
- We should prevent a cultural globalisation along with an economic globalisation.
- In discussing the individual and the society, we should stress the communalities more than the differences.
- We should make up a kind of systematic comparative system over both societies in order to seek solutions.
- We have to face the influence of modern technology in European and Chinese present-day societies.
- We should prevent consumerism to become the major force in modern society.
- We should keep in mind that in a globalizing world, the individual and society in China and Europe are facing the same problems.