WT56 – Management of mountain territories

Session 1

The Chinese vision

- Strong proportion of mountain territories (70%) and population (60%) Out of a total of 2300 districts, 1500 are mountain districts
- Great poverty
- Absence of global political vision and of representative associations
- How to conciliate the development of tourism and the preservation of the cultural and environmental diversity
- Which policies to have the populations remain on these territories : ecological building, rural tourism, traditionnal handcraft, medicinal plants, local products
- Exchange of experience and know-how as factors of economic development

the European questions addressed to Chinese

- Social consequences of parents migrations for economic reasons ?
- Definition of the mountain ?
- Are protected areas managed in a coordinated way and subject of transborder cooperation ?
- Does the Government subsidy the maintaining of activities and people ?
- How is the environmental problem of climatic changes dealt with ? which policies are adopted to deal with the problem of soil erosion ?
- To whom belongs the parcels ?
- Which governmental policy to protect and valorise local cultures and know how in association with the ethnies ?
- Part of local and external tourism ? what type of tourism policy ?
- Planned policy of development as priority areas as coastal areas benefit from ?

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Session 2

The European vision

- Building of a mountain policies platform via international cooperation
- Evolution in the perception of the mountain identity : area with handicap or privileged ?
- Looking for a new relation integrating all values, a value in a too strictly economic evaluation ;
- No solutions can be found to solve the problems of mountainpeople without their participation in their formulation
- The building process of the mountain identity has a lot to see with the one relative to the European identity
- The strong particularity of the mountain territories requires specific solutions and policies
- Crucial importance of technical and scientific education in the sustainable development of mountain (international research programme and creation of a mountain high school)
- The main wealth is the population itself (illustrated by the struggle of the inhabitants of the small village of Terruel – Spain -against desertification)
- No simple and evident solution despite the similarity of the problems. Best method : mutual learning via exchanges
- Get the involvement of the population via territorial contracts
- In the relation with the State, going from constraint to a contract elaborated in concertation with all the actors of the territory
- Even the smallest village is making part of the world

the Chinese questions addressed to Europeans

- On the privatisation process in Roumania and Albania

- Incidences on production ?

- Wasn't economic development the priority before Environment and culture here in Europe, as it is in China today ?

- How do the mountain lobbies eventually deal with conflicts with law or State ?

- European policy of subsidies : best solution ? Has it been evaluated yet ? positive or negative points ?

- The Chinese system is different . they are looking for solutions on / how to better help the politicians to adopt policies better adapted to the mountain specificities ?

- On which criteria is based the allocation of European subsidies ?

- How are the agriculture prices guaranted ?

- Is there a specific policy towards young people : are they encouraged to leave for their education ? Are there specific education cursus ? and how are they encouraged to return ?

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Session 3

Differences

- Different realities, we do not experience same things (on one side overpopulation, on the other low density)
- Existence of fully different political and administrative organisations
- Different cultural approach
- Different level of poverty

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Session 4

How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?

- Start from our differences
- Convert them in ressources
- In order to enrich our knowledge
- And develop common projects
- Benefiting from the already existing organisation
- Find a federative thematic entrance (for example the environmental approach)
- Develop common projects
- Transfer of people (namely young people) for deeper and more concrete mutual understanding