Agreement
between
Fudan University, China
and
The University of Oslo, Norway
on
Fudan-European Centre for China Studies at University of Oslo

Aim
Fudan-European Centre for China Studies (FECCS) was first established in Europe in 2013. The Centre serves as a bridge and platform for the promotion of academic collaboration between China and Europe, more specifically between Fudan University (FU) and Universities in Europe on topics of particular interest to all parties. Based at the University of Oslo (UiO), the Centre will facilitate new and existing joint research projects involving scholars at FU and UiO, and use existing university networks at both universities (mainly in Asia and Europe) to further strengthen China-Europe collaborations with a focus on research, research-based communication in society, and post-graduate student exchange. The Centre defines “China studies” in the broadest possible way to include research and academic activities that involve scholars in China and/or topics relevant for China. The Centre builds on 25 years of fruitful collaborations between FU and UiO, including the Fudan Nordic Centre which UiO scholars helped initiate, and which has developed into an important Nordic-China academic hub.

Organization
FU and UiO are the initiators and main supporting bodies of the Centre, sharing the aspiration to create a centre of academic excellence. The Parties acknowledge that this partnership does
not affect UiO’s or Fudan’s own autonomy or academic independence. Being based at UiO, the Centre is subject to institutional guidelines at UiO, including its norm of academic freedom.

- Fudan University will support FECCS through Fudan Development Institute (FDDI) which will reach into all relevant academic units at Fudan. FDDI is a comprehensive global research organization focusing on multi-disciplinary China Development Studies.
- FECCS will be hosted by the Faculty of Humanities (HF) and the Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages (IKOS), and will collaborate with relevant research environments in all faculties and centres at UiO. HF is Norway’s largest and most comprehensive faculty of humanities, and IKOS is a multi-disciplinary department with strong international research and collaborations in the fields of China and East Asian studies, Middle East studies, religious studies and European cultural studies.
- FU will promote wider participation of, for instance, Asian university networks (in particular in Korea and Japan) to the Centre’s activities. UiO will promote wider participation of European scholars and university networks (such as Circle U or the Guild) to take part in the Centre’s activities.

**Management**

The Centre’s director (normally the head of the host department) will be appointed by UiO. The executive vice director will be appointed by FU. The executive vice director will be in charge of the daily operations of the Centre in collaboration with the director.

The Centre will be guided by a Steering Committee of ten members, five (5) appointed by FU and five (5) by UiO. The committee will be co-chaired by representatives appointed by UiO and FU and include representatives from FDDI and the host department at UiO, the directors, and leading scholars from each university. The committee gathers annually. It oversees the academic activities and budget planning of the Centre.

**Activities**

The Centre will be a platform for:
• Research networking, academic exchange and joint publications between scholars and early-career scholars on projects relevant to Europe and China.
• Co-organizing a new annual forum, and (on a less regular basis) China-European seminars/workshops/summer school, etc.
• Expanded collaborations with other European and East Asian universities, based on FU’s and UiO’s existing networks.

Topical areas of synergy and with special potential for collaboration will be further developed and prioritized after the Centre is established including:

• various disciplines and topics within the social sciences and humanities
• sustainable development studies
• life sciences and natural sciences

**Funding and Support**

As equal partners in the Centre, FU and UiO contribute with funding for staff, activities, office space, researcher time and infrastructure.

• FU provides funding of 150,000 Euro per year for costs of the Centre’s academic activities and, in addition, the salary for the executive vice director appointed by FU.
• FU will transfer the annual funding of the Centre to the designated account provided by UiO. UiO shall submit a formal receipt to FU within 30 days of the receipt of the funding.
• UiO provides funding for an administrative position of 50% and other administrative assistance, office(s), infrastructure at UiO, salary/time for director appointed by UiO, and 25 000 Euro for startup activities.
• FU and UiO will seek financing of joint activities through the Centre from other funding sources available to them.
• The annual budget and financial accounts shall be approved by the Steering Committee.
• After the agreement expires, FU and UiO agree to negotiate the arrangement of the balance of the funding.
Both Institutions agree not to use any logo, registered or unregistered trademark, design or crest of the other Institution without the prior written consent of the other Institution to the particular use.

**Agreement Period**

The agreement shall take effect from the May 1 2021, and will remain valid until May 1 2025. A year before the end of the agreement period, the FU and UiO will start negotiations about possible continuation of the Centre.

Either university may withdraw from this agreement at any time and for any reason, provided written notification of the withdrawal is given to the other institution. The withdrawal will have effect from the date the notification reaches the other institution.

This agreement is made in two equally authentic copies in English, one for each of the signing parties.

Signed by Rector of University of Oslo and President of Fudan University

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Xu Ningsheng                Svein Stølen
President                   Rector
Fudan University            University of Oslo
Date:                       Date: