

## **STUDY TRIP TO CHINA**

### **Higher Vocational Colleges and Universities in a dynamic economy**

**In cooperation with the University of Toledo, Ohio, USA**

**Friday 19 May – Saturday 3 June 2017**

#### **Foreword**

In recent years we organised study trips to the US in collaboration with the University of Toledo (UT), with visits to authorities and associations in Washington and to Community Colleges and Universities in Ohio or Michigan. Following these trips there were groups from both states that have been in Europe to do the same here, in which participants follow a PhD study on management and education.

These trips have been a success every time, judging by the reactions of the participants and given the plans which subsequently are developed for their own institution. So it can certainly be argued that the plans for the Regional Associate (degree) Colleges in the Netherlands have a clear origin in the experiences from visits to Community Colleges in the USA.

But there are more places in the world outside Europe, where the presence of institutions that offer two year programs such as the Associate Degree is an important factor in the education of young people and adult learners who want to take a next step in their career or have to do that, looking at the economy. Countries like Canada and Australia also have a similar degree, filling in the gaps in the system in member states between VET and HE. But also China has sought within the educational system for opportunities for institutions to offer labour-market-oriented short courses.

Therefore, the University of Toledo some years ago decided to include also a 'study trip' to China within its PhD program in addition to the travel to Europe. The goal is the same: To learn more about how the system works, how the management of educational institutions (Colleges & Universities) responds to demands from 'the market', which developments are primarily of interest for the provision of two-year programs, what is the role of the government at national, regional and local levels to develop plans for the short and long term, and other issues that affect the strategy of educational institutions, associations and other networks.

Like other years, the UT is offering the possibility to let people from Europe take part in this trip. It is currently based on a group of ten - and yes, on the basis of first come - first served.

In this newsletter we bring the draft of the program. Starting in Beijing and ending in Shanghai are fixed, but it may happen there will be adjustments for the activities in between.

#### **Draft of the programme**

So here the outline of the program, as it appears for the moment - but there are no guarantees, since the organization in the US is still busy making the necessary arrangements - and therefore things can be reversed and changed.

Friday 19 May:	Flight to Beijing
Saturday 20 May:	Arrival in Beijing - transfer to the hotel – own time
Sunday 21 May:	Discovering Beijing – ‘welcome dinner’
Monday 22 May:	Conference on Higher Vocational Colleges and Internationalisation – in cooperation with a University in Beijing
Tuesday 23 May:	Flight to Xiamen – check-in - cultural activities – Academic Exchange Center
Wednesday 24 May:	Xiamen City University – workshops
Thursday 25 May:	Workshop on ‘National System of Higher Vocational Colleges’ and the strategy on education for youngsters for the labour market (looking at the dynamic situation in China)
Friday 26 May:	Seminar on Short Cycle Higher Education in USA, Europe and China
Saturday 27 May:	Flight to Hangzhou – check-in - trip around West Lake
Sunday 28 May:	Cultural activities
Monday 29 May:	Visit to Tourism College of Zhejiang – ‘bullet train’ to Wuxi – check-in
Tuesday 30 May:	Visits to associations and networks
Wednesday 31 May:	Visit to Wuxi Institute of Commerce – workshop on labour market and educations – ‘bullet train’ to Shanghai – check-in
Thursday 1 June:	Visit to a College or University – cultural activity
Friday 2 June:	Shanghai Dianji - ‘farewell dinner’
Saturday 3 June:	Flight back home

### **Practical issues**

- Flight to Beijing: Friday 19 May, arrival on Saturday 20 May (we will plan this having the whole group in Beijing in the afternoon)
- Flight from Shanghai: Saturday 3 June (also planning a situation that the whole group will leave around noon)
- In Beijing, Wuxi and Shanghai we will stay in hotels. In the other cities we will use facilities of colleges.
- The cost for the whole trip are for: flights, train rides, hotels (including breakfast), lunches, dinners, taxis, insurance and other costs for the organisation of this activity.
- Based on the draft of the programme and the agreements already made, the cost for the study trip will be 4300 Euro, excluding VAT. Of course we can look at the personal situation and the possibilities to make other arrangements.
- It is possible to take part in the trip for a week – starting later or leaving earlier. We can take care of tailor-made solutions.

### **Interested?**

If you are interested, send an e-mail to [info@leido.nl](mailto:info@leido.nl) indicating: name / institution-organisation and position.

### **Preparation**

During the months before the study trip we will have two webinars with the European participants.

Questions? Suggestions? You are welcome to send them to us...