



China Programme, final report for projects 2012-2014 SUMMARY REPORT of THE PROJECT

Name of the project

CHIFINET

Coordinating Institution

Turku University of Applied Sciences

Objectives of the project (as indicated in the project proposal)

The main objective of the CHIFINET project was to diversify and deepen the cooperation between the project partners in terms of student and teacher/staff mobility, teaching and common projects in different fields of study.

Achieved results and outcomes

The partner universities and other partner organizations learnt a lot about each other during the project through mobility periods and seminars. This was very important, because the challenge has been to find out about everyday operations at the faculty and department levels. Until now the meetings with the Chinese partner universities have been mostly carried out at the top management level, but it was possible to meet and discuss also with lecturers and administrative staff during the project.

The project has especially helped the management of student mobility between the partners in the future. In addition to the possibilities to carry out studies in different fields of study at the partner universities, also traineeships possibilities both in Tianjin and Turku were discussed. The project has also supported the general goals for cooperation between the twin cities of Tianjin and Turku.

Activities carried out during the project

During the CHIFINET project, a total of six bachelor-level students studied as exchange students during one or two semesters at the project partner universities in Turku (Turku University of Applied Sciences) or in Tianjin (Nankai University, Tianjin Technical University or Tianjin Medical College). In addition, a total of 20 teachers and other staff members participated in a one-week exchange to the partner universities.

During the CHIFINET project, two university-working life cooperation seminars were organized in

Turku and Tianjin. The first seminar took place in the autumn 2013 in Turku and the second one in Tianjin in the spring 2014. The two seminars brought together participants not only from the partner institutions, but also from the cities of Turku and Tianjin, and from several local organizations.

Future developments

The CHIFINET project was very fruitful and we will continue to develop further the cooperation not only between HEIs in Turku and in Tianjin, but also between the HEIs and organizations in Turku. The vice-rector of TUAS and the rector of the University of Turku participated in the delegation of the city mayor to Tianjin in September and they visited the partner universities during their stay.

TUAS staff members already participated in Tianjin-related business seminar in Turku organized by the city of Turku in October 2014. Two Chinese students also helped out during this seminar as interpreters. The next Finnish exchange students will be selected to Tianjin in early spring 2015 and TUAS has already received application from students studying at Tianjin University of Technology.

The negotiations about the joint programme will continue during the academic year 2014-2015 and the plan is to start it in 2016 or 2017. There have also been informal discussions about how to offer together more Chinese language courses for students at the HEIs in Turku.

Other remarks

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