American Planning Association

China Projects and Programs

- Research
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Foreword

Over 300 million of China’s 1.3 billion people are expected to surge into urban centers over the next 15 years. Its rapid growth is exciting and encouraging, but also represents unparalleled planning challenges and demands on global resources. The need for long-range comprehensive strategies on these issues is critical. The American Planning Association (APA), the oldest and largest organization in the world dedicated to good planning, offers experience and lessons learned from the United States. The US is the only large developed nation that has experienced both the benefits and consequences of rapid urbanization on a national scale.

The APA advocates planning as an ethical responsibility to use resources wisely and to engage people in decisions. APA has worked with hundreds of leaders, planners and agencies in China to successfully share these ideas. The APA China Program expands opportunities for members to discuss and exchange information about planning with Chinese leaders and colleagues while offering a variety of services. Because APA is not a trade association, we focus on the benefits of good planning while promoting the highest standards of practice. Ensuring that our members working in international settings abide by our code of ethics and overall approach to planning is an important goal.

APA wants to build on and develop long-term relationships with Chinese government and nongovernmental agencies to increase and sustain long-term capacity for planning. To advance these principles and provide assistance, APA offers a variety of ways for leaders and professionals to work together. A set of basic principles guide our cooperation with China: agreement on mission to advance the art and science of planning, responsibility to human settlement demands and social equity, opportunities for education and exchange, and professional development.

Chinese and American planners, leaders and citizens all share a common interest and responsibility for the future. APA’s China Program is aimed at everyone committed to achieving a better quality of life. Our China Program team has many years of experience in both the US and China. Whether training, policy, research or partnerships on the ground, APA has something to offer. We look forward to working with you and welcome you to the APA China Program.

Jeffrey Soule, FAICP
Director, APA China Program

W. Paul Farmer, AICP
Executive Director and CEO
"APA has a responsibility as the world's largest and oldest NGO representing planning to share ideas, provide opportunities for professional exchange and expand choices for civic leaders in China."

-David M. Siegel, AICP
President, APA

“(China)...should learn from the experiences of other countries, integrate them with our own features, and establish a suitable model for ourselves. Many of APA's suggestions have proven greatly beneficial.”

-Li Yuanchao
General Party Secretary, Jiangsu Province

APA Office, Shanghai
The American Planning Association (APA) is a nonprofit public interest and research organization representing over 37,000 practicing planners, officials, and citizens involved with urban and rural planning issues worldwide. APA provides leadership in the development of communities of lasting value by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing choices for the future.

The American Planning Association (APA) and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), provide our members and international partners with various training services.

Since China’s economic reform in 1978, and especially since 1996, APA has been working closely with the central, provincial, and local governments in the People’s Republic of China (PRC). APA officially offers consultation and advice to the PRC’s Ministry of Land and Resource (MLR), State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH), Ministry of Construction (MOC), State Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and other agencies.

APA is a sister institution of the China Mayors Association, China Association of City Planning, China Society of Urban Planners, China Historic Preservation Society and China Land Society. APA has provided exchange programs and training projects for hundreds of Chinese cities, such as Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chongqing, Tianjin, and Zhenjiang.

APA has officially served the World Bank, United Nations Development Program, Asia Development Bank as its China city and rural planning projects evaluator and programs coordinator.
“Given the impact of globalization, many Chinese cities are facing intensified market competition. Many cities hope they can win the attention of foreign investors by launching projects that can claim to be the biggest, the highest, or the most modern.”

- He Huiye
former Director of the Nanjing Planning Bureau

Training

APA welcomes several delegations from China each year for training and studies. Three main types of training services provide our colleagues in China with ample opportunities to learn about American Planning:

1. Ministerial level officials research
2. Mayors training
3. Professional planners training

Training programs cover a comprehensive array of topics in planning, including transportation, housing, environment, economics, urban design and sustainability. The training will provide a broad and balanced view regarding the success, limitations, and lessons of planning in America. Members of the delegations will be especially interested in similar planning and social issues, and cities with similar geographic characteristics and similar financial and economic development opportunities and challenges. Physical layout, environmental programs, economic development strategies, and other planning issues in similar cities will help the officials with their future decision making back home. These training efforts provide ample opportunities for professional exchange and mutual learning for American hosts.

We would like to invite participation in our training programs in a variety of ways. In each city the delegation will attend lectures on various planning topics as well as visit sites of important planning lessons. In the past, many officials, planners, and faculty have helped APA to host the delegations by: giving lectures and presentations, organizing city visits, hosting lunch receptions, providing venues for meetings, and assisting as translators. APA offer membership benefits for participants in our China program. Please visit http://www.planning.org/APAinChina/training for more information or contact Yufeng Guo at yguo@planning.org or (202)349-1010.
In October 2004, APA welcomed the mayors’ delegation from Jiangsu for 21 days of training in urban and regional planning, development, and management, as well as a broad and balanced view of the success and limitations of planning in America. Speaking at the graduation ceremony, Suqian Mayor Tang Jianming summed up the experience:

“We have covered more than 50,000 kilometers in distance in this training, visited more than 14 cities, attended 49 lectures, and tour more than 70 sites of important planning lessons. This is an interesting, instructive, and intense program. Some of us lost a few pounds, which is a good thing, while we learned a great deal.”

In only 21 days, the 27 mayors visited more than a dozen major cities and several smaller ones, including Chicago, Boston, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., the Twin Cities; Seattle and Renton, Washington; Portland and Hillsboro, Oregon; Los Angeles; and San Francisco. They tasted the flavors in seven Chinatowns and squeezed together into one private apartment to see the size of an average American living space in downtown Chicago. They visited university campuses and filled disks with photos of green spaces and gardens everywhere they went including Chicago’s Millennium Park, Boston Common, Longwood Garden, and Washington Mall.

The mayors also attended lectures and meetings, sometimes for as long as eight hours a day. They met government officials — from Boston Mayor Thomas Menino to Hillsboro, Oregon, Mayor Tom Hughes — planning directors, and planning commissioners. Planning professors and more than 30 professional planners spoke to the group in presentations and guided tours. Topics included the Big Dig, transit system operation in Boston, Lake Michigan water quality, Seattle energy conservation, D.C. comprehensive planning, New York zoning, brownfield redevelopment in Seattle, citizen participation, and much more.

When asked about the lessons learned in the training, the most frequent answer was: “People should be the center of planning.” Among other lessons learned: “historic preservation,” “citizen participation is important,” “avoid some American failures in earlier planning.” One mayor summed up what he learned: “Planning is long term efforts. Mayors should look at bigger pictures. Planning must be updated in constantly changing times with core value of ‘people.’”
APA organizes a variety of programs for American members and non-members interested in Chinese planning. Besides learning from the insiders on a first-hand basis, the following programs provide valuable networking and advertising opportunities.

**Advanced Workshop: Competitions in China**
This workshop features practical training of how to present your projects in front of design competition juries in China. A delegation of senior Chinese planning directors with years of experience serving as experts in design competition juries, especially in international competitions, will come to the U.S. and introduce their experiences to American planners.

**Planning in China Workshops:**
APA China program has successfully organized a number of *Planning in China* Workshops. We continue to invite senior Chinese planners and U.S. Commerce Department officers to give presentations to APA members on topics of Chinese urbanization and planning issues as well as practical knowledge of professional activities in China.

**Study Tour in China**
APA offers a study tour for American planners to China. The Chinese Association of City Planning, the sister organization of APA, is assisting with the program of the study tour. The delegation will visit Beijing, Shanghai, and several historic cities listed in UNESCO World Heritage List. In each city, there will be lectures given by local leadership, professional planners and university faculties and visits to important sites of planning and cultural significance.

**Workshop Evaluations:**

“I can’t emphasize enough how much of a learning experience this workshop has been for me. I will continue to look for this kind of workshop. Thanks for everything!!”

“Great venue, interesting speakers!”

“Great guest speakers with hands-on presentations. A lot of passion for quality planning. Unbelievable networking opportunities, keep it up!”

For more information or to enroll in our workshop programs please visit:

http://www.planning.org/APAinChina/workshops
Pudong Urban Planning and Design Demonstration Project
Shanghai, China

In 1999, APA drafted a master plan for Hua Mu Station Front Area in Pu Dong, Shanghai as part of an overall training program. In addition, APA organized a 10-day training session in Shanghai at which the master plan was used as one of the case studies. About 200 professionals and officials participated in the training, including planners from the land development companies of Lu Jia Zui, Wai Gao Qiao and Jin Qiao new development districts, and government officers from Shanghai Bureau of City Planning and Real Estate. The demonstration project showed ways to break large “super-block” scale areas into humanly scaled, mixed use districts. Emphasis was on analyzing adjacent uses and transportation infrastructure to provide the best short and long term uses for the Hua Mu area.

Cooperative Agreement with the Ministry of Land and Resources

APA has an ongoing cooperative agreement with the Ministry of Land and Resources and the China Land Society to provide advice on large-scale land conservation projects funded under a grant from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The grant provides funds to develop policies, technology, and demonstration projects that address land reclamation and prevention of degradation and desertification.

APA is currently planning a demonstration project that will provide a model for redevelopment of both brownfield and cooperative-held land along with its fifth site visit assessment of UNDP programs. APA is working with the Ministry and the Society on options for revising the Chinese land management system to conform with both the unique aspects of China’s government and the tremendous demand for development created by the market based economic policies.
MenXi District Master Plan
Nanjing, China
Client: City of Nanjing People’s Government

In the summer of 2002, the APA team was invited by Governor Li Yuanchao, then-Secretary General of the Communist Party of Nanjing, to study the potential for cultural tourism and preservation at a city scale. The Menxi District was chosen as an ideal location for the test project due to both its intense need for redevelopment and its collection of historic sites, most notably the Ming Dynasty wall, which still defines its boundaries. In the recommended master plan, the APA team introduced the city to a “zoning” concept, which divided the district into zones that represent different development opportunities. APA educated the Nanjing government and its city planners on our methodology of evaluation, the importance of historic resources, and how to establish a link between tourism and preservation through the application of various planning tools and concepts.

Zhenjiang Nanxu New Town Development
Zhenjiang, China
Client: City of Zhenjiang People’s Government

The APA team was invited by the Mayor in 2003 to advise on the new town development process with a conceptual master plan. The existing city core, Dashikou, had reached its development capacity spurring the need for Nanxu New Town, a nine square kilometer district. The plan is the first contemporary update of the “Garden City” concept, a planning philosophy that emphasizes harmony between the built environment, the people and the landscape. Through a careful arrangement of building in relation to green space the plan establishes a natural elegance guided by the topography of the site, the vegetation of the region, and the scenic elements of Zhenjiang. The plan is the first of its kind for China.
XiaoZhaZhen Master Plan and Design Guidelines  
Shanghai, China  
Client: Xuhui District People’s Government

The assembled APA team was invited by the Xuhui District Governor in the summer of 2004 to survey, analyze and review general development strategies for both the district and the XiaoZhaZhen site. Through careful analysis of an existing developer’s proposal, the APA team emphasized the importance of a Program-Plan Design approach. Four key planning components were recommended by the APA team after careful review of the site condition, surveyed transportation data, policy, technical guidelines and developer’s scheme, which were approved by the district government. They include:

1. Create a 24-hour site by mixing cultural, retail, commercial office, leisure and entertainment, and a variety of small and medium business opportunities.
2. Develop based on a “street pattern” to better accommodate mixed-use functions, flexible implementation and manageable traffic.
3. Facilitate a centrally located multi-model transportation hub below grade with easy pedestrian access to facilities on and off the site.
4. Activate the canal-front by proposing a key pedestrian corridor and a variety of open spaces.

The master plan was later illustrated into a set of design guidelines, a policy framework and a management tool for the district government to guide future implementation as the master plan envisioned. The APA team intends to use this demonstration project to showcase the importance of integrated planning methodologies and a sound planning process applied by the government in helping resolve complex urban dilemmas and to alleviate the tension between the private sector and the government in a more manageable and guided way.
Nantong Regional Strategic Plan in the Lower Yangtze Delta Region
Nantong, China
Client: City of Nantong People’s Government, Nantong Planning & Administrative Bureau

Nantong enjoys a strategic position in the Lower Yangtze Delta Region domain facing Shanghai and SuZhou to the south. It is surrounded by the Yangtze River and the Pacific Ocean on three sides and is the gateway to the vast northern Jiangsu Plateau. The economic boom of Shanghai that started in the 1990’s helped to bring opportunities and fast development into southern Jiangsu and northern Zhejiang while leaving the Jiangsu Plateau comparatively undeveloped.

Coming into the 21st Century, regional planning and balanced development has become China’s priority as national policy and numerous large-scale river crossing projects are being laid out and completed in a short period of time, Nantong is as a result coming into the Shanghai Mega-metropolitan circle within a 60-90 minute travel time. Aiding Nantong in its attempts to strategically position itself into the future regional development is the fundamental goal and subject in this project. Set in a regional context, the APA team will examine Nantong’s current condition and available resources, as well as compare and analyze its development opportunities and challenges with Shanghai and other key cities in the region. Further, the APA will look at appropriate development strategies from case studies of cities and regions abroad. As a result, the APA team will help to establish a long-range regional strategic development framework for Nantong, advising subjectively with policies and strategies on its spatial layout and functional organization study, regional infrastructure plan, regional economic development plan, environmental and cultural heritage preservation.
“Foreign planners have already been involved in many planning projects in some of the more open cities. We have come to realize that foreign planners, especially those from countries that have experienced rapid urbanization, can help us in city development by sharing their lessons.”

-Zhou Lan
Director, Nanjing Planning Bureau

“I believe we are now in an era where, together, we can help both China and America. Through our partnership, we can help the world. The partnerships and programs we have built and continue to expand in China are important to our organizations in many ways.”

-Paul Farmer, AICP
Chief Executive Officer, APA
## 2005 Calendar of Events

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>March - September</td>
<td>Jiangsu Senior Planners Professional Training and Placement in American Planning Institutions</td>
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<td>June</td>
<td>Wuhan Zhongnan Planning and Design Institute Study Tour to learn about American Design and Firms</td>
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<td>Shanghai Land and Housing Bureau Officials Training in American Land and Housing System</td>
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<td>China Architecture and Building Press Business Tour for Joint-Publication of Sino-American Literature</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>Shanghai Xuhui District Government Officials Training in American Planning and Administration</td>
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<td>Shanghai Pudong District Government Officials Training in American Planning and Administration</td>
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<td>Chongqing Mayors Training in American Planning, Design, and City Administration (I)</td>
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<td>Advanced Workshop: Winning Planning and Design Competitions in China Washington D.C., July 7-10</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Jiangsu Mayors’ Training in American Planning, Design and City Administration (II) August 14-18</td>
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<td>P.R.C. Ministry of Land and Resource Officials Research on American Legal System as regards Land and Resources.</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Chongqing Mayors Training in American Planning, Design, and City Administration (II)</td>
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<td>P.R.C. State Administration of Cultural Heritage Study Tour of American World Heritage Sites</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>Jiangsu Mayors Training in American Planning, Design, and City Administration (II) October 9-23</td>
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<td>China Study Tour: East Meets West</td>
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<td>People and Planning Magazine Launching and International Forum on Chinese Urbanization</td>
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Conference/Office Facilities - Leasing Schedule

Got work to do in China, but have no place to go? Try our conference room/studio in different two sizes, conveniently located in heart of Shanghai, on Central HuaiHai Road.

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- Car Service Reservation
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*Services above priced separately

Pricing

- Large Conference Room/Studio  US$150/day
- Small Conference Room/Studio  US$80/day

For more information, please contact us:

Telephone

U.S.: (202) 349-1010

Email:

Yufeng Guo at yguo@planning.org
Advanced Workshop: Washington D.C.

Winning Chinese Planning and Design Competitions: July 8-10, 2005

This advanced workshop is designed for American planning firms to gain valuable insight into the Chinese style of project review by presenting their proposals before a jury of experienced Chinese reviewers.

A four-person faculty team will conduct a mock jury review of four firms’ proposals before the firm faces real jury review in China. APA has invited four Chinese planning directors who have wide experience in design competition reviews: Planning Director of Shanghai, Ms. Xia Liqing; Director of Land Bureau of Shanghai, Ms. Yan Wenshu; Planning Director of Nanjing, Ms. He Huiyi; and Planning Director of Zhenjiang, Mr. Tian Tieming.

The four planning directors represent Chinese views on urbanization and urban design. The mock review will be tough but valuable, as the jury is invited to present its views candidly and critically.

All mock jury reviews will be conducted according to Chinese procedures. Each firm will be required to set up presentations (including maps, models, and handouts) the day before (July 7). On July 8 and 9, four firms will present their projects.

In each jury review, there will be two hours of presentation (translated into Chinese as required in a real review) and one hour of Q&A. Language and communication will be noted for political, economic, and cultural propriety. In the evening, the jurors will convene for a closed-door discussion of the projects presented that day and prepare for final review comments.

On July 10, the four experts will comment on all four projects. APA hopes this exercise will improve American planners’ understanding of Chinese planning and the political, economic, and social forces that influence and mandate planning principles, priorities, and possibilities.

In conjunction with this workshop, 12 senior planners from Jiangsu Province undergoing long-term training in the U.S. will join the group. They will split into two teams to evaluate the proposals, one team working in the American planning mode, the other in the Chinese mode.

Only four firms will be chosen for review. Real proposals for actual design projects are preferred, and proposals may currently be under review in China. All participants will be required to sign an agreement to safeguard the confidentiality of all the proposals presented. APA will make every effort to protect intellectual property rights and commercial interests. Individuals are also welcome, provided all participants in this workshop agree to proper safeguards of other companies’ intellectual property rights and commercial interests. Such individual participation will be limited.

Jury Team From China

Madam Xia, Liqing
Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Shanghai; Former Director of Shanghai Urban Planning Administration Bureau; Vice Chairwoman, Planning Committee for Shanghai Expo 2010; one of the most renowned planners in China for her Master Plan Shanghai 2010 and the expert on Mega-city metropolitan planning
Graduated in Architecture, Tongji University, Shanghai

Madam He, Huiyi
Former Director, Nanjing Urban Planning Bureau, Jiangsu Province; Chairwoman, Sub-Committee for Foreign Professional Exchanges, Chinese Association of City Planning; Advisor, APA’s China Program; Two times lectured for APA “Planning in China” Seminars in 2003 and 2004. Madam He is a much respected planner in China for her 30 years of effort on city planning in Nanjing and especially the historic preservation planning.
Graduated in Architecture, Tsinghua University, Beijing

Madam Yan, Wenshu
Former Planning Director of Shanghai Land and Housing Bureau; Acting Director, Shanghai Land Society. Madam Yan is considered one of the best land-use planners and regulators in China. She began cooperating with APA’s China Program since APA’s first official delegation visiting China in 1996.
Graduated in Land Survey and Management, Tongji University, Shanghai

Mr. Tian, Tiemin
Deputy Director of Zhenjiang City Planning Bureau, Jiangsu Province; Chairman, Zhenjiang Urban Planning Association. Mr. Tian is one of the best Chinese planners specialized in mid-small town planning in China. Mr. Tian was the key coordinator for APA’s demonstration planning project in Zhenjiang: Nanxu New Town Plan.
Graduated in Architecture, Tsinghua University, Beijing

Jury from APA China Program

Mr. Yuan Liu
Senior Advisor and Founding Member, APA’s China Program. Involved almost every project APA has worked with China since 1996. Mr. Liu will judge from the language perspective on the demo-projects presented in this Seminar — see if any issues in project are “lost in translation,” or, the writing and presentation in Chinese are not only understandable by the juries, but also if they are professionally sophisticated to win!

To Register:
Visit: https://www.planning.org/ecommerce/conference