The 1st international conference on:
“Learning Environments and Higher Education in a Global Context – From a Sino-Nordic Perspective”

Nordic Centre, Fudan University 8-10 May 2007

Aims: The Conference is aimed at introducing and discussing the internationalization of education taking place in the Nordic and Chinese Education systems, and focuses on developments within research on education going on within the two regions. The Conference deals with following questions:

1) What are the specific features of Chinese and Nordic higher educational system?
2) Globalization and internationalization process in the higher education systems of China and the Nordic Countries – a comparative perspective
3) How have the educational systems contributed to the technological and economical development taken place during the last 15 years?
4) What is the role of research in developing new learning environments and practices and cultivating the educational systems?
5) Case Studies of international cooperation in education/research on education
6) The trends in the Nordic and Chinese higher education system: the marketization processes

During the last conference day, the 10th of May there will be introduction to and exhibition of international doctoral and master’s degree programmes on education and other academic disciplines offered by the member universities of the Nordic Centre for Chinese students, teachers and professionals.

Target group: The target group of the seminar consists of 50-100 experts of education: representatives from the Chinese and Finnish Ministry of Education, faculty and staff members of selected Chinese and Nordic universities, post-doc, doctoral and master students as well as experts working in Chinese school administration.

If you wish to offer a conference presentation, please contact: Responsible organizer Professor Erno Lehtinen, Vice-Rector, University of Turku: ernolehtinen@utu.fi.

The deadline for paper submissions is 8 March 2007. For conference registrations, please send the attached registration form to education@utu.fi. The deadline for registrations is 20 March, 2007. See also www.nordiccentre.org for info.

Conference fee is 100RMB (=10 EUR), to be paid in RMB at the Conference venue.
The 1st international conference on
“Learning Environment and Higher Education in a Global Context – From a Sino-Nordic Perspective”

Venue: Fudan University, Yifu Science and Technology Building 2nd floor

Programme (tentative)

Tuesday the 8th of May:

“Educational Systems: The Nordic Experience in a comparative perspective”

Focus:
- Introduction to the Nordic Higher Educational System
- What is the future for Nordic universities?
- Internationalization? Challenges? Trends of development?

Morning session

09:00 Opening Session
Welcoming words by the organizers (University of Turku and Fudan University)

09:15 Keynote speeches by a Representative of the Chinese Ministry of Education and a Representative of the Finnish Ministry of Education

10:45 Coffee/Tea

11:00 “The Nordic Higher Educational System from the Research Point of View”
Introduction lecture: Professor Erno Lehtinen with Response from a Chinese Professor

12:00 Lunch (Zhengda Restaurant on Fudan Campus)

Afternoon Session

14:00 “The Internationalization of Education in the Nordic Countries”

14:45 “Introduction of International Student’s Education – Development of International Master’s and Doctoral Courses”

15:15 Coffee

15:30 Three thematic presentations (each 30 minutes) related to the topic of the first conference day
How has the Nordic Higher Educational System contributed to the rapid development of science, technology and economy in the Nordic countries?
What is the future for Nordic universities? Challenges? Trends of development?
Case study – a (successful) international cooperation programme

17:00 Wrap-up of Day one
17:20 Bus back to hotel or directly to dinner
18:30 Dinner

Wednesday the 9th of May:

“The Sino-Nordic Perspectives on Learning Environments”

Focus:
- Comparison of Chinese and Nordic Higher Education system
- International students education: theory and practice
- Future cooperation

Morning Session

09:00 Introduction lecture: “Socio-cultural View on Education and Learning”
Response from a Chinese Professor to be named
Discussion

09:45 Introduction lecture: Chinese Professor to be named. Response from a Nordic Professor to be named.

10:30 Coffee Break

Response from a Chinese Professor to be named
Discussion

11:30 Introduction Lecture: Chinese Professor to be named. Response from a Nordic Professor to be named.

12:15 Lunch at Zhengda Restaurant on Fudan Campus

Afternoon Session

14:00 Four thematic presentations by Chinese doctoral and Master’s students

15:20 Coffee Break and presentations of posters by Chinese doctoral and Master’s students
16:00 Final discussion for further cooperation

16:30 Conference wrap-up and closing.

Thursday the 10th of May

Information Day and Expert’s Forum (tbc)

All members of the Nordic Centre are invited to present their international programmes in stands at the conference venue. In the stands there is information concerning international doctoral and master’s degree programmes offered at their institution.

09:00 **Presentation:**
European Bologna system in higher education and the structure of graduate level education in the Nordic countries
Discussion

09:30 **Presentation**
What are the steps to apply for graduate programmes in the Nordic universities and what are the realities that the student faces when studying in a doctoral or master’s level programme in a Nordic country.
Questions and answers

10:00 Coffee

10:30 **Parallel sessions**
- Introductions by former (Chinese) students studying in the Nordic Countries (Venue: 2nd floor multifunctional hall)
- Separate Round-table expert’s forum with representatives from Chinese and Finnish Ministries of Education and a selected forum of experts from both China and the Nordic Countries. (Venue: 2nd floor meeting room)

12:00 Conference programme finishes but information stands open until 13:00