

Sida Country Report 2003

China



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1. Summary

Despite the SARS-crisis the economic growth in China continued on a high trajectory in 2003 and grew by 9.1 percent. However, increasing disparities in society, strains on the economy and the environment has lead the government to stress the need for balanced growth. More emphasise will be put on achieving sustainable development and to build a so called “Xiaokang society” (a moderately well-off society in an all-round way). Recent constitutional changes include clauses to protect private property and a government pledge to protect human rights. However, politically there is scant evidence of real systemic change.

China has made significant progress in terms of reducing the rural poverty levels and has already today reached a number of the millennium development targets. Achieving gender equality, preventing HIV/AIDS and curbing the environmental degradation remain large challenges for the government. The Swedish development cooperation with China focuses on cooperation in the areas of human rights, legal development, gender equality, social security and environmentally sustainable development.

2. Strategic Country Development Trends

2.1 Poverty Reduction: Overall Trends and Perspectives

China has made great progress in reducing the absolute rural poverty levels. Depending on which indicative measure of poverty is used the number of poor varies. The Chinese official rural poverty line (625 yuan net income per capita per annum in year 2000 prices) shows that the numbers of rural poor have declined from approximately 140 million in 1986 to 30 million in 2002. Using the international recognised measure of 1 USD per day (income at 1993 purchasing power parity PPP) the numbers of rural poor have declined from approximately 250 million in 1986 to 100 million in 2002.

On the other hand urban poverty has become a serious problem. The floating population amounting to more than 100 million are twice as likely to be poor as official urban residents are. At the same time, the floating population earn individually more than they would do in their home villages and are able to remit substantive amounts to their families in the poorer parts of China.

Looking at trends in China regarding how China deals with poverty alleviation China is today:

- recognising that poverty is a multidimensional concept,
- demonstrating a commitment to develop the Western regions of China where most of the rural poor live,
- deciding to progressively allow the floating population of cities to access urban social services which was previously restricted to registered urban residents
- top down planning of poverty programmes are being replaced by participatory processes involving the poor themselves.

China's new leadership under President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao has reaffirmed the government's priority to reduce poverty and that 2010 is the deadline for eradicating extreme rural poverty. Recent priorities of the government emphasise the need for a more balanced growth and greater emphasis on achieving sustainable development.

Millennium Development Goals

China has performed outstandingly well against most of the Millennium Development Goals. Some of the MDG targets have already been

achieved while available information indicates that China may not be on track as regard other targets. See below for more details on China's MDG progress

Goals	State of Goal Achievement
Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger by 2015	on track
Universal primary education by 2015	on track
Gender equality	maybe not on track
Under five mortality	on track
Reproductive health	on track
Combat disease (HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria)	maybe not on track except for reduce the incidence of malaria
Environment	maybe not on track
Basic amenities	on track

(Source: MDG China's progress 2003 assessment of the UN Country Team in China)

China's performance against the MDGs is significant. However some major challenges and emerging issues will need enforced attention and resources from the government of China. Challenges include among other the following:

- increase access to healthcare, education and a healthy environment
- minimising urban poverty
- narrow regional development disparities
- develop a social security system
- promote gender equality and empower women
- combating HIV/AIDS
- reverse environmental degradation

The SARS crisis highlighted the neglect of public health in China and showed the urgency of a health system reform. During a national health conference the Chinese Minister for Health stressed the following weaknesses: low awareness of the potential threat and severity of public health crisis, lack of an effective response mechanism for public health emergencies, low capacity for disease control and a weak rural health system.

Chronic under-funding of public health and rural health services has lead to a weak health system in China. Private funding (out of pocket private contributions) has mainly financed the health system. Requirement for medical treatment and having to pay from own resources are one of the main causes that could lead to that individual or families will fall into poverty. This is especially the case for the rural population.

HIV/AIDS Situation

HIV/AIDS has taken root in China and the epidemic has entered its so-called spreading phase with an annual increase of 11 percent. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in China shows low overall HIV prevalence ($\pm 0.1\%$) and high percentage in sub-groups, like injecting drug users, those who have sold and received blood products, female sex workers, men who have sex

with men and migrant workers. The rapid rise in the number of HIV-infected women implies that the epidemic is spreading to the general population.

According to Chinese statistics, by the end of June 2003, the number of HIV/AIDS cases in China was 840,000. UN organisations estimate that the number of cases exceeds 1 million.

During 2003 the central government of China paid increased attention to HIV/AIDS. On the AIDS-day in December 2003 the Premier and other high Chinese officials visited one of Beijing's hospital where people living with HIV/AIDS are treated. For the first time in Chinese media high officials were seen shaking the hands of PLWH.

Major challenges concerning HIV/AIDS remain such as: increased but still limited political support in tackling HIV/AIDS (especially at local level); low HIV/AIDS awareness among the public ($\pm 55\%$); widespread stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS; low condom usage and high rates of sexually transmitted infections.

After failing in the first and second round of the application for Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, China was successful in the third round. The funds from the Global fund will be used to care for the many thousand of persons who were infected by HIV/AIDS when selling blood.

Efforts Toward Sustainable Development

Although the government under premier Wen Jiabao maintains its commitment to promoting stable and rapid growth, it has put greater emphasis on achieving sustainable development. Pointing to increasing disparities in society and strains on the economy and the environment, the government stresses the need for balanced growth. In particular it gives more attention to those groups who have not benefited during the reform years, and to assuring access to social rights also for the rural population and the migrant workers. Agriculture will receive additional support, including a phasing-out of agricultural taxes, in order to raise rural incomes and increase food supply. Revitalization of the old industrial northeastern provinces has been added to development of the West as the most important regional ambitions.

The growth target for 2004 has been set to 7 percent, which is in line with the goal of quadrupling the economy between 2000 and 2020, but lower than the previous year's growth. Given that the government also aims to create 14 million new jobs in 2004, which is one million more than in 2003, it remains to be seen whether this is a signal for a tightening of the economy. Official estimates of urban unemployment stand at 4.3 percent. However, it is also officially recognised that if all laid-off workers and sub-employed in the rural areas were included, the unemployment rate would be twice that size at least.

The high economic growth rate in China takes place at a great cost to China's natural environment. The country faces immense environmental problems. Environmental issues are not mainstreamed into general government work but rather fragmented between various ministries and government institutions. The understanding of the relation between growth and environmental problems are limited, especially on the local level.

The resource usage per person is much lower in China as compared to the developed world. Energy usage per person, for example, is half that of the world average or only 1/10 of that in the USA. However, resource usage is increasing fast in China. The development momentum is such that the environmental problems will continue to worsen even though measures are continuously being put in place to address them. The Chinese State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) draws the same conclusion. In its Annual Report 2003, SEPA conclude that the state of the environment will in the short term perspective continue its deteriorating trend.

Energy consumption is of particular concern for China. Lack of energy was a problem during the summer of 2003 in the fast growing regions of Shanghai and Guangzhou. Electricity demand rose by an average 15% between the summer of 2002 and the summer of 2003, in some regions considerably more. China's aim of quadrupling the economy during the 2000 – 2020 period will need a comparable increase in energy supply if using the current development model. Even the most favourable energy supply scenarios, based on a doubling of the coal consumption, fall short of supplying sufficient amount of energy to fuel the planned quadrupling of the economy. Thus, China's development will be energy constrained unless a major shift toward sustainable development takes place.

During 2003 some large-scale projects reached significant milestones. The Three Gorges Dam was in part taken into operation. This dam, the largest in the world, will have an installed capacity comparable to the total energy supply in Sweden. The mega-project South-to-North Water Transfer, which will drain about 15% of the Yangtse river up to the drier northern part of China, was initiated in early 2003. Both these projects have received international criticism for their lack of environmental considerations and for the poor human rights record during the implementation stage.

2.2 Macro-economic Development

Economic Developments

Caveat: Unless otherwise indicated, statistical data used in this section is taken from the official publications of the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics, which generally are not considered fully reliable.

Economic growth in China continued on a high trajectory in 2003 shrugging off the negative impact of SARS in the second quarter. According to official sources the economy grew by 9.1 percent, which was the highest rate in seven years. GDP per capita sprung to 1,090 US-dollars surpassing the 1,000 US-dollar threshold, and catapulting China to the position as the world's fifth largest economy, just ahead of France.

Manufacturing industry contributed with as much as 6.5 percent growth (of the 9.1 percent in total), which confirmed the industrial character of the Chinese economy. The main driving forces behind demand were large increases in investments and in exports. Investments grew by 26.7 percent in total with manufacturing industry absorbing one third and construction a fifth. Foreign direct investments reached 56 billion US-dollars which made China the world's largest recipient, but which nevertheless contributed less than a tenth of total investments.

Long-term, the government seeks to replace investments by consumption as the main driver of growth, for example by spreading consumer credit.

Exports were up 34.6 percent, which also contributed to demand. However, since imports grew at an even quicker pace, 39.9 percent, the net effect of trade was negative to growth. The trade surplus shrank to 26 billion US-dollars. The great importance of trade to the Chinese economy is illustrated by the fact that exports and imports contributed to the equivalent of 60 percent of GDP.

Macroeconomic Challenges Ahead

During 2003 a few new challenges to macro economic stability emerged. Inflation picked up speed at the end of the year. Year-on-year increases in the consumer price index reached 3.0 and 3.1 percent in November and December respectively. The rise was due to strong price increases in foodstuffs. Although the government denied that the economy was overheating, it conceded that there was a risk of ill-conceived investments leading to bad loans in the future. Policy makers focused on those sectors which experienced extraordinary expansions in investments, in particular cement (+122 percent), steel (+97 percent), aluminium (+93 percent) and automotive (+87 percent). Using primarily administrative measures they announced plans to curb investments which were considered of too small scale or of too low quality.

Furthermore, by the end of the year the ferocious expansion of industry and infrastructure had created bottlenecks in the economy, especially in energy, raw materials and transportation. According to official estimates China consumed 55 percent of the world's cement in 2003, 36 percent of steel and 30 percent of coal, sparking rising global prices. The authorities sought to address the bottlenecks by raising productivity of coal and iron ore mines and encouraging more energy efficient production methods.

The continuing difficulties within the financial sector remained the greatest challenge to the economic growth. Official estimates put non-performing loans (NPL) at 24 percent of GDP by the end of 2003. That ratio, reduced somewhat in 2003, includes the four major state banks and the asset management corporations which took over some NPLs in 1999. The four major banks had official NPL-ratios of 20 percent. However, independent analysts estimated that a more accurate ratio could be 44–45 percent of all loans including NPLs transferred to asset management companies. The government has stated its plans to list the banks on the stock markets as means to recapitalize them and improve management. As the financial system is planned to open up to foreign institutions in 2007 the government is racing to ready the banks for the increased competition.

High Pace in Economic Reforms

Economic reforms proceeded at high speed in 2003. The government has confirmed the continued aim to relinquish command control of the economy, to introduce market mechanisms in decision making and to strengthen the role of the private sector in the economy. Constitutional amendments to protect private property rights and land rights were suggested in 2003 and adopted in early 2004, serving this aim.

While previously highly contentious within the ruling Communist Party, these changes may pave the way for new legislation regulating private ownership of real estate, enterprises and land, thereby ending the currently unclear status of such rights. This may spur the development of the private sector and of agriculture.

2003 saw the establishment of the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), which separated regulation of the banking sector from the central bank. The CBRC has been charged with the task of pushing through banking reform to resolve the current crisis in the financial system

Closely connected to the banking reform is the reform of the state-owned enterprise (SOE) sector, which is the source of the many non-performing loans. In 2003 the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) was formed and assumed the responsibility for ca 185 large SOEs. SASAC's task is to improve corporate governance and create strong and viable companies.

The valuation of China's currency, the yuan or renminbi, came under hot debate during the year. The USA demanded that China revalue its currency claiming that it was the cause of the deficit in bilateral trade. Speculation in a revaluation contributed to the inflow of foreign currency. Chinese policy makers, however, refused to change the yuan's peg to the US-dollar, but eased the restrictions on capital flows, for example by allowing Hong Kong banks to deal in yuan.

2.3 Political Development and Human Rights

General Trends in Domestic Policy

The Chinese government continues its focus on economic development, with the goal to quadruple the country's GDP in the 2000–2020 period and build a "Xiaokang society", a "moderately well-off society in an all-round way". However, the premier's work report to the March 2004 National People's Congress also shows an increased awareness of the widening disparities and social problems that the country is experiencing in the wake of economic reform. The social, health and education sector will also receive increased attention. Ultimately, however, these measures will not be allowed to interrupt the main objective of continued economic expansion.

Politically, there is scant evidence of real systemic change. Recent constitutional changes include landmark clauses to protect private property and a government pledge to protect human rights. The government is continuing to pursue legal reform, which includes making the judicial system more professional. The government is furthermore continuing the village elections and some pilot testing of elections at higher administrative levels. In response to growing public dissatisfaction with the prevalence of corruption and social injustice, the government strives to increase its responsiveness to the demands of the common citizen. It will attempt to do so by reforming the inner workings of the one-party state rather than through any steps towards democratisation of the system itself. Protection of the party's monopoly on political power remains a central objective.

General Trends in Foreign Policy

China is increasingly conscious of the fact that its ambitious plan for economic growth, of which foreign trade and investment is an imperative component will require stability in its external relations. Today, three of China's traditional political adversaries – the U.S., Japan and South Korea – are its three largest trading partners and foreign investors.

A key factor in the development of a more confident Chinese diplomacy has been a much improved relationship with the United States. Sino-U.S. relations have transcended from the low point of the “airplane collision incident” in April 2001 to a relationship referred to by the U.S. president as one of “diplomatic partners” and by the Chinese premier as “the most important bilateral relationship in the world.” Key to this improvement has been China's stewardship of the six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear issue – the first time ever that China has played the role of broker in a major international conflict – as well as Chinese support for the struggle against terrorism and its low profile on the Iraq question.

Still, a certain degree of turbulence will continue to characterise Sino-U.S. relations for the foreseeable future, particularly in an election year in the U.S. where questions such as the trade deficit with China and the Chinese currency have become issues in the domestic economic debate. Other issues, such as human rights (China has responded to a U.S. resolution on China at the UN human rights commission by suspending the bilateral human rights dialogue) and Hong Kong (China has reacted angrily to U.S. protests about Beijing's hard line on democratic development in Hong Kong, which it views as U.S. interference in China's internal affairs) continue to mar China's improved relations with the U.S. and Europe.

Taiwan, however, remains the paramount issue in China's relations with the U.S. and the international community. The Chinese government maintains that it will brook no outside interference in the Taiwan question and that any move towards Taiwanese independence will provoke a military reaction from China.

Elsewhere in the international arena, China's new diplomatic confidence has led to improved border relations with India, Vietnam and Russia, as well as fortified regional bonds with the ASEAN countries (a free trade area is being considered) and in Central Asia (a permanent secretariat for the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation was inaugurated in Beijing in late 2003.) With regard to the United Nations, China continues to stress the pivotal importance of the UN in all international questions. The U.N. plays an important role in the Chinese ambition to counter what Beijing perceives to be U.S. unilateralism. Instead, China favours what it calls a “multipolar” world order, where China will be one important pole.

Risk for Internal Conflicts

Alongside the goal of economic growth, the Chinese government places the utmost importance on political stability, and is sometimes willing to resort to draconian measures to protect its control. Despite the control there have been numerous examples of large protests and rioting in the economically lagging countryside and among laid-off workers. Many of

these protests are the result of large-scale redundancies or arrears wage payments as a consequence of the reform of loss-making state-owned enterprises. Such protests have, according to reports, frequently been forcefully repressed by local authorities.

Other sources for discontent that have translated into organised protests include corruption scandals, mass evictions due to urban development and the mismanaged HIV/AIDS epidemic. These protests, albeit far from insignificant, do not, however, at present threaten to erupt into unrest of national proportions. In the event that a future economic downturn should threaten the continued improvement of living standards that has thus far has justified the negative social side-effects of reform, the impact of such protests on the domestic political situation may widen.

In the provinces of Tibet and Xinjiang, the government's poor human rights record and suppression of freedom of religion and speech has further stoked an already prevalent sense of separate identity, including movements for independence. As the central government equates separatism with terrorism, any independence-minded behaviour is severely penalised, often in contravention of fundamental human rights.

China is a one-party state, and consequently there is no open organised opposition to the government or its policies. Since the violent crushing of the political protests in 1989, there is also no evidence pointing to the existence of an underground democracy movement of any real significance. Given the absence of such a movement, the likelihood of protests of the scale of the 1989 movement is slim. The government is focused on preventing mass movements against the government before they reach critical mass.

The Falun Gong movement is perhaps the only underground movement of significant enough a weight to represent a current threat in the eyes of the Chinese leadership. An extensive crackdown and propaganda campaign against the movement, coupled with the limited political power of the movement itself, does however mean that the Falun Gong is unlikely to be able to incite an uprising on a national scale. Should it do so, the government will not hesitate to use force to defeat it.

Risk for External Conflict

Taiwan remains the issue where the likelihood of an external conflict involving China is the greatest. China has repeatedly stated that it cannot exclude a military response to a Taiwanese declaration of independence, and there has been a significant build-up of ballistic missiles on the mainland side of the Taiwan Straits. Given the government's focus on a steady economic development and given the pledges of the United States to guarantee status quo across the straits, it is highly unlikely that the situation will deteriorate into open conflict in the near to medium term. China will instead focus on bringing Taiwan closer economically and on using its influence with the United States to urge Washington to dissuade any movement towards Taiwanese independence. Taiwan is a democracy, and a growing sense of an indigenous Taiwanese identity is reflected in the political discourse. Assuming that this trend continues further deepen the dilemma faced by the mainland and its policy to bring about a reunification. To prevent this dynamic from turning into a military

conflict will require restraint and political will on all three sides of the triangular Beijing-Washington-Taipei relationship.

The question of the Korean peninsula is the other major area where China could conceivably find itself involved in open conflict. The Chinese government want to avoid such a development at all cost, and is playing a constructive role as host of the six-party talks on the nuclear issue. A large-scale regional conflict, possibly involving weapons of mass destruction, or a collapse of North Korea would invariably involve China and potentially bring disastrous consequences for the country. China hopes that economic compensation and security guarantees for North Korea in exchange for denuclearization will bring about the conditions for economic growth and, in turn, political stability, for North Korea.

China has not forgotten the war crimes committed by Japan in the last century, and hostility toward the Japanese remains high. China is worried about a future resurgence of Japanese militarism, as well as Japanese inclusion in an American missile defence. However, despite isolated flashpoints with nationalist undertones (such as the dispute over the Spratly islands), increased economic interdependence and a mutual realisation that a stable relationship benefits all sides, will in all likelihood prevent China and Japan from engaging in open conflict in the short to medium term.

Situation Regarding Human Rights

Over the last ten or twenty years, the economic reform and opening up of China has led to a vast improvement in living standards and hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty – a figure of unique global significance. The freedom of the individual within the private sphere has been significantly expanded. People's lives are to a much lesser extent the subject of party scrutiny and most personal decisions such as employment, housing, marriage and increasingly even place of residence is now the individual's own decision rather than a party matter.

China today has close to 300 million mobile phones, up to 100 million Internet users, and an estimated 200 billion SMS were exchanged last year. This has radically limited the ability of the government to control people's thoughts and opinions. The number of TV-channels, magazines and newspapers has increased rapidly and the scope of media content has been widened. Certain issues that were previously taboo, such as corruption on the local level, HIV/AIDS, environmental protection and even the role of the media itself, are now open for public discussion, although within given boundaries.

However, in terms of fundamental freedoms and rights such as freedom of expression, organisation, religion and the media, the situation remains of continued concern. Open criticism of the government or dissenting views on issues such as Taiwan, Tibet, Falun Gong or key government policies are not allowed and censorship of media and Internet is significant. Political movements and free trade unions are banned. A discussion on democracy is limited to "intra-party" reform and to discussing democracy as a theoretical concept.

Those who challenge the government in the above areas are severely penalised, often through lengthy prison terms. Occasionally, dissidents pay for exercising their right to freedom of expression with their lives,

either through the death penalty (China executes more people every year than the rest of the world's countries put together) or through torture or maltreatment in prison, which are widespread phenomena. Followers of organisations such as the Falun Gong are frequently subject to the administrative system of "reform through labour", whereby their thoughts and attitudes are to be reformed while they perform hard labour.

The Chinese authorities have recently indicated that a reform to introduce a judicial element into the process of sentencing a person to "reform through labour" is to be introduced. The Chinese judicial system has seen some improvement over the last few years, but serious problems remain, for example in terms of impartiality and independence of judges and the role of the lawyer. In March 2004, the National People's Congress approved a constitutional amendment, which states that the government "shall protect the human rights of the citizens". It remains to be seen to what extent this positive step will translate into concrete improvements in the rights of the individual.

2.4 Development Co-operation

Even though China is one of the largest receiver in money terms, of official development assistance (ODA) in the world, ODA only correspond to 0.1 percent of GDP. As a comparison, foreign direct investments in China correspond to 3.8 percent of GDP. The development co-operation with China is hence not playing a crucial role for China's economy. Major donors in China, such as the World Bank and Asia Development Bank aim at supporting the continued reform process in China through institutional capacity building and support to new methods and ideas in various fields.

Ministry of Finance is responsible for all credit financed development co-operation with China. Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), responsible for co-ordination of all grant-financed development co-operation in China underwent a re-organisation during 2003, which initially slowed down activities with regard to development co-operation. Due to the SARS-epidemic, most meetings and planned activities for the spring of 2003 were cancelled or postponed. In October 2003 an annual meeting between Sida and MOF/MOFCOM was held in Stockholm. Key issues during the annual meeting concerned emphasise from both sides to attach increased importance to aspects of poverty reduction. It was agreed that Sida would continue to direct the co-operation towards the Middle and Western as well as the Northeast provinces of China. Sida further indicated interest in considering supporting China related activities within the so-called Great Mekong Sub-region programme.

Issues related to how to ensure that Chinese procurement procedures are more in line with Sida's requirements and international standards were discussed and agreed up on.

MOFCOM organised the 4th Dialogue and Co-ordination meeting with participants from Chinese government agencies and organisations as well as the donor community. The theme of the meeting was environmental protection and sustainable development. More than 100 persons attended the co-ordination meeting and exchanged views, ideas and best practise.

Despite the fact that MOFCOM during the last three years has intensified efforts to increase donor co-ordination it still remains a large challenge. The responsibility for various sectors in China such as health are often fragmented between various government agencies and it is still difficult for donors to analyse the needs and underlying problems in a certain sector. The mere fact that China is so large and that provinces implement government policies differently also lead to challenges for donors active in China.

Informal donor co-ordination takes place among some like-minded donors on a regular basis. Key issues that were discussed during these meetings related to poverty and environment, China's fiscal and taxation policies, how to scale-up successful interventions, prevention of HIV/AIDS and SARS.

With regard to the EU development co-operation with China the priorities for the co-operation are laid out in the country strategy paper (2002–2006) and focus on support to the economic and social reform process, environment and sustainable development and good governance and the rule of law. In October the Chinese Government issued its first policy paper on the EU. In the paper the following was specifically mentioned regarding development assistance. "China welcomes more EU development aid, especially in such fields as the environmental protection, poverty-alleviation, public health and hygiene and education. China also welcomes a stronger and more active role of the EU in human resources development, in particular, personnel training for China's central and western regions and build-up of China's capacity of participating in multilateral trading regime".

3. Swedish Development Co-operation

3.1 Strategic Assessment and Considerations

The current country strategy governing the development co-operation with China was approved in January 2001 with validity until December 2005.

With regard to Swedish bilateral development co-operation with China year-end disbursements for 2003 amounted to 43 million SEK this was a lower figure than the disbursements made during 2002 which amounted to 65 million SEK. During 2003 Sida approved new projects of a total of 88 million SEK out of which one concessionary credit for a waste water treatment plant (Swedish contribution amounted to 45 million SEK).

A new trend in the mode of co-operation for the Swedish development co-operation with China relates to the initiated contacts with multilateral institutions such as WHO and UNICEF with the purpose of multi-bi financing of projects in the area of Maternal and Child Health and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

In light of the Chinese governments priorities on creating a “moderately well-off society in an all-round way” and the Government’s emphasis on environmental protection and further developing the legal sector the priorities set in the Swedish Country Strategy for development co-operation are still relevant.

However, issues related to geographical focus and the forms of co-operation mentioned in the current strategy will need to be assessed. The embassy also propose that the current strategy is prolonged until 2006 in order for Sida to follow the strategy process with some other like minded donors and also to be able to receive the priorities from the Chinese government mentioned in the next 5 year plan.

3.2 Overall Country Programming Review

Considering the size of China and the limited Swedish development co-operation it is important to be realistic in assessing the impact of the Swedish contributions.

The current country strategy promotes the inflow of new ideas to China that can accelerate the reform process and promote:

- human rights, legal development and democratisation
- increased gender equality and social security
- sustainable development

All of the above mentioned issues, except democratisation, are clearly issues that the government of China also prioritise.

In certain areas such as promotion of human rights in China and environmental protection, the Swedish co-operation is playing a rather important role. Swedish experiences and knowledge are requested in these areas. This is also the fact with regard to gender equality and social security but these areas have not been as well developed with the Chinese counterparts as the previously mentioned sectors. For instance the Swedish policies and social security systems are often of interest for the Chinese decision-makers but they are in the end often regarded as too expensive to implement.

With regard to how effective the Swedish Development co-operation is it is once again important to remember the size of China. The Swedish development co-operation with China aims at supporting Chinese organisations/institutions with new ideas and methods. Whether these ideas/methods and pilot projects can be scaled-up or influence policy makers depends on how well the Chinese implementing partner can make use of the new knowledge and the general climate for proposed new policies in China.

During 2003, the Embassy has in meetings and discussions with Chinese decision-makers and Chinese counterparts focused the dialog around the importance of actively working with gender equality, prevention of HIV/AIDS and improving the human rights situation in China.

With regard to the portfolio of projects in China the main thrust of the projects are focusing on environmentally sustainable development. Of the nineteen on-going projects (excluding projects financed by concessionary credits) thirteen projects are related to environmental sustainable development. The Sida contribution for these projects amount to 73,5 million SEK. Four projects aim at Human Rights capacity building and legal development and the Sida contribution amounts to approximately 38 million SEK. Two other projects relate to health and gender equality and the Sida contribution amounts to 14 million SEK.

The disbursements during 2003 amounted to 43 million SEK (including grants amounting to 7,5 million SEK through Swedish NGOs). The main reason for slow implementation and disbursement rate can be referred to that the SARS-epidemic slowed down the implementation of all Sida on-going projects in China during 2003.

The disbursement forecast for 2004 for new and on-going project amounts to 67 million SEK (excluding concessionary credits, support through Swedish NGOs and humanitarian assistance).

3.3 Follow-up Country Programme Performance

Human Rights, Legal Development and Democratisation

The main programme in the area of human rights and legal development is the programme on "Human Rights capacity building" carried out by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in cooperation with Chinese academic institutes and the Supreme People's Prosecuting Services. The programme is finalising its third year of activities and some major achievements especially in the co-operation with the academic institutions could be noted. The realising of a special research direction for Master Students in International Human Rights Law which should have

been started during the fall of 2003 had due to SARS be postponed until February 2004.

During the fall of 2003 the programme was reviewed by two external experts. The purpose of the review was to assess the results in the programme and to give Sida ideas and inputs for a possible continued support. The review recommended continued co-operation and currently Sida is assessing a proposal on continued support to RWI for their activities in China.

In 2003 Sida approved a proposal from the Swedish organisation Attorneys without Borders for their continued project in cooperation with one legal aid centre in Shanghai.

During the fall of 2003 one officer from Sida's division for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations made an overall assessment of conditions and possibilities available to civil society and its organisations to act in China and possibilities for extended Swedish cooperation with civil society in China. The assessment concluded that there is a great interest from Chinese civil society to co-operate with Swedish counterparts in issues such as strengthening their role in society, organisational development, improved skills in management, planning, project management and leadership.

The Embassy Fund has been used to support Chinese civil society in rights related areas such as women's rights, children's rights and minorities' rights (For more information about the fund please read under the Embassy fund section.)

Environmentally Sustainable Development

Co-operation in the area of sustainable development composes a large proportion of Sida's engagement in China.

During 2003 Sida approved five new environmentally related projects.

In co-operation with the Chinese State Environmental Protection Administration Sida is financing a bilateral training course on Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment. The training course is timely since China in 2003 adopted a new law requiring that not only physical projects but also plans and policies are subject to an environmental impact assessment.

A bilateral training course, in co-operation with Ministry of Water Resources, on the topic Operational Hydrology and Water Management was held during 2003 with participants from, among others, all of China's major river commissions.

A third bilateral training course was approved during 2003, on Environmental Education. The course will take place during 2004. The course is timely since China's Ministry of Education in November 2003 issued new guidelines on environmental education for primary and secondary education.

In the coastal city of Qingdao a project on air quality management commenced. The project is implemented by Qingdao Environmental Protection Bureau.

During 2003 Sida approved a two-year financial support to the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development. The China Council reports directly to the Chinese leadership on policy issues related to environment and sustainable development.

A former Swedish state secretary of environment is represented in the Council Executive Bureau. The project has increased Sweden's possibilities for a dialogue on sustainable development policies with China and gives an opportunity to influence national policies in the area of sustainable development.

One Concessionary Credit for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Henan province (central China) was granted during last year.

The ongoing Sida funded projects progressed well in general, even though delays were experienced due to the SARS epidemic. Ongoing projects include environmental planning, Local Agenda 21 work, industrial waste water treatment, water use efficiency, lake management and ecosanitation.

During the year a large number of new project proposals have been under preparation with various Chinese partners. The proposals include issues such as biodiversity, continuation of the Local Agenda 21 co-operation, sustainable forest management, WTO and Environment, cleaner production initiatives, capacity building of local protection bureau in the poorer parts of China, NGO –government cooperation on sustainable development and development of renewable energy resources.

Gender Equality and Social Security

Apart from seeing to that gender is mainstreamed in all projects that Sida is supporting the co-operation with China also include specific gender projects. During 2003 Sida approved a bilateral training course for China on the issue of Women in management. The Chinese partner is the All China Women's Federation, who will be inviting participants from a number of government organisations in order to raise the awareness and boost the involvement of women in decision making.

During the year preparations for a continued co-operation in the area of gender statistics between National Bureau of Statistics in China and SCB in Sweden have taken place. A new phase of the co-operation focusing on time use will start in the spring of 2004.

Health issues came high on the agenda of the Chinese Government during last year. The SARS-epidemic highlighted the problems in the Chinese health system. The Chinese government during last year also discussed the problems of HIV/AIDS in China much more openly.

The third phase of the three-folded project on iodine deficiency started in the fall of 2003. The project includes capacity building related to

- (a) prevention of iodine deficiency disorder,
- (b) development screening (early identification of IDD) and
- (c) rehabilitation of children with mental disabilities identified within the project.

One Swedish expert on disease control was during the spring of 2003 seconded to the WHO-office in Beijing to help out with the prevention of the SARS-epidemic.

The project on sexuality education for young adults was concluded during 2003. The experiences from this pilot project showed that during the project period issues related to sexual education for young persons

have much come into the focus of Chinese authorities and population. Sexual education is no longer so sensitive to discuss, but it is a great demand of information and need for capacity building in this area.

The Embassy has during the year prepared one new project proposal directed towards sexual education in schools in Henan province and in co-operation with WHO Beijing office discussed a comprehensive project on prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Other issues related to health that are under preparation relate to a project on maternal and child health in co-operation with UNICEF-Beijing office and one project on health system reform.

Embassy Fund

The Embassy Fund aims at supporting Chinese non-governmental organisations and networks working with issues related to for example children's rights, women's rights, minorities' rights etc.

During 2003 the Embassy approved three new projects. One related to a survey of the living standard and household survey of migrant population in some of China's urban cities. This was the first time that such a survey was conducted. The second project aims at supporting the Minorities Educational Media Organisation in Sichuan province in their work with revitalising and documenting traditional Tibetan art forms. The third project is a continuation of the support to prevention of domestic violence carried out by a network of organisations.

The Embassy Fund has since its establishment in 2000 become well known among Chinese NGOs. Problems related to the fund are connected to lack of time at the Embassy for work related to networking among NGOs.

3.4 Office and Administrative Issues

The development section of the Embassy of Sweden consists of two Swedish programme officer and one national project officer. One Swedish officer is overall responsible for the co-ordination of the Swedish development co-operation with China and Mongolia, while one officer is focusing on environmental co-operation with China.

The share size of China, problems of receiving relevant information regarding China's development issues, lack of a China driven donor co-ordination and the fragmentation of policy issues among various Chinese ministries/organisations results in as for the whole Embassy a heavy workload for the development section at the Embassy.

Annex 1

Ongoing Projects (as of March 2004)

Environment

Project: Bilateral course Operational Hydrology

Purpose: Training in the use of hydro meteorological processes in operational water management.

Sida contribution: SEK 3,0 during 1 year

Start: November 2003

Contract partners: Ministry of Water Resources and SMHI

Contact person in Sweden: Mr Bo Holst, SMHI

Project: Gaobeidian Training Center II

Purpose: During phase 1, 1997–2000, the training centre was established and now provides training in waste water management and techniques to course participants from all parts of China. The second phase aims at further strengthening the capacity of Gaobeidian Training Center to start up courses within the areas of pricing, nutrition removal and sludge treatment.

Contract partners: Beijing Drainage Group Co. Ltd and Malmberg Water AB

Sida contribution: 2,3 MSEK during 2 years

Start: Spring 2003

Contact person in Sweden: Mr Jan Svensson, Malmberg Water

Project: Development of an Air Quality Management System for Qingdao Area, phase 2

Purpose: Develop the capacity of Qingdao Environmental Protection Bureau in Air Quality Management

Sida contribution: 7 MSEK during 2,5 years

Start: Spring 2003

Contract partners: Qingdao Environmental Protection Bureau (QEPB) and ÅF International/Opsis AB

Contact person in Sweden: Mr Kjell Ericson

Project: Local Agenda 21, phase 2

Purpose: To deepen and develop the work with local agenda 21 in

three Chinese cities/areas designated in phase 1. To start up environmentally sound pilot projects.

Sida contribution: 6,2 MSEK during 3 years

Start: April 2000

Contract partners: L.I.F.E Academy and ACCA 21

(Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21)

Contact person in Sweden: Lars Hallén

Project: Inner Mongolia Lake Restoration, Main Study, Step 2

Purpose: To restore the lake Wuliangsuhai in Inner Mongolia now suffering from heavy eutrophication. The main study will focus on building a knowledge base on the processes that affect the water quality and produce a feasible management and control proposal for addressing the conflicting interests that causes the eutrophication problems.

Sida contribution: 5,6 MSEK during 3,5 years. Cooperation with NORAD (Norway)

Start: May 2000

Contract partners: IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute and Inner Mongolia Environmental Science Institute

Contact person in Sweden: Jonas Fejes

Project: Industrial Waste Water Treatment, phase 3

Purpose: Clean production, capacity building concerning eco-efficiency among the industry in Tianjin

Sida contribution: 6,4 MSEK during 3 years

Start: Autumn 2000

Contract partners: Tianjin Academy of Environmental Sciences and IVL

Contact person in Sweden: Östen Ekengren

Project: Establishing an Urban Management Geographic Information System in three cities in Hebei Province

Purpose: Rights to land and house are clear and guaranteed, access to reliable information for collaterals, urban management, development and environmental planning benefits from correct information,

Sida contribution: 9 MSEK (in addition 12 MSEK for a concessionary loan)

Start: Spring 2001

Contract partners: Hebei Bureau of Surveying and Mapping and Swedesurvey

Contact person in Sweden: Ms Benita Nordin

Project: Water Use Efficiency

Purpose: Transfer of knowledge to farmers on how to use limited water resources in an optimal way in dry land farming systems. To improve living conditions, environment, land use and reduce the soil erosion

Sida contribution: 3,6 MSEK during 3 years

Start: Autumn 2001

Contract partners: Shaanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

Contact person in Sweden: Mr Lars Lövdahl

Project: Providing Basis for Cooperation under the Beijing-Hebei Eco-Region Programme (project 1)

Purpose: aims to provide a basis for cooperation among 20 counties in Beijing-Hebei region on an action plan for sustainable development of the region.

Sida contribution: 7,2 MSEK during 2 years

Start: January 2002

Contract partners: Stockholm Environmental Institute, SEI and State Development Planning Commission

Contact person in Sweden: Mr Karl Hallding SEI

Project: Conference on sustainable urban development

Purpose: To hold a high level Sino-Swedish conference on sustainable urban development with representatives from a large number of Chinese cities.

Sida contribution: 1,0 MSEK

Start: Spring of 2004

Contract partners: State Environmental Protection Administration and Swedish Ministry of Environment

Contact person in Sweden: Tony Clark

Project: Secretariat for Sino-Swedish Co-operation on Sustainable Development Policies

Purpose: To provide expert advice, administration and co-ordination of Sino-Swedish co-operation in the field of sustainable development policy.

Sida contribution: 7,5 million SEK during 3 years

Start: January 2001

Implementing partners: Stockholm Environment Institute and State Development Planning Commission

Contact person in Sweden: Karl Hallding at SEI

Project: China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development

Purpose: To support the CCICED policy advisory group. CCICED studies urgent environment and development issues in China and presents policy advice to the Chinese Government

Sida contribution: 8,5 MSEK during the 2003–2004 period.

Start: Spring 2003

Contract partners: China Environment Project Society, Canada and State Environmental Protection Administration, China

Contact person in Sweden: Alexandra Wachtmeister, Sida

Project: Bilateral course Environmental Impact Assessment

Purpose: To raise the capacity among SEPA staff in especially strategic EIA

Sida contribution: 2,7 million SEK

Start: November 2003

Implementing partners: SEPA and Scandiacounsult Natura

Contact person in Sweden: Thomas Hertzman, Scandiacounsult Natura

Project: Bilateral course Environmental Education

Purpose: To raise the capacity with regard to environmental education

Sida contribution: 4,5 million SEK

Start: September 2004

Implementing partners: East China Normal University and Scandiaconsult Natura

Contact person in Sweden: Thomas Hertzman Scandiaconsult Natura

Health

Project: In- School initiatives to complement mass media strategies for safer sexual behaviour and HIV prevention amongst Chinese youth

Purpose: To increase awareness of and change attitudes related to HIV/AIDS among students, develop the capacity of teachers to teach concerning HIV/AIDS and sexual health matters.

Sida contribution: 4,3 MSEK during 2 years

Start: Spring 2004

Contract partners: Marie Stopes China and Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU)

Contact person in Sweden: Ms Lena Ingvarsdotter Persson

Project: Prevention of Iodine deficiency, Phase 4

Purpose: Prevention of Iodine Deficiency, Developmental Screening for Mental Retardation and Rehabilitation of children with mental disability.

Sida contribution: 11.4 MSEK during 3 years

Start: Autumn 2003

Contract partners: Uppsala University, Division for International Mother and Child Health and China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF)

Contact person in Sweden: Professor Mehari Gebre-Medhin

Gender

Project: Time Use Statistics (TUS)

Purpose: Develop the capacity of National Bureau of statistics to collect, analyse and publish time use statistics from a gender perspective.

Sida contribution: SEK 1,8 during 2,5 year

Start: April 2004

Contract partners: National Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Sweden, SCB

Contact person in Sweden: SCB, Mr Kameran Khudur

Project: Bilateral course on women's participation in decision-making

Purpose: Strengthen women in their role as leaders and decision-makers.

Sida contribution: SEK 2,6 during 1, 5 year

Start: November 2003

Contract partners: CENTEK at University of Luleå and All China Women's Federation

Contact person in Sweden: CENTEK, Ms Inger Wallin

Human Rights and Legal Development

Project: Human Rights and Democracy training

Purpose: To stimulate education and research on international human rights law in China.

Sida contribution: 22 MSEK

Start: Spring 2001

Implementing partners: Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Supreme Peoples Prosecutors, SIPU and a number of Chinese universities

Contact person in Sweden: Mikael Johansson Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund

Project: Support to Lawyers without Borders, Legal Aid Service in Shanghai

Purpose: Strengthen Legal Aid service at one grass root legal aid center in Shanghai

Sida contribution: 1,6 MSEK

Start: Fall 2003

Implementing partners: Lawyers with out Borders and Legal Aid Service in Shanghai

Contact person in Sweden: Bo Klasén

Project: Swedish-Tibetan School and Cultural organisation

Purpose: To support approximately 100 schools in Tibet and introduce health related as well as environment related subjects in the schools

Sida contribution: 8.5 million Swedish kronor during 5 years

Start: spring 2001

Implementing partners: The Swedish Tibetan School and Cultural organization

Regional programmes which include China

Project: Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction from Industry in Asia Pacific

Purpose: Developing and demonstrating a mechanism for reducing emissions of greenhouse gas at company level. The programme includes three components:

- (a) Capacity building/training of national partners
- (b) Practical demonstration and evaluation of the Energy Audit methodology by carrying out audits, preparing action plan and implementing the plans in a number of industrial plants in the most energy intensive sectors.
- (c) Review, evaluation and recommendation for national policies and measures that can be taken to support and encourage the adoption of energy efficient production methods in industry.

Sida contribution: 13 million Swedish kronor during 3 years (2002–2004)

Implementing partners: UNEP in Bangkok together with national counter parts in China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The Chinese counterpart is yet to be identified.

Project: Prevention of Illegal Trade of Ozone Depleting Substances

Purpose: The objective of the project is to develop co-operation between customs authorities in Asian countries in order to enforce import/export controls and to achieve compliance with Montreal Protocol phase-out requirements.

Sida contribution: Via Swedish bilateral ozone programme 1.7 million Swedish kronor, 2003–2005

Implementing partners: Stockholm Environment Institute, UNEP

Project: The Mekong Partnership and Beyond, HIV/AIDS/STD Prevention and Care in Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam

Purpose: The overall objective of the programme is to reduce HIV/AIDS transmission on children, young people and families, through increasing the effectiveness of national and inter-country responses to the epidemic in the Mekong Sub region, and providing practical support at community level. Encouraging full participation of people affected.

Sida contribution: 32 million Swedish kronor during 3 years

Implementing partners: UNICEF together with the involved countries

Project: Ecological Sanitation includes China, Vietnam, South Africa, Bolivia, El Salvador and Mexico

Purpose: Promoting the development of ecological sanitation systems, with special emphasis on the promotion of development of ecological systems for urban and peri-urban areas and to support a local capacity for research development and implementation in the field of applied sanitation

Sida contribution: 16 million Swedish kronor during 3 years

Implementing partners: Stockholm Environment Institute and different organizations in the participating countries. The Chinese partner is Erdos city, Inner Mongolia

Project: Sustainable Urban Transport in Asia

Purpose: The objective of the project is to develop a conceptual approach of city-based sustainable transport planning relevant for Asia. The project is based on a critical review of existing experiences, legislative and organisational structures, transport assessment and planning tools. Work in three Asian cities is planned, of which Xian might be one.

Sida contribution: 3, 2 million Swedish kronor from Dec 2003–March 2005

Implementing partners: Clean Air Initiative within ADB, Manila together with EMBARQ, WRI

Concessionary Credits Financed by Sida

Project name, location	Sida decision	Million SEK	Supplier
Gaobeidian Sewage Treatment	1994	147,3	Purac
Shunde Water Supply, Guangdong	1994	29,6	Malmberg Water
Water Supply Fuyang	1994	23,5	Purac
Water Supply Handan	1994	26,7	Purac
District Heating Jiamusi	1995	29,5	Power Pipe
District Heating Fushun	1995	31,0	ABB
Water Supply Chengdu	1995	19,8	Purac
Water Supply Wozhou	1995	21,1	Purac
Coal Ash Products	1995	18,1	CBC Engineering
Central Heating Shijiazhuang	1995	34,8	ÅF-Energikonsult
Xiamen Sewage Treatment Pumping Stn	1995	31,1	Environmental Technology
Air Pollution Control Tech Manu Shangahi	1995	14,3	SAJO Maskin Int
Emergency and Rescue Center Yinchuan Ningxia	1995	22,1	SEAR
Benxi Env. Pollution Central, Liaoning	1995	6,6	SEAR
Thermal Plastic Pipes for Transp of Natural Gas	1996	19,2	Europe Partners
Fuyang Hospital Anhui	1997	12,9	SEAR
Qinghai Rescue Centre	1997	17,1	SEAR
Jining Hospital, Shandong	1997	15,0	Ekipac
Env Prot o Energy Conservation Pr	1997	16,2	Elof Hansson
Shanghai Noise Control	1997	15,6	AP&T Lagan
Yancheng Water Supply Jiangsu	1999	35,2	PURAC
Coal Ash Shenyang	1999	22,3	CBC Engineering
Heilongjiang Hospital	1999	59,3	SEAR
Lanzhou Hospital	1999	18,3	SEAR
Beijing Cancer Hospital	1999	38,5	SHS
Wastewater Treatment in Nanyang City, Henan	1999	38,6	Malmberg Water
Waste Water Treatment in Iron and Steel Works Handan	1999	23,5	PURAC
Haikou Garbage Treatment	1999	60,0	WMI Sellbergs
Urban Management Information system	2001	12,5	Getronics (HK)
Sewage Treatment Plant, Liuzhou, Guangxi	2001	52,0	PURAC
Qinghe Waste Water Treatment, Beijing	2001	83,0	PURAC
Tuanzhou sewage treatment Yiyang, Hunan	2001	46,0	Malmberg Water
Chandong sewage treatment Luoyang, Henan	2003	130,0	Procurement to take place

Annex 2



Key Data on China

Area (million square km.)	9.6
Total population (millions), 2001	1,285.2
Annual population growth rate (%) 1975–2001	1.3
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2001	70.6
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2001	31
Maternal mortality ratio reported (per 100,000 live birth) 1985–2001	55
Adult literacy rate (% , age 15and above), 2001	85.8
Population living below the national poverty line (%) 1987–2000	4.6
GDP (USD billion), 2001	1,159
GDP per capita (USD), 2001	911
GDP per capita (PPP USD), 2002	4,390
GDP per capita annual growth rate (%),1990–2001	8.8
Inflation rate, 2003	1.2

Gross domestic savings (% of GDP), 2002	43
Gross domestic investments (% of GDP), 2002	40
ODA received (net disbursements) per capita (USD), 2001	1.1
Public expenditure on education (as % of GDP), 1998–2000	2.1
Public expenditure on health (as % of GDP), 2000	1.9
Population with access to an improved water source (%), 2000	75
Cumulative HIV infections (as of June 2003)	45,092
Parliament seats held by women (%), 2003	22
Women in government at ministerial level (as % of total), 2000	5.1
Human Development Index value, 2001	0.721
HDI ranking	104/175
Human Poverty Index value	14.2
Gender-related development index value, 2001	0.718
Freedom House Index	7,7,NF
Corruption Perception Index, 2002	3.5
CPI ranking	59/102

Sources:

Human Development Indicators 2003

<http://www.worldbank.org/data>

<http://www.unchina.org/undp>

<http://www.transparency.org/cpi/2002>

<http://www.who.int/country/chn>

<http://freedomhouse.org/ratings>

China CDC released data

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
sida@sida.se, www.sida.se