

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is the purpose of CHINA Town Hall?**

Now in its thirteenth year, CHINA Town Hall (CTH) has provided Americans across the country a more nuanced understanding of the implications of China's rise for U.S.-China relations and for their own communities.

## **Who participates in CTH?**

The National Committee works with a wide range of institutions and community groups, including but not limited to colleges and universities, world affairs councils, trade and business associations, social clubs or religious organizations – i.e. any local entity that wishes to gather a group of people to listen to the national webcast and then run a local program in conjunction with it.

## **How is CTH structured? What are the changes to the program this year?**

In the past, CTH has consisted of a national webcast featuring a single speaker, interviewed by National Committee President Stephen Orlins on various issues in the Sino-American relationship and a China specialist presenting on a China-related topic at the local venue.

This year, we are making three major changes to the program:

1. **Webcast:** The national live webcast will shift from a conversation with a single speaker to a panel format – with a moderator and four discussants with varying points of view on China.
2. **Local programs:** The local program will consist of a discussion among the attendees at your event on the topic of U.S.-China relations and your community. It will be led by a local facilitator.
3. **Questions:** Members of the local audiences around the country will still be able to send in questions, but they must be sent to the National Committee five days in advance. We will send more detailed information on how to submit questions by early October.

## **Why is the structure of the program changing this year?**

We feel that this year's political climate warrants a national discussion on the current U.S.-China relationship and the impact it is having on us, on our businesses, our educational institutions, our communities, our states, and our country.

Given that CHINA Town Hall is national in scope and its goal is to highlight China's impact on the lives of Americans, we believe that local discussions will provide a much better platform for reflection amongst your communities.

## **Who are this year's webcast speakers?**

The national webcast discussion will be moderated by George Stephanopoulos, Chief Anchor of ABC News. Panelists will include Steve Orlins, President of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and Melanie Hart, Senior Fellow and Director for China Policy at the Center for American Progress. We will have two additional panelists whose names we will provide in the coming weeks.

## **What are the goals of the local town hall program?**

The goal of the local town halls are to encourage the attendees to look inward and reflect on how the U.S. – China relationship affects their community. The content of these discussions will likely be very different around the country, given the diversity of locales and venues where CTH is held. Prior to the program, the National Committee will send a set of learning outcomes and guiding questions that you are free to use to kick off your discussion.

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## **Who are the local facilitators? How should my community choose a local facilitator?**

The local discussion facilitator can be any individual of the partner organization's choosing.

Facilitators can come from diverse backgrounds: academia, civil society, business, former government officials. It can also be yourself or a colleague from your organization. This individual does not have to be an expert on China, though that would be an added plus, if possible. What is most important is that the facilitator be someone comfortable in leading a discussion. We will provide a variety of resources to help you/your facilitator run your local program.

If you are having trouble finding a facilitator, we will be happy to connect you to someone we might know in your community (or nearby) with the right experience.

## **What role does the National Committee play in CTH?**

The National Committee produces the national webcast and a national program brochure to be used by all partners, in conjunction with whatever event materials local partners wish to use. This year, the Committee will also send a variety of resources to help the facilitators lead the discussions.

For those partners who need assistance in identifying a facilitator, the National Committee will help that process. If travel is required, the National Committee can handle hotel and transportation for the facilitators, for a modest fee (see below).

## **What are the responsibilities of local partners?**

Each local partner serves as a CTH host. All local partners are responsible for executing the event, including securing a physical space to host the program and ensuring the appropriate A/V. This year, local partners are responsible for identifying a facilitator to run the local discussion and for conducting audience and media outreach to promote the event.

## **Is there a participation fee?**

There is no participation fee to host a CHINA Town Hall. However, if the partner organization requests help in identifying a facilitator and that facilitator requires travel and lodging, we ask that our partners pay a \$200 fee to offset the expenses associated with his/her travel and lodging. The partner organization can also opt to not pay the fee and handle these logistics independently.

## **CHINA Town Hall sounds great! How do I participate?**

Venues interested in serving as a local CTH partner should register via [this form](#) or through our website.

If you wish to request the National Committee's help with identifying a facilitator, please fill out this form before October 4. The final deadline to submit this form is Friday, October 25.

## **Questions?**

Please contact us at [cth@ncuscr.org](mailto:cth@ncuscr.org) and a member of the CHINA Town Hall team will be in touch soon.