Thank you for agreeing to be part of this year's CHINA Town Hall (CTH). We hope the enclosed guidelines can assist you with facilitating a local program that catalyzes the important conversations CTH is all about. Some partners may decide to host a lecture-style program where an expert will present on a specific topic of interest to the community. Others will convene a moderated conversation where constituents will talk amongst themselves about their attitudes and concerns about the relationship, while others yet may do a combination of the two or something else altogether.

The most important thing is that the local conversation meets the needs of your community. If you opt for a moderated conversation, you may find the following useful. Please look at the various resources below and take from them what you find beneficial:

1. Suggested outline for moderation
2. Guiding questions for discussion
3. Best practices for discussion moderation and facilitation

1. SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR MODERATED CONVERSATION

You are welcome to structure the conversation in whatever way you think would best suit the needs of your local venue. We offer the following as a suggested format only.

Program Length:
- Approximately one hour

Program Goals:
- To provide an opportunity for a discussion on the topic of U.S.-China relations and how the current state of those relations affects the attendees personally, their families, their jobs, their educational institutions, etc.
- To help participants synthesize and reflect on the content presented during the national webcast, this year with Fareed Zakaria
- To give attendees the opportunity to learn how other members of their community view the U.S.-China relationship.

Suggested Discussion/Conversation Outline:
- Facilitator introduces himself/herself.
• State the purpose of the town hall and the ground rules for discussion.

• Minutes 5 – 20: Introductions and Impressions
  o Ask attendees to introduce themselves and share their thoughts on the national webcast (if you have a particularly small or intimate audience).
  o Question prompts:
    ▪ What did you learn?
    ▪ What surprised you?
    ▪ What one point did Fareed Zakaria make that you particularly agreed or disagreed with?

• Minutes 20 – 45: Open discussion
  o Move into broader topical questions on the U.S.-China relationship. You can find suggested questions on the next page.

• Minutes 45 – 55: Wrap-up reflection
  o Question prompts:
    ▪ Why does the U.S.-China relationship matter to you? Why should it matter to the community?
    ▪ How will you stay informed going forward?
    ▪ Do you think it important to stay engaged? If so, how might you do so?
  Conclusion: Thank you and next steps

• Minutes 55 – 60: Conclusion and next steps
  o Thank participants for coming.
  o Share that more reading materials and resources can be found on the National Committee’s website and that participants can follow the National Committee to stay up to date on the U.S.-China relationship.
  o If applicable, share upcoming relevant events at your institution/organization.
2. QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

**China and Your Community**

In the past year, long-simmering tensions between the United States and China have reached new lows. Do you personally feel the impact of this? If so, in what ways?

The coronavirus crisis has highlighted the interconnectedness of our modern world, where in the absence of cooperation and coordination, regional or seemingly isolated threats can become global in an instant. How have you personally felt the impact of this?

What China-related policies are you looking for from your elected officials?

The United States has waged a trade war with China for much of the past four years, in an effort to force China to make changes to what the U.S. said were “unfair trade practices” and allowed intellectual property theft. How have you come to understand the winners and losers in this trade battle from the perspective of your community?

The coronavirus crisis has unleashed a wave of anti-Asian racism around the world, drawing renewed attention to issues of bias, immigration, and the place of Asian Americans in society. Rhetoric such as “China virus” or “kung flu” has only exacerbated the negative trends. What are strategies for addressing incidents of racism in our communities?

**U.S.-China Relationship**

Amid the U.S. government's new emphasis on countering threats from China, there is growing concern about the potential for over-zealous or discriminatory investigations. Some institutions have been compelled to examine their engagement with China. How should these institutions balance their engagement with China with considerations such as ethical values or economic consequences? How would you attempt to balance vigilance without further perpetuating anti-Chinese sentiment?

According to Fareed Zakaria, we are entering a bipolar world in which the U.S. and China stand far above all other major powers. Some of you may have lived through or studied the Cold War and the McCarthyism. Do you see any similarities between that era and today? Some believe that a new Cold War is emerging between the United States and China. Do you agree or disagree?

There are many differences between the U.S. and Chinese systems of governance. Can two countries with such stark differences work together or learn from one another? Is the United States willing to accept a peer competitor, particularly one with a different political system and ideology? If so, what issues do you think would most benefit from Sino-American cooperation/collaboration? (Possible themes: climate change, pandemics, public commons; habitat conservation)

Starting with the historic ping-pong diplomacy in 1972, cross-cultural exchange has long served as the bedrock of the U.S.-China relationship, with students, tourists, athletes, businessmen and women, artists, etc. traveling in both directions, offering a gateway into
the other culture, and facilitating mutual understanding. With the coronavirus crisis putting all travel on hold and rising nativism on both sides of the Pacific, what steps can we take at the grassroots level to maintain those ties which highlight our shared humanity?

3. BEST PRACTICES FOR TOWN HALL AND DISCUSSION FACILITATION

We know many CHINA Town Hall discussion facilitators have previous experience in this type of role. However, if you would like some tips on how to best facilitate a discussion, we have assembled a list of resources (publicly available online) that you might find useful.


