PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The program is a unique six-week exchange that offers NGO professionals from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan the opportunity to gain a hands-on understanding of the American nonprofit sector.

The formal program will begin with a one-day pre-departure orientation in Beijing, Hong Kong, or Taipei. After traveling to the United States and attending a program orientation in Washington, D.C., fellows will undertake the main program component: a four-week independent placement with an American organization in their field of work. In partnership with staff at the host nonprofit, fellows will participate in the overall work of the organization, including shadowing staff members, participating in meetings, and engaging in the host organization’s day-to-day work. At the conclusion of the fellowship period, participants will attend a two-day wrap-up meeting, followed by a Professional Fellows Congress for participants from many different countries. Back in their home countries/territories, fellows will implement an individual project of their own design. A group of American professionals from the host organizations will travel to China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan to complete the exchange in summer 2020.

Each participant in this program will be responsible for implementing an independent project of his/her own design. The projects must be built upon, or informed by, what they have learned during the program. After returning to their home countries/territories, fellows will have to meet reporting deadlines for completing the project. Individual projects could be a research paper, a new program or way of working at the fellow’s organization, a series of lectures delivered to relevant organizations upon returning to the home country, or something else that is a good fit for the fellow’s work. We are looking for relevant, creative, and feasible proposals. A clear, detailed project description is an essential part of the application.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

April 21, 2020
Pre-departure Orientation, Beijing/Hong Kong/Taipei
- Travel logistics
- Program expectations

April 22-25
Orientation in Washington, D.C.
- Introduction to the American nonprofit sector
- Program orientation
- Team building

April 27-May 26
Fellowship Placement
- Experience first-hand how U.S. nonprofit organizations operate, and exchange insights and best practices with American colleagues
- Two-day group wrap-up and evaluation meeting

May 26-28
Professional Fellows Congress
- Connect with other emerging leaders from around the world during this capstone Congress in Washington, D.C.

Individual Project
- Upon returning home, implement an individual project based on and informed by the fellowship experience
APPLICANT CRITERIA

- Emerging leaders from the NGO sector **25-40 years of age** who work in the fields of environmental sustainability, philanthropy, legal aid, or community building. Outstanding applicants from other fields will also be considered. A limited number of slots for academics or government officials may be available.

- **Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral English** (able to live and work independently in the United States)

- **Genuine commitment to developing and implementing an independent project in home country/territory** after the conclusion of the fellowship portion of the program

- **Demonstrated professional excellence**

- **Independent and self-directed, able to complete an independent 5-6 week fellowship**

- **Limited previous experience in the United States (less than three months)**

The National Committee on United States-China Relations will work with participants to obtain visas and make all travel and lodging arrangements. Lodging during the fellowship period will be in homestays whenever possible. All costs for participation in the program will be covered.

**Application Deadline: December 15, 2019.**

**The Professional Fellows Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and managed by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations**