



CHINA TOWN HALL: MODERATION FACILITATION GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

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.

There is no "right" way to facilitate a local program. Some partners choose to host a lecture-style program where an expert presents on a specific topic of interest to the community. Others convene a moderated conversation where constituents talk amongst themselves about their attitudes and concerns about the relationship. Still others 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.

For those opting for a moderated conversation option, we offer the following suggested guidelines and resources. Please take from them what you find most beneficial.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR MODERATED CONVERSATION

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, states the purpose of the town hall, and establishes the ground rules for discussion (5 mins)
- Introductions and Impressions (15 mins)
 - Ask attendees to introduce themselves and share their thoughts on the national webcast (if you have a particularly small or intimate audience)
 - Question prompts:
 - What did you learn?
 - What surprised you?
 - What one point did Ambassador Huntsman make that you particularly agreed or disagreed with?

- Open discussion (25 mins)
 - Broader topical questions on the U.S.-China relationship. You can find suggested questions on the next page
- Wrap-up reflection (10 mins)
 - 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 and next steps (5 mins)
 - Thank participants for coming
 - 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.
 - If applicable, share upcoming relevant events at your institution/organization

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

China and Your Community

The U.S.-China relationship seems to have reached a new low over this past year. Where have you personally seen evidence of this trend? How has its further deterioration impacted you?

The Biden Administration has kept many of the same strategies 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?

Conversations about China have picked up in Washington D.C., with legislators increasingly focusing on China in their legislative agenda. What China-related policies are you looking for from your elected officials? What China-related policies would specifically benefit your local community?

U.S.-China Relationship

Russia's War in Ukraine has called attention to the way the United States and its allies can use bold economic sanctions as tools of foreign policy. Whereas Russia and the United States are much more economically distant, there is a sense that the United States and China are more entangled, and that sanctioning China may result in greater negative consequences for the United States and its people. Fears of critical supplies being cut off has given rise to desires for the U.S. and China to economically decouple from one another. Whom would decoupling benefit? Is the desire for decoupling too rash? How else can these fears be addressed?

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's July 2022 visit to the Indo-Pacific has reignited the debate over Taiwan's future and focused Congressional attention on the U.S.'s relationship

with the island. Many American military experts have ominously warned that armed conflict is on the horizon, with the United States being drawn in. Yet the future of China's mission to reunify Taiwan is unclear. How might government officials in the U.S., China, and Taiwan de-escalate the situation?

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?

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)

RESOURCES: BEST PRACTICES FOR TOWN HALL AND DISCUSSION FACILITATION

We know many CHINA Town Hall discussion facilitators have 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 publicly available resources that you might find helpful.

- [Facilitating Effective Discussions](#), Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo
- [How to Facilitate Discussions](#), University of California, San Diego
- [How to Organize a Town Hall Meeting: A Planning Guide](#), GUIDE, Inc.
- [Tips on Facilitating Effective Group Discussions](#), The Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University