



## **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 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 Dr. Kurt Campbell
- 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)
  - 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 Dr. Kurt Campbell make that you particularly agreed or disagreed with?
- Open discussion (25 mins)
  - o Broader topical questions on the U.S.-China relationship. You can find suggested questions on the next page
- Wrap-up reflection (10 mins)
  - 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 and next steps (5 mins)
  - 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

## **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

### ***China and Your Community***

Although U.S. politics has become more polarized, there is bipartisan agreement on national security concerns over the Chinese government and its related entities. In response, some localities have instituted legislation specific to Chinese nationals, ranging from deterrence in academic research at U.S. institutions or restrictions on home ownership. What impact does this type of targeted ethnicity/nationality-based legislation have on your community? What type of policies can localities institute that ensure national security concerns while being mindful of avoiding ethnic discrimination and anti-Asian sentiment?

Even 5 years after the trade war between U.S. and China, China remains the 4<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner to the U.S. while U.S. stays China's largest trading partner. China also is the top trading partner to more than 120 countries. What effect does American export trade restrictions on Chinese industries have on small and large businesses in your community? Or your daily life?

China has increasingly been criticized for its role as the primary source of the fentanyl that is fueling an opioid crisis in the U.S. During the Biden-Xi meeting in November 2023 in San Francisco, President Biden and Xi agreed to set up a working group on counter-narcotics to further the cooperation and help the U.S. stem the worsening opioid epidemic. American and Chinese officials met on Jan 30, 2024, as a start of this joint effort. How confident are you about the outcome of such cooperation and how would your community benefit from it? What are the challenges to enforcement for both American and Chinese regulators?

### ***U.S.-China Relationship***

In January 2024, William Lai was elected president of Taiwan, securing another term for the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party. The election took place amidst intense

tensions on the question of mainland unification, stoking global fears of cross-strait conflict. The U.S. has lauded Lai's victory – receiving pushback from Beijing – yet remains committed to its One China Policy. How might Lai's victory shape the future balance between U.S. support for Taiwan and its obligation to the One China Policy? What comes next within the Taiwan-China-United States triangle?

Since the Gaza conflict broke out in October 2023, China has been openly critical of Israel, reaffirming its longtime support for Palestine and a two-state solution. Wang Yi has also called for global peace talks, challenging the U.S.'s historical role as arbiter of peace in the Middle East. As the conflict continues, what options for maintaining regional influence are available to the U.S.? Considering the war's potential outcomes – an Israeli victory, a two-state solution, or an alternative ending – how might each shape the trajectory of U.S. China relations? What shared interest are there in the region for U.S. and China?

Chinese President Xi Jinping has also announced his intent to host 50,000 American students over the next 5 years last year at APEC. This Spring, Beijing will host the 14th China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit to spark mutual understanding and intercultural learning. Given darkening perceptions of China among the American public and the active Level-3 China Travel Advisory, can we expect American students to take advantage of Xi's invitation? How else can U.S. and China open new avenues for people-to-people exchange?

## **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