

Summary of Training Group One

(July 1, 2016)

Respectable Ms. Teresa and Respectable Mr. HA Zengyou:

Please allow me to present a summary of the training on behalf of the Chinese Training Group One according to the schedule. It must be noted that all the six members of our group have discussed and exchanged our views of the training adequately prior to my presentation. Our discussion and the views we have exchanged are the basis of this summary. All the other members are welcome to provide additional feedback about the training program.

This presentation consists of three parts of information, that is, our gratitude, accomplishments and the application of fruits.

I. Gratitude

First of all, we'd extend our gratitude to the European Union, particularly the Ministry of Employment and Social Security (MEySS) of Spain, for the careful organization and arrangement for the training. More than 30 officials and experts were invited to deliver speeches to us during the training; the curriculum system was reasonable, the design of the contents sophisticated and the update of data timely; and there were a

large number of classic cases. And we were provided with two proficient simultaneous interpreters who helped us understand the speeches accurately by means of fluent languages and professional knowledge.

Secondly, we'd like to thank the Department of Employment and Income Distribution (DEID) of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) for having organized this team and erected a platform for us to have this study tour in Spain. This is an honor of each of us and also a full trust of DEID in us. Colleagues from local Departments of Development and Reform gathered in Spain from across China and enjoyed a two-week study and living together, and we have established a deep friendship with each other.

II. Accomplishments

We have made great accomplishments during this training program, which mainly consists of the following aspects as generalized by our group:

1. The two-week study has rendered us a general picture of the social security systems of Spain and EU. With the elderly care in particular, we are deeply impressed with the efforts to constantly improve the social security system and secure the interests of the citizens.

2. The Central Government of Spain attaches great importance to the formulation of laws and policies. Basically essential legislative and policy frameworks are available for social security systems. Local governments of autonomous communities as well as provinces and cities usually administer and enforce the laws and policies for better implementation and make them in conformity with the local realities. This is of great referential value to the reform efforts, that is, the decentralization and the simplification of administrative examination and approval procedures, of the government in China at present.

3. The social security information system is well developed and integrated in Spain, which secures cross-region participation of the insurance and collection of pensions by the citizens. This is also something we can learn from in the accelerating urbanization, the guided integration of rural residents into cities as well as the guarantee for the transfer and continuation of social security relationships in China.

4. The operation of the mechanisms of the social security systems, such as the elderly care system, in Spain and EU is smooth, healthy and transparent, and standard and orderly, with social groups of all sorts being considered. This is also worth

learning.

5. A multi-pillar elderly care model is adopted in Spain and EU against the ageing crisis; the tax-based Social Minimum Pension Security System and the household-based Informal Pension Security System are established; in-service individuals are engaged in accumulating and saving for their future and the pension security system has been changing from the PAYG Approach to the Accumulative Approach by steps. We think this system is well-designed.

6. By visiting elderly nursing institutions, we have perceived the user-friendly development and enforcement of related systems in Spain. The elderly nursing homes are designed, operated and managed in the pattern of families; medical service facilities are available everywhere in “concealed” ways, freeing the elderly people from the nervous feeling of being hospitalized; the nursing staff play games with the old people to help them practice using their hands and brains; and the old people grow flowers, fruits and vegetables by themselves, which make them feel having achieved a lot. Such a model and philosophy for elderly care is advanced. Besides, the time-honored history, the large scale and the reasonable layout and design in the development of elderly nursing homes are

amazing, too.

Of course, these are only part of what we have achieved under this training program and the rest will not be counted one by one as the time is limited.

III. Application of Fruits

Ageing not only takes place in Europe but is also social problem of global importance. China is facing or has accessed an ageing society, too. Take Anhui Province for example. In 2014, there were 10,536,000 people aged over 60, accounting for 17.32% of the total population of the province and the percentage has been increasing over the years. It is also outstanding that the population is ageing before it gets rich.

With regard to the development of elderly care as well as other social security systems in tackling the challenge of the ageing population, Spain and the EU nations, as advanced economies have available well-developed systems and mechanisms which have something for China to learn from and borrow. This is also a primary objective of this training program. And now, I'd like to conclude my presentation with two sentences we Chinese people are used to speak:

The first is that we'll digest, absorb and consider all this and prepare a report on the training program after our return to

China;

The second is that we'll make full use of what we have learned and understood during this training to improve our work and devote ourselves to the formulation of the policies and documents by the government on elderly care and other social security issues.

Thank you!

Group Leader: JIAO Shanbin Assistant: LI Daxin

Members: JING Chaoyang, WANG Shanshan, WANG
Hongbo, ZHANG Xia

Summary of Training Group Two

(July 1, 2016)

Respectable Ms. Teresa and Respectable Mr. HA Zengyou,
Dear friends and fellow trainees:

Good morning! The two-week training is approaching to its end. I'm extraordinarily honored to deliver a presentation of our reflections on and gratitude for this training program on behalf of all the six trainees in Group as scheduled.

First of all, we'd extend our gratitude to EU-China Social Protection Reform Project (EU-China SPRP). Thank the European Union for having incorporated EU-China SPRP into the "Joint Declaration on The EU-China Partnership on Urbanization" and "China-EU 2020 Strategic Agenda for Cooperation" and provided us with the mechanism and platform to learn from each other, exchange with each other and supply what one has to the other who lacks.

Secondly, we'd thank the organizer of this training activity. Thank you for your kind invitation as well as the hard work you have done and efforts you have made in preparing for this training program. Thank Spain and Valladolid for the careful organization and thoughtful reception. We'd like to

extend special thanks to officials with the Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain for their escort and enthusiastic service throughout the training.

Thirdly, we'd thank all the officials and experts who have delivered lectures to us. We sincerely feel that all the lecturers have made systematic and sufficient preparations for each lecture they delivered. From different aspects and perspectives, they presented a picture of the theories and practices in EU nations to tackle the challenge of the ageing population and advance social security reform. Their delivery of the speeches was professional, wonderful and profound. They gave us plenty of time for interaction and exchanges, answered our questions carefully and elaborately and sought solutions to our questions, which inspired and helped us a lot.

With 22 members, the Chinese delegation came to Spain for a training program on “Adapting to the Challenge of Ageing Population”. Through a period of concentrated study, we have developed a deep understanding of the advanced philosophies as well as experiences and practices, including population forecast and analysis, social security organization and management institutions, pension and social security budgeting management, occupational risk forecasting, social service management as well

as the “Toledo” agreement, among others, in EU countries, especially in Spain, in coping with the ageing of population. There were not just studies on theoretical models but also designing of systems and arrangements, and some specific management patterns and operation methods, and so on. The training was rich and diversified in content and the arrangement of time was compact and reasonable. We feel the training is most fulfilling to us.

China and the majority of the EU members are facing the same challenge of an ageing population. They are different in total population, population structure and the progress of the ageing population but social security problems, such as the inadequacy of pension and the shortage of elderly care services, among others, due to the ageing of population are not only important questions faced by EU countries with a high level of welfare but also a difficult matter for China to settle in adapting to the challenge of the ageing population. We saw that the EU countries have made a lot of efforts and active probes in solving these questions, including progressively lifting the retirement age, delaying the time for the collection of pension, enhancing the investment operation and management of social security reserves and improving elderly care as well as other social

services, and so on. These experiences and practices of the EU countries are of great value for us to learn and study carefully and to refer to and borrow with consideration of the reality in China so as to design the programs and relevant policies more efficiently for China's social security reform and further improve the institutional system and service system for social security. Meanwhile the well-developed social security service facilities as well as the user-friendly and transparent social welfare management patterns in Valladolid has a lot for us to learn in promoting community-level employment and propelling the development of the social security service system.

China-EU Social Protection Reform Program could continue more effectively with more interactions and a wider range of subjects and fields for exchanges and studies, such as the enhancement of the research in social security for workers under informal employment, the reinforcement of the studies on the relationship between delayed retirement and increased employment as well as the strengthening of the research and cooperation in the statistical analysis and the construction of the information system of employment and social security, among others. In respect of the training method, we recommend that, on the basis of concentrated lecturing, the content for on-site

exchanges be increased to a proper extent, with some opportunities to talk with local residents and the community-level working staff. For example, we visited a local elderly nursing home on an afternoon this week. We talked face to face with the working staff and the old people there and were rewarded with a more improved, straightforward understanding of the efforts made in Spain in promoting the reform of the elderly care service, and it was superbly effective.

We spent part of our spare time experiencing the time-honored history and civilization as well as the brilliant art and culture of Spain, appreciating the beautiful environment of the country and feeling the enthusiasm and tolerance of the Spanish people. We enjoyed the gorgeous view on the train to Valladolid. Everything here impresses us deeply.

At last, I'd say that we have spent a fulfilling, beautiful and unforgettable time in Spain. We were rewarded with not just knowledge and a broader vision but also the friendship with the colleagues in EU. We look forward to the next exchange and cooperation. We are also looking forward to the travel of our Spanish colleagues to China for communications and exchanges. Thank you!

Group Leader: ZHAO Guoqing

Assistant: HUAI Xinqiang

Members: ZHANG Li, CAO Zhiming, CHEN Yihui, Niu Ming

Summary of Training Group Three

(July 1, 2016)

First of all, we'd extend our thanks to Department of Employment and Income Distribution of the National Development and Reform Commission and European Union for having provided us with such a good opportunity and platform to study; thank the Ministry of Employment and Social Security of Spain and the provincial social security department of Valladolid, all the lecturers as well as the two interpreters for having organized and arranged a good high-level training activity that was rich in content, compact in time and fulfilling in outcome.

The six members in our group are from Henan, Chongqing, Chengdu, Gansu, Xinjiang and Qinghai. These are part of Midwest China and, therefore, we feel it more urgent to learn. All of us appreciated this precious opportunity very much. We listened to the lectures and took notes carefully; we devoted ourselves in active thinking, interaction and keen observation, making best use of this opportunity. We all think that we haven't come in vain and that the training is fruitful and fulfilling.

Firstly, the content was rich and comprehensive. In the

two weeks, we have learnt in a relatively systematic and comprehensive manner major content and characteristics of the social security systems and elderly-care security systems of EU and some EU nations at the level of EU as well as Spain, Germany, France and Italy (as EU members), and Valladolid (at the provincial level in Spain), especially those of Spain, and have developed an initial knowledge and understanding of the research in EU as well as Spain and other countries on tackling the ageing population and sustainable social security, among others, and the improvement of organizational policies, and so on.

Secondly, the arrangement was careful and reasonable. During the training, we felt that the courses were finely designed and arranged, covering the present status, reform, policy application, index design, statistical data, forecast models, social service policies, index application, the present participation of the parliament and political parties as well as different social sectors of the social security system of Spain. The subjects were selected around the ageing of population, pension security system, relevant laws and policies, specific implementation, among others, with outstanding focuses and contents we are interested in and curious about. The lecturers are

experts from different industries and fields in a number of EU countries. The lectures they have given us were informative for their proficiency, their professional knowledge and rich experience in practical work.

Thirdly, the training forms were flexible and lively. There were explanations of policies and theories, elaborations on specific operation of practical cases as well as field study tours and exchanges, including the studies on practical cases of pension remunerations under special pension systems (marine staff), the visit to local elderly care service centers, policy and theory explanation and case study, with effectively combined practical operation models. Meanwhile the trainees were engaged in adequate exchanges and interactions and the conscientious, responsible and highly professional explanation of all the lecturers activated our enthusiasm for study and interaction, enabling us to gain a further knowledge and understanding of what we had been studying.

Fourthly, our understanding is improved and the vision broadened. Ageing is worsening in China for the time being and the trend will go on for some more time in the future. The task is arduous to tackle the ageing population and to improve related social security systems and the provinces (autonomous

regions and municipalities) vary from each other in the problems they encounter. The training has let us know that the social security systems in EU and Spain are well established and the operation of policies is stable, with many mature experiences, such as the delayed retirement system, social security system, welfare systems for special population groups (women, the disabled and children, etc.), information-based social security system, sustained and safe operation of social security reserve funds, social service system and management, elderly-related action plans, policies in respect of the collaboration among social security, health and finance sectors as well as the institutional designing, operation models and generalized experiences, and so on, for us to learn. In the meantime, the constantly advancing research, continuous reform and adjustment and step-by-step development in improving social security system and achieving sustainable development, as well as in the personalized designing of policies and systems, as well as the efforts in subtle aspects and expectations, are all of great value for us to learn, to borrow and to refer to in expanding the scope of our view with consideration of the practical situation of China and individual provinces.

Recommendations:

1. Appropriately increase the study tours at public service institutions;
2. Appropriately increase the content for knowledge of local custom, culture and economic development;
3. Appropriately increase the content for comparative analysis and research of the information related to the social security in China.

Group Leader: YU Jing

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