

# Mission Report

**Date:** August 22-24, 2015

**Location:** Guangzhou City of Guangdong Province

**EU-CHINA SPRP:** Marzena Breza, EU RE Comp 3

**Accompanied MoCA Staff (Ministry of Civil Affairs of P.R.C):** 2 officials

## Main Goal:

The work plan 2015 adopted by the PAC meeting within EU-CHINA Social Protection Reform Project is to identify and make situational analysis on the legal provision of China's social assistance which is often highly fragmented into different legal or para-legal acts on regional level. Additionally, according to the institutional set-up, the key responsibilities of social assistance work lies in the civil affairs bureau/department of local authorities. The visit presented an opportunity for the RE Comp 3 to recognize the practical arrangements of social assistance system in one of the best developed provinces in China as well as to learn about institutional support within social assistance system through example.

Participation to the biennial event of Ministry of Civil Affairs - *The 4th Conference on China's Social Assistance: Opportunities and Challenges of China's Modern System of Social Assistance*.

The 2-day conference provided a platform for social assistance experts and relevant officials to conduct academic exchanges on various aspects of China's social assistance works. The followed field visit to local Red Cross Hospital and local Community Center presented the delegation practices of social assistance works in Guangzhou, especially in the medical assistance area, where two basic institutions, hospital and community, joint efforts in providing financial and service care through social workers. The hospital-community model realized the administrative co-operation between civil affair system and health system in offering tailor-made financial aid, service and other assistances based on comprehensive analysis of each individual case.

## Detailed report:

Guangdong is one of China's most developed and economically advanced coastal province located in the southern part of China. Its capital city Guangzhou covers an area of 7.4 km<sup>2</sup> and is further divided into 11 districts. On August 22, 2015, Ms. Marzena, expert from EU-CHINA SPRP was invited to participate in the Fourth Conference on China's Social Assistance themed "Opportunities and Challenges of China's Modern System of Social Assistance". At the opening of the conference, Vice-Minister Gong Puguang of China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, Professor from Sun Yat-Sen University and representative from UNICEF addressed the audience respectively. The conference continued with the following keynote speeches: 1) "The proceeding of China's social assistance law under the background of comprehensively implement the rule of law" by Professor Tong Xing from Nanjing University. 2) "Evaluation and development trend on China's social assistance system" by Professor Hong Da, Vice-President of Renmin University of China. 3) "The development of social assistance system in Taiwan region and the enlightenment to the mainland of China" by Mr. Gu Yunwen from Taiwan University. 4) "Promoting the development of social assistance" by Professor Guan Xinping, President Of Social Construction And Management Institute of NanKai University. 5) "How social assistance plays the important role in social safety net?" by Professor He Wenjiang, Vice-President of the Institute of Social Sciences of Zhejiang University. 6) "Hong Kong's comprehensive social assistance system and the enlightenment to the mainland of China" by Professor Liang Zubin from the Department of Social Work and Social Administration of the University of Hong Kong. After the plenary, the conference was further divided into 21 sub-forums

featured the topics of “New Challenge and Idea of Social Assistance”, “Integration of Medical Assistance system”, “Social Assistance for Children: Policy and practice”, “Performance evaluation of Dibao: System, Indicator, and outcomes”, “Temporary Assistance”, “Professional in service delivery and administration”, “Foreign experience and learning on social assistance”, “New economy and reform of social assistance”, “Medical assistance, risk security and healthy improvement”, “Children in special needs”, “Measure for poor and social assistance”, “Elderly population poverty and social assistance”, “Charity, social organizations and social assistance”, “Job Assistance and labor encourage”, “Social assistance system optimization”, “Physical disabilities’ assistance and development”, “Social organizations, social works and children benefit Targeting technology and practice”, “Organization Support and management”, “Technique and management of Implement of Social Assistance Policy”, and “Laws and Social Assistance”.

On August 23, the delegation conducted two case reviews during their visit to the local Red Cross Hospital and Social workers Center. The first case is about a patient named Mr. X, who was divorced and living with a 5-year-old son and 82-year-old mother. After Mr. X had surgery at Guangzhou Red Cross Union Hospital, he lost working capacity and in debt for 20,000 hospital fee. Medical social worker based in the hospital got aware of Mr. X’s situation and took initiative in assisting him. The medical social workers introduced social assistance policy to X’s mother, assisted her to apply for medical assistance, and went through procedures at a local bank and taxation agency with her, which would cover Mr. X’s future medical cost. Then the medical social worker based in the hospital transferred the case to family social workers based in community center. Family social worker helped Mr. X’s mother to apply for medical assistance and disabled person certificate at responsible residential committee or street administration. Social workers also helped Mr. X successfully applied the support from a charity organization. In addition to assisted X’s family to get financial support from social assistance system, community social workers also contacted Mr. X’s ex-wife to inform her about the current development of X’s family. X’s ex-wife later came back to Guangzhou and took over the care of their son. The second case was about a patient named Ms. Y, who was a single mum with low income while supporting his 15-year-old son for middle school education. After the surgery of cardiac pacemaker implement, Ms. Y was in debt and lost capacity to work on her previous job that involved hard labor. Added by domestic disputes with her boyfriend, Ms. Y suffered from emotional instability. After informed by Ms. Y doctor, medical social worker stepped in for offer assistance. The medical social worker first cooperated with hospital staff to provide an individual recovery plan for Ms. Y, as well as explained thoroughly about future life-sustaining work possibilities. After Ms. Y was emotionally stabilized, the case was transferred to family social worker in Ms. Y’s community, who provided her policy information, helped her apply, and secured medical assistance to cover her medical cost. The social worker also helped Ms. Y resolve domestic disputes, through which physiological care as such further consolidated her emotional stability.

The field trip and case reviews demonstrated Guangzhou medical assistance work as detail-oriented, and financial and service combined. Based on close cooperation between hospital and residential community, the social workers, such as medical social workers in hospital and family social workers in community, can take initiative in assisting beneficiaries. For example, to help people in need to understand related policies, get access to social assistance system, get in contact with various social forces such as media and charity organizations, get back to labor market when possible, and offer tailor-made solutions etc.

*Drafted by Marzena Breza, C3 RE; Translation of background materials by Lin Guowang, SPRP*