UNV in China: 30 years of collaboration

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Within the past twenty years, Southern upper-middle-income countries such as China, India and Brazil have demonstrated high rates of economic growth at an unprecedentedly rapid rate. China is now one of the world's leading economies and an emerging international aid donor. Internally, it is focusing on strengthening social safety nets and ensuring that marginalized communities are also able to enjoy prosperous lives. As China continues its dynamic development trajectory, UNV looks forward to its longstanding cooperation with China in emerging areas that best match China’s new national and global priorities:

- Promote culturally-appropriate development opportunities in ethnic minority communities
- Go global: Share China’s development expertise with other developing and middle-income countries through South-South cooperation
- Increase the number of Chinese serving as international UN Volunteers abroad and China’s participation within the multilateral community
- Support social innovations, e.g. social media technology, youth-led “green social enterprise” and public-private partnerships, to improve volunteering infrastructure and civic participation in China
- Strengthen volunteer-based public service linkages between affluent eastern regions and poorer regions in central and western China

Since 1981, UNV has nurtured an active and fruitful partnership with the Government of the People’s Republic of China. Together they support social and economic development throughout the country and promote the sharing of China’s expertise with other countries through the framework of South-South cooperation. About 100 Chinese nationals have served as international UN Volunteers in places including Cambodia, Kosovo and Sudan. Furthermore, 327 UN Volunteers (national and international) have also served in China, coming from countries such as Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Malaysia, the Philippines, Switzerland and the United States of America (USA). A former UNV Programme Officer was the second foreign national to be awarded the prestigious “Top Ten Outstanding Youth” award by the Central Youth League of China.
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