

# UTAH-QINGHAI ECOPARTNERSHIP

CHINA SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIP

中国实习项目



## 01. BACKGROUND

The Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership (UQEP) is a non-profit organization supported by the US Department of State, the US Department of Energy and the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission. UQEP is dedicated to building relationships, protecting intellectual property, and developing green technologies. UQEP draws upon similarities between the state of Utah and the province of Qinghai : in their respective countries, both are situated in the west with high mountains, salt lakes and diverse cultures. These features and the support of the US Embassy in Beijing Outreach Office led former Qinghai Governor Luo Huining and Utah Governor Gary Herbert to develop a partnership for environmental sustainability.

UQEP was launched in 2011, but its foundation began decades ago with relationships of trust developed between Chinese partners and Utah government leaders, businesses and universities. With support from Utah government, the collaborative platform

grew into UQEP, which became part of the EcoPartnership program.

Out of the thirty-two existing EcoPartnerships, UQEP is the only state to province level EcoPartnership. As such, it has cultivated important ties with cities, districts, universities, and local businesses. Generally, EcoPartnerships promote clean air, water, or transportation; clean electricity; conservation of forests and wetlands. In July 2014 during the sixth round of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Beijing, US Secretary of State John Kerry described the role of the EcoPartnership program as one of “harnessing the ingenuity and the innovation of the private sector, universities, civil society, in order to promote economic growth, energy security, and environmental sustainability.”

Qinghai province has invested several million RMB in UQEP projects, and it has active support from other Chinese governmental bodies. UQEP also collaborates with Purdue University scientists through the Purdue-led EcoPartnership for Environmental Sustainability.

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*- John Kerry, US Secretary of State*

## 02. THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF QINGHAI PROVINCE

Qinghai is the fourth-largest Chinese province and one of four main grazing regions. The province is strategically important for China and the greater Asian region because it houses the headwaters of three of Asia's major waterways -- the Yellow (Tongtianhe), the Yangtze and Mekong rivers. The province is known as the "Water-tower of China and Asia." Qinghai is also home to the Sanjiangyuan or Three-river Source natural reserve, the largest natural reserve in China.

## 03. UQEP AND THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

The University of Utah has a unique opportunity to conduct work in a region strategically significant for the sustainability of China and the Asian region. UQEP is positioned to provide local Chinese access to strategically significant projects. Over

decades, officials at UQEP have built on past projects of growing complexity, defining and honing bilateral cooperation models to garner respect, trust and a reputation for persistence and reliability in China. This has opened doors to participate in fast-track projects.

## 04. BILATERAL BENEFITS

The EcoPartnership brings obvious benefits to China as it gains access to technology and expertise to solve environmental problems. The benefits for U.S. partners are also noteworthy. For Utah, the EcoPartnership:

- Increases cultural understanding between Utah and China.
- Offers Utah universities a leadership edge in environmental technology.
- Opens new markets for Utah green technologies.
- Provides large-scale cost-effective testing of R&D concepts in record time.
- Gives U.S. partners early access to relevant research results from Chinese teams.





## 05. WHY SHOULD STUDENTS BE INTERESTED IN UQEP CHINA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The combination of the International Graduate Sustainability Certificate and the experience provided by UQEP's internship will help students impress potential employers and open opportunities to better career opportunities in business, academia or the public sector. Past interns can attest to this.

A potential employer will notice the rigorous training undergone by students who have obtained the Sustainability Certificate. These credentials paired with the experience provided by UQEP's internship can also be useful for any career path.

The mark of a good internship is that it fosters new skills and knowledge for the intern and leads to meaningful contributions to the organization and those the organization seeks to benefit. The policy, business, and technology internship offered through the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership

provides opportunities to contribute to the organization. It also helps build the resume, experience, and character of the intern. For example, previous interns have hosted international forums in China, worked closely with university administrators, worked on teams with Chinese to develop effective technologies, policies and models of technology transfer, all of which fulfill the purpose of the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership and help build relationships of trust between Utah and China.

Past interns have found work as consultants, engineers and policy makers while maintaining their strong ties with Chinese agencies. Other interns have continued graduate school in some of the US and China's most prestigious universities. Fellows in this program will be able to work for successful organizations while gaining relevant work experience and learning how to work in China.



## 06. POTENTIAL FELLOW PROFILE

- Graduate students in engineering, law, MPA or MBA programs, architecture and planning, or hard science preferred.
- It is preferred that candidates have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- Be enrolled or have an interest in pursuing the University of Utah Sustainability Degree or Certificate and be willing to take a prep course prior to the internship.
- Must seek to build trust between Utah and China.
- Must be driven and committed to areas in policy, business, and/or technology.
- Must be available to work 2-3 months during the summer months.
- Must be available to prepare prior to the internship (3-5 hours a week meeting the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership networks, reading, etc.)
- Must have set career goals and projects to work on during possible down times during internship.
- Must have the desire to work in or with China in the following areas: policy development, engineering or innovation.
- Candidates with relevant work experience are preferred.
- It is preferred that interns speak Mandarin at a high level. Some opportunities do not require the ability to speak Mandarin.
- Notable experience abroad immersed in Chinese culture and language preferred.

## 07. EXPECTED RESPONSIBILITIES

- Recognize they are an ambassador for the State of Utah, the University of Utah and the United States.
- Arrange travel and housing needs.
- Familiarize oneself with the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership vision and network.
- If student is interested in completing a class or research project through the school or a certain professor, they must work out all details for those courses with their program/ professor prior to departing to China.



## 08. PROJECT EXAMPLES

### POLICY

- Communicate regularly with US State Department officials, other government officials in China and the US, and business leaders and engineers in China and the US
- Write an annual report that will be distributed to all levels of government in the US and China.
- Chair, direct and attend meetings as a representative of the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership.
- Create brochures, books, and other resources.

### BUSINESS

- Establish strategic business initiatives between the US and China.
- Find innovative solutions to solve cross-cultural gaps in business culture.
- Create brochures, books, and other resources.

- Manage other interns.
- Establish new committees and programs.
- Chair, direct, speak at, and attend meetings as a representative of the Utah-Qinghai EcoPartnership.

### TECHNOLOGY

- Develop technology in a cross-cultural environment.
- Draft proposals for funding from the US and Chinese governments.
- Present technical work.
- Represent interests of technology partners.
- Create brochures, books, and other resources.
- Work to create innovative ideas and methods to solving the intellectual property issue in China.



MAY 10TH, 2011, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
ECOPARTNERSHIP SIGNING CEREMONY,  
SPEECH BY THEN-SECRETARY OF STATE MS. HILLARY CLINTON



JULY, 2011, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
QINGHAI-UTAH COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY BY  
GARY HERBERT, GOVERNOR OF UTAH AND LUO HUINING, THEN-GOVERNOR OF QINGHAI PROVINCE

## CONNECTING RESOURCES TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

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