

PRESS MESSAGE – 19 November 2009

Today Orange House Partnership, a non-profit organisation of international senior experts in food and chemical risk assessment and risk management, has launched a formal call for experts to cope with increasing demand for assistance.

Orange House Partnership (OHP) is best compared with “doctors without borders” in the areas of chemical and food safety. Since its establishment in May 2009, some 120 senior experts from 19 countries in Europe, North America, South-East Asia and Oceania already expressed an interest to be involved in OHP's work. Following its first extensive project in China (see below) and considering the increasing number of requests for assistance, predominantly from Africa, the OHP Management Board decided to launch a formal call for the expression of interest of senior experts willing to assist OHP with its work in developing countries and emerging economies. The Chairman of the Board, Prof Alan Goldberg of the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA said: *“formal registration of the experts volunteering to assist with this most needed work is of crucial importance to remain fully transparent, decisive, responsive and efficient at times when the demand for help requires rapid action”*. Dr Herman Koëter, OHP's Managing Director added: *“In order to be able to provide assistance in a sustainable manner, we need more details from each expert about expertise, availability and level of independence. Our target for the next year or two is to have a solid database of 400-500 experts and the signs are promising that we will meet this number”*.

See OHP's website at www.orangeOhouse.eu for details of the call.

Also today Orange House Partnership published the final report of its first big project in China.

Following the adoption of a new Food Safety Law in China in February the EU Delegation to China offered technical and scientific assistance with the implementation of the law to the responsible Ministry of Health (MoH).

Subsequently in June, when the new law entered into force, the European Commission invited Orange House Partnership (OHP) to develop a comprehensive in-depth training programme to be carried out before the end of October 2009. The project was financially supported (85%) by the EU-China Training Programme (EUCTP) and (15%) by the Netherlands Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS), respectively.

The project included a training seminar for senior staff of 7 ministries and other government institutions followed by 3 training courses for specific senior technical staff of the MoH and the newly established High Level Scientific Committee. The training programme, which was delivered by 13 OHP experts of well-known international reputation, covered all aspects of the new Food Law. OHP's Managing Director Herman Koëter said: *“It was a wonderful experience to work with these high profile experts in OHP context. They were very enthusiastic, delivered high quality lectures and spent considerable time in preparing excellent case studies and other training materials. As expected, the Chinese trainees were eager to learn and participated actively in all courses; interaction between trainers and trainees was really great.”*

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The China project will allow OHP to provide training, assistance and support to six Sub-Saharan countries with respect to their current effort to develop a sustainable human health and environmentally safe pesticide management system. The preparatory work of this African assistance programme is under way and the project is expected to be carried out in February next year".

See OHP's website at www.orangeOhouse.eu for details of the China training Project.

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