



察哈尔学会
The Charhar Institute

Introduction of Charhar Institute

Introduction of Charhar Institute

The Charhar Institute is an independent think tank in China focusing on diplomacy and international relations with no official or partisan affiliation. It was founded by Han Fangming, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the national committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in October 2009. Its headquarters is in the Charhar Pasture of Shangyi county, Hebei Province and the secretariat is in Changle village, Shangzhuang township of Beijing's Haidian District. The Charhar Institute is dedicated to creating an independent-thinking institution with international influence and fostering an influential and cooperative opinion landscape.

The Charhar Institute focuses on public diplomacy, peace research and the practice of reconciliation. It wields important influence on the Chinese leadership's decision-making in areas such as the Korean Peninsula, religious diplomacy, human rights and Tibet. It plays a pioneering and leading role in public diplomacy among Chinese think tanks.

The Charhar Institute provides innovative thinking and foresight, with public diplomacy, international relations and the doctrine of peace as its main research areas and with case study, investigation and archives as its

main study methods. By conducting personnel exchanges, organizing cooperative and public events, publishing articles, compiling research reports and publishing books, it offers support for decision-makers and injects new ideas and thoughts into public discourse. It serves as a platform for decision-makers, non-official institutions and mainstream media to communicate.

It offers policy suggestions and innovative thoughts to the government's major diplomatic decisions that influence policies and opinions. It constructs communication channels for governments, research institutions, enterprises and the public. It helps policymakers enhance their understanding of international trends and effectively cope with ever-changing international relations. It strengthens mutual understanding among different countries and enhances international dialogue and cooperation in political, economic and social affairs.

In early 2016, the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the University of Pennsylvania issued the 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. The Charhar Institute ranked 108 among 132 in the list of top foreign policy and international affairs think tanks, 45 among 144 in the list of best independent think tanks, 55 among 65 in the list of top think tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and won 20th

place among China's 35 top think tanks.

The Charhar Institute takes public diplomacy and China's national image as the basis of its work, diplomacy and international relations as the core content, and a grand national strategy as the final outcome. As part of this work, it has produced such events and periodicals as the Public Diplomacy Quarterly, the Charhar Report, Charhar Lectures, Charhar Roundtables, Charhar Public Diplomacy Annual Convention, and Charhar Lunch Salons, etc.

Chairman of the Charhar Institute

Dr. Han Fangming, from Shangyi County, Hebei Province holds a PhD degree from Peking University and did post-doctorate research in Harvard University. He has decades of experience in areas such as public diplomacy, government relations, enterprise public affairs and risk-control. He has held senior managerial posts in multiple transnational State-owned enterprises, listed companies both within and abroad and commercial banks.

Han Fangming was a member of the national committee of the 10th, 11th and 12th CPPCC. From 2008, he took the role as vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the national committee of the CPPCC and a

solicitor at the public diplomacy group. He is also vice president of the Western Returned Scholars Association, a member of the China Committee on Religion and Peace, vice director-general of the China Overseas-Educated Scholars Development Foundation, vice chairman of the China Foundation for Peace and Development and chairman of the China Public Diplomacy and Peace Studies Institute.

As a renowned specialist on international relations and Southeast Asian affairs and an advocate of China's public diplomacy studies, Han Fangming often writes op-eds with international significance for domestic and foreign mainstream media and has published several books. His research areas also include overseas Chinese, Hong Kong and Macao, and Tibet.

Organizations

The Charhar Institute has set up subsidiary organizations such as the Secretariat, the International Consulting Committee, the International Communication Committee and the Center for Korean Peace Studies.

The Secretariat

The Secretariat is in charge the administrative affairs of the Charhar Institute, with senior diplomat Zhang Guobin as the secretary-general,

Zhou Hucheng as executive vice secretary-general, and Wang Chong, Zhang Zhongyi, Zheng Yu and Ma Wensheng as vice secretary-general.

The International Consulting Committee

The International Consulting Committee is an internal mechanism responsible for research, consultation and discussion. It aims at improving the quality of the institute's thought products and expanding the institute's clout in the international community. Its members consist of world-renowned government senior officials engaging in diplomacy, foreign affairs and overseas communication as well as famous scholars and senior managerial staff from the media and non-governmental organizations.

Zhao Qizheng, former minister of the State Council Information Office and a standing committee and director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the 11th CPPCC national committee, serves as the honorary chairman of the Charhar Institute. Han Fangming and Lv Fengding, former deputy director of the Central Foreign Affairs Office, co-chair the institute.

The members include Yu Hongjun and Ai Ping, both former deputy minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), He Yafei and Zhou Wenzhong, both

former deputy foreign ministers of China, former ambassador to France Zhao Jinjun, former EU ambassador Guan Chengyuan, former special envoy on the Middle East Wu Sike, former ambassador to Thailand Zhang Jiuheng, former foreign ministry spokesman Shen Guofang, Professor and Dean of the School of International Studies of Peking University Jia Qingguo, former vice president and editor-in-chief of the China International Publishing Group Huang Youyi, vice president of China National Association for International Studies Hu Wei, former president of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, former deputy prime minister and finance minister Lim Chang-yeol, and Johan Galtung, principal founder of the discipline of peace and conflict studies.

Huang Youyi is the secretary-general of the International Consulting Committee.

The International Communication Committee

The International Communication Committee aims at boosting the international spread of the thought products of the Charhar Institute, expanding the institute's international influence and playing a prominent role in discourse on international topics. The goal is to create a global core institute of public diplomacy and an influential think tank on diplomacy and international relations and provide service for opinion

communication. The members are all senior media staff and scholars from national and international media groups.

The chairmen of the International Communication Committee are Wang Guoqing, vice chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the national committee of the CPPCC, former vice minister of the State Council Information Office and a member of the International Consulting Committee of Charhar Institute, and Mo Gaoyi, deputy head of the publicity department of Guangdong provincial committee of the CPC, secretary of the CPC committee of Nanfang Media Group and president of Nanfang Daily.

The initial members include Zhan Guoshu, former editor-in-chief of the overseas edition of People's Daily, Liu Wei, deputy editor-in-chief of Guangming Daily and dean of the School of Journalism and Communication of Beijing Normal University, Zhang Zequn, a delegate of the National People's Congress and CCTV host, Phoenix TV commentator Du Ping, Zhou Zhaocheng, assistant vice president of Lianhe Zaobao and president of the Asia Research Institute, former South Korean MBC chief host Bang Hyun-joo, and Yoshikazu Katō, a Japanese scholar and visiting professor of the School of International Studies of Liaoning University.

Zhou Hucheng is the secretary-general of the International Communication Committee.

The Center for Korean Peace Studies

The Center for Korean Peace Studies aims to promote peace, security and stability in Northeast Asia, enhance mutual understanding of Northeast Asian countries and peoples, and boost dialogue and cooperation in political, economic and social affairs.

Zhang Mingzhou, vice president of the International Board on Books for Young People, is the secretary-general of the Center for Korean Peace Studies and Zhang Zhongyi is director.

Research Team

With tremendous vitality, the Charhar Institute has attracted many experts and scholars in international politics, diplomacy, international relations, and ethnology amid a wide variety of other subjects. The prestigious experts from China, the US, Japan, France, South Korea, Singapore, Australia and some other countries have formed a powerful research team.

Currently, our senior research fellows include Liu Hong, director of the

School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Nanyang Technological University; Zhao Kejin, professor from Tsinghua University; Wang Yiwei, professor from Renmin University of China; Luo Lin, director of the School of Middle East Studies at Beijing Language Culture University; Yu Wanli, a well-known scholar in international politics; Zhao Lei, professor of the Institute for International Strategic Studies of the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China; He Wenping, a research fellow of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Li Chenyang, vice director of the School of Humanities at Yunnan University; Wu Fei, professor of Jinan University.

We also have Zhao Bingbing, vice director of Liaoning Provincial Foreign Affairs Office; Zhang Kai, professor of the Communication University of China; Li Wei, associate professor from Renmin University of China; Wu Mei, associate professor from the Department of Communication at the University of Macau; Cui Qingshan, secretary of Party committee of Xining Municipal Foreign Affairs Office and a number of other scholars as our research fellows.

Public Diplomacy Practices

China-North Korea Charhar Channel

Han Fangming led the institute on a North Korea visit from August 29 to September 2 of 2016, setting off the public diplomacy campaign between Beijing and Pyongyang. The first non-official communication between think tanks from the two countries has since been established.

The Charhar Channel aims at expanding Sino-North Korean non-governmental exchanges to culture and art communication, deepening the role of think tanks in providing wisdom and rendering favorable conditions for launching high-level dialogues between the two sides. Meanwhile, the channel will also deliver reports and policy analysis on changes in the North Korean situation, offering effective suggestions to contribute to the friendly development of China-North Korea ties.

Advice to Government

The strategy of public diplomacy which the Charhar Institute has actively been promoting was written into the report of the 18th CPC National Congress in 2012.

The institute completes one or two research tasks assigned by the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee every year. Han Fangming serves as leader of the social policy group of the consulting

sector from non-Party intellectuals of the United Front Work Department. He is in charge of leading research topics and organizing experts to engage in them. A number of reports have gained written approval from members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, and have been awarded by the United Front Work Department.

City Diplomacy

The Charhar Institute takes as one of its primary tasks to promote the internationalization of Zhangjiakou in northern Hebei Province. It has made great efforts to help the city bid to host the 2022 Winter Olympics through building up its international image. The institute calls on experts every year to offer decisive advice for developing the city's public diplomacy and creating a favorable international image.

From 2014 on, the institute has been providing research reports on the public diplomacy of Yangzhou in east China's Jiangsu Province every year. It details the experience of the city's public diplomatic efforts through descriptions of its canal and culinary culture as well as through useful suggestions for its further development. The institute edited and published "A Bite of Public Diplomacy— International Communication of Yangzhou Food Culture," China's first research report of its kind.

Since 2014, the institute has also been committed to shaping Xining in northwest China's Qinghai Province as a world-class "cool" city with an attractive refreshing climate and ramping up its pragmatic cooperation with cities along the Belt and Road in economy and trade, tourism, science and technology, humanities and culture.

In addition, Charhar is also cooperating with other cities on projects to elevate their reputation.

Corporate Diplomacy

The Charhar Institute provides corporate diplomacy-related consultations, suggestions and research reports for companies every year, which include the Report on Public Diplomacy of TCL Group, the Research on Protection of Overseas Interests of Chinese Firms, and advice to enterprises of the alumni association of Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business.

In August 2015, Charhar released the Case Study on Public Diplomacy of Wenzhou Businesses. The report classifies public diplomacy into three categories: public diplomacy in transnational business operations, public diplomacy in social responsibility, public diplomacy serving national or local strategies.

Religious Diplomacy

Han Fangming was awarded an honorary PhD of politics by Dongguk University founded by Chogye Chong, an important sect of Buddhism in Korea. Previously only three persons including President of the Buddhist Association of China and Venerable Master Hsing Yun had been awarded this honor.

The institute has also promoted translation of Buddhist scriptures and jointly organized symposiums like the Conference on Sutra Transmission and Translation to help Chinese Buddhism go global and deepen the international communication of local religions.

Products

Publications

Public Diplomacy Quarterly

Founded in March 2010, the *Public Diplomacy Quarterly* follows and analyzes situations and trends of public diplomacy at home and abroad as well as conducts multi-dimensional and multi-perspective discussions in this realm, in hopes of expanding theoretical studies, assuming a guiding and regulating role for China to launch public diplomacy and

providing references for relevant government sectors. The institute expects to brand the quarterly as a professional public diplomacy publication with international influence.

Since 2010, we have presented the quarterly to deputies to the National People's Congress and members of the CPPCC every year. Our target readers are mainly composed of officials of diplomacy, foreign affairs, outbound trade, and foreign publicity from governments at all levels, the Party, and the CPPCC system; officials from foreign affairs offices in central government-owned enterprises; teaching staff in international politics and international relations at universities and research institutions; members from China Public Diplomacy Association and local public diplomacy associations; as well as working staff in embassies and news agencies.

Apart from the *Public Diplomacy Quarterly*, we have also published *Introduction to Public Diplomacy*, *Charhar Newsletter*, a series of books on public diplomacy and on diplomacy and international relations.

Five Annual Activities

The Charhar Institute started its public diplomacy annual conference in 2010 together with Nanfang Media Group. It has now become a meeting

with far-reaching influence on public diplomacy.

In 2011, the institute founded the academic forum of PhD candidates in international relations and international politics. Co-sponsored by the School of International Studies, Peking University, the forum is an important symposium that demonstrates the research results of PhD candidates majoring in diplomacy and international relations.

In 2012, Charhar and the Netherlands Institute of International Relations established the international forum on public diplomacy, which is held in turn in China and Europe. It is a significant platform for academic communication in public diplomacy.

In 2014, Charhar, along with local higher education institutions, set up the forum of local universities in public diplomacy, successfully encouraging local universities to launch public diplomacy and peace studies as well as found schools in this field.

The Charhar Peace Dialogue, established in 2013, invites officials and scholars studying regional and international peace to hold dialogues. It is a crucial dialogue mechanism for addressing global and regional conflicts.

Apart from the five aforementioned major activities, Charhar has also produced a series of products like the Charhar Report, the Charhar Auditorium, the Charhar Roundtable, the Charhar Lunch Salon and the Charhar Meeting Hall.

The institute has its secretariat in Changle Village, Shangzhuang Town of Beijing's Haidian District, co-located with the Sun YeFang Economic Science Foundation. It also has branches in Shanghai and Seoul of South Korea.

Two well-known academic institutions settling in Shangzhuang Town has enhanced the cultural impact of the picturesque Daoxiang Lake Resort. Extensive international exchanges and frequent visits by government officials and celebrities have helped promote the popularity of this area, which has been conducive to the coordinated development of its society and economy.