



CHINA TOWN HALL: MODERATION FACILITATION GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

Thank you for agreeing to be part of this year's CHINA Town Hall (CTH). We hope the enclosed guidelines can assist you with facilitating a local program that catalyzes the important conversations CTH is all about.

There is no "right" way to facilitate a local program. Some partners choose to host a lecture-style program where an expert presents a specific topic of interest to the community. Others convene a moderated conversation where constituents talk amongst themselves about their attitudes and concerns about the relationship. Still others do a combination of the two, or something else altogether. The most important thing is that the local conversation meets the needs of your community.

For those opting for a moderated conversation option, we offer the following suggested guidelines and resources. Please take from them what you find most beneficial.

SUGGESTED OUTLINE FOR MODERATED CONVERSATION

Program Goals

- To provide an opportunity for a discussion on the topic of U.S.-China relations and how the current state of those relations affects the attendees personally, their families, their jobs, their educational institutions, etc.
- To help participants synthesize and reflect on the content presented during the national webcast, this year with Ryan Hass, Matthew Turpin, and Lingling Wei.
- To give attendees the opportunity to learn how other members of their community view the U.S.-China relationship.

Suggested Discussion/Conversation Outline

- Facilitator introduces himself/herself, states the purpose of the town hall, and establishes the ground rules for discussion (5 mins)
- Introductions and impressions (15 mins)
 - o Ask attendees to introduce themselves and share their thoughts on the national webcast (if you have a particularly small or intimate audience)
 - o Question prompts:
 - What did you learn?
 - What surprised you?

- What one point did the national speakers make that you particularly agreed or disagreed with?
- Open discussion (25 mins)
 - o Broader topical questions on the U.S.-China relationship. You can find suggested questions on the next page
- Wrap-up reflection (10 mins)
 - o Question prompts:
 - Why does the U.S.-China relationship matter to you? Why should it matter to the community?
 - How will you stay informed going forward?
 - Do you think it's important to stay engaged? If so, how might you do so?
- Conclusion and next steps (5 mins)
 - o Thank participants for coming
 - o Share that more reading materials and resources can be found on the National Committee's website and that participants can follow the National Committee to stay up to date on the U.S.-China relationship.
 - o If applicable, share upcoming relevant events at your institution/organization

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

China and Your Community

1. **Economic Engagement and Local Business:** Washington has announced policies aimed at reducing U.S. economic reliance on China. What does “decoupling” or “de-risking” look like in practice? How does it affect American companies (and their supply chains) in your community?
2. **Chinese Investment and Real Estate Restrictions:** If you are in one of the states that has already passed a law, or in a process of passing new laws, limiting or barring land and property purchases by Chinese nationals and companies, citing national security concerns, how have the local housing market and business climate been affected? How can these laws be enacted in ways that enhance security without fostering discrimination?
3. **Chinese Students and Researchers in the U.S.:** Pre-pandemic, there were roughly 300,000 Chinese students matriculated at U.S. universities. Today Chinese enrollment in the U.S. has declined due to increased visa scrutiny and geopolitical tensions. What impact, positive or negative, does this reduction have on local universities, research institutions, and the broader community? How can academic institutions navigate concerns over security while maintaining open academic exchange?
4. **Fentanyl and the Opioid Crisis:** While illegal opioid use remains a major crisis in many American communities, commitments between the U.S. and China to combat fentanyl and other synthetic opioid trafficking into the United States have been renewed. Have you seen any trickle-down impact of these joint efforts at the local level? Are there ways for your community to engage with broader policy solutions on this issue? Do you believe there are ways the U.S. should compel China to do more?
5. **People-to-People Exchange:** With Beijing announcing new initiatives (such as a 10-day visa-free transit policy) to attract American students, tourists, and businesspeople to China, and the U.S. government lowering its China travel advisory, has interest in travel to China among people in your community rebounded to pre-pandemic levels? Where do the local organizations, businesses, and

universities stand in terms of organizing China visits? How important is it to have U.S. citizens traveling to China?

U.S.-China Relationship

1. Taiwan and Regional Security: In recent years, the United States has increased its military and security support to Taiwan, and Beijing has responded with heightened military exercises and incursions in the Taiwan Strait. How does this rising tension affect U.S.-China relations, and what are the potential economic and security consequences for each country? (What about the impact on U.S.-Taiwan and PRC-Taiwan relations, as well as the economic impact on Taiwan?)

2. Trade and Decoupling: With Washington pursuing policies aimed at reducing U.S. economic reliance on China, what does “decoupling” or “de-risking” look like in practice? How does it affect American companies, supply chains, and global economic stability?

3. Global Governance: As the U.S. and China take different, sometimes oppositional approaches to conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa, how is their rivalry re-shaping world order?

4. Artificial Intelligence and Tech Competition: The U.S. has restricted Chinese access to cutting-edge AI technologies, citing national security concerns. How will this affect the AI race, global innovation, and economic/technological competition between the two countries?

5. Military Relations and Risk Management: After years of intermittent tensions, direct military-to-military communication between the U.S. and China has been restored, at least for the time-being. How important is this dialogue in preventing conflicts, and what risks remain in areas such as the South China Sea and the Taiwan Strait?

RESOURCES: BEST PRACTICES FOR TOWN HALL AND DISCUSSION FACILITATION

We know many CHINA Town Hall discussion facilitators have experience in this type of role. However, if you would like some tips on how to best facilitate a discussion, we have assembled a list of publicly available resources that you might find helpful.

- [Facilitating Effective Discussions](#), Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo
- [How to Facilitate Discussions](#), University of California, San Diego
- [How to Organize a Town Hall Meeting: A Planning Guide](#), GUIDE, Inc.
- [Tips on Facilitating Effective Group Discussions](#), The Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University