Young Chinese Professionals Scotland (YCP) and Scotland-China Alumni International (SCAI) shall jointly submit this paper to the European and External Relations Committee (EER).

A brief introduction to YCP and SCAI

YCP (est.2010) is a non-profit community association to unite, develop, support and promote Chinese professionals with young hearted spirit in Scotland through linking with all groups interested in Scotland-China partnerships.

SCAI (est.2012) is a non-profit community association, which promotes Chinese professionals with Scottish experience outside Scotland, for the development of friendships and partnerships between Scottish and Chinese people. We would like to consider our Chinese professionals as Scotland’s Chinese alumni.

Economic engagement with China in Scotland

There has been a track record of major contributions Chinese professionals in Scotland have made for the economic engagements with China, from previously supporting the twin cities agreement between Perth and Haikou, Hainan in China and the set up of SQA’s courses and examinations for Chinese language to more recently the launch of 3 world premier of contemporary Chinese plays through National Theatre of Scotland, creating new Scottish contemporary scene by Chinese brush painting techniques at Visual Arts Scotland in the Royal Scottish Academy, and designing a world class university degree course in China market.

While YCP continues to assist Chinese professionals in developing China engagements in Scotland, we are also an active supporter to not only professional community activities, and projects such as Scottish Diaspora Tapestry for Homecoming 2014, where we help develop the China initiative of the global project.

Facilitating greater collaboration and partnership working in Scotland

As a talent bank of professional and Chinese cultural skills with over 600 members, we share within YCP the same vision towards supporting Scotland-China partnerships. We see a great opportunity that our resources can be explored by Scottish firms wishing to develop their corporate China strategy. The China Plan would be instrumental in setting the agenda to encourage greater corporation between stakeholders.

Economic engagement with China in China

How Scotland is being seen in China is critical to the success of Scotland’s journey to China. Having learnt many success stories of Scottish organisations across industries, we can and should now begin to articulate Scotland’s distinct national identity and enable the promotion of Scottish culture to create economic values for Scotland’s trade and investment.

Raising awareness of Scotland in China

Given the size of China, it is easy said than done. However, it is not impossible if we have the right support and deliver through people channels e.g. social media. To increase the awareness of Scotland, to develop potential Scotland-China collaborations, and to augment our Chinese alumni’s sense of belonging to Scotland, we aim to invite support from over 50,000 Chinese and Scottish alumni in China.
Launched at the Gleneagles China Youth Summit in November 2012, SCAI is an international social initiative that aims to reconnect Scotland’s Chinese professionals and graduates who are based in every part of the world outside Scotland. SCAI has been helping Scottish schools to set up SCAI networks to enhance links of alumni with their mother schools. The association is now also connected with other Scottish diaspora communities in Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Shenzhen that is believed to add value to educational, scientific and business activities in China.

**Scotland-China Exchanges**

Knowing Scotland in China is a brilliant start. Nevertheless, if one is to truly experience the Scottish excellence, one of the powerful ways is by exchanges. As the China Plan also believes in the importance of deeper cultural exchanges, it is a good opportunity to raise awareness of Scotland or China directly by encouraging the flow of people between both countries. YCP has teamed up with SCAI in joint partnership with UK-China Talent Association of Promotion (TAP) to contrive plans on developing a flagship series of Scotland-China exchange programmes. The aim of this partnership is to explore and develop opportunities in other fields that could create new economic value in addition to current cultural exchanges.