



CATCH Dissemination in Handan and Shanghai, China

Summary report



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1 Background

CATCH is an EU FP7 project that is aiming to develop an online 'knowledge platform' that can be used by urban mobility stakeholders (such as decision makers, policy makers, transport operators and the general public) to increase awareness of the impacts of travel behaviours, the potential impact of making a change to these behaviours, and the way in which change can be realised. The project was commissioned in recognition of the need to reduce carbon emissions from the urban transport sector but CATCH will also focus on other social, economic and environmental co-benefits of carbon emission reduction as further incentives to instigate change.

CATCH is an EC initiative that focuses on issues of relevance internationally. The project consortium therefore contains a partner from Latin America (UFRJ) and a partner from China (Handan Municipality). This summary report contains an overview of the outcomes of meetings that TRL, a CATCH partner with a key role in the dissemination of the project, attended in China. The objectives of the meetings were to increase awareness of the CATCH project amongst stakeholders in China, obtain feedback on the initial design prototypes developed by the project, and to gain an insight into how CATCH can be used by stakeholders in China and how the project can be better tailored to their needs.

The China dissemination activity had three core components:

- A seminar in Handan where TRL gave a presentation on the CATCH project and also lead a workshop style session to obtain feedback on the initial project outputs
- A presentation to increase awareness of the CATCH project at the Shanghai Expo
- Meetings with relevant stakeholders in Beijing.

This report contains an overview of each of these activities.

2 Handan seminar

Overview

The CATCH Dissemination workshop was attended by 30 participants from the Transport Authority, Environmental Authority, Science and Technology Division and universities (e.g. engineering, city planning and media).

Welcome Speech

The welcome speech was delivered by Director Dr. Li of the Department for Science and Technology. Dr. Li welcomed the participants and guest speakers and delivered an introduction to the Handan's transport strategy. The introduction included:

- Key challenges: Growing city → Growing traffic → Growing pollution
- The city has 1300 busses across 93 bus lines. There are 480,000 travellers in Handan each day.
- Buses set off every 1-3 minutes in the city centre and every 8 minutes in suburban areas.



- There is an ambitious plan for constructing new highways as well as an extension of the public transport network. For example, future public transport access in all 6 neighbouring counties and a new highway to the seaport in Dalian.
- A light rail ring road is planned around Handan
- There are plans to improve the highway system which will enable easy access of up to one hour from everywhere in the region.
- The implementation of a smart card for transport is in progress.

CATCH presentations

An introduction of the CATCH project was given by Boyong Wang.

Presentation 1: Introduction to CATCH – Holger Dalkmann

Holger gave an overview of the CATCH project and explained why it is important to have a knowledge engine for carbon reductions where best practice can be shared globally.

Discussion

The discussion following the first presentation was lively and dynamic. Participants raised the importance of emissions reduction in Europe as a major past emitter and mentioned that China still needs to develop in this area.

Participants expressed some doubts in relation to the future role of electric vehicles. They agreed that the technology is uncertain. Specifically, they had some reservations about:

- The electric vehicles' battery technology; and
- The indirect carbon emissions through electricity consumption.

The participants noted that the key challenge in China is that the car represents a symbol of wealth. The situation in Europe should serve as an example to China and demonstrate that a car-oriented urban development does not solve the problem. The emphasis is not on owning a car but using it less. For example, people can still own a car but should reduce the number of regular trips they take (e.g. commute to work).

The participants concluded the discussion with stating that Handan is a good city for promoting low carbon transport via a website as it is a national pilot for improving internet access; already 24% of households have internet access in the city.



Presentation 2: Introduction to knowledge platform – Holger Dalkmann [workshop format]

Holger provided specific information about the CATCH project; its concepts and designs. The presentation took participants through the properties of the online knowledge platform as well the interface for policy makers.

Discussion/Recommendations

The following **recommendations** were noted during the discussion:

- Provide additional information on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and how the cities in China could benefit from it.
- Promote best practice from Europe as well as China and make it easily accessible.
- Provide easy to use information on how to calculate carbon footprint for citizens as well as cities.
- Similarly, provide a simple tool for cities that will enable them to calculate their carbon emissions based on some key simple indicators.

The participants also raised the following **questions**:

- Who was doing the quality review for the project? It was noted that it is essential to ensure that the data input provided is correct.
- Is it possible to include brief information from other cities so there is a better database for a comparison?
- Will there be any calculation tools for the effects of urban planning? Participants commented that it would be great to provide this tool to calculate emissions for alternative developments.

It was also mentioned that the local university radio station (headed by one of the participating professors) was interested in the project and was happy to promote the website.

A key interest was also in the comparison to European cities – it was suggested to integrate key objectives of their plans and key strategies.



3 Shanghai Expo

CATCH was a part of an event hosted by the City of Malmo. The event was **eGovernance and competitiveness**. Approximately 140 people participated in the event which included high level of European representatives (e.g. Frank Greco, First Counsellor Information Society and Media Delegation of the European Union to China and Mongolia, was attending as a speaker), city representatives from Chinese cities e.g. Yantai Director General Committee of Economy and Information

The importance of ICT solutions which can contribute to EU reduction targets was highlighted in the events.

Dr Li Guanjun, Director of Handan Information Office provided an overview of the transport situation in Handan and introduced the CATCH project. Dr Li highlighted the value of CATCH to his city.

1. Presentation 3: Introduction to CATCH and an overview of the knowledge platform – Holger Dalkmann

The third presentation provided an overview of the CATCH project and explained why it is important to have a knowledge engine for carbon reductions where best practice can be shared globally. The presentation also briefly described the knowledge platform the CATCH vision.

Feedback

The presentation generated a lot of interest in the project and also raised awareness within EU, for Eforum in particular. There is in fact an EU China Forum on egovernance and CATCH is mentioned in their newsletter. It was noted that the events were a very good platform for dissemination and promotion of the project.

The city of Malmo and the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in China expressed interest in the project.

The project was generally seen as a new innovative approach.



4 Follow up meetings with stakeholders

Several follow up meetings took place with ADB, THE Ministry of Transport and NDRC in Beijing. The aim of the meetings was to promote the CATCH project.

Meeting with the Director of Centre for Urban sustainable transportation

A Presentation of the CATCH project to was delivered to the members of the Chinese Academy of Transport Science (part of Ministry of Transport). The following issues were raised during the discussions:

- There is currently a need for better data in cities as there is a lack of information of decision makers. How can the knowledge platform provide information or guidance on the data?
- The benchmark approach is very suitable for China. There is a need for national involvement to support the knowledge platform.

Meeting with National Development Reform Commission (NDRC)

A brief introduction to CATCH was provided. NDRC supports the development of low carbon initiatives although the project needs to be developed further to show what benefit it can have for China. In general, the NDRC is interested and would like to attend a presentation about the project when the platform is fully complete.



5 Final conclusions of the China trip

- The events and meetings in China provided a good opportunity for dissemination on a local level, general public level, national/international expert level and national policy level.
- The topic seemed to be highly relevant to China on all levels.
- The knowledge platform was seen as an interesting tool.
- Further discussions on national level are needed and further strategic partner are needed in the future to extend the use of the platform within China.
- There was an interest in the European good practice which could be helpful for Handan and for other cities in the future.
- The initial trip helped to raise awareness, develop local contacts and started to raise awareness on the national level. Another mission to China would help for wider dissemination and identify sustainability beyond the EU funding period (e.g. ADB, NDRC, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Transport).
- A workshop in Beijing could help to raise awareness and secure the future use of the platform.