

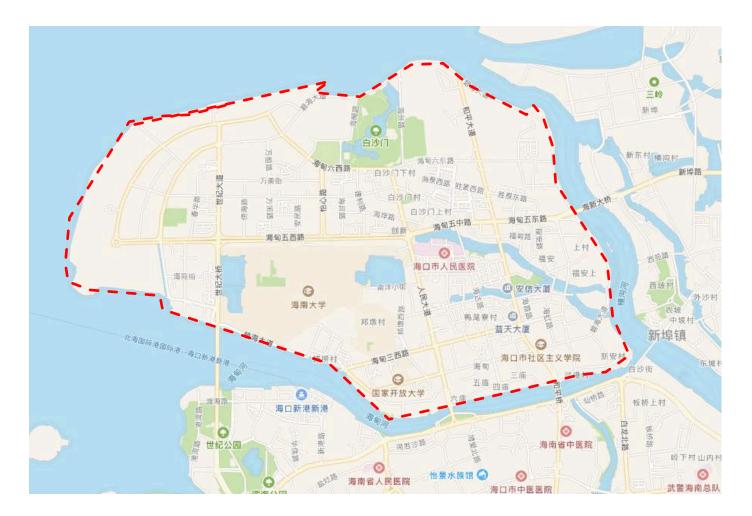
Participatory Budgeting in Meilan

The World and China Institute

May 2nd, 2017

OVERVIEW

- Location: Two subdistricts on Island of Haidian in Meilan District
- There are 13 communities in two subdistricts
- **Population:** 144,423
- Area: 14.57 sq. km.
- 6 million yuan of the government budget of 2017 was set aside as the PB projects funding.
- 2.1 million was allocated to do the subdistrict projects. (1.05 million each)
- > 3.9 million was allocated to do the community projects. (0.3 million each)



OUR ROLE

The World and China Institute worked as the advisory group in this PB project. We have done the following work in the process:

- Organize an expert group to train the working staffs in local government.
- Help local government formulate the PB schemes and rules.
- Help local government design the posters, flyers and ballots.
- Help local government organize the community meetings.
- Work as volunteers in mobilizing the residents to submit ideas and vote.
- Write the PB report for the local government.



Preparation:

Dec. 8, 2016-Dec. 25, 2016

- Organize the PB project leading group
- Formulate the PB schemes
- Train the working crew

Collect projects ideas:

Dec. 26,2016-Feb. 10,2017

- Hold household and street mobilization
- Organize community workshops to let residents brainstorm the project ideas

THE PB PROCESS

(4 Months)

Voting and Publicizing:

Mar. 26,2017-Apr. 7,2017

- All the residents lived, worked or studied in Island of Haidian vote on which projects to fund.
- Subdistrict office confirms the final projects according to the votes.
- Subdistrict office publicizes the final result for 7 days.

Develop project proposals:

Feb. 11, 2017-Mar. 25, 2017

- Eliminate the projects that do not meet the criteria.
- Organize the community meetings to develop the project proposals.
- Assess the feasibility of proposals and estimate the budget of the proposed projects

WHAT CAN CITIZENS DO

- \checkmark Submit the project ideas.
- ✓ Come to the community meetings to discuss and develop the project proposals.
- ✓ Decide the final projects by voting.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

Any resident who meets the

following criteria:

✓ Live, work or study in the Island of Haidian.

✓ Above the age 15.



ELIMINATION CRITERIA

Project which has following conditions should be eliminated:

- Not under general interest
- Not government's responsibility
- Violate the law and regulations
- Similar projects are being implemented by the government
- Beyond the subdistrict government's competencies
- Technically infeasible
- Beyond the budget limit

KEY FIGURES

- Two subdistricts collected 18,306 project proposal forms which accounted for 12.6% of the whole population.
- After being discussed, assessed and eliminated, at the end of the third stage, there were 136 projects entering the voting stage.
- There was 5 days for residents to vote. The voting period was from March 26th, 2017 to March 31st, 2017.
- 28,484 residents voted which accounted for 20% of the whole population in Island of Haidian.
- At the end of the voting stage, 74 projects were put into the implementation stage.

SUBDISTRICT PROJECTS

Final projects in Renming subdsitrict:

| Name | Number of votes | Budget (RMB) |
|--|-----------------|--------------|
| Pavement reconstruction | 7,292 | 100,000 |
| Xili seniors' center rebuilding | 6,896 | 380,000 |
| Sewer cleaning | 6,659 | 354,000 |
| Establishing community psychological counselling center | 6,154 | 183,000 |

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Final projects in Bangdun community:

| Name | Number of votes | Budget (RMB) |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Electronic monitoring system | 1,391 | 100,000 |
| Sewer reconstruction | 1,370 | 150,000 |
| Adding Streetlamp | 1,344 | 25,000 |
| Organizing culture and sport activities | 1,275 | 25,000 |

KEY FEATURES

Wide range of participation

Power to decide

Deliberation

Flexibility

- Participants: lower age limitation; do not require any personal identification; no verification process.
- Voting mobilization entered the school yard. Students could vote in their schools.
- The allocation of the funding was decided by all the residents in the island.
- Residents can vote on both subdistrict projects and community projects.

• Residents were invited to attend the community meetings to discuss and develop the project proposals. The discussion was orderly organized in groups and every resident's chance to speak was guaranteed.

• The procedure of this pilot project was flexible and there was not standard way of operation. The timetable and the operation methods were changed and improved step by step during the whole process.



BENEFITS

- Help the local government get more knowledge of citizens' needs. Provide an alternative way for government to serve the citizens. It improves the relationship between citizens and governments.
- Solve some pressing difficulties faced by local residents. For instance, the project "Building the harbor stairs", which was the pressing need of the local residents, won the highest vote in Bulao community and will be implemented in this year.
- Lower limit of participation allows the citizens who are ineligible for the traditional ways of civil participation to have a chance to express their needs and to have a say in the government budget decision-making procedures.
- Provide a chance for residents to communicate with each other. Help create a more harmonious environment in the local communities.

THE HARBOR STAIRS CASE

- Bulao community is one of the 6 communities in Renming subdistrict. Most residents in Bulao live on fishing. There are hundreds of ships in this community.
- The harbor on which the fishermen are allowed to berth their ships lacks stairs. Fishermen themselves built simple stairs by using woods and stones. Those stairs are dangerous and have caused accidents each year.
- In the PB process this year, 359 residents collectively submitted the proposal of the project "Building the harbor stairs".
- In the voting stage, 2293 residents voted for this project and it was the highest vote in Bulao community.

