



CHINA DIALOGUE  
TRUST

# **TECH ADVISORY BOARD**





## ***Introduction***

Thank you for your interest in joining China Dialogue Trust's Technical Advisory Board.

Founded in 2006, China Dialogue Trust is internationally recognised for its work in advancing environment and climate action through multilingual online publishing, research and dialogue. Through accurate information and open discussion we contribute to building equitable and constructive solutions to environmental issues that affect China and the world.

We are recruiting a Technical Advisory Board to ensure we have the expertise, experience and diversity of perspectives to understand digital trends, leverage technical innovations and effectively respond to shifting audience needs. This is a particularly exciting time for us as we're embarking on a new strategy to guide our direction to 2030. An early priority for the strategy is to review and redevelop our suite of four websites.

If you are interested in joining our team and helping us to shape China Dialogue Trust in the coming years, we would love to hear from you.

**Chris Davy**  
*Managing Editor, China Dialogue*







## ***Who are we?***

China Dialogue Trust is an independent organisation dedicated to advancing climate action by promoting understanding of climate change and the environment across barriers of language and culture.

For more than 16 years, our work has illuminated China's environmental crises and its global environmental footprint with the purpose of sharing knowledge and advancing solutions. Our reporting covers everything from innovations in green technology to the impact of investments under the Belt and Road initiative.

We are a UK-registered charity that is headquartered in London. Increasingly, we rely on a growing cohort of editors and team members around the world, and a network of expert contributors and partners. China Dialogue researches, writes, commissions, edits and publishes news reports and analyses of environmental and climate threats, to stimulate the exchange of information and ideas between readers in diverse geographies.





China Dialogue Trust publishes across four websites:

- [chinadialogue.net](http://chinadialogue.net), our flagship site launched in 2006, reports in Chinese and English on environment and climate change with a focus on China. It attracted almost 1.7m page views in 2022.
- [thethirdpole.net](http://thethirdpole.net), in English, Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Bengali and Russian, is dedicated to understanding water, climate and the environment across Asia. The Third Pole was launched in 2010. It attracted nearly 1.9m page views in 2022 and is widely syndicated across the subcontinent.
- [dialogochino.net](http://dialogochino.net) publishes in English, Spanish and Portuguese, was launched in 2014 and is focused on China's environmental and social impacts in Latin America. In 2022, it attracted over 1.2m page views.
- [chinadialogueocean.net](http://chinadialogueocean.net), which focuses on China's policies and impacts on the marine environment, critical for the global ocean, was launched in 2018. China Dialogue Ocean attracted over 360k page views in 2022.

China Dialogue Trust has expertise and significant experience in communication and public education. We raise awareness and stimulate online and real world dialogues to promote and support perspectives that increase understanding and inspire a greater awareness of the planet's challenges.







## ***The role***

**Location:** London/remote

**Position:** Tech Advisory Board member (part-time, voluntary role)

**Length of Term:** Two years, with the possibility of re-election

**Time Commitment:** Quarterly meetings of approx. two hours each

**Salary:** Unpaid

**Start Time:** March/April 2023

## ***What you'll be doing***

- Attend and contribute to four Tech Advisory Board meetings held quarterly at the China Dialogue Trust office and/or on Zoom. Meetings will normally take place during work hours.
- Support key team members with ad hoc advice on your particular area of expertise.

You will not be required to publicly represent the organisation although, where appropriate, we would like Tech Advisory Board members to utilise their profile and networks to support the aims of China Dialogue Trust.

Tech Advisory Board members will sit separately from our Board of Trustees and will not have the regulatory responsibilities of a Trustee role.





## ***What are we looking for?***

China Dialogue Trust is looking to recruit up to eight Tech Advisory Board members, including one member who would act as Chair of the Advisory Board. We are actively seeking greater diversity among our team and are especially interested in hearing from applicants whose background is reflective of the regions we report from and/or those with the following skills and experience:


- Web development (senior and mid-level);
- Branding and web design;
- SEO and digital marketing;
- Development operations;
- Multimedia.

### ***Desirable***

- Commitment to our values – the search for shared, global solutions to climate change and the environmental crisis;
- An understanding of the not-for-profit and philanthropic landscape.

## ***How to apply***

Please apply in writing to [apply@chinadialogue.net](mailto:apply@chinadialogue.net) by 15th March 2023 with your CV and a cover letter outlining why you are interested in the role and what skills you could contribute to the organisation. Applications will be considered on an ongoing basis and early application is recommended. If you would like an informal conversation about any aspect of the role or the organisation, please contact us at the address above to set up a call with our COO, Tallulah Staple.





## Technical details

The China Dialogue group of sites are each an instance of a Wordpress site based on the [Themosis framework](#). This framework uses Laravel-based MVC architecture to make developing on top of Wordpress simpler.

The group of websites utilises a single codebase. The code is cloned across each instance to allow updates and bug fixes to be applied to all sites.

The site makes heavy use of the Advanced Custom Fields plugin. Fields are set up to allow Admins to tailor the look and feel of each site, as well as which custom post types are loaded in and used in different areas, such as search and listing pages. There is a Themosis hook in the application files that loads the custom fields.

Posts are built using Wordpress Gutenberg. Many new blocks have been added, all loaded within a plugin inside the mu-plugins directory.

The performance of the sites relies heavily on caching. The [W3 Total Cache plugin](#) takes care of local/disk caching, and there is an extensive set of page rules on Cloudflare for each site.

The China Dialogue site uses the [WP Offload Media plugin](#), but this was not used on the subsequent sites due to performance issues related to the caching and Themosis framework.

The sites are each hosted on a separate AWS EC2 instance. Databases are hosted on a shared (between these sites only) RDS instance.