**FCO SPF PROJECT EVALUATION**

Sections 1-3 to be filled out by Programme Teams / Post

1. **Project Details**

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| Project Number  | **GB-3-221301 CHN** |
| Project Title | **‘Use Less’: A policy approach to further reduce the death penalty** |
| Project Cost (total cost / cost to FCO if different) | **£62,254** |
| Project Start/End Dates | **June 2012 – February 2013** |
| Programme | **Human Rights and Democracy** |
| Country/Countries | **China** |
| Official Development Assistance Y/N | **Y** |

1. **Project Purpose** (from proposal form)

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| To support the reduction of the death penalty application through developing guidelines on properly implementing the Chinese criminal policy of combining severity and leniency. |

1. **Project Background / Context** including what the project set out to achieve (150 words max)

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| This project aims to undertake comprehensive research on the implementation of the criminal policy in capital cases and complement the clarification of criminal policy with a stricter definition of the “most serious crimes”. Currently there is a lack of consistency on the interpretation of what constitutes a serious crime. With recommendations to the judicial authorities on the substantive standards to apply, based on research within China and comparative study with how these crimes are treated currently, this project will narrow the circumstances in which the death penalty can apply. This will provide the judges hearing capital cases with effective guidelines and again has the potential to standardise, across China, the use of the death penalty only in the most exceptional circumstances.  |

1. **Evaluation summary** (150 words max)

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| Clearly relevant to UK objectives. China has the 2nd highest per capita execution rate in the world and is a priority country for FCO death penalty work. There’s little chance of abolition in the near future. Working with judges to develop more lenient sentencing through judicial interpretation is therefore a credible approach in line with the FCO’s Death Penalty Strategy. The UK and the EU have supported the implementer, DPRC, for over 10 years. This project represented good value for money by providing the foundations for a larger EU project that followed. The main output was developing sentencing guidelines. It’s hard to measure immediate impact. However, if the guidelines are adopted by the SPC then they will change sentencing practice and lead to a reduction in the use of the death penalty over time. There are signs of impact to come, but this will require monitoring and more open access to official data. |

1. **Questions**

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| Did the project achieve the project purpose?  | Yes |
| Did the project come in on budget? (Y/N)If no, why and what was the difference in cost?  | Yes |
| Was the project completed on time? (Y/N)If not, why not? | Yes |
| Were the Project benefits sustained after project completion?  | Yes |

1. **Overall Red / Amber / Green rating** for project

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| Overall Rating for project (put **X** in relevant box) |
| Red |  |
| Red | Amber |  |
| Amber | Green | **x** |
| Green |  |

Guide to overall rating:

Green- project performed well under each of the evaluation criteria: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, impact and management

Green/Amber – project performed well under most criteria and adequately in others

Amber/Red – project performed adequately under some criteria but poorly in others

Red – project performed poorly under most criteria

1. **Top 5 Lessons learned**

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| 1. A relatively small project can make a significant contribution to longer term reform on sensitive issues in China if there is some political will and we choose the right partner.
2. The one year project cycle undermines post and implementer’s efforts to deliver meaningful and sustainable results.
3. The *means* of the project (research) is just as important as the ends (judicial guidelines), as the research deepened beneficiaries understanding of the issues, changed attitudes and led to changes in practice, even if the formal policy remained the same.
4. Progress is being made on reducing the use of the death penalty in China (use has dramatically reduced, public support for the death penalty has reduced, number of capital offences has reduced). However, lack of transparency of official data makes it very difficult to independently verify and accurately assess the impact of the influence of our projects.
5. When taking a long term approach (5-10 years), it’s important to periodically assess and test the theory of change and the progress being made.
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1. **Recommendations for future projects**

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| 1. Continue to support the long term approaches of the Death Penalty Research Centre, but encourage them to develop in some areas, in particular: a) further develop project management skills, b) take approaches that encourage the government to be more transparent on its use of the death penalty, and, c) identify and focus on those provinces of China where the death penalty is most used to maximise the impact of their work.
2. Consider whether we can support or encourage others to use public campaigning methods to generate a more informed public debate on the use of the death penalty.
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