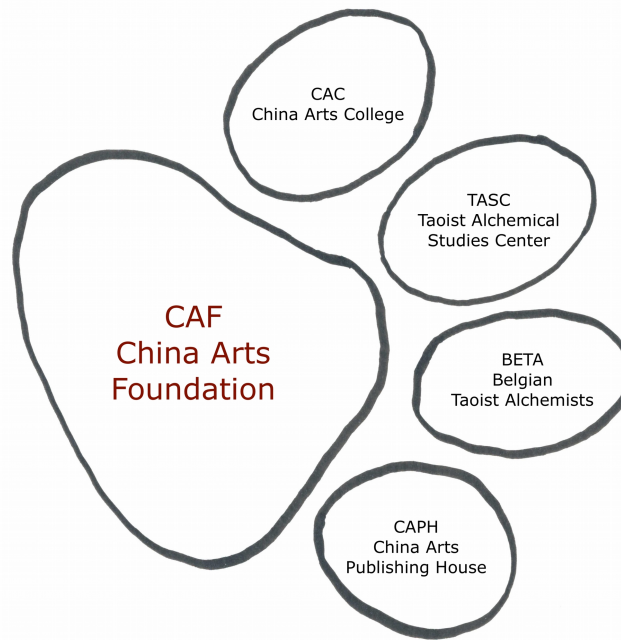


The Paw-print of our Organization



Members of our organization have a code of honour, which describes our way of conduct. Because it is called TIGER (tolerant, invaluable, genuine, enthusiastic, respectful), we use a tiger's paw-print to represent our organization.

CAF: China Arts Foundation

CAF is a Belgian politically and financially independent not-for-profit organization. Our goals are to organize and share education, scientific research, and information in general about Taoist and Chinese culture. We have a board of directors, presided by a president and a maximum of seven foundation members who elect the directors and supervise the financial accounts and the activities of the daughter organizations. As a non-profit organization our financial resources come from what the public and students pay for participating in the activities of our daughter organizations and from the sale of our publications. In other words: what you pay is invested in you, as we use the funds to provide you with high quality education, publications, and for research that benefits the courses and the publications. So, you actually pay for the administrative work and the research, not for an overly paid CEO or managers, which we don't have, as this would conflict with our Taoist view of a decent society.

CAC: China Arts College

Our education institute is a private and independent university and postgraduate level school for the study of Chinese Taoist culture. Students can obtain a degree in Taoist Studies after successfully completing a study program (see our study guide for details). Most of the courses are open to all, meaning that it is not necessary to study for a degree. We also organize lectures, seminars, and workshops that can be part of the study curriculum, but are in fact open to all. Our research institute (TASC) provides us with scientifically researched information and content. We welcome joint initiatives and willingly work together with other organizations. Dr. Dan KJ Vercammen, who has been teaching for more than four decades, is our full professor

and he supervises the education program and the teaching.

TASC: Taoist Alchemical Studies Center

Good education is based on science and research. Since 1990 TASC has facilitated and organized research of Taoist culture. Most of the time we were doing a pioneering job, with other organizations and individuals following in our footsteps. Our research brought us international recognition and acclaim and made it possible to lift Taoist Studies from an obscure position to the position of a respectful research subject in the academic and scientific world.

Two pillars support our scientific work: participative anthropological fieldwork and investigation and translation of written sources. The fieldwork led/leads us to Taoist experts and Taoist locations in China. For the written sources we use the private library of Dr. Dan KJ Vercammen, which contains thousands of mainly Chinese books. Results of the research are published as books or articles, mostly published by our publishing house CAPH, but also by other publishers like Berghahn and Chinese publishing houses. By organizing conferences, lectures, and courses based on this research we make sure that it doesn't stay hidden and is offered to society. Head of research is anthropologist/sinologist Dr. Dan KJ Vercammen, who holds a PhD degree (*summa cum laude*) from Ghent University.

BETA: Belgian Taoist Alchemists

BETA was originally the first Taoist Association outside of China, founded in 1990 as the Belgian Taoist Association. Some years ago a former Belgian ambassador to China founded another Belgian Taoist Association, which created confusion, of course, there now being two Belgian Taoist Associations. To solve this, we decided to change our name and so, we became the Belgian Taoist Alchemists, which actually better describes what we really are. Contrary to other Taoist Associations in the rest of the world, we want to stay independent from Chinese government interference (through the Chinese Taoist Association), just like we want to follow a politically independent course in Belgium and Europe. BETA is the "house" where people interested in or practicing Taoist Alchemy can come together and discuss subjects related to Taoist Alchemy. BETA is also the means to connect with other philosophical and religious organizations in Belgium and abroad. We actively support exchange of philosophical and religious views and the goal of peaceful cohabitation and world peace that is shared by most world religions. Directors of BETA are Masters of Taoist Arts Gijsbert Ruitenburch and Esther Schenk. More information on our website: <https://taoist-alchemy.be/english.html>.

CAPH: China Arts Publishing House

Last but not least we also run a small publishing house. Most of our publications are educational and academic volumes on Taoist culture, Taoist Alchemy, and Internal Martial Arts, but we also published poetry books. Until her premature death in 2019 Master of Taoist Arts An Woestenborghs was responsible for the design, the actual Chinese binding and sale of our publications. With her passing we temporarily had to stop selling books, as there was no-one to replace her. Now, with the coming of Angela Verkade as an enthusiastic team member, we are planning to republish some of our books and we want to reach a wider audience. The high quality standard of the books' contents remains our goal. And we also plan special Chinese style editions of some of the publications.