Combating unemployment and restoring self-esteem: The Retraining of Laid-off Women Workers in Nanjing and Wuxi

With China’s on-going reforms in state-owned factories, millions of workers, especially women, have lost their jobs over the last two years. Official statistics indicate that 5.7 million urban residents have no jobs and this number will increase by another 3 million by the end of 1999. This is contributing to the rise in urban poverty as family incomes fail to keep pace with the rising costs of goods and services. To combat this trend and enable laid-off women workers find new jobs, the Amity Foundation is supporting retraining programs for them in various cities, including Nanjing and Wuxi, in Jiangsu Province.

Retraining of Women Workers in Nanjing

Forty-three year old Nieh Jing Ping spent 20 years as a skilled worker in a state-owned factory producing garments and watches. When the Nanjing-based factory started retrenching workers in 1997, she was told to remain at home and was jobless for a year. She finally found a job in May 1998 as a domestic help. Working 6 hours a day for two families, she now earns a monthly income of 480 RMB per month which is higher than what she used to receive. But Nieh still feels it is a “loss of face” to work as a domestic helper and does not want her friends to know.

Nieh is one of those who underwent a training course the Amity Foundation has co-sponsored with the Gulou District Labor Bureau in an effort to help similarly retrenched women workers in Nanjing find new employment. The 6-week long courses for women between ages 35 and 50 train them for work as domestic helpers and nursing aides. Most of the unemployed are from state-owned industries forced to reduce staff or close down. Eighty-five percent of laid-off workers are women. At the beginning of 1998 alone, more than 3,600 women were laid off in the light industries sector in Nanjing.

Restoring self-respect is critical

The most important aspect of these retraining courses is the restoration of self-esteem and self-confidence. Attitudes are changing but “loss of face” is still a critical problem for many forced to shift from working in large, prestigious firms to being domestic employees and nursing aides. When the retraining courses first began in 1997, not too many registered for them. Now that the numbers of unemployed have increased and workers realize they have little alternative, the demand for retraining has risen and more courses are being conducted.

In a typical course on home management, participants are taught the science of housekeeping, hygiene, use of the latest in home appliances and cooking skills. Those who have undergone training can receive higher salaries and are given rec-
ommendations by the labor training center. This usually helps them secure new jobs more easily. At least 95% of those trained find jobs within a month. Some work part-time in as many as four different families earning up to 800 RMB (US$ 100) per month (or twice the average salary of factory workers).

Apart from sponsoring courses on home management, Amity has also supported the retraining of women as nursing aides. Chai Chunhua was an accountant at the Nanjing railway station before she was forced into early retirement at age 44 in November '98.

She initially worked as a salesperson for a pharmaceutical firm but decided to join a retraining course for nursing aides. She now works at the Gulou District Hospital and although the work is harder, finds her new job much more meaningful. The training courses are conducted in cooperation with the hospital and trainees have to practice at the hospital before being hired. Most trainees have middle school education and when hired, earn between 500 to 600 RMB (US$ 63 to 75) per month.

State firms often provide laid off workers with compensation ranging from 120 to 200 RMB (US$ 15 to 25) a month. But this is barely enough to sustain a family living in the city. Used to being part of a collective, laid-off workers often feel abandoned and at a loss. “Our factory no longer cares about us!” laments 38-year old Gong Xiaoyu. A former clerk-typist in a collectively-owned factory, she now works as a domestic helper. Her factory has not given her any unemployment benefits and she claims it wants her to pay for health insurance even though she is no longer employed. Gong is grateful for the training Amity has made possible and says that it has not only given her a much greater sense of self-confidence but also a sense of “belonging”. Says Gong, “Our teachers show a lot of concern and call us to find out if we already have jobs. I feel that I now belong to a network and I can go somewhere for help.”

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Ming Peizhen, a resident of Wuxi, is a 47-year-old widow with a 16-year-old son who hopes to enter college soon. The sole breadwinner in the family after her husband died of cancer six years ago, she lost her factory job and the family’s only source of income in January 1998. Her eyes brimmed with tears as she spoke of the shock and desolation of losing her job. After suffering from several long months of constant worry, ill health and financial problems, she sought help from the Wuxi Women’s Federation. The free training in home management she received helped land her a job as a nanny. She now earns 440 RMB (US$ 55) per month in addition to getting unemployment benefit from her former factory.

“Life has improved significantly. The training changed my thinking and attitude towards being a housekeeper and nanny,” she recalls, “I used to consider it demeaning but now feel it is a respectable job. I don’t hide it from my friends.” Peizhen now considers herself fortunate especially since the ranks of the unemployed have swelled. There are more than 20,000 unemployed in Wuxi, out of a population of 1.2 million. More than half are women, many of whom are above age 35 and with less education than the younger ones.

Run by the Wuxi Women’s Federation with funding from the Amity Foundation, the retraining program for retrenched women workers covers a variety of training courses. Trainers come from different government units, universities, colleges and hospitals. Funding from Amity is used to cover rent for classrooms, fees for specialists, materials, lunch for trainees, and a revolving fund for small enterprises. Amity is the NGO that has helped most and its annual support of 120,000 RMB (US$ 15,000) helps to cover more than 80% of retraining costs.

The Wuxi Women’s Federation plans to retrain 3,800 women workers in the first phase of the program which not only involves skills-training courses but also job placements and follow-up activities. Its trainees have developed skills in community organizing, insurance, sales, housekeeping, nursing and caring for school children. The program has had an impact on local communities: it has provided younger and more competent staff for neighborhood committees which used to be run by elderly retirees. More than 300 of those retrained were assigned to different districts and have brought vitality and dynamism to their jobs and new and creative services to these neighborhoods.

Revolving Fund helps small enterprises create more jobs

Some retrained workers have successfully started small business enterprises that in turn provide new jobs for others. 48-year-old Hua Mingzhu owns a small real estate firm in which she now employs three others like herself: retrenched women workers. She used to be in charge of sales at a feeds factory but was retrenched 2 years ago. After attending a course run by the Women’s Federation, she decided to set up the company, with much encouragement from the training center and the Women’s Federation. The real estate business is relatively new in Wuxi but Hua foresees extremely good prospects for development in this area. The Federation also helped her recruit staff. Her initial startup capital was around 20,000 RMB (US$2,500) which she borrowed from relatives and friends. Her present 10 meter-square office is extremely small but business has been good and her employees can earn as much as 2,000 RMB (US$ 250) per month.

Like Hua, Qian Pengcheng has started a small business. The little "information station" cum-job placement agency she
has recently started advertise
job vacancies, the rent and sale
of homes and even marriage in-
troduction services! An admin-
istrator in a silk factory for 30
years before being retrenched,
Qian credits the retraining
course for giving her confidence
and hope. Her starting capital
was only 10,000 RMB (US$1,250).

On a larger scale, 41-year old
Wang Liping has developed a
rapidly growing business as the
sole distributor of popular
vacuum-packed duck meat products from
a village enterprise in Changzhou, near
Wuxi. After only two months in the busi-
ness, she now employs 15 workers and
supplies 46 outlets, including major su-
permarkets. Formerly a skilled worker in
an electrical firm, she joined another fac-
tory where she was retrenched a second
time. With two children to support, she
was in desperate straits when she ap-
proached the Women’s Federation for
help.

The Federation provided training as
well as links with the Changzhou village
duck enterprise which was in need of dis-
tribution outlets in Wuxi. Wang also re-
ceived some financial assistance from the
retraining program in starting her enter-
prise. This comes from a revolving fund
of 20,000 RMB (US$2,500) established
with the help of Amity to assist in run-
ning costs for small enterprises set up by
retrained women workers.

The success of the Wuxi retraining
program lies in the follow-up and net-
working. Not only does the Federation help
trainees to land new jobs, it encourages
them to form support networks and puts
them in touch with relevant or-
ganizations and businesses. Yen
Minghua, Director of the Wuxi
Women’s Retraining Service
Center explained that the
Women’s Federation started a
variety of training courses so
that workers will have more
choices. Liaison work with dif-
f erent government departments
have been critical in ensuring job
placements and the training is
geard to respond to existing
needs. According to Gu Renfa
of Amity Foundation, in the sec-
ond phase of the project, the
Women’s Federation has plans of de-
veloping networks and “information sta-
tions” to help those in need. In one
month, the first such station has helped
more than 30 people find jobs. The Fed-
eration hopes to establish 10 stations all
over the city. There will be an emphasis
on community services which is becom-
ing a new field for re-employment. Most
important, support networks of retrained
workers are being encouraged so that
they can regularly communicate and get
together to exchange ideas and share
information.

Theresa Carino

The Amity Foundation 2000 Calendar

We are happy to announce the new Amity Calendar is now available. The
2000 Amity Calendar is a collection of drawings by children from different
orphanages in China, depicting their daily lives and hopes for the future. In
1999, Amity-sponsored orphanages held a nation-wide drawing competition
and prize-winning pictures from this competition have been included in this
year’s calendar. These little artists have embedded in their works their con-
fidence in themselves and hope in their country and in the future of the world.

With clumsy strokes, bold composition and rich colors, they share their dreams with us. In fact, they remind us of our
common dream: that there be more love, care and happiness in the 21st century.

Copies of the calendar are available at US$5 each (air postage included).

For orders over 10 pieces, please contact:
The Amity Foundation
71 Hankou Road
Nanjing
Jiangsu 210008
People’s Republic of China
Tel: (86-25) 331-4118
Fax: (86-25) 663-1701
E-mail: AFN71@public1.ptt.js.cn

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The Amity Foundation
13th Floor Ultragrace Commercial Building
5 Jordan Road
Kowloon
Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2723-8011
Fax: (852) 2366-2769
E-mail: Amityhk@pacific.net.hk
Faith and social service:
The Church-run Xinde Clinic in Suining

The Amity Foundation supports 76 church-run projects in 23 provinces in China. These include 37 clinics, 24 homes for the elderly, 15 kindergartens and 5 rural development projects.

Jiangsu may be one of the richest provinces in China but pockets of poverty are not hard to find. Suining County in Northern Jiangsu is one of them even though it is only six hours drive from Nanjing. Here, one of the two churches that serves the 70,000 Christians in the county has successfully established a clinic that serves the relatively poor rural communities around it. Pastor Zhu Youde, the only pastor in the entire county and a member of the Jiangsu Provincial Christian Council, is very proud of the church-run Xinde Clinic which was established in March 1993.

"Despite all of the teething difficulties, I'm convinced that setting up the clinic was the right thing to do," says the young, dynamic pastor. "Church-run clinics and hospitals are all part of the church's tradition: through the clinic, the church will not only serve society but can also develop self-reliance." The project began with just one room in the church compound. Dr. Li Peiwen, the clinic's founder and director, invested some of his own money to start the clinic. The church provided tables, chairs and shelves. Staff were not paid at the beginning and the clinic had to rely on volunteers including two retired doctors from neighboring Xuzhou county.

There were other obstacles. Church members who were staunch believers in the powers of faith healing strongly opposed the practice of modern medicine and the idea of the clinic. Pastor Zhu had to convince them to give the project a chance. Local officials were not all supportive and some started finding ways of imposing various kinds of taxes. Others wanted to have their friends or relatives hired as clinic staff even if they lacked the qualifications. For four years, the clinic operated from a small dingy room in the church compound, a target of complaints from those church members who wanted the space used for other things.

Clinic built in 6 days!

Finally, there was a fund drive in 1997 among the 2 churches and 88 Christian meeting points in Suining. More than 80,000 RMB (about 10,000 USD) was collected. This was used to buy an empty lot near the church. In July 1998, the church was able to mobilize its parishioners to help construct the clinic in the record breaking time of 6 days! Volunteers came with food, drinks and materials while others contributed their labor. According to Pastor Zhu, "The people are very poor but very warm-hearted! They donated money, volunteered their labor and skills and brought food for the workers. There were as many as 500 people working in one day and the kitchen overflowed with food!"

The new 22-room single-storey clinic now sits proudly on a 2,000 square-meter lot. It boasts of equipment that includes X-ray, ECG and ultrasound machines costing altogether 100,000 RMB (about 12,000 USD). The staff, which has expanded from five to eleven now includes four doctors, two nurses and five medical workers with at least 3-years' training in a health school. Two are receiving further training at a medical college. Director Li Peiwen and Dr. Guo Xigang are the two mainstays of the clinic. 46-year old Li was trained at the Suining County Health School and has been practicing medicine for 20 years. He stresses the fact that all those serving in the clinic are Christians.

"Amity’s role is both financial and spiritual"

Pastor Zhu gratefully acknowledges the supportive role of Amity. "It has provided us with much encouragement. Amity’s support is not only financial, it is also spiritual." In 1995, Amity donated some equipment to the clinic. In 1997, Dr. Wang Jingzhu from Amity’s Medical

Pastor Zhu Youde with church members.
Not only has Amity continued to provide essential equipment, it is helping to train more qualified personnel for the clinic. Occasionally, the clinic receives a visit from one of Amity’s mobile medical teams. When an Amity medical team visited in May 1999, the clinic was overflowing with patients. The clinic also has its own medical team of four to five staff that pays monthly visits to villages within a radius of 50 kilometers.

There is no doubt the clinic is making waves in surrounding communities. At Xinde Clinic consultations are free and charges for medicines are minimal. Fees for medical tests are much lower than those charged in private clinics or state-run hospitals. The clinic is open around the clock every day of the week except during Sunday morning worship service. On the average, it treats up to 40 patients a day and earns enough to pay its doctors and nurses salaries ranging from 200 to 400 RMB per month. Dr. Li keeps a tight control over the quality of staff who are required to be both Christian and properly trained. He believes that good medical work is its own best publicity.

The increasing number of patients who avail of the clinic’s services attest to that. Wang Caixiang had spent more than 2,000 RMB in various hospitals, trying unsuccessfully to rid herself of a neck pain. At Xinde Clinic, she found the cure—at a cost of only 70 RMB. Patients like 70-year old Wang Jiekang readily testify to how the clinic has changed their lives. A widow for 17 years, she escapes an income out of selling salvaged junk. She suffered from severe intestinal obstruction but had no money for medical treatment. At the clinic, she was not only treated but given free food and accommodation by parishioners.

Director Li’s dream is to have more and better trained staff, higher quality equipment so as to reach the standards of a township hospital. He hopes that eventually, the clinic will be able to provide surgery, especially for common ailments such as appendicitis and uterine tumors, at much lower costs than regular hospitals.

Ninety percent of the patients are Christians and even those church members who do not believe in medicine are beginning to change their minds. The clinic’s impact has convinced more parishioners of the need for greater church involvement in social work. Pastor Zhu claims that good management and staff quality have been crucial to the clinic’s success. He says, “It is important that Christians run the project because they are dedicated and committed.”

![Wang Jiekang, a patient, with Dr. Guo Xigang.](image)

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**Videos Available**

**Our Shared Future: Amity and Sustainable Development in China’s Countryside**
This takes you on a journey to some of the remotest minority areas of Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces in Southwestern China. Amidst the beauty of mountains and rivers, villages struggle to survive in a harsh environment where there is “never three sunny days or three feet of good soil in a row.” See how local people, government officials, specialists and Amity work together to address issues such as water and gas supply, livestock and farming, health care and education, raising the standard of living for the people and enabling them to be self-reliant.

**Aka Manba: the Story of a Tibetan Monk and Doctor**
“Aka” is the Tibetan term for Buddhist monk while “Manba” means medicine man or doctor. Twenty-eight year old Jamuyang Qingpai, the Tibetan monk and doctor featured in this film is one of 8,014 village doctors trained in basic health courses sponsored by the Amity Foundation. Between 1992 and 1994, Jamuyang attended health courses and now serves the medical needs of herdspeople on the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau. How does he combine his religious and medical roles? What does village life look like? Find out in this video.

**Growing up in Hope**
“Those who can come and sit in the classroom are considered fortunate. Quite a few of their friends have had to leave school. Although school fees for each child is only about US$ 20 many families just cannot afford it...” This situation is not uncommon especially in the mountainous areas in western China inhabited by minority nationalities. “Growing in Hope”, the new 15-minute video on Love for the School-less Project, narrates stories of the hopes and frustrations of children in Western China where poverty is fairly widespread.

**The Eyes of a Dream**
Born with cataracts in both eyes, 14-year-old Yu Chengfei had never seen green grass nor colorful butterflies. However, in last year’s nationwide survey of blind children conducted by the Amity Foundation, it was discovered that his condition was curable. Amity sponsored eye surgery for him and several other children. Today, Yu Chengfei is no longer blind. This video tells his story and describes the hopes of children like him.

**These videotapes (20 - 30 minutes each) are available in English in both PAL and NTSC format: please specify when ordering.**

**Order from:** The Amity Foundation, 13th Floor Ultragrace Commercial Building, 5 Jordan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

**Price:** US$ 10 each (air postage included). Please make checks payable to The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong, Ltd.
Harnessing the Sun’s Energy:

Solar stoves and generators improve quality of life in Tibetan villages

Providing Tibetan farmers with solar stoves was one of several small pilot projects Amity started in winter 1997 in Qiongjie Township, Tibet. The township has three administrative villages with 410 households and over 1,500 people. In cooperation with the Tibet Rural Development Foundation (TRDF), Amity provided a solar stove for every household. A solar stove consists of a simple metal frame with two big, curved mirrors (sheet metal covered with aluminum foil) that reflect sunlight to the bottom of a stove. Costing 500 RMB (US$62), a set is easily available in Lhasa, capital of the autonomous region. Ting Yenren, a Vice-President of Amity’s Board of Directors, wrote the following report after visiting the project site in July 1999.

For most of a day, our jeep bumped along a road that wound between barren, uninventing mountains, finally arriving at Qiongjie Township which is far south of Lhasa. If we had kept going, we would have reached Bhutan. The deputy head of the township, a 46 year old woman named Gandan, ushered us into the township office. She spoke very little Han Chinese but understood a lot that was said. We were offered yak butter tea, a must when Tibetans receive honored guests. Very colorful pictures and graphics decorated the wooden pillars and walls of the meeting room. On the front wall, below two lines written in Tibetan, was a huge picture of Chairman Mao, which I found in every home I visited in the village. I have never seen as many elsewhere in China.

While we were having our tea, Gandan motioned a secretary to report on how the solar stove project had been carried out, and then spoke herself. Those in the township administration and all villagers were very grateful for the help given by Amity and its local partner, the Tibet Rural Development Foundation (TRDF). They were very pleased we had traveled all the way to visit them. With technical help from the county, they had installed all the solar stoves within a few days. Initially, some families hesitated to use them because they had heard the sun was a god and its exploitation would bring punishment. They waited till everyone else had started using the stoves and had not suffered any “punishment” before trying theirs. Now, after more than a year, every household is happily using the stoves.

Benefits of solar stoves

Gandan enumerated the benefits solar stoves had brought:

Helps protect the ecological balance. People used to cut trees and grass for fuel. Mountains turned bare and people suffered from mud slides each year. Sometimes people had to go far from home, staying away three days, just to collect fuel. With solar stoves, people only need fuel for rainy days. Fine weather in Tibet averages 291 days a year so there are only a few days in the year when people cannot use solar energy.

Raises living standards. Money formerly used to buy fuel can now be saved for other purposes. In the past, when people lacked fuel, they burned the dry grass used for animal fodder. When animals had nothing to eat, villagers simply killed them. This did not happen last year after solar energy was used. Also, dried animal waste previously used as fuel can now be used as manure, improving soil fertility.

Shortens time used by women in cooking and improves their health. Before, women spent much time collecting fuel and tending the fire while cooking. Smoke from burning grass and animal waste badly affected their health. Now, cooking takes very little time and women can spend more time doing other things.

Improves people’s health. In the past, due to fuel shortage, people often ate food that was not fully cooked, but now, people can cook as long as they want. They are eating better now.

“We all came from slave families.”

In Qiongjie, a predominantly Tibetan Buddhist village, each family lives in a mud-walled, two-storey box-shaped house with colorful little “scripture flags” fluttering from the roofs. We visited two homes. Like other houses, the first floor of Pengduo’s house was used for storage and domestic animals. She had four cows and many chickens. A narrow ladder led us to living quarters on the second floor which had a big balcony where the family dried grain and clothing. The solar stove from Amity sat in one
corner. The living room, which had pillars in the middle, was full of furniture. On top of a cupboard against the wall was a picture of Chairman Mao among several pictures of Buddhist figures.

As we were looking at the solar stove on which there was a kettle, Pengduo was moving between the stove and the kitchen. She happily told us: “See, I can do other things while boiling water”. 50-year-old Pengduo has a family of six and was very proud to be living in the most beautiful house in the village. The family had moved many times, each time into a better house. When she was a little girl, her family had no home. They slept against walls of rich people’s houses in order to get some shelter from the protruding roof. The first time she slept under a real roof was when she was ten. During the Democratic Reform in 1959 and 1960, the plantation owner’s house was distributed to the poor and her family was given a room. “All of us came from slave families,” explained Gandan.

Jin’a, who is 65, has a family of seven. Pointing to the grass being sunned on the roof, she told us: “I will use a little of it for cooking if there is no sun, but most of the grass will go to our livestock.” She put an old kettle on the solar stove and told us that she had had to paint its bottom black. “A shiny kettle will never bring the water to boil!” she said with a broad smile. Gandan told us that like many others, Jin’a and her husband had no land, no home before the Democratic Reform. They were the poorest of the poor because her husband used to be a butcher, killing sheep for others, the lowliest possible job slaves could hold.

**Primary School**

We drove to Dongga, another administrative village of Qiongjie Township, and stopped in front of a primary school. Renzhen looked every bit a Tibetan village woman who worked in the fields. In fact, she was, but she was also the only teacher in the village primary school which had 32 students from the first to the third grade. The school had four rooms, three of them classrooms. After finishing third grade, children go to the “central primary school” in the township. Since it is quite far from their homes, they have to live there. Lodging is free but the cost of meals often makes it very difficult for villagers to keep their children in school.

During our visit, the first graders were practicing Tibetan handwriting. The second graders were reading aloud in unison a Tibetan passage written on the chalkboard. The teacher was with the third graders, who were quietly solving arithmetic problems. I was curious about the difficulty level and walked in to take a look, only to find that the textbooks were in Tibetan. I was told that Renzhen had been teaching for 17 years but all that time she had only been a “substitute teacher” with little pay. Having just passed a certification exam she would soon be classified as a “regular teacher.” Her monthly pay was expected to jump from 150 RMB (US$19) to 600 RMB (US$75).

Besides desks and chairs, Amity had supplied a small solar generator to the school. Dongga Village has no electricity. TRDF had supplied a TV set, which is kept in the fourth room of the school. In the evenings, the TV set is moved to the door facing the yard, where the entire village can watch programs shown on the solar-powered machine.

The village head received us when we visited the primary school. In his late 40s, Tuduuo looked much older than that with his gray hair and deep wrinkles. He said: “I always wondered who gave us the solar stoves. Today I am happy to see you at last. You must have been sent by some god.” He told us that since the villagers installed the solar stoves, they no longer cut trees and saplings can now mature.

![Ting Yen-ren (R) conversing with Tibetan schoolteacher, Renzhen (L).](image)

On one side of the wall, we saw pictures of Mao, the Tenth Panchen Lama and various spiritual figures in Tibetan Buddhism. When asked about it, Tuduuo replied: “If Mao had not sent his men to save us, there wouldn’t have been me, let alone my family. When my parents were alive, we lived in a small straw hut but there was never anything to eat. Now my family has more than we can eat.”

Tuduuo did not see much of a contradiction between Marxism and religion. He told us: “The Buddhist scriptures predicted that one day someone would come to save a million slaves. This man was Mao, and he saved us all.” As a Party member, Tuduuo no longer worships the buddhas but he still respects them. All the other family members, however, still claim to be believers to various degrees.

I had to remind myself not to contradict Tuduuo when he spoke of Mao. Indeed, while we were suffering during the Cultural Revolution, Tuduuo and many other Tibetans were, for the first time in history, tilling their own land, acquired during the Democratic Reform. As we were leaving, villagers came to present us with hadas, the long, white silk scarves given to honored guests. They put a hada around the neck of each one of us and even tied one to the mirror of our jeep. I heartily appreciated the warmth of these villagers but at the same time, I also felt guilty about having done so little for them.
Consultants to Amity

In the last Board of Directors Meeting of the Amity Foundation in April 1999, three new consultants to the Amity Board were appointed:

Archbishop Kuang Guang Jie (also known as Archbishop Peter Kwong, Sheng Gong Hui, Hong Kong Province), Professor Zhou Yong Xin (Professor of Social Work and Administration, University of Hong Kong) and Ms. Gao Shao Hua (Hong Kong member of the national Chinese People’s Political Consultative Committee).

New Blood in Hong Kong Office

Ms. Katrin Fiedler of Germany has recently joined the staff of the Amity Overseas Coordination Office in Hong Kong. The youngest staff member, she specializes in Chinese Christianity and holds a master’s degree in Chinese Studies from Trier University. She studied Chinese language for a year at Xiamen University and researched on Protestant Christianity in Shanghai in 1997. Ms. Fiedler’s main responsibility will be editing the Amity News Service. However, she is also interested in developmental questions and hopes to gain more insight into this through her work with Amity.

Millennial Move

Please note that the Amity Overseas Liaison Office will be moving across the street to its new office by January 2000. The new address will be:

13th Floor Ultrgrace Commercial Building
5 Jordan Road
Kowloon
Hong Kong

On Study Leave

Ms. Wu An’an, Director of the Social Welfare Division at the Amity Foundation, is attending a three-month Social Development Course at Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham, the United Kingdom from September 25 to December 12, 1999. During Ms. Wu’s absence, Ms. Yang Jing, the Project Secretary, is taking care of work-related issues regarding on-going projects. Mr. Gu Renfa, the Associate General Secretary of Amity, is responsible for supervising the Division’s work. Sponsored by the Norwegian Missionary Alliance, Ms. Wu visited Norway on her way to Birmingham.

Change in Bank Name

Please note that there has been a slight change in the name of the bank branch where Amity Foundation (Nanjing headquarters) keeps its accounts. The new bank address is:

Bank of China
Nanjing Center Branch
29 Hong Wu Road
Nanjing 210005
People’s Republic of China

The Amity Foundation was created at the initiative of Chinese Christian for the purpose of promoting health, education and welfare in the People’s Republic of China. It is an independent Chinese voluntary organization in which people from all walks of life may participate. Amity represents a new form of Chinese Christian involvement in society, through which Chinese Christians are joining hands with friends from around the world to serve the needs of China’s modernization.

The Amity Newsletter is distributed free of charge four times a year. If you would like to receive the Newsletter, or desire further information on any of our projects, please feel free to write. Institutions receiving the Newsletter are welcome to reprint any article from it. Credit should be given to the Amity Newsletter, Quarterly Bulletin of the Amity Foundation.

Funding for the work of the Amity Foundation comes from sources, both Chinese and foreign, religious and nonreligious, individual and organizational. Inquiries and suggestions concerning possibilities for new project initiatives are welcomed, as are contributions for the direct support of the Amity Foundation. Checks or bank drafts made payable to the Amity Foundation may be sent to the Nanjing Office.

Overseas Coordination Office:

The Amity Foundation
13th Floor Ultrgrace Commercial Building
5 Jordan Road
Kowloon, Hong Kong
Phone: (852) 2723-8011
Fax: (852) 2366-2769
E-mail: amityhk@hk.super.net

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Editor: Teresa Carino