Editorial: Rural Development - an analysis

Anders Granberg

Welcome to the next edition of the Amity Newsletter, focusing on different aspects of rural development. The last edition of the newsletter focused on giving a more general picture of the Amity Foundation, with many in-depth articles. This edition is an attempt to showcase more specific details and an overview of some of the important developments carried out by Amity in the rural areas of China.

This edition is of particular note because of the last article written by Wang Jiayin that gives an overview of some of the research methodologies and thoughts involved in baseline assessments. These form the basis for a project's effectiveness and sustainability, which we would like to share. Some of the core ideas focus on participatory involvement and social research methodology from the perspective of someone relatively new to Amity.

The other articles focus on the highlights of Amity's Integrated Community Development approach, developed as a response to the very evident needs of villagers and local partners. He Wen, in charge of project management, outlines some of the reasons why he got and continues to be engaged in this type of work. A case study from a Guangxi village illustrates some of the benefits of this type of project approach. Also, an article from our partner, NMS, outlines how and the reasons for their involvement with biogas projects both in China and as a model for other countries.

This edition therefore underscores the continued importance of Amity's commitment to rural development as an organisation, which cares for the real needs of villagers and encourages their active participation in projects through innovative and transferable goals and methodologies.

The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organisation. It was created in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians. It has worked to promote education, social services, health, and rural development in the underdeveloped areas of China.

Amity's work is grounded in the belief that all human beings share the same dignity. Abiding by the principle of mutual respect in faith, Amity builds friendship with both Christians and non-Christians in China and abroad. In this way, Amity contributes to China's social development and openness to the outside world. It makes Christian involvement and participation in meeting the needs of society more widely known to the Chinese people and serves as a channel for people-to-people contact and the ecumenical sharing of resources. Helping to develop civil society in China is one of the key aims of its work.

The Amity Foundation has about 60 full-time staff at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.
Interview with He Wen on Amity Foundation and Rural Development

Anders Granberg

Amity’s Mission

He Wen identified three main aspects of the Amity Foundation’s work and purpose from his perspective;

- Encouraging the development and growth of civil society in China
- Increasing society’s and the public’s awareness and knowledge of Christianity whilst encouraging the Church to further participate in society.
- Promoting international cooperation and ecumenical resource sharing through projects and international exchange.

Amity’s Vision

He Wen indicated, as an extension to Amity’s vision, that its mission as a faith-based NGO, is to integrate God’s love both in results and methodology. This core mission is reached by incorporating mutual partnership and professionalism into the project management system at Amity.

Both these elements encourage a higher level of professionalism and respect for our partners both overseas and at a local level. Mutual partnership is a means of encouraging local inhabitants, in project areas, to make decisions for their own community that will have real results for their lives and set a standard for surrounding communities. It is only by all parties, including Amity, international, regional and local partners, working together with their different available resources that we can face challenges most effectively. Professionalism at Amity encourages both a higher level of capacity within individuals but also a higher degree of respect and integrity when working with partners and other staff. The individual result of this methodology includes a participatory and rights-based approach to project management, promoting real results for real people in local communities and setting a standard for development work in China and overseas.

Projects

The individual Amity project aims to both increase the confidence of the target group as well as efficiently network between partners and government to increase the potential for economic and social development. Increasing the confidence and capacity of the target group and community has far-reaching consequences in terms of development and social construction.

For example, before Amity started working in Puding County, Guizhou Province, the farmers faced numerous structural challenges to improving their opportunity and capacity. One of Amity’s main goals was therefore to increase the social capital of the inhabitants in the area, for example connecting farmers to government officials in charge of irrigation and farming maintenance.

Amity projects therefore aim to be socially innovative by analysing social policy and have the capacity to design new mechanisms for development. Such aims require a high level of internal staff capacity, which is reached by increasing staff training and cooperation with universities as well as implementing more reflective project practices to improve individual projects in collaboration with all partners involved. This is particularly evident with newer conceptual projects such as with HIV/AIDS prevention and community schemes. Initial research had difficulty identifying why projects were not having a greater impact on reducing the transmission of the virus. It was only by assessing the wider social arena, through a qualitative social survey, that these types of projects were re-orientated towards combating issues such as social stigma and local discrimination that were preventing educational and health schemes from reaching their intended beneficiaries. Amity projects therefore go beyond addressing the symptoms of local challenges but involve our local partners in addressing the wider social issues involved by integrating numerous projects to target individuals and communities more holistically.

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Future aims

The Amity Foundation’s projects achieve extraordinary results because of the unique approach combining a unique methodology and high levels of professionalism in China. These projects go beyond the obvious in order to create a framework for social and economic development rooted in our core values of ‘Love in Action’. These core values guide our cooperation and projects and encourage us and our local partners to promote a structural framework for projects that addresses local partners’ and communities’ needs. The Amity Foundation would like to use our expertise also as an opportunity to cooperate with more national and overseas partners and promote social development using this integral model. Our aim is to help policy-makers, local partners and Christians to understand the realities of development and how they can become involved in the process now and in the future.

Integrated Community Development: a holistic participatory methodology

Anders Granberg

Rural poverty is a result of an assortment of different factors and should therefore be tackled through a similarly diverse number of initiatives and from a variety of perspectives. The Amity Foundation’s Integrated Community Development projects, have developed to meet this need as village-based local projects that improve agricultural production, environment, basic education and medical care provision as well as targeting other factors identified by our local partners.

The key components of this type of an approach are a holistic and participatory methodology. The holistic approach regards development as a concept that is broader than just economic development. We need to understand basic needs to address causes of poverty from a variety of perspectives such as social, economic and health-foci. Concurrently, a participatory approach includes the individual and community perspective in projects. Projects aim to encourage sustainable development by encouraging farmer's participation in decision-making and management of the community and its resources. This ensures that they can increase their own capacity and standards of living, with a personal stake in changes and development for their own communities. The Amity Foundation has integrated this methodology across rural development, as a means of encouraging participation and the applicability of projects to specific villages and communities, with a long-term vision for improving livelihoods and capacities.

Liudong village before and after the infrastructural development
An example of this type of approach is evident in Liudong village in Guangxi Province. The village is situated in Lingyun County, which has a total of 200,000 inhabitants. The first Amity project in the area started in 1995 and targeted one of the poorest villages. The poverty alleviation approach was quickly modified to take into account local needs and capacities with the first integrated project starting in 1997 and ongoing into 2010 in 3 phases. One of the key elements was local participation, which was also evident in the funding arrangements where the local beneficiaries contributed in the form of labour. Of the total budget of CNY 29,266,124, 22% was locally contributed with a further 32% from local government, illustrating the extent of local participation in both the funding and decision-making of the project. The projects themselves were based on a thorough baseline assessment. In Liudong village, the phases of the project where targeted to improve drinking water and biogas systems, a village road and structural repair, education and maintain a microfinance revolving fund. Furthermore, a key aspect of the project was increasing the capacity of local farmers and their ability to take advantage of available resources. This in turn would free resources for other work and encouraging communities to break the poverty cycle endemic in the area.

**Structural repair**

The key challenges face in Liudong village were identified in the initial assessment as food security (only 4-6 months of the year) and basic infrastructure. Connected with a limited land availability on steep hillsides, houses were of poor quality, built with grass and villagers lacked access to reliable drinking water and electricity. The Amity Integrated Community Development project therefore sought to rebuild the houses in the village and enabled the community to build a road to the village, as well as an internal road for within to improve the sanitation situation. This had important ramifications in enabling contact with the wider County, encouraging economic diversity and alternative means of livelihoods. The new road also enabled the children to have access to the local school and further associated opportunities. The new village could then, with Amity and local government support, build biogas and reliable clean water systems as well as community facilities in the form of an activity room. Sanitary conditions have improved markedly and now 90% of the residents are using biogas, significantly reducing health and fire hazards associated with wood-burning stoves whilst simultaneously guaranteeing an electricity supply.

**Participatory model**

The activity room has a dual importance as a gathering place for the community as well as a facility to hold training and educational activities. One of the key aspects of the Amity integrated development model is the participatory approach and this is very clear in Liudong village. The community has, with Amity support, set up a water management systems with self-regulated rules and procedures to ensure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of a water supply for the village. Originally the villagers had to source water 2 hours away by foot, preventing animal husbandry and other productive economic
activities because of the time consumed to fetch water. Now that Amity has helped build the water piping to the village, 3 villagers per month have the responsibility for the water supply to the village and these are supported by a CNY 100 subsidy per family from the rest of the village. This system of management was organised and decided by the villagers themselves and is now a sustainable model for other villages in the County. The participatory model has improved the self-confidence of the villagers and they have mentioned that they enjoy a more positive outlook for the future.

**Shali Yao microfinance**

The villagers in Liudong are from the Yao minority and with the improved infrastructural development, they now have access to the main trading town in Shali where Amity has set up a microfinance fund in cooperation with Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst (EED). Villagers are now able to access loans and training on new agricultural techniques. The fund itself is aimed at improving the livelihoods of women in the area. It especially targets poor families, by lending them the resources to fund animal husbandry and plant a greater variety of cash crops. The participatory model is very evident as the members of the established Women’s Development Associated discuss amongst themselves the qualifications for membership and future strategic objectives. This has encouraged a 100% repayment rate based on collective guarantees and a relatively low rate of interest for this type of small community scheme. The additional funds have enabled women to take a more active part in family decision-making and taught additional economic and capacity-building skills to the local farmers.

The integrated community development approach has therefore been a comprehensive means of tackling poverty and increasing the capabilities of local farmers including the women. In Liudong village, at a practical level, it has enabled villagers to have access to clean water, reliable infrastructure including housing and electricity and helped the village to access the wider regional community. Knock on effects have included greater economic diversity within the village and the ability to work as migrants part-time, bringing more revenue to the community. Additionally, at a psychological level, the projects have encouraged the community to cooperate and manage their resources while building the personal capacity of the local partners and individuals involved. The Amity Integrated Community Development project therefore serves as a model for holistic development both in Lingyun County as well as a potential resource and model for global rural development.
Using gas for good!

Tom Kamau Rode-Christoffersen, Development Advisor for the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) in China

The Amity Foundation has over the years improved its capacity to manage biogas projects to improve the environment, people's lives and in particular the status of women. In fact, the organisation has been so successful, that this year Amity staff will travel around the world to share their expertise and experience.

The Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) has been cooperating with the Amity Foundation on Integrated Community Development projects, with biogas as a component, for many years. Just like the integrated community project in Lingyun county (in Guangxi Province) referred to earlier in this ANL, the current integrated Yongshun project in Hunan Province is an example of a project that has combined improving water access and meeting other needs, with biogas to help communities.

Multiplied impact

It has been very exciting to discover, through observations and evaluations, that these simple household biogas digesters that turn human and animal waste into clean gas for cooking, as well as great fertilizer, have such a positive impact in so many different areas:

1. Household incomes: For households using coal prior to biogas digesters, not having to buy coal makes a big difference financially and saves time. For households that have used straw and wood, the significant amount of time saved often enable women to get involved in income generating activities.

2. Health and hygiene: The rebuilding associated with the installation of the biogas tank will in itself make the kitchen, animal pen and toilet significantly cleaner. The significant reduction of smoke associated with cooking also improves the kitchen and air quality. In addition, the health and sanitation training following Amity projects increases the level of health and hygiene in the households.

3. Women's position: Many of the benefits mentioned above (smokeless kitchens, no need to collect firewood and saved time associated with food preparation) generally benefit women in particular, as they are chiefly responsible for food preparation, etc. In addition to better health, however, their increased “free” time also means that they often are able to take part in income generating activities that improve their families’ incomes and the status of women in the community.

4. The environment: Biogas is renewable, and carbon neutral when it is burned. If an average household in southern China has used coal for cooking and the manure is otherwise stored in a deep pit, getting a household digester will reduce carbon emission by about 3 tons CO2 equivalents a year. Over the lifetime of a biogas digester, we’re looking at considerable amounts of saved emissions. Small scale biogas plants may also lead to reduced deforestation, which is a challenge in many areas in China. It is interesting to see that local forestry officials notice a significant reduction in illegal deforestation in areas where Amity has undertaken biogas projects. Treatment of manure and other substrates also has a positive mitigating effect on the release of greenhouse gases.

Real risks

If the biogas digesters are broken or end up not being used, the benefits are jeopardised. If the digester is not properly gas tight, methane will leak to the atmosphere and counter balance the mitigating effects on emissions of greenhouse gases from the biogas tank. Trained and skilled personnel are therefore necessary to ensure well functioning biogas digesters, and training and follow up about these is therefore essential.

For this reason, it is great to see how Amity is including a great deal of training in all biogas projects, thus meeting an important need. By training farmers in health and hygiene as well as biogas management and simple repair, the farmers are less dependent on outside help and the benefits, in particular health and hygiene aspects, are maximised. By training biogas technicians, Amity is equipping people to actively inspect more digesters and deal with problems that the farmers themselves are not able to repair.
Maximising the benefits!

One of the reasons biogas projects have been so successful in China, is that the government has actively subsidised and supported the use of biogas household digesters. This has included building up a support system locally and regionally across the country. Without this, the use of biogas digesters would not be as widespread as it is. However, the biogas digester projects are also good examples of how Amity Foundation as an NGO has brought biogas development to a new level. Not only has Amity given people access to biogas who otherwise would not be able to afford it, but as all of Amity’s biogas projects also include additional training, this has greatly strengthened the biogas programme. Amity biogas projects have also supported thousands by improving maintenance procedures and training biogas technicians.

Amity brings biogas to the world!

It’s exciting to see how Amity is keen to share their biogas success with others. Many years ago, Amity exported biogas technology to the Philippines. This year, however, Amity is starting the process of sharing their biogas project experience with friends in both Micronesia and Madagascar.

Our local partner in Madagascar, the Malagasy Lutheran Church (FLM), is very excited about learning from Amity about biogas. Through arranging training for leaders and technicians coming to China and sending Amity personnel to Madagascar to assess and train, we hope this project will be very successful. We are excited about not only the positive environmental and poverty alleviation effects of this project in China and Madagascar, but also the cross-cultural friendships and mutual organisational learning that will benefit additional projects and future innovation on a global scale.

These kiwi fruits/Chinese gooseberries in YongShun in Hunan are extra sweet as fertiliser from a household digester was used.

This pack of cards were made by Amity to inform farmers how a biogas digester can be managed well. This is one of the 680 packs of cards that were distributed by the Yongshun project to all the households that received a digester last year. Photo: Tom Kamau Rode-Christoffersen - NMS China
Throughout its 25 years of operation, the Amity Foundation has always supported participatory working methods and a people-centred development philosophy, with an emphasis on the use of social work methods. Between December 15th - 21st 2010, I had the opportunity to join the community development and environmental protection team; to carry out research in Anlexi village, Hezhang county, Guizhou province. This research helped me to thoroughly understand how the Amity Foundation reflects and embodies the characteristics of social work in a practical way. During those seven days, we took part in two county meetings, organized a representative meeting, visited six villages, held six seminars of village representatives, and visited and interviewed six families. The purpose of this research was to collect information about the Anlexi rural area’s economic development, culture, education, health, infrastructure, environmental administration and other aspects. Additional research with the local community was carried out to discuss the current difficulties they face, outline a programme for resolving these issues, and draw up a project plan for community development. Below I outline some of the principles and methodologies that were used in this project, to create a bigger situational view of Anlexi and the local opinions of villagers and different sectors of society;

1. The intention to listen

   The people we interviewed in Anlexi town were a mix of Han, Yi and Miao ethnicities. Their language was also a combination of South-Western Mandarin, Yi and Miao local dialects. In our team we had only one colleague that was familiar with the local South-Western Mandarin, while the other three sometimes had real difficulties following conversations. The villagers, in meetings and interviews, expressed a positive attitude but were also worried that we would not understand what they said. In order to overcome this obstacle, the team paid particular attention to listening to the needs and wants of the villagers, making attempts to clarify as and when necessary. We also asked the employees at the local project office to participate and translate. As an example, we would often repeat back the villagers’ words, to confirm that the information we heard was correct and thus relieve their concern. After we removed these linguistic barriers, the dialogue between us and the villagers flowed more easily, enabling them to freely discuss production and life in their own families. It is only by listening carefully that Amity has the ability to understand and empathize with the needs and challenges faced by the villagers.

   Case Study 1: Li Guozhong

   Li Guozhong lives in Xiaohe Village. He is 55 years old and has two sons and a daughter. He is living together with the younger son now but both his son and his daughter-in-law are out of town for work. Li and his wife take care of both their 3-month-old son and manage six acres of farmland. They are able to grow potatoes and maize and one hectare of vegetables. Li also keeps two pigs and one cow for additional income. Working hard as he does, Li still owes a sum of about CNY 5,000. But comparatively, the Li family are still able to make ends meet and are therefore in a much better position than many.

   During the interview, Li mentioned that he has tried to grow tobacco six or seven ago, but the landslides ruined the crops. Similar farming activities are often interrupted by various natural disasters common in this area. He is delighted that Amity is launching project in Anle Village and emphasized to us his hope for a reforestation programme to protect the soil from erosion. This would encourage a better economy and summarised that “I farm whether someone else helps or not. I have to farm to get rich.” he said firmly.
to learn about local lives and understand villagers’ background, psychology and goals.

2. Looking at the object of the survey as a ‘Whole Person’

During our communication with our partners, we need to completely focus our attention on the problems and abilities of those we intend to cooperate with, through a holistic “whole person” methodology. Only through this type of attitude, can we learn about the daily emotions and needs of our partners. For example, a strict adherence to the questionnaire used during this survey with too formulaic an approach, could omit other information relayed by the interviewed individuals and groups, which could have an impact on future efficiency of projects. We overcame these difficulties by familiarising ourselves with the questionnaire beforehand, so as to let conversations flow more freely and take into account the individual attitudes and goals of those we interviewed. For example, when we asked a young Miao child why he did not attend the school at the foot of the hill, his answer was because he could not speak Mandarin. He said that he was not able to communicate with the other children and was also afraid that the local Han children would make fun of him. It was only through a continuing conversation that we learnt that for these children, they lack a motivation to study, because there is little difference between studying a little and not studying at all. When they grow up, they must either take jobs in the surrounding poor countryside or leave to find a job. It is the labour itself that is valuable for survival and this has not changed much historically. For the young Miao child then, the lack of workforce in the families, fewer economic resources, linguistic difficulties and the impact of other external factors eventually together led him to refuse to go to school. The alternate reasons for not attending school, from his and the communities’ perspective, was that the acquisition of knowledge played a minimal role in his life now or in the future.

In order to meet the needs of the villagers and continue our research most effectively we complemented the research with a mix of smaller groups and case study qualitative research. By integrating these methodologies, we were able to gain a better understanding of individual responsibilities, wants and needs within villages and representative groups as well the motivation behind different choices for various groups.

4. Client’s self-determination

During the final selection for the development programme, we made it clear to the village representatives that every person should and did have the right to make their own free choice without outside interference. Concurrently we made every effort to clarify the different possibilities in detail and outlining multiple possible outcomes, so that they could make an informed choice. When the villagers expressed their point of view, we did not do any kind of subjective evaluation of their opinion, just listening to the reasons for their decisions so that we had a clearer picture.

5. Creating opportunities for expression

Since the Anlexi villagers live in the Otani mountains, which has a complex living and production environment. Each group of villagers therefore had very different and varying opinions in relation to their own situations and how they could be improved, all of which we wanted to hear. When we held the villagers’ participatory research council, we invited all the village representatives with the condition that each group had to have at least one female participant. During the research meeting, everyone had an opportunity to explain their own situation and express their intentions. Not only was every village therefore represented, but it included a cross-section of the village, also taking into account the voice of the women.
6. A dynamic research strategy

Social research does not happen in a vacuum and during our research we had to use a variety of strategies to encourage the villagers to participate in the process. For example, on the first day we met with 13 villages’ representatives. Over 70 people came together, but the event was very formal and we had to sit on stage with the local leaders and not a single voice was heard. The overall atmosphere was depressing. Only after the government officials withdrew, were we able to walk amongst the participants, introduce the Amity Foundation and our purpose for the meeting. We encouraged interaction by using an activity called “draw our own home”. This activity encouraged villagers, including those who were illiterate, to come on stage and draw a map of the entire township and their own village. Those who could not write or draw were invited comment, monitor the drawings and give their opinions and a we had a few very animated discussions. Similarly, during the home interviews, some villagers did not want to talk to us because of the linguistic inconvenience and unfamiliarity. We were able to use alternative strategies including gentle prompting and a more personally focused discussion. This type of interview allowed the interview participant to explain their own hopes and dreams, their own planned projects for the coming year and thus help us to slowly build a bigger picture of the region. Alternatively, with some of the more assertive villagers, we actively listened without interrupting their trains of thoughts, whilst also guiding the discussion as necessary in regards to the research focus.

7. Stress reduction

Since we were not familiar with the local villages and roads, we were accompanied by government officials when we were carrying out the research. Even then, in order to get enough data in time and without as much outside influence as possible, we attempted to maximise the comfort of the interviewees. Even then, during the interview process there were some villagers that sometimes did not dare express themselves too much or chose to lie. Some other villagers were hesitant because their words were being recorded. In order to avoid this, we encouraged our accompanying officials to stay away as much as possible at the start of the interviews or to not express their personal opinions. In larger meetings, we attempted to make the recording as unobtrusive as possible after informing them of our actions.

8. Review and reflection

Of the four Amity colleagues, for three of us it was the first time travelling to Guizhou to conduct this type of research. We made a clear effort to pay attention to the villagers’ linguistic expressions as well as the content of the interview. After conducting research in each village, we individually summarised our impressions of the content, expressions and timeline of

Case Study 2: Li Xingjun

The first time I saw Li Xingjun in Wanchang Village was in a meeting held by the villagers where he took an active and enthusiastic part in the discussion.

Li has his own opinion about the future development of Wanchang Village and was happy with how the meeting went and its outcomes

We followed Li to his home after the meeting. On the way he explained the difficulties he has lived through including how his two sons and one of his daughter-in-laws has passed away. Now his only remaining son has been disabled due to a work injury outside the village and both Li and his wife suffers from rheumatic disorder. He still has to support 3 children who go to school.

Li’s adolescent son helps to carry dead leaves in the woods after class in order to make manure

Li grows 4 acres of crops and 4-5 acres of vegetables and he keeps some chickens and pigs. He still earns very little. His family make ends meet by collecting dead leaves and wood as manure and firewood respectively. Li adds that they would not go to the doctor for minor ailments. His major income comes from growing Pinellia plants used in Chinese medicine, but the income is not enough. He has collected the seeds for his half-hectare plantation in the mountains over two to three years as he could not afford to buy seeds. Li is very much looking forward to the development of Amity’s projects, hoping that they will facilitate his Pinellia plantation and help his family out of poverty.
the meetings. This was done in order to assess the positives and negatives of different styles of questions to improve our own capabilities for our next meeting. This kind of summary and reflection not only made it easier for us to gather information and individual opinions, but also consciously improved our professional research and methodology skills.

The research made use of a combination of survey methods, including village forums, focus group discussion and interviews with individuals. In village forums, we invited the representatives of each small group of villagers to join the meeting. These attendants were able to discuss, in detail, the difficulties and opportunities faced in the community development process. They were also involved in the decision-making process and actively voted on the villagers’ proposed development programme. In the interviews, we used a social research methodology, conducting discussions with a representative sample village families and carried out interviews at the household level to gain a deeper understanding of the production and life status of the villagers. Both village-focused forums and in-house interviews, embodied the principles, methods, and techniques of social work and Amity’s vision and mission to put “Love in Action”.

The Amity Foundation has consistently supported the concept of participatory development to enhance the communities’ involvement in the management of their own affairs. In this case the positive outcome of the research project has been to encourage the villagers’ own capacities and the accountability of village authority structures by taking into account different perspectives. The research in Anlexi also has a personal impact, as it engaged me in the process and evaluation of the Amity Foundation’s concept of participatory development, as well as practical fieldwork and social research.

Case Study 3: Wen Yangfen

Wen Yangfen is a kind Christian who warmly invited us into her home for a meeting with the villagers of Wayao village. She suffers from rheumatism and osteophytes. Her husband and son work at the hydroelectric station nearby and they together earn about CNY 1,000 every month. However, her family has this year already spent CNY 6,000 on medical care. She also has a six-year-old child and both her son and daughter-in-law work as migrants elsewhere.

Wen often attends the church in Anle village, which is quite remote but where she can worship with her close Christian friends. The church just outside her house is unfortunately closed because it does not yet have any furnishings.

Wen has her own ideas when it comes to developing the village. She thinks that fish farming would be an optimum solution. She has a constant supply of water nearby and would have a product very much in demand from local villagers. Wen carried out an experiment whereby she transported a truckload of fish back to a pond on her farm. The fish were soon all sold, but Wen was not able to earn much since many of the fish had died en route. She would therefore like to build a fish farm, but is unable to get the project off the ground without extra money. Wen suggests that Amity’s project includes financial aid and technical training so that she can realise her project.