



青樹教育基金會

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# News from Evergreen Education

The Evergreen Education Foundation Official Newsletter

*Bringing Educational Opportunities to Rural China*

December 2012

## Inspire

Bring Educators to tour modern school libraries

## Collaborate

Learn modern educational and library methods

## Grow

Apply ideas and change our school library environment

## New Ideas Impact Kaili High School Library in Guizhou Province

Evergreen Education Foundation, rewarding some of the EEF school libraries, had school representatives accompany us to Taiwan where they toured some modern school libraries and heard about advanced programs. Ms. Mei Long, a Librarian from Kaili High School in Guizhou Province writes about her experience:

The May 2012 trip to Taiwan in moved me deeply. After I returned from the trip, I reported what I had seen and learned to the school. My report had great impact upon the school administration, teachers, students, and the school library. We made a series of changes in the library, ranging from changes of ideas to changes of environment: First, the understanding of the library's role greatly changed: from book-oriented service to people-oriented service, from single function to diverse functions, from closed to open book collections. Second, demanding higher professional quality of librarians: from passive to pro-active ser-



*Reading area was opened to shelves*



services, from marginalization to professionalization, from useless to versatile staff. Third, the attitude of teachers and students towards the library: from little or no attention to lots of attention, from the circulation of 160 volumes per day to 800 volumes per day. Finally, the quality of the borrowing and reading environment: from semi open-shelf to open-shelf, from shelves separated into borrowing/reading categories to shelves with borrowing/reading all in the same place. All these changes resulted in gradual improvements of the reading environment.

## Small projects – A Vehicle to Library Excellence

The Evergreen Small Projects are projects INITIATED and conducted LOCALLY by librarians, teachers, students, volunteers. With 1 year duration and a budget not exceeding 5000 RMB, they are projects with clear MEASUREABLE objectives, involving ACTIVITIES designed to achieve objectives, with WORK PRODUCTS that can measure whether objectives have been met. Started in 2009, 17 projects have been completed. The Small Projects promote library excellence and innovation.

In 2012, we have approved 36 projects selected from 72 applications. Participation has been expanded beyond traditional Evergreen supported libraries. Also, a growing number of projects use inquiry-based learning methods and utilize library resources to improve classroom teaching and learning. Among these, we have identified two important themes and are committed to develop supporting infrastructure for them. One is oral history/local culture study and the other is science in the library. Our infrastructure for oral history will be based on Tianzhu No. 1 High School's 3-year pilot experience that has resulted in a school-based curriculum and is based upon American high school best practices and guidance from experts from US and China. As for science in library, we are improving and extending the solar lamp project just piloted in Tongwei, Gansu and Danfeng, Shaanxi, as well as designing and piloting the application of an open-source physical computing platform to further the library's role as hands-on STEM centers.

*By Yu Zhang, China Projects Leader*

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## ITIE 2012 Conference Foreign Guests Take Away Lasting Impressions

*Dr. Ruth Olson, one of our Conference Session Chairs writes about her conference impressions*

I was honored to be part of the 2012 ITIE conference, “Libraries as Community Education Centers” in beautiful Hangzhou. I found the conference warm, inviting and stimulating. I already have had follow-up discussions with colleagues met there. Among the things that impressed me most was the agility of the translators in facilitating cross-cultural dialogue.

The presence and participation of teachers and librarians from Evergreen projects was another highlight. As a folklorist, I was excited to hear talks in the Oral History and Serving Local Culture sessions that focused on minority cultures, detailing horse racing traditions, clan houses and traditional music. The evocative images and videos that accompanied the presentations transcended my language limitations and made me excited to continue work and encourage more documentation of minority cultures. The conference listed so many appealing presentations I was sorry I could only participate in two sessions beyond the keynotes.

Other highlights included an abundant banquet with an array of artistic performances, and a tour arranged by the Hangzhou Public Library on Tuesday afternoon, during which we not only toured the main library but also visited the Lingyin Temple, the Grand Canal Branch Library and the striking Buddhism Branch Library. I got a sense of the importance and function of libraries within this city. We finished the day with a charming evening boat trip down the Grand Canal. I appreciated the work of the conference planners to create such an energetic and hospitable event!

Ruth Olson, Associate Director,

Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures, University of Wisconsin-Madison



*ITIE participants at the impressive Hangzhou Library*

### Inspire

“What made this conference different from others was the sharing and participation of the speakers with the attendees.”

Judy Williams

*Ms. Judy R. Williams, an internationally experienced Library Director; writes about her conference experience:*

What an experience to attend and participate in an Evergreen Library Conference! When I saw the list of speakers and their topics, I felt honored to be asked to give one of the afternoon workshops. I presented a practical activity for school libraries of varying sizes and resources. What made this conference different from others was the sharing and participation of the speakers with the attendees. The panel discussion was a good example. It encouraged members to interact and featured library leaders from China, Denmark and the United States.

Questions were posed to individuals, but others commented and added their thoughts, expertise and differing opinions. The informal seating arrangement also encouraged some levity. I also attended a workshop showcasing the Evergreen small projects. Rural teachers and librarians gave the reports. I was impressed with the diversity and interesting projects emphasizing literacy and information skills. The conference planners did a great job organizing and providing for the attendees, which included several interesting local tours. Participants had many opportunities to learn from each other in addition to the keynote speakers and special session leaders.



*The International Panel exchanges ideas*

## Thoughts and Reflections of Chinese Rural Library Practitioners



*Qifa offers his apples*

Mr. Qifa Sun runs his small rural library in the Chafan Village near Danfeng, Shaanxi. This senior citizen serves walnuts, apples, and persimmons that he grew himself to his visitors; giving a taste of the simple farmer's life at the portal to the information age. We were so happy to see him sitting in the discussion room of the ITIE conference.

As an attendee and volunteer for ITIE 2012, University student, Ximei Sun, who as a teenager started a rural library in Qui Shan Village in Henan Province, said that her knowledge doubled because she attended the conference. She was especially touched by the passion and knowledge from the speakers, as well as the active discussion between west and east, old and young happening everywhere during the breaks.

Evergreen Conference Coordinator, Jing Dai, reflects how volunteers helped each other with selfless spirit to enable the "right of everyone to equal access to knowledge." She says when she sees the benefits of everyone's efforts for practitioners, "I have no reason not to continue my efforts to this end."

## Solar Lamp Kit Project Heralds the Hands-On Learning Age

Just before Chinese New Year 2012, our manufacturing partner shipped the first 400 Solar Lamp Kits. I joined Faith Chao and Jingyi Yu to go to the inland provinces of Gansu and Shaanxi to introduce the project to 2 high schools that will be the first to participate in the Solar Lamp project. Our first stop was Tongwei in Gansu, then we traveled to Danfeng in Shaanxi. At each of these schools we helped the teacher get his students started in a laboratory building the lamp kits. The students enthusiastically built the kits and proudly wanted a



photo with their completed lamps and us. We complied with their requests only after asking some open-ended and thought provoking questions such as: "how would you improve this design?" Before leaving China, I stopped in Zhuhai, Guangdong province to meet with Innogetic Technologies the manufacturer of the Solar Lamp to inform them about the successful deployment of the first 400 solar lamp kits. To date, there have been 1000 kits deployed in several schools.

*By Rodney Amen, Science and Technology Project Leader*



### Grow

"How would you improve this design?"

Prof. Faith Chao asks of the students

## Evergreen Education Launches a New-Look Website Design

Come see our new website at [www.evergreeneducation.org](http://www.evergreeneducation.org) We like it! Our reviewers also did! Please give us feedback on our changes to [info@evergreeneducation.org](mailto:info@evergreeneducation.org) It all started with Rodney who has a greater appreciation of what our website could be. Thanks to Hao, who provided aesthetic expertise and modern navigation; Jing Yi and Yu, for providing fresh content; Donna, who performed programming magic; Jo Bell, Faith, and many others for their review of the prototype; and Rodney for his consistent weekly sessions through multiple time zones across the Pacific Ocean. We are happy to release this stage of the website refresh and update. We still have work to do, such as getting our schools and libraries and other stakeholders to engage more fully in the cyber world.

Please help us to get the word out, send on the link so that others may see what you have been providing to propel us further in bringing education opportunities to rural areas in China.

*By John Lee, Chairman of the Board, Evergreen Education Foundation*





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We are also looking for Volunteers...

Email us: [info@evergreeneducation.org](mailto:info@evergreeneducation.org)

### Thanks for your support



*Rodney, Jingyi, Eileen, Faith, Jo, John, Mengxiang, and Danping.  
(not shown: Yu and Jing Dai)*

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## Collaborate

**Evergreen's training workshop comes to Guizhou Province in 2013.**

### 2013 Guizhou Workshop focus: Local Culture and Oral History

Two topics will be covered in depth in Evergreen's upcoming biennial workshop - - *Local Culture & Oral History* and *Assessment of Library Services*. Participants will receive in depth training either on using oral history methods to collect, organize and preserve information on



local cultures or detailed training on collecting both qualitative and quantitative information essential for evaluating the impact of library services upon community members. A joint workshop session will feature training in methods in assessing the success of local culture & oral history projects. The workshop will take place in Kaili, Guizhou in the Fall 2013 - an exact date has not yet been determined.

*By Dr. Jo Bell Whitlatch, Evergreen Education Board member*