

## **2010 Scholarship Programme Evaluation Exercise in Guizhou Province, China**

(2-4 July 2010)

Kit Kitatani and Akiko Kitatani visited Guizhou Province, China to interview the officials concerned of The Family Planning Association and the scholarship holders to assess the effectiveness of our scholarship programme in China. In view of bad weather conditions, our visit to Jijin District was deemed dangerous and, therefore, we could visit the remaining Husui, Heyan and Majiang Districts. .

In Huisui and other districts, the officers of Family Planning Association who look after the scholarship program on our behalf expressed their view that the scholarship was quite unique as it:

- 1) Enables girls from very poor families have access to higher education;
- 2) Enhances women's empowerment in the society, and
- 3) Promotes roles and significance of women in the local society.

Thus, the officers requested additional funding from WIN International and NPO 2050. In response, we told them that it was difficult to increase the funding in the near future since the scholarship currently relied on contributions from our members as well as donations from UNFCU and the Nikko Metal Co. (now called JX Nippon Mining & Metals Corporation) in Japan and there were no prospects of increased donations from these donors. Under the circumstances, we urged them to build a "self-help and sustainable" system by raising funds in China and/or making arrangements for matching-contributions (Chinese organizations donate the same amount of scholarship funds, matching our support).

With regard to the 2005 matching contribution by the Provincial government which enabled 40 students to obtain scholarships, it turned out to be a micro-credit programme to help farmers to build small businesses and to help some female students. It was reported that after 3 years, the programme's grace period was over and loan repayments had started.

The amount of scholarship is 800 RMB (Chinese Yuan) per student, covering a third of the annual tuition at a high school which is 2,400 RMB. As the total amount of the scholarship for China is \$5,000, each district is receiving \$1,250. This amount is just right at the moment but, as the RMB is likely to increase its value against the US Dollar, we may soon be obliged to increase the amount of remittance.



(Scholarship students and their parents)



(Government officials managing our prog)

We interviewed 9 out of 10 scholarship students and one graduate. All students are attending high school and every student is grateful for our support. They told us their hopes and aspirations for the future. Many of them wished to go to university. Three students wished to study Business Administration, one student wished to become a teacher, and four students still remain undecided. It was obvious at any rate that they wanted to uplift themselves economically and to be of financial support to their parents.

Out of a total of 40 students who have benefitted from this programme in the past, eight are university graduates, one a college graduate, four high school graduates, 11 students completed the secondary school, and three students the primary school ( it was reported that all of them are fully employed now and playing significant roles in the society). Currently, there are three students studying at the university level and nine at the high school level (one just graduated from a high school and waiting for admission into a university).



In Heyang District, eight students conveyed their appreciation and aspirations for the future. It was reported that a total of 28 students benefited from the programme in the past and are now working in various sectors of economy. The local government was grateful that students from poor families could attend schools without any concern because of our support. Out of 28, one student graduated from a university, one from a vocational college, three students graduated high school, 13 students graduated from secondary school. Currently, out of 10 students, eight are enrolled at high schools, one goes to a secondary school, and one goes to a primary school. Four students wish to go to university, and one student will work to help her family after graduation from a high school. Two parents were also interviewed and expressed their enormous gratitude for the support they received for their daughters.



(Scholarship recipients at Heyang)

In Majiang District, a total of 30 students have been supported. The first group graduated from vocational/technical colleges (like normal school, nurses' school, agricultural college etc.). In the second group, six students went to normal school, two went to a vocational college, one went to a nurse's school and another went to the College for the Minorities. Those students are now working as teachers, nurses, and government officials. Currently, 12 students are supported (one at a university, one at a accounting college, one at an engineering college, one at a vocational training school, and four secondary school students and two primary school children). 5 students came for the interview and mentioned that



they were studying hard to be a government official, an engineer, a teacher, and a doctor. They talked sensibly and appeared hopeful. A graduate who is now a nurse in the provincial hospital expressed her (Majiang students and a graduate) genuine gratitude for the support she enjoyed.

From the interviews conducted in the three districts, we may draw the following general conclusions:

- 1) Everyone is appreciative of the scholarship programme,
- 2) The scholarship has helped girls, who did not have any option but to become peasant women, to get a university/ college degree, to work proudly in the local community, and to work for the underprivileged, particularly for women in need.
- 3) The management and support system for this scholarship programme in Guizhou Province is satisfactorily maintained by the Family Planning Association.

It is likely that the demand for this scholarship will increase in the future. In the short run, we will be obliged to increase the amount of remittance in order to make up for the loss of exchange, once the rate of exchange between US Dollar and RMB changes. In the long run, we should start a fund raising drive in China. Regarding this point, it will have to be taken up with the China Population Welfare Foundation, our counterpart in China.