

Proceedings of International Conference on Education and Exchange

“教育与交流”国际学术会议论文集



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Preface

By Todd Hanson

Sichuan Teachers College, Nanchong, Sichuan, 19 October, 2001—It was “standing room only” half an hour before the lecture was scheduled to begin, with some students sitting two to a seat, others standing in the aisles, and some outside standing on tiptoe, looking in through the windows. Unfortunately, many of those who came early to secure a seat were forced to give them up when the 120 invited delegates arrived for the anniversary: Crossing the Borders of Language and Culture.

The planning, organizing, and running of the conference was, in itself, a cooperative venture between Sichuan Teachers College and C. E. E., but the great bulk of the work was done by President She Zhengsong and his staff, along with Zhang Xiaochi and Sun Hongbo of the college's Foreign Affairs Office. Without their help and skill, neither the conference nor this collection of papers would be possible.

The conference wound up on Sunday after a noon banquet, with friends old and new exchanging farewells. Many of those saying their good-byes at the hotel atop West Mountain had previously said farewell to each other in North America. Many of them will meet again in Sichuan, and some will greet each other in North America. Some of the students who attended the opening session may find themselves comparing notes with someone in China or North America one day, and exclaim, “I met you at that C. E. E conference in 2001.” Crossing the borders of language and culture is a slow process. But for school officials, foreign affairs office staff, professors, teachers (Chinese and North American), and students, this conference was a checkpoint in the vast borderland between China and North America, helping them to measure their progress and providing directions for future progress.

This collection serves as a summary of the ceremonies, plenary sessions, and workshops that took place. It can capture neither the lively discussions of the workshops nor the insightful questions of the plenary sessions. It can, and I hope will, refresh our memories of the conference, remind us of what was accomplished, and encourage us to keep crossing the borders of language and culture.

(more information on C. E. E. can be found at www.ChinaEducationalExchange.org)

Opening remarks

By She Zhengsong

President of Sichuan Teachers College

It's October, a golden fall with sweet-scented osmanthus. We have heralded the opening of the International Conference on Education and Exchange. On the occasion, I heartily welcome experts and scholars from home and abroad to the conference on behalf of the whole faculty and students of Sichuan Teachers College. And I'd like to express my hearty thanks to our friends' hard work and strong support to the conference.

Time flies like an arrow. We Sichuan Teachers College have spent fifty arduous and long years. Through the construction and development of several generations of Sichuan Teachers' College, our college has developed into a key base for teacher training in Sichuan province. It is the largest and most comprehensive institution of higher education in northeast Sichuan. At present, the total area of the college campus is 1.038 *mu*, with building space of 380,000 m², and a library collection of 1.3 million volumes. Among more than 1,240 faculty and administrative staff members, 625 are teachers, including 325 professors and associate professors. Seventeen of these professors were awarded the title of state-level expert with outstanding contributions and special government subsidies. The number of full-time undergraduates is 15,587. The number of post-graduates and overseas students is 170. The college also has an enrollment of 16,300 adult students. The college has three secondary level institutes and sixteen departments. It offers 20 master's degrees and was approved to offer master's degree to the on-duty persons with the same diploma. Our college professional structure is improving. Now our college offers 35 undergraduate programs and 43 adult education programs. It also has three provincial key subjects, one provincial key labs and twelve provincial key courses. The college campus network has been online with the China Education and Scientific Research Network, and has done office work online. In recent years, our college has developed rapidly and has achieved outstanding results in the fields of teaching and scientific research. The students' quality is continuously increasing and has got good remarks from society. I hope the whole faculty and students in our college will unite to create and build our college into a domestic well-known and first-class normal university in our province.

Ladies and gentlemen:

This year it is an unusual year in human history. People have entered into the new millennium and a new century.

This year it is also the twentieth anniversary of China Education Exchange. At present, globalization is an unavoidable trend which affects world development and human life, and has become a word with which people are familiar. It means that economics depend upon each other

and ideological conceptions affect each other.

Twenty-five hundred years ago, the ancient and oriental civilization bred outstanding educators and ideologists like Confucius. He and his teachings deeply affected the cultural and educational development of the Chinese people and the other nationalities in the world. But because of various reasons, China just began to offer modern higher education by the end of the nineteenth century. Over more than a century, especially in the late fifties, the size and level of higher education have developed, and the system is more complete, and has formed its own advantage and character. But our higher education looks quite young compared with developed countries. We should develop Chinese higher education on the higher starting point and build China into an educationally strong country. We need to absorb the successful experience of the first class universities in the world. We always pay much attention to successful experiences and good methods, and encourage our teachers to exchange and cooperate with colleges and universities of different countries. In my opinion, foreign teachers also will have some questions about English teaching for the Chinese teachers, and together they will improve. I believe through this international conference on education and exchange that Chinese and foreign experts will interchange experiences, and expand some opinions, strengthen our cooperation, explore reforms and make contributions to the brighter future of higher education.

I wish the conference complete success.

Thank you.

(Translated by Zhang Xiaochi)

Opening remarks

By Cai Li

Director, International Office of the Sichuan Education Commission

Now it's a golden fall as we gather here to attend the International Conference on Education and Exchange in Nanchong, Sichuan. On behalf of the International Office of Sichuan Education Commission and also personally, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all the delegates and guests. I'd like to celebrate the successful opening of this conference in Sichuan Teachers College. I wish to heartily thank all the members of the Organizing Committee for their hard work, which has made this conference possible.

This is the first year of the twenty-first century, and it's also the twentieth anniversary of the founding of China Educational Exchange. On the occasion of the opening ceremony, I warmly celebrate the birthday of CEE on behalf of the International Office of Sichuan Education Commission. In the past twenty years, CEE has done a lot of work improving English teaching, training English teachers and strengthening mutual exchange and cooperation in our provincial colleges and universities. So I'd like to extend our most hearty thanks and give them warm applause. And I sincerely hope that the cooperation between our province and CEE will be continuously expanded and developed.

In recent years, the exchange program has achieved outstanding results. Several hundred experts, teachers, scholars and cadres in our province got opportunities to visit, study and lecture in America and Canada through this program. At the same time, several hundred American and Canadian friends have had opportunities of teaching and learning in Sichuan. In addition to teaching, our exchange and cooperation have also included medical science, agriculture, management, psychology and the other fields. In fact, it was during the early 80s that we started this program with China Educational Exchange. At that time, only college presidents and high-level professionals could go to North America. From the 90s until now, this program has become the main channel for English teachers of our provincial high institutes, and it is also the main channel for foreign teachers' working in our province. Almost all of our provincial colleges and universities have had the CEE teachers. This program was the earliest exchange program and it has lasted the longest time. This program has played an important role in promoting our higher institutes to open doors to the outside, using the advanced educational management experience of other countries for reference and improving our foreign language teaching and scientific research. On this occasion, I sincerely hope the exchange and cooperation between us will be expanded and developed.

One of the characteristics of this program is the combination of governmental and non-governmental exchange. On the North American side, it is deserving of praise for CEE's excellent performance as a non-government agency. On our side, the Sichuan Education Commission is not

only the manager of this program, but also a direct cooperative partner who has supported this program with favoured policies, management and national special expense for a long time. The participating colleges and universities regard this program as an important work in promoting teachers' training, teaching and researching. Facts have proved that our cooperation has achieved complete success.

Our exchanges are quite fine. The places where the two sides' persons have reached are typical and characteristic places of each country, such as Harrisonburg, Goshen, Bluffton and other cities which are representative and real North American cities, where native North Americans live and they are not short of pluralistic and cultural characters. The local people were kind and friendly to us. And then Chengdu, Nanchong and other places are the places with Chinese characters. The customs of simplicity, straightforwardness and hospitality might give the foreign teachers a deep impression. One couple who worked in Nanchong thought the experience that they spent here was the most brilliant experience in their lives. Han Shuying is a famous British writer. She said you have not visited China if you haven't visited Sichuan. You may also say the foreign teachers who have worked in Sichuan are the foreigners who really understand China. Thanks to the organization and arrangement of this program, the Sichuan visiting scholars and the teachers from the North America have had good opportunities for deeply understanding many fields of the foreign culture and have made many friends. Some persons found profound and international friendship. I believe the experience will affect their life in the future. I should say the exchange history of our provincial education circle and the foreign countries is a history of continuously deep understanding and promoting friendship.

I was invited to write an article about the results of the international exchanges. I felt that an international education exchange should be successful and have long vitality. One of the important experiences is mutual respect and mutual understanding under the principle of equality and mutual benefit. It is proved that we should respect the social systems, folklore and customs of different countries. People from different social backgrounds have a possibility to seek common ground while preserving differences and to cooperate with each other around the subject of peace and development. I believe this tradition will last for a long time.

The success of an international exchange and cooperation is always the result of hard work among all the Chinese and foreign attendants and organizers. Some people need to be specially mentioned. The former president of Goshen College, Mr. Burkholder is an old friend of the Sichuan people and a founder of the American Goshen College exchange program and the CEE program. The late professor Atlee Beechy concerned himself with the cause of Chinese education in his life. Mr. Bert Lobe was an activist who promoted educational exchange. No matter where he worked, he continuously sought exchange and cooperative possibilities between Sichuan and foreign countries. Everyone is very familiar with Mr. Myrrl Byler. We have worked with him for more than ten years. We have established a very valuable trust and friendship. Mr. Wang Wenxu and Mr. Lu Tiecheng, were both former leaders of the Sichuan Education Commission. Though they were the top leaders of Sichuan's educational circle, they directly led or guided the educational exchanges between our province and the foreign countries. They made special

contributions to the CEE program. At the same time, Mr. Ye Guanliang, Mr. Yao Zuozhi and Mr. Tan Xin were the former directors of the Foreign Affairs Office. They did a lot of work and devoted themselves to the international exchanges, so that many exchange programs have been rapidly developed today.

Look back on the past, and look into the future. Today, there are 85,000,000 persons in Sichuan province. It is not only a big province by population density, but also an educationally big one. Our province has students in forty-nine colleges and universities. There are more than 6,000,000 college students (including full-time and part-time students). In recent years, our provincial higher education has made greater progress both on the institute size and teaching level with the continuous deepening of the higher education reform in our country.

We should know that the higher education will develop toward the world and the future, so that we ought to promote exchange and cooperation with different countries in the world in order to achieve the developmental aims of higher education. So we should continuously expand international exchange and cooperation, make up for the educational resource shortages of colleges and universities in our province, decrease the gap among the developed provinces and the other provinces on the higher education, and increase the actual strength of higher education in our province. In fact, our provincial colleges and universities have made unprecedented and active contact and communication with the colleges and universities in different countries in the world in recent years, especially through the mutual exchanges of experts and scholars. Jointly running schools and cooperative scientific research, we have had a wide exchange and got good results. But we must realize clearly it's not enough for us to exchange and cooperate. We should further widen and deepen our exchange and cooperation. So we must liberate our ideology and realize an internationalized concept. After China takes part in WTO, our provincial higher education will face unprecedented challenges and opportunities. The educational market will be developed at home and abroad. Economical globalization needs various and high talents. Because the competition of higher education in different countries on training talents will be sharper, we should seek for the development of our provincial higher education on the international background of crossing borders, nationalities and cultures.

Today, all of us have opportunities to gather in Sichuan Teachers College and discuss some theoretical problems on the basic principles and contents in the development of higher education on education and communication. It will be of importance to push our provincial higher education to develop. So I hope every representative will fully take advantage of these good opportunities to discuss some problems of academic research and to exchange our teaching experiences. Our provincial representatives especially should strengthen the interchange of the research on the educational theory and share their educational experiences, and learn from each other's strengths to offset their weaknesses and complement one another as foreign things serve China so as to make our conference reach the desired goal.

Finally, I wish the conference a complete success.

Thank you.

(Translated by Zhang Xiaochi)

Opening remarks

By Myrrl Byler

Director of China Educational Exchange

Last year while taking a boat from Chongqing to Wanxian, a young student began talking to me. He asked the usual questions about where I came from and what I was doing. He was very surprised to discover that I had visited his college and there were several persons at his college whom both us knew quite well. On the same visit to China, I met a young train attendant who had attended a class taught by a CEE teacher. On the very same train quite by chance I met a teacher from Daxian who had been a CEE exchange scholar.

These are very simple encounters with people I met while traveling in Sichuan and Chongqing. But yet they are very profound and meaningful examples of the result of twenty years of academic exchange. This weekend we are here to celebrate and discuss some of the things which we have learned and accomplished through our exchange over the past twenty years.

Together we have been successful in helping to raise the level of English language teaching in Sichuan and Chongqing. We have witnessed the dramatic changes which have occurred in China since 1980. We have built bridges of understanding between North Americans and Chinese people. For the thousands of persons who have been touched by our exchange, no longer are North Americans or Chinese people faceless and nameless masses. Names like Chengdu, Indiana, Nanchong, Harrisonburg, Pixian, Akron, Yibin are now familiar to us. We can find these places on a map. Names like Zhang, Yoder, Zhao, Miller, Wang and Martin no longer seem strange and difficult to pronounce.

Success in today's world is measured in many different ways. Success for some man mean a good education and a variety of degrees. Some believe success comes through popularity in the arts, entertainment or sports. The most successful person is often considered to be the one with the most money.

Our gathering for this conference is evidence that success can be defined in a different manner. In my opinion, the accumulation of significant friendships and relationships is a much better definition. And this success is much more meaningful because these are relationships and friendships which cross boundaries, particularly cultural boundaries.

As we learn to know each other and spend time together, we discover our similarities as well as our differences. We learn that not everyone in North America is a victim of violent crime, that people are generally friendly and helpful, that senior citizens are generally well-taken care of by their families, and that North America can be very different from the images shown in Hollywood films. We learn that China is modernizing quickly, that most people support the government's policies, that people are generally friendly and helpful, that there is individual freedom and choice in many aspects of life, and that China is different from the picture given by Western media.

We are here today because of the vision of educators who believed we could learn from and benefit each other. We are here because leaders in Sichuan education were willing to invite North Americans from Mennonite colleges to come here, and were also willing to send Chinese visiting scholars to North America. We are here because persons like Dr. Atlee Beechy and Director Ding Genlin had a vision of bringing people together, a vision of bringing peace and friendship where previously there was suspicion and distrust. Dr. Beechy was not a successful person in terms of wealth or fame, but his success went far beyond these things.

But we are here not just to celebrate these twenty years, but also to look forward. All of us have been privileged to be a part of this exchange. We now also have more responsibility because of this privilege. We are all very aware of the many misunderstandings that still exist between people in North America and China. We have a responsibility to lessen this friction and misunderstanding. When someone says that all North Americans do this or believe this way, we have the opportunity to say, "No, that isn't true, you must also consider this." Or when Western media say that the Chinese people believe this or act this way, we must be ready to say, "No, that isn't the way it is." We must help others see beyond the disagreements and tension to our common interests, hopes and dreams.

I believe we are still in the beginning stages of our cooperation. There is so much more that we can accomplish together. We need to seek more opportunities to learn from each other, to look at our histories and cultures. There is much more we can do beyond teaching language. I'm looking forward to the papers that will be presented and the ideas that will be shared this weekend as part of this new beginning.

As an organization, CEE is interested in broadening its work in China. We want to do a better job of teaching English and working with various colleges and universities. We want to create more opportunities for North Americans and Chinese to interact with each other within the academic world.

But we are concerned also about needs in primary education and how we can better assist young children in their education. There are also tens of thousands of gifted young children who have disabilities whom we want to find ways to assist. Just as in Canada and the U.S., there are those in China who fall between the cracks in society. These are the persons who need our assistance perhaps the most. Together we need to find ways to help those less fortunate.

As a Christian organization, CEE is committed to cooperating with churches and other organizations in Sichuan and Chongqing which will assist all of society. We want to help improve the education level within churches because we believe that Christians here in China have an important role in being good citizens, of helping to build the country in positive ways.

This time together is another important step in our development as a family, in our relationship with each other. We need to find ways to improve our contacts and connections. We want to work together on projects and ideas which will be mutually beneficial. We want to develop regular forums where we can share and discuss ideas, and then develop programs that will expand our cooperation. I would ask that you freely share your ideas and concerns with us. Many wonderful things have happened in these past twenty years, but I believe they are just a preparation for what will come in the future.

Opening Remarks

By Jian Guoru

Professor, School of Foreign Languages, Sichuan Teachers College

Let's warmly welcome the guests, friends, and teachers both from North America and from various colleges, institutes, and universities across China. We are very glad and happy to meet old friends and new friends. I'm honoured to attend this conference, as we gather here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of CEE. We are here this weekend to enjoy our friendship, to appreciate our understanding, and to share our successes.

Over the past twenty years, CEE has built a bridge of interlanguage communication and intercultural exchange. Many North Americans have had a chance to come to China to teach, to learn, and to visit; a lot of Chinese visiting scholars have been to North America either to teach or to study, or to do some research on language and culture. All of us have learned about different languages, histories and cultures. CEE has enriched us and benefited us.

We have had intimate talks about our reciprocation of education, the exchange of teaching methods, and research programs between foreign teachers and Chinese teachers. We've enjoyed ourselves. We've seen foreign teachers are very kind to our students. Some of them often give up their week ends and holidays to help the poor and the disabled. They set a good example.

Nineteen years ago at Sichuan Normal University, I met the second group of students come from Goshen College and their supervisor, Professor Yoder. I remember that they were such young persons and were interested in Chinese history and culture. When we introduced something about Du Fu's life, they tried to look for the old thatched hut. When passing through the Three Gorges of the Changjiang River on their way home they were very excited and eager to learn Li Bai's poem *Leaving Baidi Town at Dawn*. The oft-quoted and widely loved verses: "Along banks the monkeys wailing echoes sad and long/My light skiff has passed ten thousand hills away. . . ." That inspired me to do some translation of classical Chinese poems. During my stay at Bethel College in the United States I eagerly attended poetry workshops. I had a good chance to discuss the meaning, the diction, the style, the rhyme, and the rhythm of my poetry translations face to face with students and professors. In the preface of my book I wrote, "Fortunately many valuable suggestions and comments from American professors and students have enriched my translations and their encouragement has helped me to complete this work. Many thanks to Professor Anna Yahnke and Raylene Hinz-Pener and Canadian professor Edward Boldt and other professors." Later a friend of mine introduced me to a publisher in Canada, whose father is an elder overseas Chinese. He read my manuscript and said "Yes." So here is this book.

We hope we'll greatly develop our cooperation in language research projects and in the

discussion of educational theories. Let's have more opportunities to learn from each other, to discuss our needs and strive to improve ourselves and to write and create new works.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

Thanks.

Opening remarks

By Warren Harder

Teacher, Chongqing University of Medical Sciences

On behalf of all the CEE teachers who are here, and those who could not come, I would like to welcome everybody to this conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of CEE and focusing on cross-cultural experiences. I would also like to thank the schools where we teach for accepting CEE teachers year after year, and for placing us in a positive environment where we can both work and learn about Chinese culture and language. This conference is called Crossing the Borders of Language and Culture. It is a good opportunity for us to learn from people who have entered into our native culture for the first time about their experiences, as well as a chance to share our own experiences with a new culture and language.

My first real cross-cultural experience in China took place in Beijing during the first few days I was in China. It involved a group of teachers from this school who were about to leave on a tour of Saskatchewan, my home province in Canada. It was arranged that all the CEE teachers from Saskatchewan would go out for supper with all the teachers who were going to Saskatchewan.

At this point I need to back track a little and explain that while I was growing up, I was taught by my parents that I must always finish all the food on my plate at meal time. There were several reasons for this. One was because we were not to waste food. Another was that if we could not finish our food, we obviously were too full to eat dessert (my favorite part of the meal). I was also told that it was rude—a sign that you do not like the food for one reason or another.

That evening in Beijing when we all went out to eat together, these were my ideas about eating. I sat with a Chinese teacher on either side of me. The one on my right was very helpful. She saw how difficult it was for me to use chopsticks and began to put food into my bowl for me although I could have managed. The food was delicious, but soon I was full. The gracious teacher beside me kept on filling my bowl. Like an idiot, I kept on eating everything. Soon my stomach began to ache, but still, when I would look away for a minute, more food would be in my bowl. As I was taught, I kept on eating. Finally, I thought I would explode if I had one more bite. I was in pain and could eat no more. When I stopped eating, the teacher beside me stopped putting food into my bowl. I suddenly realized I should have stopped eating long ago. That night I was sick, but I learned a lesson about the culture I had just entered. The lesson is obvious: Beijing food is not nearly as good as Sichuan food.

As this conference begins, I look forward to exchanging ideas and experiences over meals together and in the planned sessions. I also hope that everyone will enjoy themselves here at this conference. Thank you.



Keynote paper