

Meeting of Experts on New Phase of AJP Programme  
for Model NFE Materials Development and Utilization in Asia and the Pacific  
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## Country Report

China

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### PART I. AJP Programme

Under the coordination and guidance of Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, there has been more than 18 years' cooperation between UNESCO and Gansu Province. During this period, Gansu Institute for Educational Research (GSIER), under the jurisdiction of Gansu Provincial Education Department, has successfully organized and implemented a series of educational programs with continuous effective technical and financial support from ACCU/UNESCO. Various activities have been conducted on promoting the development of education for all, particularly for those disadvantaged population groups in poverty stricken rural areas in Gansu Province. Through innovative research and project piloting, new educational ideas and practical approaches have been widely practiced. It is no doubt that the implementation of Asia/Pacific Joint Production Programme of Materials for Neo-Literates in Rural areas (AJP) has produced a long-term positive and significant impact on the development of extensive basic education, literacy education and continuing education, which greatly promoted the overall development of quality educational for all in Gansu Province and some other western poverty-stricken regions of China.

In 1997, Gansu Institute for Educational Research started the concrete cooperation on the adoption of the Package Learning Materials on Environment. We successfully completed in the re-production of the non-formal education material: "Mina's Village and River". During 2000 to 2001, the PLANET 2 (Package Learning Materials on Environment) was introduced to China. With necessary modification and improvement to suit local situation and needs, Chinese version of PLANET 2 (including 500 copies of poster, 500 copies of booklets, and 500 copies of videotape) has been reproduced in collaboration with a professional media development company.

During the translation and adaptation of the ACCU materials, each character in the video program has been given a Chinese name in light of different age and sex. Moreover, content description has been adapted to the Chinese language suitable to learners' educational level and age feature.

- The successful implementation of ACCU materials achieved the objectives:
- Raised the massive awareness on importance of environment protection and the sense that people are part of nature;
- Enhances the practical literacy skills;
- Provided the learners with simple scientific knowledge on environment;
- Promoted the concrete actions to protect rural environment;
- Carried out the advocacy on the message of Learning to live together

#### **A. The Impact of ACCU Materials**

Summarizing the implementation of cooperative programmes between ACCU and GSIER, broad and intensive impact has been produced on the rural education development. With the initiative

connotation of education for all, ACCU programs greatly improved the development of basic education, in terms of innovative education ideas, advanced theory and effective approaches.

- The successful practice in compiling non-formal education materials has produced great influence on the materials development in China;
- Dynamic impact has been produced on educational innovation in teaching methods;
- Learner-centered activities are organized to initiate learners' motivation in literacy learning;
- It enhances the teachers' awareness for educational reform and improves the methods and quality of teaching.
- It develops the communicative activities in a many education areas. Through project implementation, teachers are able to exchange teaching methods and adopt effective methods to improve teaching effect;
- It further improves the ability of the educational researchers in disseminating innovative learning materials. They not only need to have a good command of teaching materials, but also have to understand the real situation in project areas;

## **B. Suggestions and Recommendations**

As a developing nation, China is still confronted with tremendous illiteracy problem. To prevent the younger generation from becoming illiterate by initiating functional literacy programme bears particular relevance for the disadvantaged population groups in rural, remote and minority areas.

We treasure this opportunity because through our participation we can share, with other neighboring countries, their useful experiences in proving a functional literacy education for all children. As we recalled our involvement in ACCU programmes, it is very impressive that the materials have been welcomed by all those rural teachers, children and illiterate adults. Great difference has been resulted in both the instruction and learning.

For this reason we have the following recommendations:

- With the initial engagement in environment education, it would be more effective if the other materials for mathematics, social environment could also be introduced in the participant countries thus to accumulate and expedience in applying an integrated literacy programme for rural and disadvantaged population.
- In view of the unique advantages of the literacy programme, the future learning materials should make good use of the modern information and communication technology for the rural development.
- As literacy education is a continuing process, the available subjects should deal with the most essential knowledge and abilities. It seems necessary to develop further materials that might bridge the learners to higher level of literacy.

On this occasion, we would like to join the specialists from other countries in expressing our heartfelt appreciation for ACCU. It is our sincere hope that AJP programmes will continue and improve, for we are now working for a better future of quality education for all.