

Amity Outlook

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**Embrace the
Memories, Respect
the Future**

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ON THE COVER:

A man carrying water in the mountain of Hunan Province



Embrace the Memories, Respect the Future

Mr. Qiu Zhonghui's lecture in Peking University

The Amity Foundation announced its establishment in Hong Kong in March 1985 and was formally established in Nanjing in April. The beginning of Amity was difficult, as the emancipation of the mind and the openness of the society usually takes time and is often filled with hardships and obstacles. In foreign countries, philanthropic undertakings largely started from churches before it largely developed into the society; in China, however, the case is different.

In the 1980s, we were the only foundation with religious background in the country, and even in the 1990s, the number of foundations with religious background was only expanded to four. Our mission is: “abiding by the principles of mutual respect and interfaith harmony, Amity builds friendship with people at home and abroad. Through the promotion of holistic development and public welfare, Amity serves society, benefits the people, and contributes to world peace.” Amity has always positioned as a social development organization, not merely a charity organization. Our goals are: to contribute to China’s reform and opening up and social development; to contribute to active participation of Christians in China’s social development; to serve as a channel for people-to-people contact and ecumenical sharing of resources. What we talk about “to contribute to China’s reform and opening up and social development” is based on our positioning.

Our religious background procures us to promote Christian’s involvement in social services and social development. Often in our country, church activities are carried out within the walls of a church and separated from society. Charity and philanthropy now become a great way to bring churches out of walls to serve the society, go to the community and witness the faith. The vision of localization of religion and Christianity by the government is an effort to help church people to know Chinese society and help the society to understand the church though these social services and philanthropic work so as to achieve social and interfaith harmony. It is also an important task for us to engage in external exchanges and that’s why promoting friendly exchanges and sharing of resources among the people of the world is also one of our main objectives.

1985-1995 was the first decade for Amity's development. During this period, we received resources from abroad and learned from international experience. We noticed that reference is more important than just copying. On the one hand, it is necessary to understand international concepts, practices and methods; on the other hand, localization of these experience and resources should be explored for local ecological environment so as to adapt to China's national conditions.

Despite what you do, it is necessary that you have down-to-earth practice. After I joined Amity, I learnt to calm down and continuously do something useful for the people and the society. Working in this field involves a lot of hardness and difficulties, I used to doubt the significance of this work before. But when you truly see those people in need, you would be engaged and impressed by their simple gratitude. The idea started to linger in my mind and became the motivation for me to continue to distribute the undertakings of love.

In the second decade of 1995-2005, we started to study the underdeveloped and minority communities in the western region. During this process, we doubted and stressed whether we were able to extend to the west before final decision were made. By taking this challenge of long-distance project supervision, we gradually made progress by our dedication to the comprehensive poverty alleviation projects. By using a participatory way to develop and to manage, we managed to achieve sustainable development with protection of both ecological environment and traditional culture. In the social development, we have come a long way in this decade. I also felt that we should encourage ourselves to face up to the challenges. In the Western China, there are many people living in impoverished area. They need us and taking the challenge is needed by our society, so we have special value and people have special hope on us. That's why in the second decade of our foundation, we expanded our growth right after all those projects in the west.

Now this is the third decade since 2005. Firstly, we

are trying to integrate resources, shifting from merely providing financial support to helping combine all kinds of resources, including funds, professionals, concepts and ideas, so as to scale up the effectiveness. As human resource is also involved, it is important that we provide proper and enough trainings and hold seminars. Secondly, we are making innovation on service. During this process, we explore the way to be better performed and cooperate with other international organizations to introduce good practices and try to accommodate their experience to our local environment. Thirdly, we insist capacity-building during all kinds of projects, which takes time and requires patience. Fourth, apart from the advocacy made through project demonstration, we should also include idea advocacy. Amity is late in idea advocacy, which is necessary for our own survival and development.

In this third decade, with urbanization process accelerated and the arrival of aging society in China, our community development programs expand from rural areas to urban communities. Rural community development projects include orphan fostering, education support, disaster management, environmental protection, medical and health care, social welfare and food security, while integrated service for urban communities include Amity Bakery, Amity Home of Blessings, Amity NGO development, Amity Children Development Center, Amity International Philanthropy Valley, Amity home-based elderly care and community-based elderly care. When we look back and make ourselves a summary over the past 30 years, we consider Amity a seedling growing under the background of China's reform and opening-up. We are proud to say that

we contribute to the development of China's reform and opening-up. Amity introduced various resources on public welfare into China. Up to now, we have received more than RMB 2 billion donation in total, of which approximately RMB 1.5 billion is from overseas. But when we look at our recent development, we can see more and more donations

are made from mainland China. We aim to make Amity a special area of public undertakings by transforming Amity into a platform of philanthropy studies and practices for young people, volunteers and organizational partners to perform hand in hand.

Practice and Exploration on Life and Public Welfare

In respect of this topic, I would like to talk about some of the ideas that our organization put forward - from solving immediate problems to support comprehensive development. The term "comprehensive development" is very commonly used among international development agencies. Of course there are certainly more new ideas coming out. What is comprehensive development? To help an area develop comprehensively, you should consider how to help them form hematopoietic function, which means the development should be sustainable. When doing any project we must admit that we are an outsider, that we should focus on local resources, local people, and local potentials, and that a true development relies on local people's initiative and endogenous power.

We regard a project to be successful, not only based on its benefits and outputs, but also based on the sustainability that local people can solve other problems along with the solution model we provided. Amity advocates a philosophy to focus on people during social development work and meet basic living needs of people without any pollution to the environment. In respect of the funds, amity insisted that local government, Amity and people themselves should all contribute to the donations. Moreover, we believe, getting the local people involved in the projects and their own community development will lead to higher efficiency, better outcome and even deeper understanding.

We are not merely providing social service. In fact, we are using our lives to change other lives. The true philanthropy work is embodied in the care of human beings, which needs to be explored by us in practice using our lives.

Amity brings relief to the victims of devastating tornado



The tornado caused huge devastation



On June 23, a powerful tornado and hailstorm stroke Jiangsu Province killing almost 100 people. Over 800 people were injured, many of them critically. The tornado with winds of up to 125km/h caused severe damage and left behind a swatch of destruction. Infrastructure and thousands of buildings were damaged or destroyed, most leveled to the ground. The tornado tossed cars into the air and flattened trees and power lines. It is said to be one of the worst disasters in Jiangsu Province for decades and the deadliest tornado in China for half of a century.

On June 23, the Amity Foundation which headquarters in Jiangsu Province sent a disaster relief team to the affected area to assess the situation and procure relief items.

On June 24, a first batch of temporary lightening equipment, mosquito repellent

utensils and other supplies could be distributed in the disaster struck area.

On June 25, the Amity Foundation delivered five tons of rice and 100 barrels of oil into the affected region. Amity also continued to distribute anti-mosquito products, underwear, socks and slippers to displaced people who were continuously exposed to ongoing rainfalls.



(1)



(2)



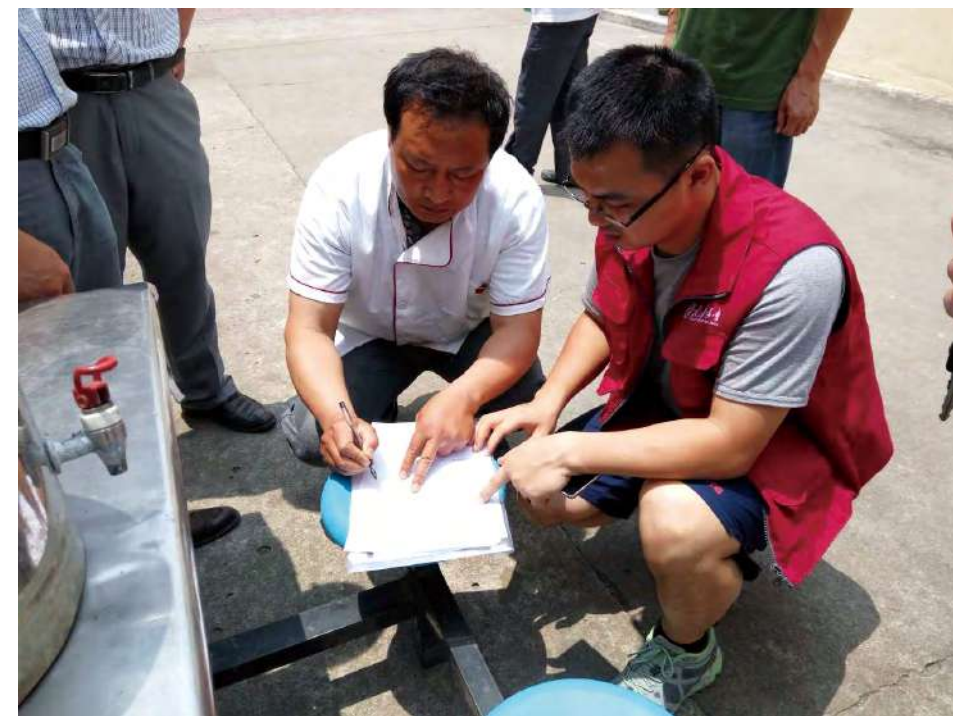
(3)

Displaced and injured people (1, 2). Amity staff attend a meeting to coordinate with other relief agencies (3)

Over the next days, Amity staff supported the victims of the tornado with tents, tarpaulin, bottled drinking water, clothing, mosquito repellent and other urgently needed supplies. Furthermore, assessments and research were made to support reconstruction efforts in the future. During the relief efforts Amity cooperated and coordinated with governmental and non-governmental actors.



Every year, during the monsoon season from May to July, the southern part of China is regularly exposed to severe weather conditions. In this year the situation is particularly disastrous. Since May, many parts of China have been affected by torrential rains causing flooding, dire devastation and many casualties. The Amity Foundation is supporting the people who suffer these natural disasters. If you want to help please consider a donation to the bank account on the back cover of Amity Outlook.



Amity staff check the delivery and coordination of relief supplies

Floods and rainstorms cause casualties and heavy damage

Since the beginning of raining season in China, heavy and enduring rainfalls and rainstorms caused severe flooding and related disaster to 11 provinces in southern and eastern China. The ongoing disasters killed over 186 people and over 45 missing. About 1.48 million people have been relocated and another half million is in the need of assistance. So far 56,000 houses have been destroyed and more than 32 million people are said to be affected. Direct economic losses are estimated to be over 50 billion Yuan. In many regions a state of emergency was declared as the weather forecast predicts more rain.



Ongoing heavy rainstorms are causing casualties and flooding

On 24 June, the Hong Kong disaster relief fund approved a fund of HKD 445,000 to the Amity Foundation under its Fast-track Mechanism to provide immediate relief to flood victims in Guizhou Province. During the last days Amity staff went to Guizhou to assess the situation on the ground and to organize the distribution of 72,000 kilograms of rice for 1,200 families, or 4,800 people in total. "It is the first time in one month that people are able to eat rice again", says Hewen, Amity's Assistant General Secretary on site.



There is huge economic devastation and the loss of many people's existence



This year's rainfalls have been particularly heavy. Since March floods, mud- and landslides caused casualties again and again. After this week's rainstorms the situation has exacerbated into states of emergency around the Yangtze River and many other basins. On June 23 the worst tornado in half a century killed 98 people and injured almost 800 more in Jiangsu Province.



The Amity Foundation is on site to provide rice for the suffering people



Amity staff is inspecting the situation and distributing rice



2016 China floods - Updates

September 9, 2016

Over the past few months, areas affected by the severe floods expanded. Benefiting from another HK\$ 6.31 million granted by the Hong Kong Government, a donation of RMB 2 million from Alibaba Foundation and an amount of RMB 1 million donation from Tencent Foundation, Amity was able to continue to provide relief supplies to flood victims in need of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hunan Province, Anhui Province, Yunnan Province, Jiangxi Province and Hubei Province. According to FloodList, an information website on latest flood events around the world, the flooding were some of the worst since 1998. The flooding struck large parts of 20 provinces, in particular the Yangtze River Basin. The natural disaster has been ongoing in some areas since March 2016, killed 764 people, destroyed or damaged more than 800,000 buildings and devastated

estimated 18 million acres of cropland. The economic damages are estimated to exceed 33 billion US Dollars. Only 2% of the economic losses are thought to be covered by insurance. The following pictures show Amity staff working on the front line, distributing relief goods and support the people in need in Anhui Province over the last weeks.



Amity staff is inspecting the disaster relief supply stocks and accounts



People in Anhui, who are affected by the flooding over the last months, are lining up to receive food supplies and blankets



Local partners organizing the transport of the relief supplies of those who need help



The banner states that the relief supplies are provided by the people of Hong Kong through the Amity Foundation



Villagers showing the supplies that help them to make ends meet over the next months



Villager is carrying received relief goods home



The flooding turned former rice fields into sandbanks, destroying the livelihood of many farmers

August 9, 2016

On August 5, Hong Kong's Disaster Relief Fund (HKDRF) Advisory Committee has approved a grant of HK\$6.309 million to the Amity Foundation, Hong Kong for providing relief to flood victims in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Hunan Province, Anhui Province, and Yunnan Province.

Over the last month rainstorms in southern China caused flooding and exposed millions of people and large regions of China to a constantly grave situation and state of emergency. By August 1, the Amity Foundation has provided disaster relief supplies worth of 4.32 million Yuan to 30,934 people who suffered most of the flood.

A Hong Kong government spokesman said, that the grant would provide timely relief to the victims and help them to restore their normal living. Before, the HKDRF supported the Amity Foundation's emergency relief work under its fast-track mechanism with HK\$ 445,000 and provided urgent and life-saving relief to victims.

August 1, 2016

In July, the Amity Foundation launched large-scale disaster relief efforts to support people affected by the flooding. Since mid-June ongoing heavy rainfalls and mudslides have triggered deadly flooding, huge devastation and displaced thousands of people. The death toll exceeds the number of 150 people. More than 40,000 houses were destroyed and 1.5 million hectare crops were destroyed. The Yangtze river basin is especially affected, but flooding occurs in many regions of China. On July 31, Beijing experienced the heaviest rainfalls since 60 years that killed 37 people. Today night another typhoon will make landfall in southern China.

The Amity Foundation has started large-scale disaster relief projects to bring relief to the people in need. Since now, the Amity Foundation has conducted relief projects in five provinces and distributed supplies to about 7,000 households. Regarding to the needs in place, the Amity Foundation distributed rice, oil, blankets, mosquito nets and other necessities for daily life. Due to the fact that crops have been destroyed in large numbers, many of the beneficiaries will rely on food supplies for the next

month. Following numbers are the summary of Amity's ongoing disaster relief efforts. Further distributions of relief supplies are in preparation.

- Liping County – Guizhou - 360,000 Yuan - 1,200 households ~ 4,800 ppl
- Yiliang County – Yunnan - 367,272 Yuan - 1,604 households ~ 6,414 ppl
- Dahua Yao Autonomous County – Guangxi - 356,700 Yuan - 580 households ~ 2,320 ppl
- Wuhan – Hubei - 292,400 Yuan - 776 households ~ 2,700 ppl
- Xinhua County – Hunan - 679,000 Yuan - 3,000 households ~ 12,000 ppl
- Yiyang Prefecture – Hunan - 828,400 Yuan - 700 households ~ 3,000 ppl



The floods caused huge economic damage. The future of many people affected by the floods is endangered



Trucks with supplies for the flood victims struggling with muddy and destroyed roads



Amity staff and local partners are distributing relief supplies

July 11, 2016

On Saturday July 9, the Typhoon Nepartark made landfall in Fujian Province. Heavy rainfall and strong winds caused widespread flooding and landslides, leaving 6 people dead and 8 missing. The situation across various provinces remain severe.

Since mid-June rainstorms and flooding have already killed 186 people and have caused heavy devastation. On June 23, a tornado in Jiangsu province killed 98 people and injured more than 800. Nepartark is the first typhoon in this year's typhoon season. Rainfalls are

forecast to continue and make the situation worse in many already battered areas.

According to local news more than 450,000 people were evacuated in Fujian and Zhejiang Province before the typhoon hit the region.

During the last week, the Amity Foundation continued to distribute relief goods to people affected by the floods. Thereby, Amity is supported by the Tencent and Alibaba Foundation that respectively donated 1,000,000 Yuan to Amity's 2016 China flood relief projects and launched donation appeals on their internet platforms.



Latest pictures of Amity's flood relief project show Amity staff delivering bags of rice by boat to areas cut off by flooding



Together we will face tomorrow

Once a year in spring, a joint group of Amity staff, Pfrang members and local authorities visit underprivileged students of impoverished families that receive sponsorships. Afterwards, the Pfrang Gala is held in Nanjing to raise funds for new and continuing sponsorships.



The sponsored students are living in poverty

On April 24 and 25, 2016, a delegation of Amity staff, Pfrang Association members, local authorities and Nanjing students visited 39 sponsored students and five of their families in northern Jiangsu Province. There they learned about the students' needs, concerns and their living circumstances.

Face-to-face communication with the sponsored students and families is an important part during the visit. It offers an opportunity to talk with students and to learn more about their school life and dreams. Some wanted to become nurses to help people, software engineers to develop their own software products or lawyers to protect social justice.



Participants from Nanjing learn about the living circumstances of the students

Participants were touched that many sponsored students expressed their dream of becoming medical professionals as often their family members are suffering from various diseases.

A student whose father fell ill with dementia and mother left home many years ago told the delegation about her wish to become a doctor, although it seems impossible for her father to

get recovered: "I still want to be a doctor to improve my father's situation and help more people." The determined expression of this little girl proved that the hardships of life had never defeated her, but made her more courageous and optimistic toward the future.



A wall full of honorary school credentials of a sponsored student

The delegation was welcomed by a student's family during the visit. Leading the delegation to his home, the boy introduced his family members: his mother, little brother and grandmother in the eighties. The mother proudly showed her kid's honorary school credentials, the grandmother warmly showed us around their house and his little brother was very happy to see his elder brother coming home early. The visitors felt relieved the student lives in such a harmonious atmosphere, although he is living in a poverty-stricken family.



Participants and the students enjoy the visit

When the delegation was leaving, he cried. A member from the delegation patted him on his back and comforted him saying: "Tomorrow will be better and we will always be with you". These simple but tender words are not only a kind of comfort and promise, but also a common dream and goal that we are striving for.

Dear students, be courageous and optimistic toward future. We will be with you!

Dear friends and partners, let's work together, make education accessible to every child and create a better future!

New platform for disaster relief cooperation established

On June 13, the China Charity Federation (CCF) announced to establish a disaster relief committee in Beijing to enhance cooperation and improve efficiency among relevant actors of the third sector in case of disasters. The committee currently has 53 individual and institutional members, including Amity Foundation, One Foundation, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation and several considerable academic figures.

General Secretary of Amity Foundation Qiu Zhonghui was elected the chairman of the committee that strives to cooperate in disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Furthermore, the committee is going to build a coordination platform and mechanism in case of disasters.

The China Charity Federation is a nationwide non-governmental charity organization. It was established in 1994

and legally registered as an independent entity. Its members, all of whom work on a voluntary basis, include private citizens, businesses, and social institutions interested in charitable causes.



General Secretary of Amity Foundation Qiu Zhonghui was elected the chairman of the disaster relief committee of CCF



Amity attends first China-Africa Public Diplomacy Forum



NGO staff from China attending the China-Africa Public Diplomacy Forum

On August 9, the Amity Foundation participated in the China-Africa Public Diplomacy Forum in Dar es Salaam with over 100 representatives from China and African countries to discuss further cooperation and exchange. Among them were officials, business leaders, academics, media professionals and NGO workers. Amity's Assistant Secretary-General She Hongyu and four staff members attended the forum. The overall theme of the forum, which was organized by the China Public Diplomacy Association, was to promote a comprehensive development approach between China and Africa and intensify future common development based on win-win cooperation, mutual understanding and cultural exchange.

Actors and academics of civil society discussed the opportunities for social development and cooperation among

NGOs, companies and local communities on a sub forum on social welfare and cooperation, which was co-financed by the Amity Foundation.

Ms. Peng Jianmei of the China Charity Federation emphasized that the principles of cooperation must be based on tolerance, sharing and mutual benefit. She outlined the opportunities for Chinese NGOs to build partnerships with their local counterparts and Chinese enterprises and promote a concept of providing good services, social responsibility and a philosophy of charity that benefits African communities and local residents.

Amity's Assistant General Secretary She Hongyu gave a speech named 'Common responsibilities, Common development' and talked about Amity's experience of 30 years development in China. She pointed out the achievements of poverty reduction in China over the last decade and its significant contribution to the UN Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, she outlined the importance of promoting multisectoral consultation and collaboration in social affairs and the development of community organizations. She added that Amity is recently carrying out post-disaster projects and livelihood

projects in countries of the Global South. With the development of online-fundraising platforms, more funding can be acquired to support developing countries. Many recipients of Amity's online fundraising are from Africa.

At the end of her speech, She Hongyu shared the story of Amity's biogas cooperation program in Madagascar. By reference to the project, she expressed the opinion that cooperation and exchange projects between Africa and China should comprise the following four essentials. It should target Africa, serve the real social needs of the local people by involving them. It should be carried out in a transparent, efficient and public way. It should delight the people for caring, sharing and charity. It should respect the local culture, environment and provide realistic improvements and enhancements based on the actual situation.

Finally, She Hongyu gave a sincere invitation for more future cooperation and expressed her hope that it will help to achieve a central pledge of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations: 'Leaving no one behind'. The Amity Foundation is looking forward and committed to work for it.

Amity traditional culture protection season started in Hunan Province

On May 4th 2016, a training class entitled "Tujia Ethnic Brocade Craftsmanship Inheritors" jointly organized by the Amity Foundation and the United Front Work Department of Yongshun county, Hunan Province, was officially launched in Gaofeng Village of Lingxi Town. More than 40 members of the Gaofeng Women Development Association and villagers attended this two-months' professional training that aims to help them with special expertise and skills. The training facilitated local employment and provided protection and inheritance for Tujia brocade techniques and ultimately achieve the overall purpose of Amity's rural community project development: "helping people help themselves".

On July 4, 2015, Yongshun Tusi Castle relic located at Sicheng Village, i.e. one of our project areas, was included in the UNESCO world heritage list as a joint representative of Chinese Tusi heritage. "If there is no Amity project, the Tusi Castle in our village only lies as a relic site," said

one of the villagers, "Now we have learned about Tujia ethnic brocade through this Tujia traditional culture project of Amity and are also able to show the most original and authentic toasting song, hand waving dance and Mao Gu Si (i.e. an ancient Tujia Ethnic dance) to the visiting guests."

This "Tujia Ethnic Brocade Craftsmanship Inheritors" training class was developed under the three-year "Suining and Yongshun community water resources management and development project in Hunan Province" launched in 2014. The total scale of the project was RMB12.37 million, of which financial support from Amity amounted to RMB 4.69 million and the rest amount was granted by the local government and contributed by residents living in the project area through funds and labor. An important part of the project was the development of the association and capacity building of villagers, on which a platform was established by this training class for practice.



Tujia Ethnic Brocade weaving practice

Update: Training class for Village Women Development Association of Wawutang Town of Suining County jointly held by the Amity Foundation and the United Front Work Department of Suining County was launched last month. By organizing cultural activities, the training aimed to encourage the left-behind women to get involved in public affairs so as to keep rural communities active.

A new dawn for China's charity sector

On 1 September 2016, the 'People's Republic of China Charity Law' has come into effect. The comprehensive and detailed law, which consists of 112 articles, is designed to promote charitable engagement and to regulate the third sector. The legislation opens the door to a more participatory and pluralistic society.

Since 2005, China's third sector has been waiting for the passing of a new charity law. After the government started to draft the law in 2014, there was a process of two years extensive discussion, research and consultation among academia, the NGO community, the public sector and the government. Until the National People's Congress passed the law on 16 March 2016, recommendations, forums and workshops influenced the legislation, giving it a cooperative and concordant character.

The new Charity Law sets new standards and regulations for charitable organizations. Among others, the access

for registration and the approval to conduct fundraising will be standardized. Furthermore, charitable organizations must be solely registered at the public affairs department of the county, city, provincial or national level. Besides their new rights, social organizations will also face new obligations regarding transparency and management requirements, improving their accountability to the donors, the beneficiaries and the society.

The law is expected to boost good governance and the general development of the philanthropic sector, but in particular grassroots and community organizations, which will be eligible to apply for fundraising. Up to the present, many small-scale organizations were operating in a legal gray-area due to the lack of a regulatory framework. Moreover, many had to channel the raising of funds for projects through more experienced and longer established organizations. The Amity Foundation and its partners were such organizations, which provided those services free of charge for many years.



General Secretary Mr Qiu gives a briefing to Amity staff on China's Charity Law in Nanjing

"The law brings many expectations and comprises effective mechanisms to enhance good governance. It is a good law and the key lies in the implementation", says Shu Peng, the director of the Shanghai Amity Research Center. Compared to developed countries, China's third sector is still in an early stage and underdeveloped. According to the CAF World Giving Index of 2015, China is ranked 144 out of 145 countries. China Daily stated that in 2014, the United States charity sector represented 2 percent of the national GDP compared to China, 0.16% of the GDP.

Hope in the mountains

——Visits to Jinzhai students by Amity Pfrang project team



From May 30 to 31, 2016, Amity's Pfrang project team visited four students and their families who received sponsorships to get better understanding about their study and life. The team also brought gifts such as books, clothes and candies.

A total of 50 students from three high

schools in Jinzhai County received support from the Amity Foundation's Pfrang project. During the two-day visit, visitors had face-to-face communications with more than 40 students. After short introduction about the project, the students soon got familiar with the team members, trying their best to talk in English about

their interests, hobbies, classmates, family and career aspirations. When asked about their dreams, some of the students said they want to return to their hometown as teachers after graduation from university, to help more children just like them to go out of mountains to see the world outside; some wanted to become painters to use

their brushes to draw down the beauty of life; some wanted to join the army and become a defender of the country; some wanted to be doctors and help more people stay away from diseases; and others wanted to work in the public welfare undertakings to bring love and hope to more needy people. Although you can indeed see and feel the considerable stress and how much they suffer in their lives, visitors were very much impressed by their optimism and positive attitude towards future. This further convinced the team of the importance and meaning of their work.

Located in the deep mountain of Dabieshan, Jinzhai County is a remote mountain area. Those families to be visited were lying at the mountain foot or nestled in the mountains. It would usually take an hour by bus from the students' home to school and transportation was inconvenient and underdeveloped. This is why most of the students usually go home every half a month or even once a month.

After arriving at Hua's home, the team members found that only his grandmother was living with him. The house where the grandma and Hua lived was in disrepair

that they could only stay in his uncle's home. Hua's uncle, aunt and grandma greeted everyone visiting their humble residence, put everyone on seat and talked about their current situation and expectation towards future life. "Although our whole family has such low income and we definitely live under economic pressure, we strongly support our children to go to school. We believe education and knowledge would be the way to change our fate." Simple words as they had, the firm belief to better life truly touched all team members.

Ming, one of the four students we visited, used to suffer from cancer. Thanks to timely and proper treatment, he was able to go to school again. Now only regular medical checks were needed. His house was located in a clean and tidy yard on the mountainside. Ming's father worked in a city not far from home, so he could go home to see his kid in time. Ming's grandfather, grandmother and mom stayed at home to take care of Ming while they also worked on the farm to cover daily expenses. Before, Ming's cancer threw his family in extreme misery but heavy debts didn't overwhelm the family; just

the opposite, they tried their best to create a sunny and happy life for Ming. "Now, we only want Ming to be safe and happy," Ming's mum told us, "we will support him to do whatever he wants as long as he is able to and willing to." Their small yard, under the care of Ming's family, branched out beautiful flowers and plants and accompanied them to live in peace. By having such a peaceful and beautiful family, Ming, as the hope of the family, gradually recovered and became more cheerful and stronger. During the visit, he spoke fluently with foreign representatives of the delegation in English, which surprised everyone, and showed his gratification and distinctiveness towards and in the ordinary life.

The two-day visit was soon over. When saying goodbye, the team was deeply moved by the students and their parents' affectionate farewell. We felt that it is our responsibility to work harder so as to have more children in education and help more families guard their hope in life.

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The Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese voluntary organization founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, rural development, environmental protection, disaster relief, and poverty reduction in the underdeveloped areas of China. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people both at home and abroad.

The Amity Foundation has more than 80 full-time staffers at its Nanjing headquarters. Hundreds of volunteers work with Amity all over China. The Amity Foundation receives funds from partners abroad as well as in Hong Kong and mainland China.