

Inaugural Poverty Alleviation Symposium Proclamation
By Wang Foundation and Tsinghua University

Whereas,

Tsinghua University enjoys a distinguished history of advancing international education as expressed in its curriculum and programs, the research of its faculty, and its support of students and scholars engaged in international exchange;

and whereas,

Tsinghua University has recently prioritized its focus and resources on addressing the critical global issues of our time, including the alleviation of poverty, as expressed in the creation of its Office for Educational Poverty Alleviation;

and whereas,

Wang Foundation advances international exchange and service learning as key elements in poverty alleviation, believing a more just and peace-filled world is attainable through college students engaging cross culturally in service learning projects;

and whereas,

Wang Foundation and Tsinghua University share a common vision that students in both China and the United States must enhance their capacity to communicate effectively across cultural and linguistic boundaries and to work together in greater numbers to alleviate poverty;

and whereas,

Wang Foundation and Tsinghua University have partnered to develop initiatives that link poverty alleviation to international education, service learning, and distance education, as expressed in the successful launching of the 2006 and 2007 Summer Service Learning Programs that enabled over 900 students and faculty from Tsinghua University and 16 U.S. institutions to work hand-in-hand in delivering educational resources to some of China's poorest areas;

Therefore, be it resolved, that on this 15th day of November, 2007, Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation issue the following proclamations:

First,

Wang Foundation and Tsinghua University will work collaboratively to strengthen the Summer Service Learning Program model, enhance its positive impact on the lives of poor people, and develop a long range plan for sustainable growth in both the number of students who participate, and in the sites they serve, and in the duration of their service.

Second,

Wang Foundation will maintain its exclusive status as a sole conduit for all U.S. participants in future Service Learning Programs; and to meet rapidly growing participant demand, it will begin establishing higher eligibility requirements for acceptance into the program, including linguistic and cultural preparation.

Third,

Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation will work collaboratively to develop the Mandarin and English Language Teachers Training Institute, initially as the linguistic and cultural preparatory program for future Service Learning Program participants, and eventually as the sustaining power of all future poverty alleviation initiatives;

Fourth,

Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation will collaborate to assist domestic and international business enterprises in long range strategic planning of their interests in the China market in order to enhance their role in poverty alleviation.

Fifth,

Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation will seek private sector support in China and the U.S so as to expand and strengthen the Service Learning Programs 's capacity to alleviate poverty;

And finally,

Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation will seek support from the Chinese government to provide work-study scholarships for U.S. students who will teach English in China while they study Chinese culture/language. To initiate this advocacy effort, Wang Foundation is prepared to help sustain and expand the Service Learning Program, on the condition that Tsinghua University will secure work-study scholarships with support from China's State Council. This scholarship program will be designated for U.S. students who will teach English while studying in China, and who will participate in the Tsinghua University/Wang Foundation's expanded Service Learning Program.