

Tsinghua University Vice President Ke Gong and

University of Washington President Meet to Discuss Poverty Alleviation Project

Invited by China's Association of International Exchanges, President Mark A. Emmert of the University of Washington and Dr. and Mrs. Peter Wang of the Wang Foundation from the United States visited Tsinghua University on June 16, 2006. Tsinghua University Vice President Ke Gong met with the party of four from the U.S. and discussed collaborations between the two universities in the Poverty Alleviation Project, IT technology, global public health, as well as distance-learning programs in Chinese language, and reached preliminary understanding.

During the meeting, Vice President Ke Gong introduced the Tsinghua Poverty Alleviation Project to the American guests. He said, Tsinghua University is a comprehensive, "open" university, and has contributed selflessly to the Chinese society and to the world community of its educational and technological resources. Tsinghua was the first in China to establish the College of Continuing Education, and set up over 100 e-learning centers in China's many poor areas including Tibet and Qinghai Province. Gong pointed out that in today's global society, with the advanced educational and financial support from the international community, the Tsinghua Poverty Alleviation Project will be significantly strengthened and can promise greater success in the future. Gong hopes that President Emmert's visit to Tsinghua will encourage such collaborations between higher education institutions in both countries. Additionally, Gong also provided general information about Tsinghua University's achievements in areas of Poverty Alleviation, IT development, and public health, etc. He also briefed the guests about Tsinghua's current science research and education funding resources.

President Emmert reacted positively to the introduction, pointing out that Tsinghua University and University of Washington have similar education purposes, missions, and systems, hence share the necessary conditions for collaborations. As one of the top public universities in the U.S., University of Washington is among the best in information science and global public health fields, and is interested in collaborating with Tsinghua University in these areas. He is personally very supportive of Tsinghua's Poverty Alleviation Project; as a matter of fact, University of Washington is one of the ten American universities actively participating in the summer service-learning program this year.

Visiting with President Emmert are Dr. Peter Wang and his wife, Dr. Huifang Luo, founders of the Wang Foundation in the U.S. The Foundation's main mission is to promote cultural and educational exchanges between China and the U.S. Dr. Wang believes that the two countries are both significant powers in the world. If the two countries join hands they will contribute tremendously to world peace and stability. In order to eliminate misunderstanding and increase collaboration, we must increase interaction and understanding between the two peoples, especially our young generations. Presently, the Wang Foundation is a co-sponsor of Tsinghua's Poverty Alleviation Project.

Among those present at this meeting were Deputy Principle, Feiyu Kang, and Associate Dean of the College of Continuing Education, Kangsheng Wu, of Tsinghua University.