

3RD OF NOVEMBER 2023

Online chat: Jean Qin, ICDP China leader, Tatiana and Lailah from ICDP

OVERVIEW

Jean gave a brief overview of developments in China.

There are 2000 facilitators in Yunnan province, and they work in 5 project sites; each site has minimum of two trainers, some have up to 4 trainers. There are 20 trainers in total.

The ICDP system of trainers supporting facilitators works very well in China, as trainers help motivate and maintain the work of facilitators in each project area and on the other hand, trainers themselves are provided support by ICDP China by travelling to meetings held in Kunming which are organized by ICDP China for that purpose. In addition, there are also direct meetings between ICDP China and facilitators, which are mainly online. But it is also aimed for facilitators to meet together in person, as a way of encouraging sharing and mutual support. The exchanges that take place at these meetings are very important to maintain enthusiasm and motivation at all levels.

Outside Yunnan ICDP China have developed ICDP in two other areas.

Facilitators who work in these areas in the west and north of the country, find it harder to meet as they tend to live far from each other and from ICDP China. However, they receive online support from ICDP China online and occasionally through visits in person.

ICDP WITH MINORITY GROUPS: In 2023, ICDP implementation was very successful with minority groups living in different parts of the Yunnan province.

There are 10 minority groups and each group has its own dialect. Therefore, ICDP was adapted to meet these language needs.

The facilitators met many family situations where parents leave their homes in order to find work which is often only available far away from their villages and as a consequence, it is left to the grandmothers to bring up the children. For that reason, many grandmothers received ICDP training over the years. Jean explained that facilitators found grandmothers receptive to the first dialogue, but they were a bit at a loss with the second dialogue – they felt that their own lack of education made it hard to mediate meaning. She asked for advice and

Lailah gave her many ideas of how grandmothers could mediate meaning, by talking about their own life experiences, from their childhoods or adulthoods, or by talking about things they are good at doing or have knowledge about (plants, animals, cooking), or sharing stories they were told when they were little, or describing what their environments and life was like in the past, or simply inventing stories, including using finger puppets, etc. which Jean found very useful.

WORKSOHP IN LONDON: Jean asked whether ICDP could organize a workshop in London, for a small group of colleagues from China, who could actually finance it. The idea is to bring a small group of people, mainly leadership from kindergartens, and other professionals who have shown interest in travelling to London to learn about the history of ICDP, its worldwide developments and to meet Lailah. Tatiana suggested that the workshop could take place at Ashridge house as that is a nice venue we used before successfully, usually appreciated by guests from abroad. Lailah suggested perhaps inviting also Michelle MacDonald who lives in England but has worked in Lebanon, to give an overview of ICDP in action with refugee families. Also, it could perhaps be interesting for the group to meet the professor Rita Changla, who has been promoting ICDP to her students at the University of Bath. After the visit to England, the group could find it interesting to go to a Scandinavian country to learn about ICDP in kindergartens by visiting one or two kindergartens to experience ICDP in practice. Jean suggested Finland perhaps. It was decided to keep in touch and make plans for these visits to take place next year.