

Margaret Walsh, AITECE Australia Teacher Coordinator, November 2012

AITECE AUSTRALIA TEACHING Program 2012

"Everyone is entitled to an education" - Confucius

When recently looking at old photos of my students whom I was teaching at Sichuan International University in Chongqing in the 90s, I was reminded of the many happy times with these enthusiastic and gifted young people. Some of them have become teachers themselves now. One, Wang Jian (Daniel) was teaching at SISU when I visited there in 2007. What a treat it was to see him so competent in the classroom, so skilled in the English Language. Our AITECE program has enabled many such young students in China to develop their potential in the various careers they have chosen.

Our current AITECE teachers in China, Peter Downs in Changchun, Pat Lynch, Francis Cammiade and Greg McEnnally at SISU, Chongqing; and Ernest Cheung, are generously continuing the work of AITECE, not only by assisting the students p-with proficiency in the English Language but with care and support in their personal lives as well. Hopefully, others will be able to contribute to our AITECE Teacher Program. Many express interest and make application; and some manage to see their way clear to follow their desire. Five candidates hope to secure placements at Universities for the 2013 March intake. We wish them every success.

Meanwhile, past teachers enjoy the friendship that comes from having taught in China. A Yum Cha lunch for the "Year of the Dragon" earlier this year (*picture below*) saw twenty of us share very vivid memories of our students and experiences in China. Ray O'Donoghue was one of these teachers and we have fond thoughts of Ray now as he endures the illness which comes with aging. His contribution to educating his students over the eight years he was in China was indeed magnificent. In March this year it was good to have Hugh MacMahon, the Manager of AITECE HK pay us a visit. Hugh, and Rita Chiu the Secretary, assist our teachers greatly in their preparation, and while they are in China.

Thank you to our AITECE Australia here in Sydney, and to all our teachers and friends, for your support and efforts to recruit teachers to continue our fostering of AITECE ideals. Hope to see you at our next Yum Cha.



Margaret M Walsh, Teacher Coordinator