

# About the Asia Foreign Study Scholarship

## Background

The Boao Forum for Asia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the China Scholarship Council co-organized, under the approval of the State Council of China, Meeting of Initiators for the Education Forum for Asia-Beijing was held on the December 5-6, 2003, at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Beijing. The Beijing Municipal Government hosted the meeting. There were 95 attendees, 45 of whom were overseas delegates from 18 countries and regions: Australia, Brunei, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, the USA, Denmark, Vietnam, Malaysia, the UK, New Zealand, Macao, and Nepal. The 7 initiators, including former heads of state and government, are H.E. Mr. Fidel Ramos, former President of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Kirti Nidhi Bista, former Prime Minister of Nepal, H.E. Mr. Lee Soo-Sung, former Premier of Korea, H.E. Ms. Jenny Shipley, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, H.E. Mr. Sergey Terechshenko, former Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. Sheldon Shaeffer, Director, UNESCO Bangkok, Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and Mr. Vitor Ng, chairman of Macao Foundation, Macao. They co-signed "The Initiative" proposing the launch of Education Forum for Asia as a platform for education exchange and cooperation among Asian countries and regions. The Initiative has garnered appreciation and support from the meeting's participants and the Chinese government.

As part of the Initiative for Education Forum for Asia, a proposal for an "Asian Scholarship" was put forth by China's Ministry of Education and the China Scholarship Council. The proposal was well received by the Initiators and other forum participants.

## Objective

The Asia Foreign Study Scholarship Program aims to encourage students and scholars throughout Asia to participate in frequent exchanges within the region in order to promote greater international mutual understanding and cooperation. Further, the program works to create new opportunities for student youth as a way of improving the overall quality of education in Asia. Every Asia Foreign Study Scholarship student serves as an ambassador for the exchange of education and culture among Asian countries.

## Progress Attained

China's Ministry of Education, the proposal producer, acts as a prime contributor by annually allocating the funding for 20 full scholarships. The Beijing Education Commission and Peking University have also committed themselves to contribute additional funds. The Beijing Education Commission is to provide 10 full scholarships, while Peking University will contribute 5. The Beijing Topeak Group, the co-host of the Organizing Committee of the Education Forum for Asia, has offered to sponsor 10 additional scholarships. During the Education Forum for Asia 2004 AC, Beijing Film Academy and Harbin Institute of Technology contributed to 2 scholarships respectively for students pursuing Master's degrees. With the aforementioned allocation of

funding, the organizing committee of the Education Forum for Asia has requested that the China Scholarship Council assist in preparation of the appropriate “Regulations on the Management of the Asian Scholarship” to move forward the mobilization of this scholarship program.

## **Contributions**

### **Contribution Methods**

#### **Scholarship Contribution**

Two levels of scholarship contributions may be made: a full scholarship contribution (i.e. tuition waiver, registration fee, accommodation, and living stipend) or a partial scholarship contribution (i.e. tuition waiver and registration fee). Features of a partial scholarship may vary. Contributions may specify fields of study, applicant qualifications, etc.

#### **Monetary Contribution**

If a contributor would prefer to make a monetary contribution, Education Forum for Asia and the China Scholarship Council, responsible for the management of this project, shall jointly design appropriate programs to fit the shared hopes and expectations of contributors and applicants.

### **Sources of Contributions**

Government

Enterprises, International Organizations, and Educational Institutes

Schools

Individuals

### **Contributor Rights and Privileges**

Contributors may examine student application materials and have the right to refuse any student who does not meet required standards.

Contributors take priority in the nomination of scholarship candidates.

Contributors will enjoy preferential treatment at all Education Forum for Asia events and activities.

The Education Forum for Asia shall deliver support, facilities and convenience to scholarship contributors by providing the appropriate development, administration, and evaluation structures of the Asia Foreign Study Scholarship Program.

### **Future Expectations**

The future sustainable development of education in Asia necessitates the combined efforts of all responsible parties. To facilitate the growth and progress of this program, we believe that it is important to form new partnerships with individuals and institutes that may help further develop our goals and fulfill some of the needs of educational advancement in Asia. Along with existing scholarships and grants, the Education Forum for Asia seeks to further identify and work with outside institutes to create effective methods of funding scholarship opportunities in international study and to enhance further academic communication.