



The Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population

NEWS LETTER

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“Red Bread” Chinese AIDS Orphans Art Exhibition

Hon. Yasuo Fukuda, Honorary Chair of JPPF, and Hon. Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Attend the Opening Ceremony

From 11 to 14 December, the “Red Bread” Chinese AIDS Orphans Art Exhibition was held in Japan-China Friendship Center Art Museum (Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo). The exhibition was organized by the Hong Kongese NGO Chi Heng Foundation and the Rotary Club of Tokyo Setagaya Central, with the support of the cultural department of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Japan and the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA), which serves as the secretariat for JPPF.



Established in 1998, the Chi Heng Foundation has been supporting orphans whose parents died of AIDS mainly from blood trading and children infected by HIV from their mothers. Since 2002 the foundation has supported more than 20,000 children in municipalities in 15 provinces in China. It is the largest AIDS-related NGO and charity organization in China with the longest history of supporting children impacted by AIDS.

Mr. Chung To, the foundation’s founder and chairperson, received a bachelor’s from Columbia University and a master’s degrees from Harvard University, before pursuing his career in major U.S. and European banks in New York and Hong Kong. When Mr. To visited a farming village in Henan Province during a field trip in 1995, he witnessed the hopelessness in which the AIDS orphans were living. “The world could live with one less investment banker, but it will be too late if I don’t help the AIDS orphans!” he thought and established the Chi Heng Foundation.

Many children impacted by AIDS experience social stigma and are living in harsh conditions. The foundation is working not only to improve their living conditions and support them in education, but also to provide psychological support through art counseling. The exhibition of artworks by children impacted by AIDS is one of the foundation’s undertakings and became the first of its kind held in Japan.

At the opening ceremony on 11 December, Mr. To and Ms. Houju Aizawa (President of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Setagaya Central) delivered addresses representing the organizers. H.E. Yasuo Fukuda (Chair of APDA and former Prime Minister of Japan), Hon. Toshiko Abe (State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Executive Director of JPPF), and Mr. Yuji Miyamoto (former Japanese ambassador to the People’s Republic of China) joined the



H.E. Yasuo Fukuda, Honorary Chair of JPPF (left), and Mr. Chung To, Chair of the Chi Heng Foundation (left at the back)

organizers in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The children who created the artworks then presented Hon. Fukuda with a painting in Indian ink titled, "Prayer for Peace".



Hon. Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs (left), and Ms. Houju Aizawa, President of the Rotary Club of Tokyo Setagaya Central (right)

In his address, Hon. Fukuda showed his respect for the work carried out by Mr. To and his colleagues, and expressed hopes that these activities will become more widely known and serve as a bridge between Japan and China. He said that APDA, an organization involved in the issues of population and development, will continue to cooperate with the foundation.

The art museum was bustling with visitors captivated by the dreams, vigor, and hopes for a brighter future that were depicted in the artworks done in a variety of colors and tones chosen by the individual artists.



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