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## MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Between the State Education Commission of China and UNESCO concerning the International Research and Training Center for Rural Education

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the State Education Commission of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) affirm our joint intention to establish the International Research and Training Center for Rural Education ("the Center"). The Center will become operational when the memorandum is signed by both parties committing themselves to agree upon specifications of their respective tasks.

### PREAMBLE

Recognizing the importance of rural education as an effective means to achieve socio-economic development in the rural areas by bringing about positive changes in the thinking and behavior of rural people, who make up the majority of the world's population and the population of the developing countries, and to achieve the goals of education for all,

Considering that the particular features of rural education in terms of its modes of social management, teaching methods and curriculum development call for special research, training, pilot projects and other developmental activities,

Noting the unique role that China, a country with the world's largest rural population, can play to serve the international community by sharing and exchanging its useful experiences in the development of rural education,

Recalling the decision of UNESCO'S General Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session, to adopt a resolution (DR 159) for the establishment of an international center for rural education, in adherence to the high priority UNESCO has given to the rural areas,

State Education Commission and UNESCO have agreed as follows:

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## 1. FUNCTIONS

1.1 The functions of the Center shall be:

(a) promote international research and development of methods and techniques of rural education;

(b) promote consultation and cooperation among Member States by devising policies and strategies in the areas of human resource development for rural areas;

(c) create a wide network for exchange of academic and technical information in the field of rural education among experts in various countries;

(d) coordinate the cooperative research activities and to provide facilities for laboratory research and field work to international experts;

(e) organize international training workshops, seminars, on special subjects and provide fellowships to international researchers;

(f) produce and disseminate publications and materials on the results of the various research projects undertaken by the Center.

1.2 The capacity to fulfill the above-mentioned functions depends upon the extent of international financial support to be mobilized.

## 2. COMMITMENTS

2.1 UNESCO shall:

(a) provide the essential start up equipment as requested by the State Education Commission for the effective operation of the Center;

(b) provide funds for the series of workshops to be organized at and by the Center;

(c) make known to the international community the establishment of the Center and encourage the positive participation and cooperation by Member States in the Center's activities;

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(d) regularly provide each biennium, with the approval of the General Conference, research and training projects of the Center and regular stream of information on academic and technological developments in the field of rural education, in and among Member States;

(e) undertake occasional missions for evaluation and conduct annual review on the Center's performance, in collaboration with representatives of the State Education Commission and donor agencies;

(f) facilitate the recruitment of international experts, such as UN Volunteers (JNVs), Associate Experts and others to work as rural education advisers or short-term consultants, as deemed necessary for the effective planning and implementation of the Center's activities;

(g) sit as ex officio advisers of the Center;

(h) seek wide support from bilateral and multilateral donors and UN agencies, as well as voluntary contributions from Member States, for the development of the Center's research and training programs.

## 2.2 The State Education Commission shall:

(a) provide the necessary buildings and physical facilities for conference, library and accommodation of international participants, and cover all recurrent costs of the Center as may occur;

(b) undertake administrative and management responsibilities and costs of the Center, including the recruitment of administrative personnel on local basis;

(c) engage the Center staff among local and international experts in rural education, appoint the Director and the Deputy-Director of the Center in consultation with UNESCO;

(d) launch research, training and pilot projects in the field of rural education, the result of which shall be widely disseminated among Member States;

(e) submit every year a periodic report to the Director-General of UNESCO, on the progress and developments of the Center's activities.

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(f) invite as advisers the representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, representatives from the donor agencies, and distinguished scientists, policy makers and educators in the field of rural education and development from local and around the world;

(g) apply with regard to all participants and experts who come to the Center at the invitation of UNESCO from outside the country, the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies.

### 3. TIME FRAME AND INSTITUTIONAL REGULATIONS

3.1 This memorandum of agreement between the State Education Commission and UNESCO shall come into force upon its signature by the two parties and will remain in force for a period of four years after which it will be automatically renewed if there is no disaccord between the two parties.

3.2 Either party may, on six months prior written notice, terminate this agreement in advance of its normal expiration or request the renegotiation of its provisions by agreement between the State Education Commission and UNESCO.

3.3 Each party agrees to release and hold the other harmless from and against any claims, damages, liability or costs to the extent that such claims, damages, liability or costs arise from the negligent or willful acts or omissions of the Center, its staff or agents. Each party agrees that it shall honor and abide by the effective formal regulations of the other party to the full extent that it is possible without contravening its own formal regulations; any matter where regulations are in apparent or real conflict shall be worked out, as needed, by appropriate representatives from each party.

3.4 The official title of the Center shall be named "International Research and Training Center for Rural Education" and shall be an institution affiliated to UNESCO. Publications and materials produced or any other work produced by the Center may bear the name of UNESCO, indicating the Center's affiliated status.

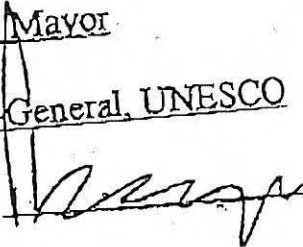
This memorandum of agreement is written in duplicate in English and Chinese, each version being equally authentic.

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For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization  
(UNESCO):

NAME: Federico Mayor

TITLE: Director General, UNESCO

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 8 November 1994

For the State Education Commission  
People's Republic of China

NAME: Wei Yu

TITLE: Vice Minister

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 8 November 1994