



# Child Research Net (CRN) Newsletter vol.5

February 2011

Child Science Research Institute  
<http://www.childresearch.net>



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### CRN Newsletter Vol.5 focuses on the Sixth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia.

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## Season's Greetings

In 2011, CRN will mark its sixteenth year. It all started at an international conference in Bergen, Norway in 1992 with talk of using the internet to exchange ideas on children's issues to create a better future. With the support of Benesse Corporation, CRN launched its Japanese- and English-language sites in 1996, seeking to reach out beyond Japan to the world. CRN's Chinese-language site started up in 2005. How time has flown since then! In 2010, we renewed our Japanese website to enhance usability. Receiving considerable attention from abroad in the past fifteen years, we have also strengthened our ties with international organizations. CRN has grown and come this far, owing to your cooperation and support. Thank you from all of us at CRN.

CRN also stepped up its activities abroad. In May, I delivered a lecture at Chinju National University of Education, Chinju, South Korea, as part of plans to establish a Child Science Research Institute. In July, CRN took part in the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA) conference, "Early Childhood Education in a Changing World," in Hangzhou, China. In November, CRN also co-sponsored the Sixth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia at China Women's University in Beijing.

As for activities in Japan, conferences of the Japanese Society of Baby Science and Japanese Society

of Child Science, in July and October, respectively, were important events for CRN. The Japanese Society of Child Science welcomed Dr. Sarah L. Friedman, a psychologist formerly with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the United States and known for her research on child development and child care. She gave lectures at Ochanomizu University, Konan Women's University, Mukogawa Women's University, NHK Broadcasting Culture Research Institute, and the 5th Anniversary Commemorative Symposium of the Benesse Institute for the Child Sciences and Parenting.

CRN will continue these efforts and unite our strengths to provide ever relevant content. We would like to ask for your continued guidance and support in 2011 as well. Thank you and best wishes for 2011.



**Noboru Kobayashi**  
Director, Child Research Net

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## What is Child Research Net (CRN) ?

CRN is an internet-based research institute for Kodomogaku or Child Science, the interdisciplinary study of children. Through the Internet, symposia, lectures, playshops and other activities, we bring together researchers and research organizations from around the world to resolve children's issues.

### What is on the CRN website?

CRN's website offers extensive information and data in papers, reports, and case studies on education, child-rearing, and related fields, primarily in Japan and other East Asian countries. This makes it a great site for any questions or problems regarding children. Early Childhood Education (ECEC) around the World, a new feature from 2009, is receiving much international interest now.

Sign up to receive CRN's monthly e-mail magazine! This magazine features articles that are posted biweekly on CRN's English website. Receive timely news in a convenient fashion (once a month, irregular).

# Report on the Sixth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia

November 23, 24, 2010 China Women's University, Beijing, China

Coordinating Preschool and Elementary School – The Relation between Equality of Education and Quality

## What is the Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia?

The Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia, inaugurated in 2007, is sponsored by CRN to promote academic exchange and greater international understanding of Child Science. At conferences, scholars and professionals in East Asia present their research on child care and education for mutual discussion and exchange.

On November 23-24, Child Research Net (CRN) and China Women's University co-hosted the Sixth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia in Beijing, the fourth such symposium in China. The latest research from China and Japan was presented in a series of seven lectures and two workshops on "Coordinating Preschool and Elementary School – The Relation between Equality of Education and Quality." In the afternoon of Day 2, a public symposium was given for parents and teachers. The Japan Good Toy Exhibition, held during the conference, displayed a selection of "good toys" from Japan, which visitors could touch and play with. With attendance on both days at nearly 1500, the conference was indeed an enthusiastic exchange of views.

## Day 1 November 23, 2010

**Speakers:** Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, CRN Director, Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo; Jiaxiong Zhu, Professor, East China Normal University; Yoichi Sakakihara, Professor, Ochanomizu University; Xiaoxia Feng, Professor, Beijing Normal University; Kiyomi Akita, Professor, University of Tokyo; Ping Zou, Director, Dadi Early-Children Education Group, Beijing \*In order of presentation

### Heredity and Culture: Two Forms of Information that Affect Child Development



▲ Noboru Kobayashi

Genetic and cultural information both affect child development and growth. Genetic information evolves over a long span of time compared with the faster pace of cultural information. When designing future education, it is important to consider both and the mechanisms involved.

### Considerations on the Transition from Preschool to Elementary School



▲ Jiaxiong Zhu

From 1990-1994, UNICEF and China's Ministry of Education conducted joint research on the transition from preschool to elementary school, which contributed to curriculum reform in both. Today, after twenty years, what issues remain? Dr. Zhu stressed equality of education and equal access to educational resources.

### The First Graders' Problem and Developmental Disabilities



▲ Yoichi Sakakihara

What is the cause of the "First Graders' Problem" in Japanese education today, which can make the transition to first grade so difficult? How does the present situation differ from the past? This talk considered the relation between the "first graders' problem," "children who need support," and "developmental disabilities."

### Equality of Opportunity in Compulsory Education and Preparation for Entering School



▲ Xiaoxia Feng

Equal opportunity in compulsory education is a major issue in China today, but research indicates that unequal access to preschool education results in disparity in school preparation and later academic performance. Dr. Feng stressed the need for measures at the preschool stage.

### Education from Preschool to Elementary School: The Cultural Shift Based on Experiences of Children, Parents and Teachers



▲ Kiyomi Akita

How do children, parents, and teachers experience the shift from preschool to elementary school culture? This presentation introduced case studies on the approach of national and regional governments and preschools, differences, current issues, and actual programs in effect.

### Workshop ①

### Sharing Resources, Coordinating the Passage from Preschool to Elementary School, and Helping Preschoolers Better Adapt to Elementary School



▲ Ping Zou

This workshop, led by Ping Zou, Director, Dadi Early-Children Education Group in Beijing, introduced research on kindergarten models that integrate preschool and elementary education and help children make this important transition. Teachers and parents also shared their views on kindergarten education.

## Day 2 November 24, 2010

Yan Zhang, Professor, Beijing Normal University; Lian Wang, Associate Professor, China Women's University; Nianli Zhou, Associate Professor, East China Normal University; Fang Wan, Professor; Jiaxiong Zhu, Professor, East China Normal University; Yoichi Sakakihara, Professor, Ochanomizu University \*In order of presentation

### Can Cities Provide Fundamental Pre-school Education for Migrants? Mass Education as the Way to Realize Equality of Education



▲ Yan Zhang

As rural Chinese are drawn to cities in search of work, the demand for preschool education for the children of these migrant workers has grown. With the government unable to adequately respond, unofficial preschools are springing up. NPOs are proposed as a third way and the key to equal education. Together,

parents, children, and teachers can provide education for migrant preschoolers.

### A Survey of Educational Expectations of Parents with Migrant Children and Current Education: Cases of Beijing and Surrounding Villages



▲ Lian Wang

The lecture reported on "A Survey of Educational Expectations of Parents with Migrant Children and Current Education: Cases of Beijing and Surrounding Villages." One goal of equal education is quality preschool education for migrant children, and support for parents is also necessary to

improve the educational environment at home.

### Workshop ②

### Considerations on Equality of Preschool Education: A Survey of 1000 Children between 37 and 48 Months in Hunan Province



▲ Nianli Zhou

A survey of parents and children between 37 and 48 months in Hunan Province indicates clear gaps between urban and rural areas in child development, particularly, in linguistic, cognitive, and physical skills as well as the effect of family economic power and educational background. Proposing support

to relieve rural poverty, Min Zou, China's Women's University, and Lina Shi, East China Normal University, reported on "A Survey on Migrant Children" and "Integrated Education for Children with Disabilities," respectively, and discussed equality in education from various perspectives.

### Symposium on Child Raising

A public symposium on raising children was held for parents and preschool teachers. Professors Fang Wan and Jiaxiong Zhu lectured on food education and early childhood development, respectively, and joined by

Professor Yoichi Sakakihara, answered questions from the audience. A lively exchange ensued. Besides questions about early education and scholastic ability, parents asked about colds, allergies and other health issues.



◀ Symposium

### Good Toy Exhibition

The Japan Good Toy Exhibition, held in the same building, was the third in China, following the first and second in Child Science Exchange Programs in East Asia in Hangzhou and Shanghai. Curated by Chihiro Tada, Director of the Tokyo Toy Museum, the selection was based on five categories integral to physical and mental development: imagination, curiosity about nature and science, artistic and musical sensitivity, physical exercise, and communication. It attracted educators, researchers, and students from all over China, who enjoyed playing with the toys themselves.



◀ Good Toy Exhibition

In 2010, CRN's activities succeeded in bridging the differences of language and culture between Japan and China and achieving a deeper exchange in Child Science in East Asia. The theme in 2010, coordinating preschool and elementary school, highlighted some differences between Japan and China and served as an opportunity to reflect on one's own country through the contrast. CRN will continue to study children's issues and pursue exchange through its various programs to improve the lives of children around the world.

We hope that you will extend your guidance and support in 2011 as well.

## Academic Exchange

On October 2-3, 2010, the Seventh Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science was held on “Integrating Support for Children at Risk” at Kawagoe Civic Hall in Saitama. Keynote lectures were given on “Child Care and Child Development” by Dr. Sarah L. Friedman, Research Director, Health Research & Policy, Institute for Public Research, CNA Corporation in the U.S., and on “Oral and Dental Health and



Child Development” by Dr. Yuzo Takagi, Department of Pediatric Dentistry, Tokyo Medical and Dental University. These were followed by lectures and five symposia on a wide range of subjects.

◀ Annual Conference

## Publications

### Report on Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia Vol. 3 to be published in March 2011!

Reports on 2008 and 2009 conferences are available on-line for download in PDF format. (Japanese only)

<http://www.blog.crn.or.jp/about/publication.html#2>

Selected lectures are posted on the English website.

<http://www.childresearch.net/RESOURCE/PRESEN/index.html>



Vol.1



Vol.2



Vol.3

## CRN History

1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Launches Japanese and English websites</li> <li>•Symposium “Children in Today’s Multi-media Society”</li> </ul>
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Symposium “Children’s Use of Multi-media to Make Friends”</li> <li>•Dr. Jane Goodall lectures on “Chimpanzees and the Natural Environment”</li> <li>•Dr. Jay Belsky lectures on “Child Development and Family Research”</li> </ul>
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•International Symposium “Evolution of Child Development in the Multimedia Environment”</li> <li>•Dr. Jane Goodall lectures on “Chimpanzees and the Natural Environment”</li> <li>•CRN website receives Silver Prize, Web Design Award</li> </ul>
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Open round-table discussion “Classroom Disorder and Discipline”</li> <li>•PLAYSHOP 1999 “PLAYFUL”</li> </ul>
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Open round-table discussion “How do Children Learn Social Aptitude and Rules?”</li> <li>•Publishes “Child Research Net”</li> <li>•PLAYSHOP 2000, “Feel the Media”</li> <li>•CRN International Symposium 2000, “The Child Care Paradox: Choices in Children’s Development”</li> <li>•Publishes “Do Child Raising Methods Affect Development?”</li> </ul>
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•PLAYSHOP 2001, “Winter’s Tale—Let’s Make a Playful Story”</li> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2001</li> <li>•Opens Nagayama Chi-kichi as a research center ( ~ 2002)</li> <li>•Publishes “Nagayama Chi-kichi: Experimental Research in Playing and Learning”</li> <li>•Sound Workshop ( ~ 2003 )</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•CRN training seminar for child care providers, “Thinking about the Quality of Day Care”</li> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2002</li> <li>•PLAYSHOP 2002, “Let’s Play in the Colorful Kingdom!”</li> <li>•Establishes Research Group on Child Science( ~ 2003 )</li> <li>•Media workshop sponsored by CRN Children’s Media Laboratory</li> <li>•Plans for Chi-kichi radio station</li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2003</li> <li>•Publishes “Child Science Research Report 2002”</li> <li>•Establishes Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Begins Media Kids Workshop( ~ 2004 )</li> </ul>
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2004</li> <li>•First Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Establishes the Child Science Essay Contest</li> <li>•Visits child research institutes in Beijing, China</li> </ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Launches Chinese-language website</li> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2005</li> <li>•Second Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Renewal of English-language website</li> <li>•Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, CRN Director, delivers a lecture in Shanghai at the invitation of the China Soong Ching Ling Foundation</li> </ul>
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN YEAR BOOK 2006</li> <li>•Holds session on food education at conference on children’s health in Changchun, China</li> <li>•Third Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Dr. Kobayashi delivers a lecture at symposium hosted by the Chinese government in Shanghai</li> </ul>
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN 10th Anniversary YEAR BOOK</li> <li>•CRN International Symposium for 10th Anniversary of CRN; “Children in Societies with a Declining Birthrate: The View of Child Science”</li> <li>•Fourth Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Inaugurates the First Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia, Shanghai, China</li> <li>•First Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia Conference and Exhibition in Changsha, China</li> </ul>
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Renewal of Japanese-language website</li> <li>•Second Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia, Tokyo, Japan</li> <li>•Inaugural issue of CRN Newsletter Vol. 1 in Japanese, Chinese, and English</li> <li>•Fifth Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Third Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia and Good Toy Exhibition in Hangzhou, China</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN Newsletter Vol. 2 in Japanese, Chinese, and English</li> <li>•Publishes “Report on Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia Vol. 1” in Japanese, Chinese, and English</li> <li>•Fourth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia, Tokyo, Japan</li> <li>•Fifth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia, Shanghai, China</li> <li>•Sixth Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> </ul>
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Publishes CRN Newsletter Vol. 3 in Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean</li> <li>•Publishes “Report on Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia Vol. 2” in Japanese, Chinese, and English</li> <li>•Dr. Noboru Kobayashi, CRN Director, delivers a lecture at Chinju National University of Education, Chinju, South Korea</li> <li>•Participates in the 11th Conference of the Pacific Early Childhood Education Research Association (PECERA); lecture by Dr. Kobayashi, CRN Director</li> <li>•Renewal of Japanese-language website</li> <li>•Seventh Annual Conference of the Japanese Society of Child Science</li> <li>•Publishes CRN Newsletter Vol.4 in Japanese</li> <li>•Sixth Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia and Good Toy Exhibition in Beijing, China</li> </ul>

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