

# The Seventh Child Science Exchange Program in East Asia

## What is High-Quality Early Childhood Education?

### — Child-Caring Design

◆October 21-22, 2011

◆Zhengzhou Infant Normal School, Zhengzhou, China



#### *Speakers and Presenters:*

**Noboru Kobayashi** (Director, CRN; Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo)

**Jiaxiong Zhu** (Professor, East China Normal University)

**Yoichi Sakakihara** (Deputy Director, CRN; Professor, Ochanomizu University)

**Xiangying Liu** (currently on the faculty of Fukuyama City University)

**Chihiro Tada** (Director, Tokyo Toy Museum)

**Liuling Zhang** (Director, the Kindergarten attached to Zhengzhou Infant Normal School)

**Fang-Hua Hsiao** (Asia University, Taiwan)

\* In order of presentation; titles and affiliations as of October 2011

### Day 1

#### **Child-Caring Design (CCD)**

**Noboru Kobayashi**

Child Caring Design (CCD) considers the design of activities, materials, and objects from the perspective of the child. The evolution of the brain shows that experiencing the joy of living is important for development of the mind and body. This perspective is central to Child Science.

#### **Preschool Education in China and Japan: Similarities and Differences**

**Jiaxiong Zhu**

While both systems value autonomy and play, there are a number of differences due to cultural factors. In Japan, proper etiquette is stressed and teachers rarely intervene in children's quarrels. In China, learning a particular skill, bilingual education, and good daily habits are stressed.

#### **What is High-Quality Child Care?**

**Yoichi Sakakihara**

The results of a cohort study by NICHD in the U.S. and a QOL survey conducted in four Asian countries by Professor Sakakihara provide new insight into the nature of high-quality childcare.







## Day 2

### Considering High-Quality Education: Current State and Future Issues of Preschool Education in Japan

**Xiangying Liu**

This presentation viewed the Japanese childcare system from the perspective of a Chinese specialist based on her personal experience with preschool and teaching at university in Japan.

### The Function of Toys in Preschool Education and Child Development

**Chihiro Tada**

Good toys are essential “nutrients” for the healthy development of the mind and body, and selection according to the child’s level of development is important. Images of the Tokyo Toy Museum and children playing in the aftermath of the earthquake made for a persuasive argument.

### Equal Access to Education for all Children to Lead a Happy Life

**Liuling Zhang**

The Convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees children’s rights and one of these is equal access to education. A number of unique efforts are now underway at kindergartens in Zhengzhou, China.

### The Design of Educational Activities and Motor Development in Children

**Fang-Hua Hsiao**

Motor development is an important consideration in the design of educational activities. Holding a pen and writing clearly and correctly were examples used to analyze the relation between motor development and design.

Many kindergarten directors in Henan Province attended the conference, and discussions were very conscious of the importance of preschool education, in line with recent policies of the Chinese government. Both Japanese and Chinese participants had much to learn from each other. CRN will continue to focus on Child Science to resolve the problems of children.

