

## **Education Advancement Fund International**

The Education Advancement Fund International (EAFI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) headquartered in Honolulu and directed by Professor Kate Zhou, Professor of Political Science, University of Hawaii. The main goal of EAFI is to empower underprivileged individuals, through education and training, to break through the societal and political constraints placed upon their personal autonomy. The organization was founded in 2002 and has been primarily focused in the Xiangxi Minority Autonomous Prefecture (West Hunan, China), which consists mostly of the Miao and Tu Jia minority peoples and in Yunnan Province (more than 25 kinds of minorities including Naxi and Tibetan people). In the past ten years, EAFI has developed new programs across China and Asia.

### **Initiatives**

1. **Female rural Entrepreneur Education Network:** set up a monthly forum for local entrepreneurs in Kunming, Yunnan, and Baojing, Hunan, to discuss the issues that affect local businesses. EAFI has a legal office in Kunming, Yunnan and will have a local representative to organize the forum. EAFI's purpose is to empower rural women to achieve their potential, enabling them to access work opportunities and become self-sufficient and independent adults. EAFI raised \$35,000 to help local female women to start small business.
2. In 2011, EAFI set up an international conference on land rights, inviting researchers and policymakers from former and existing socialist countries including North Korea and Vietnam to discuss land issues (Cato provides travel for scholars and government officials from Vietnam and North Korea). The goal of the conference would be to influence the countries resisting grassroots reform by using successful examples of local land rights initiatives. EAFI raised \$20,000 for this conference.

3. **EAFI has set up a research team** in China to write papers on local land rights initiatives and private education programs. EAFI is working with local governments in Baojing, Kunmin, Huairan and Sichuan province to study local experiments on land use rights for farmers. EAFI donated more than \$30,000 to pay for the field trip for graduate students and researchers.
4. **Annual Winter Institute on the Rule of Law.** Each year EAFI selects a number of program participants to attend an annual Rule of Law Winter Institute in Hawaii. (More than 260 Chinese high school and university students and 20 teachers participated in these programs in 2005-2016). After establishing the basic ideas underlying the rule of law, we have used Chinese legal cases to show, among other rule of law issues, why it is legally wrong for local governments to force people off their land and homes without proper compensation. As these issues cannot be openly discussed in China, discussions about them spark keen interest among participating Chinese students. EAFI raised more than \$60,000 to invite speakers and students to attend the winter rule of law camp.
5. **Set up partner schools in the USA to send Chinese students to the USA and American students to China.** EAFI received congressional recognition in 2010. EAFI funded more than \$70,000 to make this exchange possible for more than 20 schools in China and 20 school in the USA.
6. **Help Princeton in Asia set up training program in Jishou in 2004, China.** Every year 12 Princeton students and PIA leaders go to train village English teachers for 6 weeks. The program has run more than 15 years. 350 Princeton University students attended the program in rural Hunan. This effort has given Princeton University students the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of rural minority Chinese. EAFI spent \$10,000 to help local students to attend the Princeton Program.
7. **Help Punahou students to set up a sister school in Baojing, rural Hunan, China.** Every other summer 30 students and two teachers went there to help minority students. About 370 Punahou students travelled to Baojing, in rural

Hunan Province. The program ended in 2015. EAFI donated \$50,000 to help the local education department in rural China to make sure that the Punahou service learning program was successful. There are three schools in rural Hunan, one of them was set up by an English Catholic Church in 1915.

8. **Providing more than \$250,000 in scholarships to rural students in China since 2004. 20 students came to Punahou to attend summer school. One student from rural Hunan, Jimmy Chen, graduated from Punahou and is now studying at Harvard U.**
9. **Online tutor network:** EAFI has a small team of American volunteers to teach English online for rural schools. Annual cost is about \$15,000.
10. **Free lunch program in Baojing, Hunan, China.** With the support of Barbara Sue White from Princeton, EAFI provides free lunch for more than 400 students since 2003. The Free lunch program provided lunch money for Baojing minority students. The annual budget is about \$5000.
11. **Support** an art school in Shenzhen, Guangdong dedicated to helping disabled students gain an art education. **It is a lamentable situation that disabled Chinese children are not permitted to attend school.** Thus, there is a compelling need to establish schools to help educate and nurture such disabled students, so that steps are taken to secure their future. Presently in China, there is a single private art school for disabled students in Shenzhen, but the waiting list for admission is long. EAFI has been working with the school to admit rural students to develop their artistic talents, enabling them to become independent through developing their skills creating handicrafts and other applications. Donation to buy the art from students was \$1000 in 2017.
12. Working with Hongkong New Seedling International Cultural Exchange Institute to set up international classrooms for 100 schools in China and Hong Kong so that students can be exposed to American curriculum. Helped this group to send 3000 students to visit Hawaii and participate in youth art performance for 10 years. The institute has offices across China providing services to quality students for college admission all over the world. The group will send 80 high school students to study in Hawaii.

13. We have been working closely with Hillsdale College in the past 10 years. The college has provided all its charter school curriculum to EAFI.
14. **Dr. Kate Zhou is an international education consultant for Iolani School international boarding program.**
15. **Working with Xinhua Education Group (a private training school) to promote training in high school and international education in Beijing and Hefei. <http://www.xhe.cn/>**
16. **American Babies Group in Beijing (5000 American Born children) has come to do short term training and will send 100 per year to Hawaii to study.**
17. **16. Partner schools in China:**
  - Wuhan Foreign Language School (English International School)**
  - Wuhan Huashi Experimental Private School**
  - Dawu School (Henan)**
  - Taikang International School (Jiangsu)**

**The Second Foreign Language School Affiliated to  
Shanghai Normal University (Shanghai) 20 students  
Beijing No. 25 Middle School 20 per year  
Kunming Third Middle School 8 students  
Minority Middle School (Baojing, Hunan) 6  
Suzhou Middle School (Jiangsu) 28  
Shaoxin Middle School (Jiangsu) 15  
Guanghua Middle School (Shenzhen) 100  
Shenzhen Senior Middle School 20  
Yuhua International school (Changsha) 20**

**All Chinese schools are willing to provide places for American minority students.**

EAFI was awarded the 2006 TEMPLETON FREEDOM Prize for Social Entrepreneurship for its Small Loan Initiative for Rural Women in Xiangxi, China, a program to empower poor women through education, training, and small-business loans. The fundamental principle guiding the wide variety of EAFI projects is: *the empowerment of individuals to choose their own destiny by providing and assisting with access to education, small loans/entrepreneurship, information and laws, regarding freedom of mobility, land use rights, and the right to be born.*

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**IRS 501(3) status:** EAFI is a Sec. 501(c)(3) organization; Employer ID Number (EIN), 41-2068745. EAFI is also formally registered in Yunnan Province, China. But it was cancelled by the government due to the involvement of helping rural families to escape the one child per family policy in 2010.