

China Youth and Children Research Center  
A Childwatch International Research Network  
Consultancy by Professor Irene Rizzini  
Beijing, June 20 - 23, 2006

Consultancy activities:

June 20, 2006:

**First meetings:**

Professor Irene Rizzini, President of Childwatch International Research Network came to China Youth and Children Research Center in the morning and met Mr. Li Xueqian, the Secretary of the Communist Party, Mr. Sun Yunxiao and Mr. An Guoqi, the Deputy Directors in our Center, and other principals in various departments. In a first meeting, Professor Rizzini was introduced to our Center and the current research projects.



In this meeting, Rizzini had the opportunity to say a few words about Childwatch International and exchanged some information about the China Youth and Children Research Center.

Professor Rizzini met several researchers at the Center. She was also able to start discussing with Helen Ju the issues that would be most interesting to focus on the lecture she was to give the following day.



June 21, 2006:

### Lecture to the China Youth and Children Research Center staff

The staff met at a conference room for a lecture on research issues regarding children and youth internationally, with special focus on children in China. There were approximately 40 people in the lecture. Irene Rizzini worked with the help of a translator, who had also met the previous day to talk about its content.

Again, professor Rizzini was able to talk about Childwatch International. She mentioned the network's objectives, structure, and activities. The partnership with China and a few projects were highlighted.

The staff followed with much interest and many questions were discussed following the lecture.



### Further discussion with smaller group

In the afternoon, part of the group was invited to join professor Rizzini again to further discuss issues mentioned in the morning conference, particularly related to children's development and useful methodologies in international child research. The group discussed several issues of interest to the Center.

Researchers from "The children Research Institute and Children's Study Journal" and the "Law Institute" also participated in this session.

June 22, 2006:

**Focusing more specifically on child research relevant to the group**

Professor Rizzini spent the morning working with the research team at the “Law Institute”, coordinated by Helen Ju. A session was held to discuss the Institute’s project: “Street or wandering children in China”. In this session, the group discussed the research plan, research methods and theoretical framework.



Professor Rizzini brought several publications published by her research center in Brazil on this topic. She also provided the group with useful international literature and other sources of information, such as contacts with other researchers and organizations doing research in this area. The group concluded that it was a very useful session in that it covered several existing gaps.

**June 23, 2006**

The last day was dedicated to a special meeting with Helen Ju and two Directors of the China Youth and Children Research Center, Mr. Sun Yunxiao and Ms. Sun Hongyan. They discussed several themes of relevance regarding children and youth in China. The group had several questions they wished to debate and came prepared for that.

The main themes raised by the group were family and education issues; children and families under stress, pressure over children and children in school settings. Some of the concerns were due in part to the fact that each family has only one child and there are a lot of expectations around this one child. The group spent some time debating how to release pressure from children.

The group also discussed possibilities of exchange and collaboration with Childwatch for the future. Finally, there was a brief discussion about the CWI board meeting to be held in Beijing, April 2007. The Directors and staff of the China Youth and Children Research Center are happy to welcome the board and hope to intensify their international collaboration.

Professor Rizzini was invited to follow up the research project on street/wandering children in China and to publish a paper in one the Center' s Journals (see manuscript attached).

Report elaborated by: Helen Ju, Chen Chen and Irene Rizzini. Beijing and Rio de Janeiro, July 2007.