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Press Invitation

Land, Labour, and Life: Education for Rural Development Launch Symposium: China Rural Education Literature Database

In 1926, a renowned Chinese educator Tao Xingzhi sharply criticised the direction of rural education in China: “China’s rural education has gone down the wrong path! It teaches people to flee the countryside for the city, to eat rice without growing grain, to clothe themselves without growing cotton, to build houses without planting trees. It teaches people to envy luxury and disdain agricultural labour.” Unfortunately, nearly a hundred years later, rural education continues to be urban-oriented. It is alienated from the social and economic development of the countryside and runs counter to the trend of revitalisation in rural areas. Today, rural education is facing urgent challenges. It must reorient its relationship with rural society, to better serve the sustainable development of the countryside.

To aid systematic investigation into the question of rural education and seek new ways forward, the Faculty of Education of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) has established the China Rural Education Literature (CREL) Database with the support of the Tin Ka Ping Foundation. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Tin Ka Ping Foundation and mark the launch of the CREL Database, the Faculty will host an online symposium on rural education in December 2022. The symposium will feature keynote speeches by three scholars in the fields of education and rural development. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, we hope to spur educational innovation that supports rural development.

Members of the media are invited to attend the online event. Details are as follows:

Date: December 15, 2022 (Thursday)
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 nn (HKT)
Format: ZOOM Webinar
Registration: https://bit.ly/rural_education_forum
Livestreaming registration: <https://live.bilibili.com/22364449>
Rundown: Welcome Speech
Professor Yang Rui, Dean of the Faculty, HKU

Opening Remarks

Mr David Day, Chief Executive, Tin Ka Ping Foundation

Introduction to the China Rural Education Literature Database

Dr Wang Dan, Associate Professor of the Faculty, HKU

Keynote Speech I: Engaging Rurality: Research Gaps and Practice Opportunities

Dr Philip Roberts, Faculty of Education, University of Canberra

Keynote Speech II: Education for Sustainable Development: The Case of Rural Green Eco-Friendly School

Ms Yang Guiping, China Zigen Rural Education and Development Association

Keynote Speech III: Rural Revitalization Demands Reconstruction of the Rural Community

Professor Yan Hairong, Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University

Round Table Discussion and Q&A Session

Moderator: Dr Wang Dan

Language:

Putonghua and English (Interpretation provided)

For more details, please visit: <https://web.edu.hku.hk/event/detail-page/rural-education-forum>.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Emily Cheung, Senior Manager (Development and Communications), Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel: 39174270 / Email: emchy@hku.hk).

December 7, 2022