

Editorial

It is with great pleasure that we present the first issue of *The China Papers*. This set of papers, on aspects of teaching and learning, is an outcome of a professional development course that is taking place at The University of Sydney for university science teachers from China. The development course is a collaborative project between the University and the China Scholarship Council. In the words of the Council 'As a new step in the reform process in higher education, the Ministry of Education of China has decided to introduce bilingual teaching in science subjects in Chinese universities. To this end the China Scholarship Council has started a scholarship program for English and professional upgrading for science teachers from Chinese universities in support of this endeavour'.

Criteria for inclusion of a paper into an issue of The China Papers include:

- acceptable standards of English expression and grammar;
- written from ideas and understanding developed as a result of the Sydney program;
- content of paper reflects the content of the Sydney program;
- papers relating to teaching and learning issues in science or mathematics while papers relating directly to the context in the People's Republic of China are of particular interest;
- arguments must be relevant to contemporary issues in teaching and learning; and
- inclusion in *The China Papers* is seen as having the potential to be developed further into acceptable journal articles.

The China Papers are also online (<http://science.uniserve.edu.au/pubs/china/>) in pdf.

Each of the papers contained in this volume recognises individually the contribution made by various and specific members of the academic staff of The University of Sydney. However, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chinese visiting scholars and our colleagues within the Faculties of Science and Education for the helpful and collaborative approach that was taken in the production of these papers.

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