



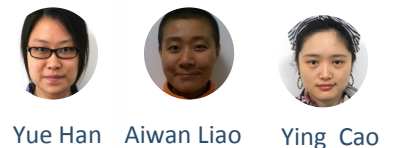
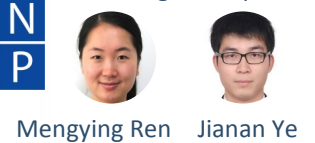
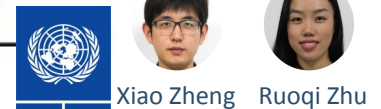
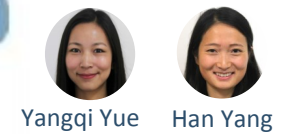
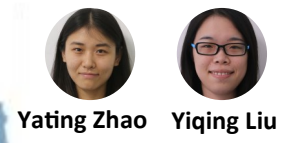
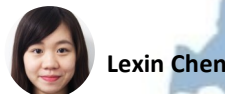
**UN**  
**Volunteers**  
inspiration in action

# UNV CHINA Newsletter

Issue 1 - December 2015







**As of this printing:**  
11 UNVs (names in bold) are currently on assignment, 3 are under recruitment.  
15 UNVs (names in blue) have finished their assignments in 2015.



**Ms. Eirene Chen**  
(USA)

Programme Officer



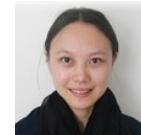
**Ms. Xiaodan Zhang**  
(China)

Programme Assistant



**Mr. Tom Bannister**  
(UK)

Programme Specialist (UNV/UNDP)



**Ms. Luye Bao**  
(China)

Communications Intern

I feel very grateful when I can make a positive difference in the lives of others. Being able to contribute to UNV and China's unique volunteering culture is invaluable.

I am truly inspired by numerous dedicated and dynamic UN Volunteers and by partnering with government agencies to foster greater social good in my country.

Right now volunteering in China has a lot of momentum and potential ahead. I am really excited to be involved.

UN Volunteers give me good models about how youth can contribute to a better world and inspire me to follow in their steps in the future.

大家好, Da Jia Hao! Greetings from the UNV Team in China, and welcome to our latest newsletter!

*Dear Colleagues, Fellow Volunteers and Friends,*

We would like to thank you, our champions from throughout all parts of UNV, UNDP and fellow agencies in the UN China Country Team, as well as our Chinese and international volunteerism partners from Government, civil society and academia, for making 2015 a particularly special year in volunteering for all of us.

Thank you to each of our colleagues who have hosted a UN Volunteer.

And especially, thank you to each UN Volunteer who has served in China or from China during this past year.

Below are some reflections on some of our more outstanding moments from 2015—we could not have experienced them without your support. A special hats-off also goes to Ms. Luye Bao, UNV China Communications Intern, for her efforts in designing this newsletter. Please enjoy.

All the best,

*The UNV China Field Unit*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

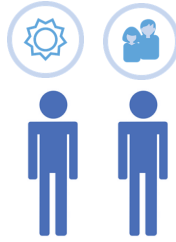
<b>UNV in China: Some Numbers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2015 UNV-Beijing International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>UNV 2014-17 Strategic Framework and Regional Capacity Building Workshop</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2015 UN ECOSOC Youth Forum</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>UNV Online Campaign: China's Youth Engagement in the SDGS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>UNV and Cooperation with China's VIOs</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>UNV China - US Peace Corps Knowledge Exchange</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Empowering HIV-Affected Communities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Preventing Violence Against Women</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Eliminating Child Poverty in Rural China</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Using Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2015 Mid-Year UNV Retreat</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Hong Kong - UN University Volunteers</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>UNVs, Gender and Peacebuilding</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>IVD 2015</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Volunteerism in China</b>	<b>17</b>

**Contact Us:** [unv.china@undp.org](mailto:unv.china@undp.org) | +86 10 85320911 | [www.weibo.com/unvchina](http://www.weibo.com/unvchina)  
<http://www.cn.undp.org/content/china/en/home/operations/united-nations-volunteers.html>

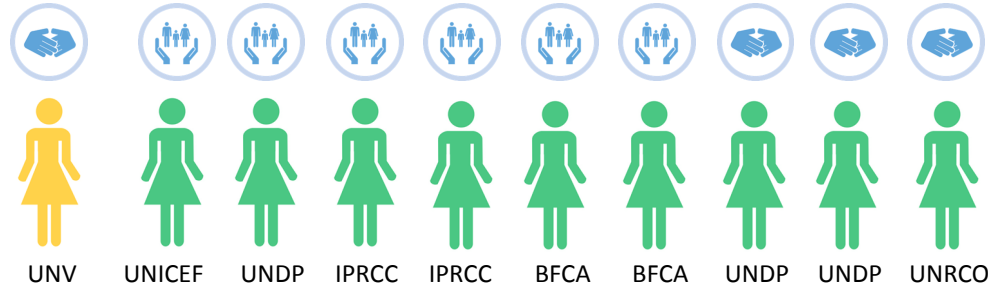
## UNVs in China

Since 1981, 327 UNVs (national and international) have served in of China. In 2015, **27 UN Volunteers** have completed or are on assignment in China (1 international UNV PO, 26 national UNVs).

UN-SPIDER UN WOMEN

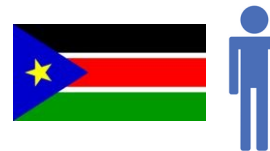


UNV China's Main SDGs



## Chinese Serving as International UNVs

Since 1984, 100 Chinese nationals have served as UNVs in other countries.



UNMISS



UNMIK



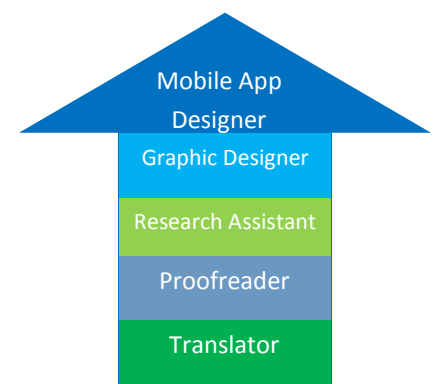
**3 Chinese nationals** are serving as **International UN Volunteer Specialists** in Kosovo (UNMIK), Thailand (UNHCR) and South Sudan (UNMISS). **10 UN University Volunteers from China** are serving in SE Asia.



UNHCR

## UN Online Volunteers

Since 2000, 2105 Chinese nationals have engaged in UN Online Volunteering opportunities. **30+ UN Online Volunteers** throughout the world are also remotely assisting with projects for UN agencies in China in 2015.



Sample OV Assignments

## 2015 UNV-Beijing International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference

On 12 October, the UN Volunteers Programme and the Beijing Volunteer Federation launched the inaugural 2015 UNV-Beijing International Volunteer Service Exchange Conference in Beijing. UN Volunteers Executive Coordinator Richard Dictus and UNDP China RR/RC Alain Noudéhou introduced the event, along with a host of dignitaries from China's volunteerism community. Guiding organisations for the Conference also included the Beijing Municipal Government, the China Volunteerism Service Federation and UNDP China.

The two-day Conference, co-organized by the UN Volunteers programme and the Beijing Volunteer Federation, focused on [international volunteering as a driving force to support international and South-South Co-operation](#) in the context of the Post-2015 UN Sustainable Development agenda.

It convened UN agencies, several bilateral volunteer-involving organisations, and government and civil society representatives from nearly 20 middle-income countries in Asia, Africa, Europe/CIS, the Middle East and Latin America to exchange experiences and collaborative ways forward on international volunteer initia-

tives for peace and development in the context of the changing global development landscape and in support of achieving the UN Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

During the event, many participants indicated the desire for UNV to create more opportunities in the future for sharing and collaboration among middle-income countries that both receive and deploy development assistance volunteers.

Many delegates also indicated that there could be a thematic division of such opportunities, for example: youth, reciprocal international volunteer exchanges, volunteer management innovations, humanitarian volunteering, and use of technology.

The October conference was a landmark event that has opened up new space for future collaboration on volunteering within and from the Global South, with leading roles for UNV, China and allies from the global volunteering-for-development community. A summary Conference Report prepared by Volunteerism and South-South Cooperation Programme Specialist Thomas Bannister is being shared with all participants.



Delegates to the UNV-Beijing Conference came from 18 middle-income countries and several UN agencies and leading VIOs. (Beijing Volunteer Federation/2015)



UNV Executive Coordinator Richard Dictus presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Xinbao Guo, Secretary-General of the Beijing Volunteer Federation. (UNV China/2015)





**Securing access to basic social services**  
保障获得基本的社会服务的渠道



**Community resilience for environment and disaster risk reduction**  
旨在降低环境与灾害风险的社区恢复力



**Peace-building**  
维护和平



**Youth**  
青年



**National capacity development through volunteer schemes**  
通过志愿计划实现国家发展能力

## UNV Strategic Framework 2014-17 and Global Priority Areas

### Regional UNV Capacity Development Workshop

From **24-30 October**, UNV Programme Officer Eirene Chen and UNV Programme Assistant Xiaodan Zhang joined UNV Programme Officers and Assistants from Asia, Pacific, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in a **Regional Capacity Development Workshop in Bangkok**.

The workshop, facilitated by leadership from UNV Headquarters as well as the UNV Asia-Pacific Regional Office, helped participants deepen their understanding of how UN Volunteers and Field Units can help strategically facilitate UNV's global programming and mobilization priorities, in partnership with national and multi-national volunteerism partners throughout the region. Colleagues from UNDP's Asia-Pacific Regional Centre also shared their own perspectives on volunteering for development.

It was affirming and energizing to learn some of the exciting initiatives colleagues and peers have started up, as well as to share experiences from the field.

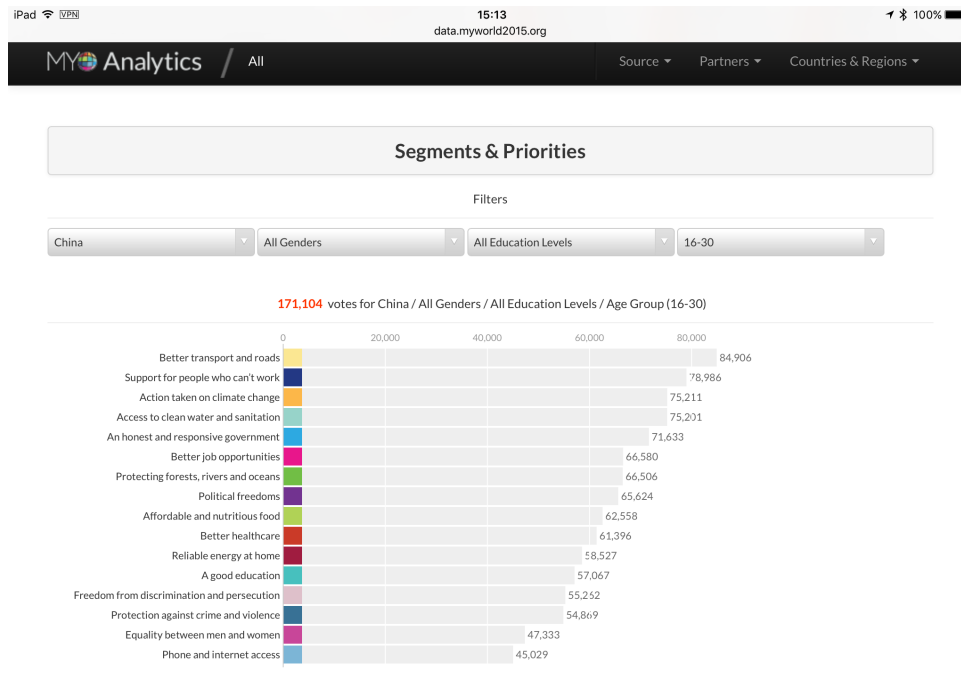


(UNV China/2015)

### UNV's Vision

A world where **volunteerism** is recognized, within societies, as a way for **all people and countries to achieve peace and development through the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion.**

# 2015 UN ECOSOC Youth Forum: UNV and Chinese Youth Perspectives



National UN Volunteer Ms. Wang He (Amy) was among three youth based at UN agencies who were selected to represent China at the February 2015 UN ECOSOC Youth Forum, held at the UN Secretariat in New York. Here she is pictured with the UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi.

(Photo: Wang He /2015)

Topics of discussion included how youth in each participating country perceive the Sustainable Development Goals and which development needs they prioritized.

Priorities identified by Chinese youth who participated in the online MYWORLD 2015 survey are pictured above.

During the Youth Forum, Ms Wang, whose participation was supported by the UNV Youth Team, also spoke with a number of youth volunteerism champions, including delegates from other Member States, the UN Envoy on Youth, the UNDP Administrator, UN Millennium Campaign and UNV's Office in New York. She says:

*The forum is a fantastic opportunity to encourage young people to voice their opinions and think together on specific issues of relevance to youth...it further convinces me that the young generation needs to be increasingly included in development efforts. We are the essence to contribute our part to building stronger, more inclusive and sustainable communities.*



With members of the Brazilian youth delegation  
(Photo: Wang He/2015)



With the UNV Office in New York  
(Photo: Wang He/2015)

# UNV Online Campaign: China's Youth Engagement in the UN Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

On 5 June, UNV China launched a **60-minute live-blogged micro-interview through the Sina Weibo online platform**, which mainland China's version of Twitter. The campaign was called #UN Agenda and Youth Engagement#. Ms. He Wang (Amy), a national UNV based in the UNV China Country Office, organized the event with Tsinghua University and the Youthink Center, with guidance from the UN Millennium Campaign in New York.

The format of this micro-interview was online question-and-answer, with representatives from each of the three organizations answering questions submitted online in real time. Target constituencies included but were not limited to mainland Chinese youth who are interested in UN sustainable global development issues and active on the Chinese-language Sina Weibo media platform.

Over **2.3 million viewers** visited the campaign's website during the course of the 14-day campaign, and **1.5 million viewers** participated on the actual day of the live-blogged micro-interview.



Online Campaign Homepage

The subtopic discussions covered UN post-2015 sustainable development agenda, youth innovation, youth engagement, my world survey. The online campaign aimed to advocate for more young people to focus on sustainable development topics and guide participants to be concerned about the world, share youth engagement examples, present volun-



Staff from the Youthink Center (left), UNV He Wang (middle) and Tsinghua University students (right) moderate the online interview. (UNV/2015)

teering channels and the significance of youth participation in innovatively solving development challenges and mobilize youth enthusiasm in philanthropy and mobilize youth to devote themselves into practice to create a better future.

## What Do Chinese Netizens Most Care About?

- Q: What are the channels for youth to participate UN affairs?*
- Q: What is the transition between the MDGs and SDGs?*
- Q: How is NGOs development situation in less developed countries?*
- Q: How youth conduct cultural exchanges with the least developed countries with culture conservatism?*
- Q: Since "My World" survey will finally choose 6 goals, will the left 10 goals be ignored?*
- Q: Will UN recruit Campus Ambassadors who are responsible for the United Nations promotion and volunteer recruitment activities in Chinese colleges?*





## UNV and China's National Volunteering System



**In China, the UN Volunteers Programme (UNV), administered by UNDP, is the key UN organisation working on volunteerism for development and, as a member of the UN China Working Group on Youth, among the main ones focusing on youth development.**

In partnership with the Beijing Municipal Government, UNV China played a key role in training over 1.5 million sport-for-development event management volunteers during the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

UNV/UNDP China also implement 2 volunteer-management capacity-building projects with the Beijing and Shanghai Municipal Governments (100% Government cost-shared in Beijing).

**Key Programmatic Snapshots 2012-2015: Strengthening the National Chinese Volunteer Infrastructure By Engaging Provincial Youth Volunteer Federations**

UNV, UNDP and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges at the Ministry of Commerce) jointly implement the *Umbrella Programme for Strengthening Civic Engagement and Social Innovations through Volunteerism for Regional Development in China*.

The programme strengthens the capacity of Beijing – and Shanghai-based volunteer professionals to provide voluntary support in building the resilience of vulnerable communities in their own provinces, especially migrant worker families, the elderly, and disabled people.

It also helps grassroots NGOs to better train volunteer managers in implementing multi-sectoral (education, environmental health) regional assistance

programmes in Yunnan, Tibet and Xinjiang Provinces.

In each city, online volunteer registration, assignment matching and performance evaluation platforms have been developed to pilot volunteer-driven projects.

Evidence-based research into the impact of Government policy on community civic participation and social development has also been conducted.

Finally, the cooperation between UNV, UNDP and the Provincial Committees of the Beijing and Shanghai Youth Leagues have provided opportunities for each partner to connect more broadly with peers in other countries through international exchanges in regional and global fora.

Lessons learnt have been shared with peers in other middle-income countries and with wider international communities.



UNV-supported volunteer teachers work with migrant children in Tianjin. Migrant children often do not have adequate access to basic social services. (UNV China/2011)

**UNV's  
Major  
Partners**



China International Center For Economic and Technical Exchanges (Ministry of Commerce)





## UNV China - US Peace Corps Knowledge Exchange



When the UN Volunteers Programme first began operating in China in 1981, the majority of UN Volunteers on assignment were international Volunteers. During this period, many well-known Northern bilateral development assistance volunteering programmes were also active throughout China, including Volunteer-Involving Organizations such as VSO, Australian Volunteers International, France Volontaries, the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, and the US Peace Corps.

Nearly thirty-five years later, the demand for traditional models of international technical assistance has changed. Only a handful of Northern VIOs continue to operate in China. Now, new forms of exchange have emerged between UNV and VIOs, including South-North capacity building.

On 30 January, [Ms. Aiwan Liao \(Karen\)](#) and [Ms. Yangqi Yue \(Iris\)](#), two national UN Volunteers based in UNDP China's Poverty, Equity and Governance Team, were invited by US Peace Corps China to conduct a capacity building training in Chengdu to 150 Peace Corps Volunteers.

After an introduction by the UNV Programme Officer, Ms. Yue (UNDP Programme Coordinator) spoke on [culturally appropriate ways to facilitate participatory community development among ethnic minorities in SW China](#), including through women's economic empowerment. Ms. Liao (UNDP LGBT Programme Officer, shown below) presented on the overall [conditions and challenges experienced by China's LGBT communities and how international volunteers can support](#).



UNV Aiwan Liao addresses Peace Corps Volunteers.  
(UNV China/2015)



UNV Yangqi Yue shares her thoughts with Peace Corps Volunteers during their annual training in Chengdu. (UNV China/2015)



(UNV China/2015)

Overall, the workshop was very well received. Peace Corps Volunteers also shared about their own experiences as expatriate community development volunteers based predominantly in rural Chinese communities. Volunteers from both UNV and Peace Corps felt that the discussion deepened their [appreciation of different, yet complementary approaches to addressing development challenges in China through volunteerism](#).





## Volunteer Spotlight at UNDP: Empowering HIV-Affected Communities



2030 is the target year for eradicating AIDS. Yet China is still facing a severe HIV epidemic. It has become one of fifteen seriously affected countries globally, with the infection rate increasing during the past few years, even though the whole country has contributed a great deal of efforts towards preventing HIV infection.

The main reason behind this is the approach towards HIV prevention that has been used by the government during the past few years. HIV/AIDS in China has been treated as a strict health issue, rather than a comprehensive social concern.

The Chinese government is now considering taking an integrated approach to fight against AIDS. As long as stigma and discrimination towards HIV-affected populations are diminishing and their dignity and rights are respected, the general public will find it easier to understand how important it is to take action and protect everyone from HIV/AIDS.

**Ms. Shengnan Wang, UNDP HIV Legal Support Officer, is currently based in Yunnan province as a national UN Volunteer.** She says:

*Fighting against AIDS needs every single one of us to take actions from small steps, by changing our behaviors and altering our attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and its key affected populations.*

Before becoming a national UNV, Shengnan worked as a programme manager in the field of HIV prevention for 6 years. Because of her past experience, she understands how to focus on what is best for the programme and its beneficiaries while ensuring that the programme implementation remains on track.

*UNV is such a great opportunity to utilize my expertise and a bridge to my future career path. It requires not only passion, but also high qualifications, professional expertise and work attitudes.*

The programme she manages is called *PING DENG* ("Equality"). It is an integrated, national, grassroots-led initiative which aims to broaden the access of justice for HIV affected populations in southern China. Daytop

NGO, where she is based, is one of few pioneer NGOs which has successfully provided direct legal services to HIV affected populations in China for the past 8 years.

As the HIV Legal Officer, Shengnan co-designs the programme, organizes and facilitates capacity trainings and other activities, assists in monitoring and evaluating, and ensures smooth communications among UNDP, Daytop and 4 selected CBOs of the program.

There are many touching stories that Shengnan participates in every day—for example, helping an HIV-infected mother win legal custody of her baby.

But what has impressed Shengnan the most is the behavior change of participating CBOs. In the past, when HIV-affected people faced legal problems, these CBOs would tell them how to escape from the legal punishment. But now, the CBOs realize how important it is to stand in a neutral position and advocate for the target groups to know what is right and what is wrong.

Therefore, she calls more youth to join her and work on HIV prevention through this integrated approach.

*Volunteerism is a way to explore the world, a chance to live an altruistic life, and an experience to see and act differently.*



Shengnan Wang (second from left, in white) with counterparts at a global HIV prevention conference in Zimbabwe. (UNDP China/2015)





## Volunteer Spotlight at UN Women: Preventing Violence Against Women



**At 22, Mr. Shuo Li is the youngest national UN Volunteer in China.** He is currently working for UN Women as a Social Media and Peer Education Programme Associate on a pilot programme to engage Chinese youth, especially young men 13 – 18 years old, to help end violence against women and girls.

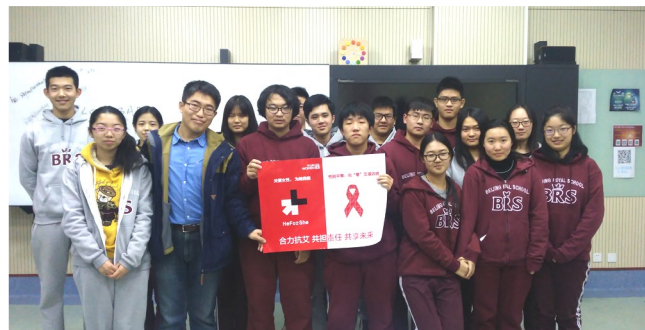
Shuo works closely with the UN Women Country Programme Coordinator and implementing partners to design, implement, and monitor school-based trainings and social media campaigns on how to have healthy relationships.

Shuo has come up with his own idea about the challenge of gender education in China:

*It is hard to convince men and boys that they are also the beneficiary of the whole idea of gender equality. To them, empowering women or other gender minority groups might somehow mean a deprivation of their own existing powers and rights. But in practice, empowering women can lead to more harmonious relationships, which in turn makes their husbands and male relatives happy, relaxed and more productive.*

But such examples are commonly overlooked by media or society in general. In order to change this stereotype, Shuo believes that everyone needs to mainstream gender-related topics through media platforms, TV, news, social media, as well as through dedicated male advocates, using ways that are acceptable to men and women. Schools are the best venues to facilitate such changes, since young people are eager to take in new ideas and have the confidence to stand up against unreasonable stereotypes.

During his undergraduate years in the United States, Shuo led several social media campaigns which called for students' attention to issues such as US-China relations, equal employment for women, and naturalization of new immigrants: *I was able to utilize my existing knowledge on social media when devising strategies for the student-led campaigns, and to accommodate international best practices to the Chinese context.*



Li Shuo (4th from left, in blue) conducting an advocacy campaign at a Beijing secondary school on World AIDS Day. (UN Women/2015)

Shuo feels fortunate to have engaged in all aspects of programme implementation. Other than the essential knowledge on social media, peer education and gender, he has also been exposed to training on legislative process, research methodologies, policy implementation and many other issues.

In early November, Shuo also traveled to Bangkok to support the Asia-Pacific Regional Convening of Living with HIV, helping a member of the Women's Network against HIV/AIDs in China (WNAC) to network with colleagues from SE Asia, and to share their experience in working with the Chinese government for resource mobilization and policy support. He says:

*The opportunity to work toward a worthy cause matters more than any other merits of a certain position.*

*Volunteering requires passion and dedication, but passion can be promulgated easily through action, and consistent actions can be translated directly into dedication. For those who are passionate about causes related to social justice or international development, the opportunity to volunteer for the UN is an enjoyable and satisfying journey.*



## Volunteer Snapshot at UNICEF: Eliminating Child Poverty in Rural China



Child poverty is multi-dimensional in nature, encompassing a range of deprivations which often mutually reinforce one another. This is certainly true in China.

In particular, special attention has been given to the difficulties faced by millions of 'left-behind' children in poor rural counties that are affected by large-scale out-migration by parents who travel to distant cities for work. The children who are left behind in rural areas are often raised by relatives and friends, or else they are left to fend for themselves.



*My motivation is to promote social development, especially for women and children.*

**Ms. Sijia Liu is a national UNV based at UNICEF China, where she serves as a Child Poverty Project Officer** on a national child poverty alleviation initiative which is a partnership between UNICEF China and China's State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development. By addressing these multiple deprivations, Sijia's programme helps to ensure the survival, development and protection of the most vulnerable children in rural China.

Sijia is also partially based at the local government office in Shicheng, Jiangxi Province. It is her first time working in the field in a small town in rural China,

on the frontlines of poverty alleviation efforts.

Sijia's UNV assignment covers five aspects:

- (1) Advising on methodologies for collecting stronger evidence on the multiple dimensions of child poverty;
- (2) Coordinating and supporting funding strategies for ensuring sustainable finance for reducing child poverty;
- (3) Coordinating county and provincial level agencies to more effectively deliver on their poverty alleviation plans;
- (4) Supporting the design and delivery of innovative pilots to address the multiple dimensions of child poverty, including early childhood development, socio-emotional support for left-behind children and support for adolescents to transition to work.
- (5) Monitoring and evaluating the programme's progress.

*For me, being a UN Volunteer means being fully committed to peace and development worldwide.*



Children from Rural China (UNICEF China/2015)



## Volunteer Snapshot at UN-SPIDER: Using Space Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction



2015 is a milestone year for the United Nations. Not only is the organization celebrating 70 years, but this year is also the starting point for major agreements and frameworks that will shape global sustainable development in the years to come. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals that constitute the UN 2030 Agenda seek to strengthen universal peace in greater freedom.

In this context, space technology plays an important role in the Sustainable Development Goals. It directly relates to the goals of zero hunger, good health, quality education, clean water and sanitation, climate action, life below water and life on land. The adaptability of all those goals makes it possible for everyone to contribute to them.

**Mr. Shenrui Li, a national UN Volunteer Programme Officer based at UN-SPIDER, is a talented young man.** After completing his undergraduate degree in biology and an MPH from leading universities in China and the United States, he is currently serving as a Programme Officer on the application of satellite-based navigations system in disaster risk reduction throughout the Asia-Pacific. Before joining the UN Volunteers, Shenrui was an monitoring and evaluation intern at UNDP China, where he also helped remotely coordinate Nepal earthquake relief efforts.

*This UNV position is a meaningful work. With the vision of UN-SPIDER and the support of NDRCC, this UNV assignment achieves a fine balance between domestic capacity development and international cooperation.*

Shenrui is responsible for coordinating with the National Disaster Risk Centre of China (NDRCC) and the China Satellite Navigation Office to integrate China's homegrown BeiDou satellite navigation satellite system into disaster management systems throughout the Asia-Pacific region. BeiDou is one of five satellite navigation platforms used throughout the world: GPS, Galileo, GLONASS, and Gagan are among the more well-known alternatives from North America, Europe, Russia and India.

Shenrui is helping to design a plan for conducting on-site studies, analyzing the terminal requirements of BeiDou and its availability for the Asia-Pacific region, as well as an application framework to integrate BeiDou into disaster management mechanisms in the Asia-Pacific. Through UN-



*My motivation is to bring the benefits of space to humanity.*

SPIDER, he keeps himself updated on the latest developments in earth observation methods and practices. The main knowledge product is crucial in guiding regional cooperation in the integration of global navigation satellites system into disaster management within Asia-Pacific region, which will largely contribute to strengthening disaster risk reduction capacities in China and among its neighbours.

For example, global volunteer organizations like the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team provide maps and data to support humanitarian efforts. Their geo-locational data offer tremendous help to aid delivery and reconstruction efforts. There is a need to systematically leverage potential of these technologies in all stages of disaster management, especially to build disaster resilience by utilizing these technologies in disaster risk reduction efforts.

Says Shenrui:

*Apart from professional knowledge in building the capacity of space technologies, efforts from ordinary people in disaster risk reduction also matter.*

*More talented young people with relevant backgrounds should consider participating in constructing the capacity of space technology through the UN.*



**2015  
Mid-Year  
UNV  
Retreat**



National UN Volunteers with UNV Programme Officer Eirene Chen (front row, second from right) and UNV Programme Assistant Xiaodan Zhang (front row, third from right) at the mid-year UNV Retreat. (UNV China/2015)

**22 May:** National UN Volunteers and the UNV China Field Unit gathered for a day of brainstorming on the Sustainable Development Goals, discussing career development tips from UNDP and UNV alumni, and practicing their crew skills!



**UNDP China Deputy Country Director Patrick Haverman** discusses his perspective as a longtime UN civil servant and his thoughts on the role of volunteerism in international development.



**Former International UN Volunteer Danliang Lian**, now with ICRC China, shares about her prior experiences as a UNV on assignment with the UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan and South Sudan.



The team that rows together stays together! UN Volunteers and the UNV China PO keep their dragon boat afloat at Hou Hai Lake in west Beijing.

# Hong Kong - UN University Volunteers



Hong Kong UN University Volunteers celebrate their sendoff. (UNV China/2015)

During the late summer of 2015, the first group of 10 UN University Volunteers sponsored by the Hong Kong SAR Government departed for 4-6 month assignments at UN agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

All UN Volunteers are undergraduate students studying at universities in Hong Kong, including **eight Hong Kong permanent residents and two students from mainland China**. They are on assignment at UNFPA, UNODC, UNCDF, UN RCO, FAO and UNV Field Units, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals through their work in strategic communications and advocacy for youth volunteerism, monitoring community forestry projects, and assisting with human resource management and microfinance research.



## LARISSA, 21, HONG KONG

International UN University Volunteer  
Communications Officer  
UNFPA

Everyone should have the right to make their own choices about their sexual and reproductive health.

I volunteer to create communications materials and support the dissemination of data from national data collection exercises to raise awareness and encourage young people and women to claim their reproductive health and rights!



(UNFPA Cambodia/2015)



Tweet from the UNDP Myanmar Country Director



UN University Volunteers listen attentively during a pre-deployment training workshop in Hong Kong facilitated by Daniella Bosic, UNV Field Unit Capacity Development Specialist. (UNV China/2015)

Sebastian Chi Him Lee, a University Volunteer in Monitoring and Evaluation at FAO Cambodia, shares: "I have been working on assignments that require analytical skills. I also like meeting people from other cultural backgrounds, both local and international, and learning from their experience."

Says FAO Cambodia: "[Sebastian] is a faster learner and hard working towards tasks assigned. He is eager to learn new things from colleagues around and well-adapt himself to the new environment and culture".

The 2-year pilot initiative is implemented by three leading Hong Kong NGOs: Agency for Volunteer Service, Peace and Development Foundation, and the Hong Kong Volunteers Association.



## UN Volunteers, Gender and Peacebuilding In Greater Northeast Asia

On 18 May, a group of former and current UN Volunteers in China (both national and international) took on a rather different volunteer assignment: Going to the Beijing airport to welcome a group of women peace-builders from 14 different countries. Many had not been to China before.

The women's peacebuilding delegation was enroute to speak with Government and civil society representatives in both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, in an effort to facilitate constructive dialogue towards permanently ending the Korean War and strengthening relations on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the region. Thus far, the 1953 armistice agreement remains the only legal instrument addressing the end of the conflict.

Members of the delegation included two Nobel Peace Laureates (Mairead MacGuire and Leymah Gbowee), US activist Gloria Steinem, and a number of former diplomats and parliamentarians, all dedicated volunteers working for peace and development in citizen diplomacy.



Photo: WomencrossDMZ/2015 [www.womencrossdmz.org](http://www.womencrossdmz.org)

During their brief stay in Beijing, the peacebuilding delegation and UN Volunteers enjoyed an informal discussion on how volunteering and civil society engagement can contribute to peacebuilding in greater NE Asia.



## 2015 International Volunteering Day

Your World is changing.  
Are you?  
Volunteer!

Every year on 5 December, UNV China celebrates **International Volunteer Day** by honouring the incredible motivation and efforts of both UN Volunteers and other volunteers in China to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

This year, the UNV Field Unit organized an **IVD Salon** at one of Beijing's oldest bookshop/café's, bringing together currently serving and former UN Volunteers and senior UN colleagues who work with them in a managerial capacity. UN Volunteers who had served even in 2010 came back to attend!

Guest presenters included: Dr. Nanqing Jiang (UNEP China Senior Programme Officer); Ms. Jade Mali Mizutani (former international UN Volunteer at UNIOGBIS, now UNDP China Governance Programme Manager; and Ms. Han Yang (former national UN Volunteer at UNDP China, now UNDP China Environment & Energy Programme Assistant).

Everyone reflected on how they first got involved in volunteering and public service through the UN platform, what makes serving as a UN Volunteer a unique experience, and how to maintain the spirit of service and volunteerism after transitioning to other kinds of work.

*We UN Volunteers rarely have a chance to meet like this.  
Let's do it more often!*



UNV China/2015



UNV China/2015



## Volunteerism in China

China has a unique and diverse culture of voluntary social solidarity, ranging from the Confucian philosophical roots of its majority Han people to the actions of more recent heroes such as the People's Liberation Army soldier **Lei Feng** (surname written first).



**Lei Feng**  
**Poster**

**Lei Feng** was a poor orphan from Hunan Province who lost most of his family members during the Second World War. In his teens, he joined the Communist Youth Corps and later the Transportation Unit of the People's Liberation Army. Lei Feng is known as a selfless, modest and dedicated person who went out of his way to help the poor and elderly during grueling post-war conditions, with no expectation of being congratulated or paid back. His sayings have been inspiring several generations of volunteers:

If you are a drop of water, have you moistened the earth?

If you are a ray of sunshine, have you lit up the darkness?

If you are a single grain, have you nurtured a human being?

If you are the smallest screw, will you always stay where you are?

Lei Feng died when he was only 22 years old, after being struck by a falling telephone pole. Yet his legacy lives on in today's China. Several generations of schoolchildren have grown up being taught "to learn from Lei Feng."

To commemorate Lei Feng's spirit of service and volunteerism, **5 March** has been designated as **China's National Volunteer Day**.

Since 1993,  
**50+ million**  
Chinese people have engaged in regular voluntary service.



### China Central Youth League Volunteering

Up to now, **160,000 Chinese youth** have served as development volunteers in China's **Go West Programme**, which serves China's less developed central and western regions. **More than 10%** have stayed beyond the end of their proposed volunteer service.

From 2002 to 2013, **590 Chinese youth volunteers** have also served in **22 countries** in Asia, Africa and Latin America through the Chinese Government-led **Overseas Youth Volunteering Programme**.









(UNDP China/2014)



(UNV China Mid-term Retreat.)

(UNV China/2015)



(UNV Bonn/2014)



(UNICEF China/2015)



(UNDP China/2014)



(National UNV Yangqi Yue (fifth from left) with an ethnic Yi women's microfinance cooperative.)

(UNDP China/2014)