



Plan China

An essential part of Plan's work is to help create spaces for children and young people to discuss together the issues which affect their lives, then ensure adults respect their views so that children may be involved in community decision-making. This communication has been prepared with and by children directly and is intended to give a general sense of the kinds of issues children discuss and how they work together.

See Our World

<Voice of Children>

Dear Sponsors,

Hello! Greetings from China!

We are the children from Mengjiawan Township, Yulin Program Unit of Plan China. We are the members of Little Journalist Station which is established and supported by Plan China. Today we feel very proud to introduce to you---<Voice of Children>. Have you ever heard about it? No? Of course not at the moment. ☺ <Voice of Children> is a newspaper that is drafted, edited and owned by children. It is supported by Plan China and now it's just at the initial stage. We, Little Journalists, can publish our ideas on it. Not only us but also every student can contribute to <Voice of Children> and we are encouraged to talk about the topics that we are interested through it. We can share our ideas and thoughts with little friends and big friends around us. Do you know why this newspaper is called <Voice of Children>? It's ourselves who chose this name! We think this newspaper is to express our voice and we hope that through it our voice can be heard by other children, teachers, parents and even government officials someday.



Little Journalists share the news they write with others.

Since we are called "Little Journalists", we should be able to write news. At the beginning, writing news is not an easy thing for us who didn't even know what news is. So Plan staff helped us to find some professional media teachers. They taught us how to write news and short messages, and how to take an interview. Finally we can write a standard news report after several training.

With this basic knowledge about news, we are proceeding to write news. We Little Journalists are divided into three groups according to different grades to find and write what happens around us. Grade Six students take interview and report on school activities, such as school group gymnastics competition on Children's Day. Grade Five students collect and report our hometown's characteristics, such as specialty, custom, history, landscape and showplaces, etc. Grade Four

students look for stories and jokes. We even carried out an interview to Plan staff who visited our school. Through participating in these interview activities, we become more brave and confident than before, though we are still a little unskilful. We can now face adults confidently, ask them questions and express our thinking to them.

"My dad was so glad and said that I would be a real journalist in the future when I took home the <Voice of Children> on which my article was printed. I feel so proud!"--- Xiaoli, a 12-year-old girl says



Besides writing news, we also come together to design and plan our newspaper's format and topic. Actually, the name of our newspaper--<Voice of Children>, was voted and selected by many school students in the school where our Little Journalist Station is based. Every one actively participates in all kinds of discussion about <Voice of Children>. It was the Spring Festival time--Chinese New Year when our latest newspaper was published, so we selected 'My

The first newspaper gathered our hard work and wisdom

New Year's Dream' as the topic to collect articles and funny news from all the students in the school. So in the first <Voice of Children>, we see many different dreams described by the students. A student named 'Pengjiang' said that his new year's dream is 'I want to become taller, grow up to a big boy'; another student named 'Nannan' said that her new year's dream is 'I want my dad who works far away from us come home frequently to accompany with me'. We also now have better understanding on what Christmas, which our sponsors usually mention in their letters, is as well as the legend of Santa Claus who sends gifts to children with his wapiti sledge!

"This activity let children who come from mountainous and poor areas get much great exercise, open their mind, and increase their curiosity. Most importantly, they can participate in decision making on issues which is relevant to them. It is very important for them to be an eligible citizen."--- Dan Li, teacher in Mengjiawan School.

The new issue of the <Voice of Children> is being prepared, besides some news that happened around us recently, we also

plan to introduce our local custom and special food to share it with children in other Plan Programme Unit. We are making progress and our newspaper will be better and better, please wait for that!



We are designing newspaper's format together

"You may feel children's expressions on <Voice of Children>, they are naive but so vive, like a fresh air making people inspired and bringing people back to their own childhood..... Do you want to join us? Welcome!"-Wenting, Plan staff who worked together with children to create this document.