



## NEWS REPORT

### *A Nationwide Academic Seminar on Ethics Held in Wuxi*

Under the auspices of the Philosophy Faculties of Shanghai Teachers' Training College, the Social Science Institute, People's University, the University of Beijing and Beijing Teachers' Training College, an academic seminar on ethics was held in Wuxi, Jiangsu from June 17 to 24 this year. It was attended by more than one hundred-sixty representatives, including famous scholars, professors and researchers of ethics. More than sixty papers were presented.

The seminar was called to order by Sun Geng Fu, vice-director of the Philosophy Faculty of the Social Science Institute. Zhou Yuan Bing, vice-president of Shanghai Teachers Training College, then delivered an address on a special topic. Zhou pointed out that morality is a social ideology and superstructure determined by economics. The accomplishment of modernization should not only build up a high degree of material civilization, but also a high degree of spiritual civilization, and one of our most important efforts is to have good socio-moral customs relevant to our social development.

Concerning the further scientific research of morality, Zhou Yuan Bing said that the new studies

should be focused on the relationship between the accomplishment of modernization and moral science in socialism, that is to say, to combine the basic construction of moral science with propaganda education, to strengthen the study of basic principles and to get rid of the obstacles to the development of socialism, like useless studies and criticisms of morality. Zhou also said that in a horizontal development, ethics should be linked with politics, law, nationalism, sociology, youth study, psychology and the formation of personnel. In regard to vertical development, the civic morality of socialism, as well as various kinds of professional ethics should be studied.

The seminar proceeded in two stages: the first stage concerned problems of morality and the four modernizations, economic norms, democratic laws and systems, and the training of personnel; the second stage concerned some special topics, for instance, the theoretical system of ethics and its teaching scheme, moral norms and civic morality, the class nature and continuity of morality, the problem of juvenile delinquency and moral education etc. During the discussions each participant united theory with practice, freed his mind from old ideas and exchanged various opinions. New questions were raised which will be helpful in strengthening moral education and the development of ethical research in the future.

Before the close of the seminar, the Ethical Society of China was established. Li Chi was elected president of the first executive committee, while Zhou Yuan Bing, Luo Guo Jie and Zhou Fu Cheng were elected vice-presidents.

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