

## WELCOME FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to this special and historic conference. Special, because it is a conference of three organisations—the Association for Moral Education (AME), the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education (APNME) and the *Journal of Moral Education (JME)*—and two Chinese key research institutions—the Research Institute for Moral Education (RIME), Nanjing Normal University and the National Centre for Ethical Studies, Renmin University. Historic, because the *JME* is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication, and because we believe this is the first major, fully international conference on moral education in China. We are especially grateful to Nanjing Normal University for hosting our conference. This is fitting since, in China and the Asia-Pacific region, moral education, variously defined and delivered, is taken seriously and valued.

It is one thing to propose such a conference and quite another to make it happen. Since the AME Executive Board and the *JME* Editorial Board voted in July 2009 to accept the proposal from APNME and invitation from NNU to host the conference in Nanjing, a committed team of the APNME executive and I have been working steadfastly, together with Professor Jin Shenghong and members of RIME and Nanjing Normal University, to offer to you what we believe will be a rich and stimulating academic and cultural programme in the well-appointed Nanjing International Conference Hotel, set amidst the autumnal hues of Purple Mountain and its historic sites, just outside Nanjing. Organising this conference with the international team and respective organisational executives in different time zones across the world, and negotiating our ways through culturally differentiated perceptions and practices to try to meet expectations, has been a continuous challenge, and we have all learnt from our experience. Many others—especially those acknowledged for their roles in conference organisation—have helped our endeavours.

We also thank *you*—over 300 of you from 33 countries—for your decision to join us in this exciting journey, to come to China, to contribute and participate in the wide-ranging academic and delightful cultural programmes. In constructing these we have tried to realise the main principle behind this conference—to promote academic exchange and dialogue across the discourses, cultures and disciplines of moral education represented here. We aim for clear communication, attentive listening, appreciation of diverse viewpoints and cultural differences, and enjoyment in our learning as we seek for better understanding, in the hope that our new experience together may continue to inspire our reflections and contribute to the future goals of our organisations and institutions and our own interpersonal academic exchanges.

On behalf of the International Conference Team, I have much pleasure in welcoming you to Nanjing2011, *Cultivating Morality: Human Beings, Nature and the World*, and our conference days ahead.

Monica J. TAYLOR, Chair  
AME, APNME, *JME* International Conference Committee:  
Derek SANKEY, JIN Shenghong, Christopher DRAKE, Minkang KIM, LI Maosen

## WELCOME FROM NANJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Dear participants,

Nanjing Normal University extends to you a warm welcome and thanks for your attendance at the joint conference of the Association for Moral Education, the Asia- Pacific Network for Moral Education and the *Journal of Moral Education*, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founded in 1902, Nanjing Normal University is a unique institution with a distinctive international focus and is ranked in the first group of Chinese universities. Since its inception, it has attracted students both from within and beyond China and has been performing excellently in teaching and research.

Nanjing Normal University has a long tradition and reputation in the study of and research into moral education through different disciplines. Professor Tao Xingzhi, one of John Dewey's students at Columbia University, advocated moral education through life and laid the cornerstone of moral education for modern times in Nanjing. This academic tradition still nurtures the present scholarly generation.

Nanjing Normal University founded the Research Institute for Moral Education (RIME) in 1994, and, as one of one hundred Key Research Institutes of Humanities and Social Sciences in Chinese universities, the Institute is the leading institution in this field. The Institute functions as a centre both for theoretical research in moral education and advice on improving moral education practice. It acts as a resource for academic communications from different disciplines and different cultures. We are proud of our role and status as a centre of moral education.

We hope that this conference will highlight emerging issues, and create new forums to promote scholarly communication between individuals and groups, so as to establish new initiatives in moral education across the world.

Our wish is that the 2011 conference will be successful, wonderful and enjoyable. We hope you will enjoy your time with us in Nanjing.

SONG Yongzhong  
President, Nanjing Normal University, P. R. China

## **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR MORAL EDUCATION (APNME)**

Dear friends,

As Chair, I warmly welcome you to this joint conference, co-organised by the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education.

APNME's mission is to enable the communication of experiences in moral education. Our aim is to serve as a network for the sharing and exchange of ideas, perspectives, practices, research and teaching and learning resources with regard to moral education; to promote, develop and support moral education through cooperation and the establishment of collaborative relationships among individuals, institutions and organisations working in this field, with particular reference to the Asia-Pacific region, but not limited to it. With this academic endeavour, we hope we can facilitate moral practices which can bring about improvements in the moral behaviour of human beings.

The 2011 joint conference represents the beginning of new communications and brings us together to facilitate in-depth discussions, the sharing of perspectives with regard to teaching and learning in the areas of moral education, values education and citizenship education. We are here to intensify and deepen our understanding of the moral life, moral personhood and moral society, to enlarge our vision of moral education. I believe the conference will be very fruitful. I must express my great thanks to you for what you have contributed to our field and what you will continue to do for moral education.

With all best wishes for the conference,

JIN Shenghong  
Chair, Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education

## **WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL EDUCATION (AME)**

On behalf of the Association for Moral Education, I want to welcome all conference attendees to beautiful Nanjing. This is the culmination of a year of planning and many years of dreaming and it is exciting to be here with you all. I hope that all of us can make many new friends this week as we expand our horizons to realise in a new and global way the meaning of moral education.

We are honoured to be able to co-sponsor this 37<sup>th</sup> conference for the AME with the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education and our long-time friends and colleagues at the *Journal of Moral Education*. We honour APNME for their work and for their support for moral education and research, particularly by young researchers. We wish the Journal a happy 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. We are thankful for the way the Journal has built the field of moral development, education and psychology over the past 40 years, maintaining the highest of standards and publishing innovative work in the field. We look forward to 40 more years of close collaboration with *JME*, and hope for the same with APNME.

We are excited to join together over this week for inspiring talks, intellectually stimulating conversations and wonderful food in such a beautiful meeting space. Thank you to Monica Taylor, former President of AME, current Honorary President of APNME, and Editor of *JME*, for making it possible for us to be here. And a special thank you to those at Nanjing Normal who have provided this wonderful venue and especially to Professor Jin. We are truly grateful. For those of you who are the first-time attendees at this conference, a special welcome to you, and we hope you will join us at AME next year in San Antonio, Texas.

Together, as the theme so aptly puts it, let us begin to 'cultivate morality'.

Sharon LAMB  
President, Association for Moral Education

**WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE *JOURNAL OF MORAL EDUCATION (JME)* TRUST  
AND FROM THE CHAIR OF THE *JOURNAL OF MORAL EDUCATION* EDITORIAL BOARD**

We would like to welcome you all on behalf of the *Journal of Moral Education* and the *Journal of Moral Education* Trust. This is an exciting conference that, as well as being the annual conference of the Association for Moral Education, and of the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education, marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Journal of Moral Education*. We are delighted to be meeting in China. This setting reflects the expanding internationalism of the field and the growing links between scholars from different cultural backgrounds; dialogue between us will greatly enrich our thinking and further our work. We want to commend those who have worked hard to develop and foster these links, especially the international committee, and particularly Monica Taylor, who has been a major force in initiating the connections between Europe and China. We are very grateful for the hospitality and generosity of the host institution and the leaders here who have welcomed us.

We look forward to many days of intense and stimulating discussion amongst the many nations present and a long future of collaboration.

Helen HASTE, Chair, *Journal of Moral Education* Trust  
Stephen J. THOMA, Chair, *Journal of Moral Education* Editorial Board

## WELCOME FROM THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ETHICAL STUDIES, RENMIN UNIVERSITY OF CHINA

On behalf of the National Centre for Ethical Studies at Renmin University of China, I wish you all a warm welcome to this conference in Nanjing and an equally warm welcome to China! It is really a pleasure for us to host such an international conference located in China for the first time.

The Centre was established in 1999. It used to be mainly focused on the teaching of Ethics. Now it is committed to moral debate and consideration of ethical issues in all fields and professions in China. The conference theme—Cultivating Morality—is particularly important at this time, not only for our academic interest but also because of the need for social development in China. We cordially look forward to your ideas about the challenges and excitements of linking theory and practice in moral education in schools and other social institutions.

To represent the Centre, and as the Chinese member of the *JME* Board, a committee member of APNME and a member of AME, I was delighted to have this opportunity to cooperate with our international colleagues, under the leadership of Monica Taylor, to organise this conference in China. The realisation of this conference through the dedication and collaborative efforts of many individuals and organisations involved, across the diversity of cultures, languages, disciplines and standards, is gratifying and inspiring.

With the hope we all have some fruitful and exciting days during the conference, I sincerely greet you all—welcome!

LI Maosen,  
Deputy Director, National Centre for Ethical Studies, Renmin University of China, P. R. China