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KEYNOTE SPEECH

Livestream to all registered attendees; RSVP: <https://cies.lasaweb.org/registration>

Title: Quest for Equitable Quality Education? Reflections from an NGO in China

Speaker: Shirley Pan (Adream Foundation)

Commentators: Jinghuan Shi (Tsinghua University) & Scott Rozelle (Stanford University)

Chair: Jun Li (CIES 2023 Chair & President Elect)

Time: 11:15am - 12:30pm on Feb. 21, 2023

Venue: Independence A Ballroom, 5B/F, Grand Hyatt Washington



Abstract: How can third-sector organizations play in educational advancement? The Adream Foundation from China offers a unique pathway to improving education for a more equitable world. Founded in 2008 by Shirley Pan, Adream aims to inspire confidence, composure, and dignity of younger generations by advocating equitable access to quality education across China. Shirley Pan shares with the global CIES community her belief that equitable quality education is the key to the success of disadvantaged learners, as well as her adventures over the past 15 years in realizing her dream. Her long journey is narrated with three phases: 1) establishing a budding charity by bringing quality education resources to less privileged areas (2008-2012); 2) mobilizing stakeholders from public, private and philanthropic sectors by creating a dynamic network for systemwide expansion (2013-2018); and 3) improving the ecology of learning and teaching for children in rural schools with voluntary choices and sustainable actions by all parties (2019-Present). She further reflects on invaluable lessons learned on hope, pathways and approaches in her quest for equitable quality education through charitable work.

Bio-sketch: Shirley Pan quit her work from the business sector and started her charity in the sector of education 15 years ago after two accidents in her personal life. She was thus convinced to support teaching much-needed life skills to deprived children in rural schools. Since the inception of the Adream Foundation in 2008, her team has funded over 5,000 Dream Centers across the country and benefited around six million students, mostly from underdeveloped regions in inland China. Backed by the support from many funders and governmental agencies who shared the same vision with her, Adream has offered a wide range of professional development opportunities to more than 120,000 teachers to help them make the most out of the Dream Courses and Dream Centers. With the vision of enhancing equitable quality education for all, Shirley Pan and her growing team aim to inspire confidence, composure, and dignity of younger generations in China and the rest of the world.