

## Peking University's Allied Elementary School – Beijing, China



The administration of Peking University's noted Allied Elementary School welcomed representatives of GKE USA and their facilitators from GKE Beijing I and GKE Beijing II for catalyst team training seminars conducted October 22-24, 2003 in the AESPU's new GKE Innovative Learning Center facility. Peking University Elementary Principal Yin Chao stated in a recent *GKE Incite* e-zine interview, "Our slogan is teacher and student should grow together. Through the collaboration of students, and not only me, but also the teachers, I want students to feel learning and living are really a joyful experience -- the two should be the same." The dedicated and committed Principal Yin Chao went on to state during the GKE catalyst seminars that, "Our goal is to make AESPU a premiere school in China and globally. Because we have such a goal in mind, GKE's programs are very attractive to us . . . Kids, no matter where they are in different countries, they should enjoy the best resources available in the world. That is our future."

Key faculty from AESPU were among GKE China's first catalyst team of professional educators trained in the GKE Innovative Learning Process. The seminars were led by GKE USA's Senior Executive Vice-President and developer of the GKE Innovative Learning System, Florence McGinn, who is the United States National Tech&Learning Teacher of the Year 1998 and a former United States Commissioner on Web-based Education during the Clinton administration. The purpose of initiating a GKE catalyst team was to involve active, classroom educators directly in the global research and development strategies of the GKE Innovative Learning System. Catalyst teachers integrate the GKE Innovative Learning System's strategies into classroom innovation in a localized, meaningful way. Catalyst teachers collaborate in global innovation projects as well as facilitate the dissemination of GKE's innovative pedagogies.



George Zhang, who attended the seminars, stated, "We need GKE to help the fostering of our innovation. We will use our own Chinese system, the curricular system. Beyond that, we need supplementary material from your GKE Innovation Café, and we need to train teachers to get this pedagogy to create a flexible and creative environment for learners. Our slogan is future leaders start here."

The GKE seminars were transmitted from the GKE Innovative Learning Center into AESPU classroom locations for viewing by additional educators, filmed by GKE Beijing through the use of innovative eEngine hardware, and featured on CCTV China. Earlier GKE presentations by Florence McGinn and GKE Innovative Learning System materials are published in China by Centrix Technologies, Shanghai, and Nankai University, Tainjin.



The catalyst training seminars were a component of the strategic research agreement signed earlier this year between AESPU and the GKE Foundation. After this initial, intense grounding in the GKE Innovation Learning System provided by the educational experts of GKE USA, the Catalyst Team will be facilitated by GKE China in order to implement and provide local adaptation of the GKE Innovative Learning System.

The primary school attached to Peking University was founded in 1906 and designated as a National Key Primary School in 1952. Covering an area of 24,800 square meters, Peking University Allied Elementary School is regarded as a "garden of learning" for its almost 2000 students. This award-winning elementary school serves as a core, representative model school for the GKE China Membership Alliance. The Peking University Allied Elementary School is a national model, and it has won Model Primary School and Advanced Primary School awards. For the 2004-5 school year, AESPU has in place a major building plan with the inclusion of a new GKE Innovative Learning Center.

*This project is one of many GKE and GKE-facilitated projects.  
With K-12, university, and corporate strategic partners,  
GKE designs and integrates value-added, technology-assisted  
learning interactions that are customized to suit  
compelling regional and international education industry needs.*