

## Refugee Review Tribunal

### AUSTRALIA

#### RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

**Research Response Number:** CHN30600  
**Country:** China – Solomon Islands  
**Date:** 4 October 2006

Keywords: CHN30600 – China – Solomon Islands – Chinese in the Solomon Islands – Disabled people in China – Christians in China

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

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#### Questions:

1. What is the current security situation in the Solomon Islands with respect to foreigners and people of Chinese ethnicity in particular?
2. Is there a real risk of Chinese people suffering harm in the Solomon Islands?
3. What is the current population of Chinese persons in the Solomon Islands and what are they generally engaged in doing in the country?
4. What is the general attitude of the authorities including the courts, towards foreigners and their security?
5. Do disabled people suffer harm in China?
6. Are there government and NGO facilities for the disabled in China?
7. Are there government sponsored health programs to assist the needy?
8. Are there special facilities for the disabled?
9. Can you provide any information on access to basic medical and social services?
10. Are disabled children denied access to education?
11. Are there any programs deigned for the disabled in China?
12. Do the Chinese authorities allow Christians to practice their religion in the privacy of their homes?
13. To what countries could the standard of care in hospitals in China be compared to?
14. Question deleted.

#### RESPONSE

1. What is the current security situation in the Solomon Islands with respect to foreigners and people of Chinese ethnicity in particular?

#### General

In July 2006 DFAT advised that the security situation in the Solomon Islands remained unpredictable following significant civil unrest in Honiara in mid-April 2006. The security

presence in the Solomons comprises both local police and security provided by the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands (RAMSI), with Australia being the largest contributor. There are around 200 RAMSI military personnel, 325 RAMSI police officers and about 1,050 Royal Solomon Islands Police (RSIP). Australian security forces have been deployed in the Solomon Islands since 2003 (DIMA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No. 06/34 – Solomon Islands: CISQUEST SLB8577: Solomon Islands – Ethnic Chinese*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 July 2006), 20 July – Attachment 1); ‘Solomon Islands “hiding fugitive”’ 2006, *BBC News*, 2 October <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/5398684.stm> – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 2; ‘Fear of Domination Sparked Anti-Chinese Riots’ 2006, *Asia Media Forum*, 22 April <http://www.asiamediaforum.org/node/428> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 3).

According to an August 2006 DFAT country briefing, the situation in the Solomon Islands has remained unstable since the April 2006 unrest. The unrest had resulted in significant property destruction, including burning and looting of shops, hotels and vehicles (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2006, *Solomon Islands Country Brief*, August [http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon\\_islands/solomon\\_islands\\_brief.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon_islands/solomon_islands_brief.html) – Accessed 19 September 2006 – Attachment 4).

There are recent reports of increasing violence in the Solomons. The violence has been attributed to gangs, deteriorating relations with Australia and the resumption of parliament on 2 October 2006 (‘Rise in violent crime worries Solomons police’ 2006, *BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific*, source: Radio New Zealand International, 2 October – Attachment 5; ‘Solomon Islands “hiding fugitive”’ 2006, *BBC News*, 2 October <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/5398684.stm> – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 2; DFAT 2006, *Travel Advice: Solomon Islands*, 30 September [http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw/cgi/view/Advice/Solomon\\_Islands](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw/cgi/view/Advice/Solomon_Islands) – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 6).

In the context of reporting on the expulsion of the Australian High Commissioner in September 2006 a *Canberra Times* article wrote on RAMSI:

...The future of the force is being questioned this weekend, as the outbreak of megaphone diplomacy continues. The conspicuous presence of the force is maintaining calm, and may be needed for at least another five years. [Prime Minister] Sogavare depends on RAMSI to keep the streets clear of rioters and allow his Government to get on with its job. A lack of violence means the fishery and forestry industries can continue providing jobs and revenue. It appears that Sogavare is undertaking a delicate balancing act: he wants to reassert local sovereignty without threatening the future of RAMSI or the lucrative flow of aid from Australia that floats his economy... (‘Wisdom lacking in hotbed Honiara’ 2006, *The Canberra Times*, 16 September – Attachment 7).

According to an Associate Professor from Queensland University also reported by the *Canberra Times*:

...the local people resent the presence of RAMSI, even though it is responsible for cleaning up the police force and the public service... (‘Wisdom lacking in hotbed Honiara’ 2006, *The Canberra Times*, 16 September – Attachment 7).

## Foreigners

A DFAT Travel Advice for the Solomon Islands dated 30 September 2006 states:

We advise you to exercise a high degree of caution and closely monitor developments that might affect your safety in the Solomon Islands, notably in and around the capital Honiara. Some elements of the security situation remain fluid after significant civil unrest and allegedly politically-motivated violence in Honiara in mid-April 2006.

With the resumption of Parliament scheduled for 2 October 2006, political tensions have been rising in Honiara. The parliamentary session is scheduled to start on 2 October 2006 and is expected to run for two weeks. You should avoid protests and large gatherings as they may turn violent. Pay close attention to your personal security and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks.

There remains some potential for further ethnically-targeted violence (DFAT 2006, *Travel Advice: Solomon Islands*, 30 September [http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon\\_Islands](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon_Islands) – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 6).

The Travel Advice continued:

Petty and street crime is on the increase, particularly in Honiara. House and vehicle break-ins occur, with expatriates particularly targeted. Some recent episodes have involved violence and the use or threatened use of knives.

There has been an increase in gang-based criminal activity in and around the Burns Creek area in East Honiara, including in the nearby Ranandi industrial centre.

Isolated incidents of harassment of expatriates have increased in Honiara since April 2006, for the most part minor and associated with alcohol and from fringe elements within the community (DFAT 2006, *Travel Advice: Solomon Islands*, 30 September [http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon\\_Islands](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon_Islands) – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 6).

## Chinese

Little information was found in the sources consulted on the current security for Chinese in the Solomon Islands. However, DFAT has indicated that the potential for ethnically-targeted violence remained (DFAT 2006, *Travel Advice: Solomon Islands*, 30 September [http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon\\_Islands](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Solomon_Islands) – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 6).

The Chinese were targeted in the April 2006 unrest in Honiara and about 90% of the Chinese-owned business district was looted and burned down. Local Melanesian ethnic groups reportedly united to attack Chinese businesses. The article also noted that the unrest “reflects local fears of Asian economic domination of the poverty-ridden South Pacific islands”. Also, there was a perception that the Chinese had funded the election of the former Prime Minister Snyder Rini (‘Fear of Domination Sparked Anti-Chinese Riots’ 2006, *Asia Media Forum*, 22 April <http://www.asiamediaforum.org/node/428> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 3; Spiller, Penny 2006 ‘Riots highlight Chinese tensions’, *BBC News*, 21 April <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4930994.stm> – Accessed 20 September 2006 – Attachment 8; ‘New Solomon Islands PM sworn in amid violence’ 2006, *The Guardian*, 20

April <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1757931,00.html> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 9).

One article reported that the Solomon Islands' Governor General officially apologised to the displaced Chinese community and appealed to members of the community who had left the country to return ('Governor General apologised to Chinese community' 2006, *PACNEWS*, 19 June – Attachment 10).

Two September 2006 *Sydney Morning Herald* articles identified the "So-called new Chinese" as being targeted in the April 2006 unrest (Skehan, Craig 2006, 'Damned if we do, damned if we don't', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 16 September – Attachment 11; McDonald, Hamish 2006, 'Newcomers face a rising tide of resentment', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 September – Attachment 12).

On recent violence in the Solomon Islands it was reported that an armed gang robbed Taiwanese aid workers (Skehan, Craig 2006, 'Missionaries attacked by machete gangs', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 October <http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/missionaries-attacked-by-machete-gangs/2006/10/02/1159641265780.html#> – Accessed 3 October 2006 – Attachment 13).

## **2. Is there a real risk of Chinese people suffering harm in the Solomon Islands?**

Information on this specific question was not found in the sources consulted.

On the treatment of Chinese in the Solomon Islands *The Guardian* reported that the rise in anti-Chinese feeling is a change for the Solomons – traditionally, troubles had stemmed from rivalry between the different indigenous ethnic groups. Also, the US State Department report on human rights practices for the year 2005 mentioned that there was "occasional societal discrimination against ethnic Chinese" ('New Solomon Islands PM sworn in amid violence' 2006, *The Guardian*, 20 April <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1757931,00.html> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 9; US Department of State 2006, 'National/Racial/Ethnic Minorities' in *Country Reports on Human Practices for 2005 – Solomon Islands*, 8 March – Attachment 14).

According to DFAT:

During the time of the riots, ethnic Chinese and Taiwanese were provided with protection from the RSIP and PPF. The local Red Cross through AusAID and the Chinese Association provided food and blankets and the Australian High Commission provided consular assistance. The PRC sent over a representative from the Chinese Embassy in PNG to facilitate the evacuation of the Chinese departing Honiara. The Taiwanese Government also assisted their citizens' departure by helping them secure passage on international aircraft. Prior to the riots and since that time, no special protection has been provided to ethnic Chinese or Taiwanese (DIMA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No. 06/34 – Solomon Islands: CISQUEST SLB8577: Solomon Islands – Ethnic Chinese*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 July 2006), 20 July – Attachment 1).

(Note: The PPF is the multi-national Participating Police Force ('Solomons man charged over October shooting incident' 2004, *ABC Asia Pacific TV / Radio Australia*, 30 December [http://www.abcasiapacific.com/news/stories\\_to/asiapacific\\_stories\\_lofi\\_1274199.htm](http://www.abcasiapacific.com/news/stories_to/asiapacific_stories_lofi_1274199.htm) – Accessed 30 December 2004 – Attachment 15).

In an April 2006 article in *The Australian* the Vice-president of the Solomon Islands Chinese Association stated that the community had “little confidence” that local police or the RAMSI force could protect them in the coming years (‘Solomon Islands riot victims eye asylum’ 2006, *The Australian*, 22 April <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,18889260-601,00.html> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 16).

Another April 2006 article reported the position of the PRC government:

...Though the [April 2006] conflict focused mainly on Taiwanese, the official Xinhua news agency reported that Beijing was “extremely concerned” about the situation and has asked the Solomon Islands government to act to protect the lives and businesses of Chinese people. It also reported that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had ordered the foreign ministry to closely follow developments and help secure the safety of Chinese people in the Solomon Islands (‘Fear of Domination Sparked Anti-Chinese Riots’ 2006, *Asia Media Forum*, 22 April <http://www.asiamediaforum.org/node/428> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 3).

Earlier information on the treatment of ethnic Chinese in the Solomon Islands prepared by the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board is attached:

- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004, *SLB42551.E – Solomon Islands: Follow up to SLB36622.E of 10 April 2001 on the current treatment of ethnic Chinese in the Solomon Islands*, 13 April – Attachment 17.
- Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2001, *SLB36622.E – Solomon Islands: Treatment of ethnic Chinese in Honiara by Malaitans, the Guadalcanal natives, and by the authorities; availability and effectiveness of state protection for them; availability of relocation to safer islands; whether there have (sic) been an exodus of ethnic Chinese or foreigners from the Solomon Islands (January 2000 – April 2001)*, 10 April – Attachment 18.

### **3. What is the current population of Chinese persons in the Solomon Islands and what are they generally engaged in doing in the country?**

Recently, DFAT advised that statistics do not reliably track the numbers of ethnic Chinese (both foreign and Solomon Islands nationals) in the country. The most recent estimate on the population of ethnic Chinese is 1,100 (provided to DFAT by the Chinese Association). This is approximately 0.22% of the total population of some 500,000. The majority are in Honiara with the remainder scattered throughout the provinces (DIMA Country Information Service 2006, *Country Information Report No. 06/34 – Solomon Islands: CISQUEST SLB8577: Solomon Islands – Ethnic Chinese*, (sourced from DFAT advice of 20 July 2006), 20 July – Attachment 1).

In April 2006 a *BBC News* article stated that the Chinese have lived in the Solomon Islands for generations, their families and businesses forming an integral part of island life. Spiller wrote that the Chinese community was “just a few thousand” but was considered “significant”. In recent years there has been an influx of new arrivals from the PRC, purchasing beachfront and prime property for hotels, restaurants and shops (Spiller, Penny 2006 ‘Riots highlight Chinese tensions’, *BBC News*, 21 April <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4930994.stm> – Accessed 20 September 2006 – Attachment 8).

Another April 2006 article, from the *Asia Media Forum*, stated that some 2,000 ethnic Chinese living in Honiara in a population of 50,000. Most ethnic Chinese are naturalised third or fourth generation Solomon Islanders. Over the years they have built retail stores and other businesses dominating the wholesale and retail sectors ('Fear of Domination Sparked Anti-Chinese Riots' 2006, *Asia Media Forum*, 22 April <http://www.asiamediaforum.org/node/428> – Accessed 31 May 2006 – Attachment 3).

#### **4. What is the general attitude of the authorities including the courts, towards foreigners and their security?**

Specific information on this question was not found in the sources consulted.

However, the US State Department in its report on human rights for the year 2005 mentioned that of the public solicitor's staff of 16, ten were foreign nationals. Also, of the ten public prosecutors, seven were foreign nationals (US Department of State 2006, 'Denial of Fair Public Trial' in *Country Reports on Human Practices for 2005 – Solomon Islands*, 8 March – Attachment 14).

The following sources outline claims by Solomon Islanders of foreign interference in the country's administration.

- The head of the government-appointed Review Taskforce on the peace process has stated that local organisations involved in promoting peace are influenced by outsiders – foreign influence caused the failure to achieve peace. On this aspect the taskforce head singled out RAMSI and the Australian High Commission ('Taskforce: Cause of Solomons Conflict not addressed' 2006, *Solomons Star*, 15 June <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/2006/June/06-16-07.htm> – Accessed 29 June 2006 – Attachment 19).
- According to the *Canberra Times*, following the establishment of a Solomons Islands' government inquiry into the April riots in Honiara, the Australian High Commissioner was declared a persona non grata. The Australian government suspected that the inquiry was designed to interfere with the trials of two members' of parliament charged with inciting the riots and shifting the blame to Australian police commanders. In response, the Prime Minister Sogavare is claiming "foreign interference" ('Wisdom lacking in hotbed Honiara' 2006, *The Canberra Times*, 16 September – Attachment 7).
- After the Australian Foreign Minister said an inquiry into the April riots could undermine the rule of law and prejudice court proceedings against those involved the Solomon High Islands High Court registrar stated that "the court will do everything necessary to protect itself from interference, political or otherwise" ('High Court stands by Honiara riots inquiry' 2006, *ABC News Online*, 15 September <http://www.abc.net.au/cgi-bin/common/printfriendly.pl?http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200609/s1742170.htm> – Accessed 20 September 2006 – Attachment 20).

Of interest is a DFAT briefing stating that much work remained to be done, particularly relating to implementing practices of good government, rebuilding the police force improving accountability and achieving economic reform (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade 2006, *Solomon Islands Country Brief*, August

[http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon\\_islands/solomon\\_islands\\_brief.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/solomon_islands/solomon_islands_brief.html) – Accessed 19 September 2006 – Attachment 4).

## 5. Do disabled people suffer harm in China?

Information on this specific question was not found in the sources consulted. Sources indicate, however, that although the situation for disabled people in China is improving there are shortcomings.

Under legislation a disabled person is defined as:

A disabled person refers to one who suffers from abnormalities of loss of a certain organ or function, psychologically or physiologically, or in anatomical structure and has lost wholly or in part the ability to perform an activity in the way considered normal.

The term “disabled persons” refers to those with visual, hearing, speech or physical disabilities, mental retardation, mental disorder (sic), multiple disabilities and/or other disabilities.

The criteria for classification of disabilities shall be established by the State Council (*Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons*, Adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China on 28 December 1990 and implemented 15 May 1991, China Disabled Persons’ Federation website, Article 2 [http://www.cdpcf.org.cn/english/info\\_01.htm](http://www.cdpcf.org.cn/english/info_01.htm) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 21).

The Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) report that there are more than 30 national laws containing specific provisions concerning people with disabilities. It states that although extensive disability legislation exists, more legislative effort is needed to enhance legal protections. The *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons* is significant legislation (copy attached). The enforceability of this law has received increasing attention and criticism in recent years (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.22-23 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22; *Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons*, Adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China on 28 December 1990 and implemented 15 May 1991, China Disabled Persons’ Federation website [http://www.cdpcf.org.cn/english/info\\_01.htm](http://www.cdpcf.org.cn/english/info_01.htm) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 21).

The *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, covering seven Asian countries and published by the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) states that:

...During the past two decades, concurrent with the country’s rapid economic growth and social development, and as a result of a series of positive legislative and administrative actions and the work of disability organizations, the general living conditions and overall social status of people with disabilities has improved remarkably. However, people with disabilities remain a vulnerable group and many

still encounter specific difficulties in a society whose economy is experiencing a tremendous market-oriented transition. Much remains to be done in order to ensure the full realization of “Equality, Participation and Sharing” for people with disabilities (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.19 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

The *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia* noted that China and Japan were the “most inclusive” nations in their performance of support for the human rights of people with disabilities. The term “inclusive” covers Convention Support, Legal Protections, Education and Employment, Accessibility, Health Services and Housing and Communication and are outlined in Appendix C of that report (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.VII-VIII, (Appendix C)181 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

The report continued:

...However, no countries provide adequate basic protections in each of the categories measuring the actual implementation of disability rights. The capacity for enforcing protections varies widely. The areas of accessibility and education and employment appear to be the most problematic (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.VIII [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

According to the US State Department:

The law protects the rights of persons with disabilities and prohibits discrimination; however, conditions for such persons lagged far behind legal dictates, failing to provide persons with disabilities with access to programs designed to assist them. According to the official press, all local governments have drafted specific measures to implement the law (US Department of State 2006, ‘Discrimination, Societal Abuse, and Trafficking in Persons’ and ‘Persons with Disabilities’ in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

The US Department of State also noted that misdiagnosis, inadequate medical care, stigmatisation and abandonment remained common problems (US Department of State 2006, ‘Discrimination, Societal Abuse, and Trafficking in Persons’ and ‘Persons with Disabilities’ in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

In June 2006, at the Third Session of the National Conference on Disabled People held by China’s Commission for Work for the Disabled, it was reported:

Over the past five years, the conditions in which disabled people make a living has been noticeably improved, the level of civilization of the social environment has further been raised, the quality of disabled people as a whole has steadily improved, the cause of disabled people exerts an increasingly stronger influence on the international community and a large number of significant measures that influence the development of the cause [of disabled people] have been implemented one after



another...At the same time, we must understand in a cool-minded way that there are still many problems regarding the cause of disabled people that should not be ignored: the cause of disabled people lags behind economic and social development, there is still a considerable gap between the standard of living for disabled people and the average level of the public, an effective mechanism characterized by “bringing rehabilitation medicine to communities and bringing rehabilitation services to families” has yet to be created, the percentage of disabled children who go to school is far lower than that of normal children, the situation for the employment of disabled people is still tough, social security system policies for disabled people must still be improved, work to safeguard the rights and interests of disabled people has yet to be improved, discrimination and prejudice against disabled people still exists to different extents in different places and the ability of organizations for disabled people at all levels to serve disabled people should be further improved. In the course of constructing a harmonious socialist society, the cause of disabled people is a comparatively obvious social issue that must be tackled as soon as possible. Further measures must be adopted and greater efforts must be made to resolve this issue (‘Advancing the cause of disabled people in a down-to-earth manner’ 2006, *SinoFile Information Services*, source: Renmin ribao, 9 June – Attachment 24).

Chinese sources mention that some ten million of the disabled people in China are below the poverty line (‘Bid to improve job prospects of disabled’ 2006, *South China Morning Post*, 10 June – Attachment 25; ‘Advancing the cause of disabled people in a down-to-earth manner’ 2006, *SinoFile Information Services*, source: Renmin ribao, 9 June – Attachment 24).

Of interest is the attached China disability profile published by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) (undated), *Disability at a Glance: a Profile of 28 Countries and Areas in Asia and the Pacific*, pp.1-15  
<http://www.unescap.org/esid/psis/disability/publications/glance/disability%20at%20a%20glance.pdf> – Accessed 27 September 2006 – Attachment 26).

## **6. Are there government and NGO facilities for the disabled in China?**

The national coordinating body for disability policy in China is the State Council Coordination Committee on Disability (SCCCD). The main responsibilities of the SCCCD are to formulate and monitor the implementation of key disability policies, strategies and programmes, resolve major issues concerning disability, and coordinate the actions of different government departments (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.37  
[http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

There is also the China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF). The CDPF is a national umbrella organisation of and for people with various types of disabilities (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples’ International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.37-38  
[http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

According to the CDPF’s website its tasks include:

Developing and promoting rehabilitation, education, employment, cultural life,

welfare, social service of persons with disabilities and the prevention of disabilities so as to improve the environment and conditions for the participation of persons with disabilities in society ('Organization' (undated), China Disabled Persons' Federation website <http://www.cdpf.org.cn/english/organization.htm> – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 27).

The CDPF has established a number of local organisations in various areas of China. One of the “special associations” within the CDPF is the China Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities. Group membership of the CDPF includes the China Fund for the Handicapped, China Rehabilitation Association for Persons with Disabilities, China Massage Association of the Blind, China Disabled Persons Sports Association, China Sports Association of the Deaf and the China Association for Promotion of the Press and Publicity on Disability. The CDPF, in collaboration with other departments and civic organisations, provides assistive devices and rehabilitation, education and employment services for disabled people ('Organization' (undated), China Disabled Persons' Federation website <http://www.cdpf.org.cn/english/organization.htm> – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 27; Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.38 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

According to the CIR and DPI:

With the support of the CDPF, there are some 38,000 grassroots associations of people with disabilities that are active throughout the country, at the community and village levels, and that provide various types of practical assistance and services for citizens with disabilities in their communities (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.38 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

The US State Department noted that nearly 100,000 organisations exist, mostly in urban areas, to serve the disabled and protect their rights (US Department of State 2006, 'Persons with Disabilities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

There are reports of other groups providing assistance to the disabled, for example:

- The Catholic-run Jinde Charities ('First Catholic-run Non-Profit Organization Registered With Government' 2006, UCANEWS.com, 3 August [http://www.ucanews.com/search/show.php?q=First+Catholic-run+Non-Profit&page=archives/english/2006/08/w1/thu/C\\_H00811RA.txt](http://www.ucanews.com/search/show.php?q=First+Catholic-run+Non-Profit&page=archives/english/2006/08/w1/thu/C_H00811RA.txt) – Accessed 7 August 2006 – Attachment 28).
- Beijing's China Rehabilitation Research Center, a state-owned institution affiliated with the CDPF ('German Intervention Puts Fu Xiancai in Top Hospital – But Villagers Harassed over Investigation' 2006, Human Rights in China website, 18 September <http://www.hrichina.org/public/content/press?revision%5fid=30750&item%5fid=30747> – Accessed 20 September 2006 – Attachment 29).

- A rehabilitation centre in Shanghai was jointly set up by the Putuo District Disabled Persons' Federation and Shanghai Hongkang Hospital ('Putuo sets up rehab center for disabled' 2005, *Shanghai Daily*, 31 December – Attachment 30).

## 7. Are there government sponsored health programs to assist the needy?

Sources indicate that there are government health programmes to assist the needy. Programmes found in the sources consulted include the New Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme (RCMS), the Medical Financial Assistance (MFA) and the Rehabilitation for Poverty Reduction among Persons with Disabilities.

- The RCMS emerged in 2002 and is designed to relieve the excessive financial burden of health care on rural residents. Participation is voluntary and the cost is designed to be bearable for farm families (United Nations Health Partners Group in China 2005, *A Health Situation Assessment of the People's Republic of China*, July, pp.43-44 [http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/ronlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa\\_en.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/ronlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa_en.pdf) – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 31).
- The MFA was established in 2000 to address the needs of the poor in urban and rural areas in covering the cost of basic health care services. It is managed by the municipal governments and varies greatly across cities, largely depending on their fiscal capacity (United Nations Health Partners Group in China 2005, *A Health Situation Assessment of the People's Republic of China*, July, p.44 [http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/ronlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa\\_en.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/ronlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa_en.pdf) – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 31).

The CIR and DPI has reported:

In response to the many people with disabilities, especially in poverty-stricken rural regions, who could not afford rehabilitation services, the government and NGOs collaborated on the projects “Rehabilitation for All among Leprosy-disabled Persons” and “Helping the Hearing-Impaired by Donating Hearing-Aids,” which have helped over one million people. With support from commercial banks, the government also established a project called “Rehabilitation for Poverty Reduction among Persons with Disabilities.” In the 5-year period from 1996 to 2000, the project received 2,210,148,000 RMB yuan of earmarked funds to help people with disabilities living in poverty. For 2003, 650 million RMB Yuan were earmarked for the project (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.32 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

## 8. Are there special facilities for the disabled?

The CIR and DPI notes that, traditionally in China, care for people with disabilities is provided by family and community. The Ministry of Civil Affairs supervises welfare institutions/homes and similar care-providing centres. These are designed for disabled veterans, abandoned orphans, the elderly and others who cannot live independently, including people with disabilities. The State finances and manages most of these institutions, however, some are run by collective units and more recently, private organisations. No information was found on the number of institutions which exist exclusively for disabled people (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005,

*International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.33-34  
[http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006  
– Attachment 22).

According to the CIR and DPI report:

The Law on the Protection of Disabled Persons stipulates that individuals without working capabilities, legal guardians, or financial income, shall be cared for by the State and society and may be accepted by State-run welfare institutions/homes or care centers. In general, services for people in need are inadequate. Although private institutions provide an increasing number of services, they normally charge a fee that most people with disabilities cannot afford. Meanwhile, as the entire social welfare system transitions towards a market-based approach, the number of welfare institutions for targeted groups, including people with disabilities, seems to be decreasing, and official reports indicate that the number of state-run welfare institutions has decreased in recent years (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.33-34  
[http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

The US State Department reports:

According to reports, doctors frequently persuaded parents of children with disabilities to place their children in large government-run institutions, where care was often seriously inadequate. Those parents who chose to keep children with disabilities at home generally faced difficulty in getting adequate medical care, day care, and education for their children. Government statistics showed that almost one-quarter of persons with disabilities lived in extreme poverty. Unemployment among disabled adults remained a serious problem...(US Department of State 2006, 'Persons with Disabilities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

## **9. Can you provide any information on access to basic medical and social services?**

### **Medical services**

The Chinese health service system aims to organise health service delivery and to protect and improve the health of the entire population. The system is based on an urban-rural structure, with wide differences between the two. There is uneven resource allocation between geographic areas, within the health system and between clinical and preventive services. Health service institutions, such as clinics and hospitals, charge service fees and sell their drugs for profit. Attachment 31 provides detailed information on the health system. Sources also indicate that China's health system is currently undergoing transition (United Nations Health Partners Group in China 2005, *A Health Situation Assessment of the People's Republic of China*, July, pp.28-29 [http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa\\_en.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa_en.pdf) – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 31).

There is a problem of funding health services in poor localities. Local governments in these areas provide fewer and lower quality services. People in poor areas not only have access to fewer services but also pay a greater share of the cost of those services (United Nations Health Partners Group in China 2005, *A Health Situation Assessment of the People's*

Republic of China, July, pp.45-46 [http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa\\_en.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/NR/rdonlyres/0267DCE8-07AB-437A-8B01-03D474D922CD/0/hsa_en.pdf) – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 31).

A World Health Organization (WHO) report states that:

- there are barriers in financial access to medical services – people have reduced their use of medical services for financial reasons; and
- there is a growing gap in the health system tied to income inequality between urban and rural areas, among regions and between income groups (World Health Organization (WHO) 2006, 'China' in *Tough choices: investing in health for development*, p.52 [http://www.who.int/macrohealth/documents/report\\_and\\_cover.pdf](http://www.who.int/macrohealth/documents/report_and_cover.pdf) – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 32).

Recent information by the WHO Representative Office in China reports:

With limited resources, China has made significant strides in healthcare over the past half a century. But it still has a long way to go.

Large disparities in healthcare exist across geographical localities and socio-economic groups – and these disparities are growing at a time of significant transition and transformation, as China's economic boom benefits millions but also leaves millions behind. China's poor and vulnerable, particularly in rural areas, benefit little from public spending on health. In poor regions, the authorities provide fewer and lower quality services, and individuals end up paying a higher share of the costs out of their own pockets. For many, healthcare is not even an option – it is simply unaffordable.

Indeed illness is often a ticket to financial ruin. Surveys estimate that between 30 to 50 per cent of China's poor are driven into entrenched poverty by costs related to illness and injury. Many simply refuse treatment. Some 75 per cent of rural residents and 56 per cent of urban residents cite being unable to afford the bills as the reason why people refuse hospital care following a doctor's referral (WHO Representative Office in China 2006, 'China's health systems development', 19 July <http://www.wpro.who.int/china/sites/hsd/overview.htm> – Accessed 26 September 2006, <http://www.wpro.who.int/china/sites/hsd/achievements.htm> – Accessed 26 September 2006, <http://www.wpro.who.int/china/sites/hsd/goals.htm> – Accessed 26 September 2006 – Attachment 33).

Other information on the disparities in medical and health care may be found in: China Development Research Foundation (CDRF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2005, *China Human Development Report 2005*, 15 October, pp.54-60 [http://hdr.undp.org/docs/reports/national/CPR\\_China/China\\_2005\\_en.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/docs/reports/national/CPR_China/China_2005_en.pdf) – Accessed 27 September 2006 – Attachment 34).

A CIR and DPI reports that:

China's health care system is currently undergoing tremendous transition, as the previous system of "medical care at public expense" is being gradually replaced by a moderately market-oriented "social basic medical insurance" system based on financial responsibility that is shared jointly by individuals, their employers, and the State. With this new system as a general background, people with disabilities access

health services on an equal basis with others, though appropriate services, especially rehabilitation services, might not always be available (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.31 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

A September 2006 *China Daily* news article stated that the government will bear a greater share of the costs for health care and basic treatment to redress imbalances in access to medical services. A Ministry of Health official, cited by the article, said that the government would use additional tax revenues to set up hospitals to provide free primary medical care for all – especially for the poor, the elderly, the jobless and the disabled (Sheng, Min 2006, 'Panel seeks remedy for medical ills', *China Daily*, 20 September – Attachment 35).

### **Social services**

Sources indicate that the Household Registration System (*hukou*) allows registrants full access to social services. However, urban *hukou* holders have better access to economic and social benefits and opportunities than rural holders (US Embassy in China (undated), 'Hukou Reform Targets Urban-Rural Divide', American Embassy in China website <http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/econ/ptr/hukou.html> – Accessed 26 May 2006 – Attachment 36; Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2006, *CHN101198.E – China: The hukou; whether there remains a distinction between urban and rural hukou; social services available to persons holding an urban or rural hukou; the temporary hukou; and whether a person who is not registered in an urban area can obtain social services, including a hukou (2005 – 2006)*, 26 April <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/?action=view&doc=chn101198e> – Accessed 27 September 2006 – Attachment 37).

According to sources cited by the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, rural *hukou* holders who migrate to urban areas are unable to access many of the social services available to urban citizens. Non-registered people anywhere usually cannot obtain local social services but can still access such services in their hometowns (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2006, *CHN101198.E – China: The hukou; whether there remains a distinction between urban and rural hukou; social services available to persons holding an urban or rural hukou; the temporary hukou; and whether a person who is not registered in an urban area can obtain social services, including a hukou (2005 – 2006)*, 26 April <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/?action=view&doc=chn101198e> – Accessed 27 September 2006 – Attachment 37).

Other sources cited by the Canadian Board indicate that migrant workers not registered in urban areas may be able to access those services by paying for them or by offering bribes to officials (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2006, *CHN101198.E – China: The hukou; whether there remains a distinction between urban and rural hukou; social services available to persons holding an urban or rural hukou; the temporary hukou; and whether a person who is not registered in an urban area can obtain social services, including a hukou (2005 – 2006)*, 26 April <http://www.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/ref/?action=view&doc=chn101198e> – Accessed 27 September 2006 – Attachment 37).

The US Department of State has also reported that it was difficult or impossible to gain full access to social services without official residence status. It noted that in some major cities access to education for children of migrant workers continued to improve and some cities offered migrant workers other social services free of charge (US Department of State 2006, 'Freedom of Movement within the Country, Foreign Travel, Emigration and Repatriation' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 38).

There are also reports of religious organisations provided some social services (US Commission on International Religious Freedom 2005, *China: Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (excerpt)*, May <http://www.uscirf.gov/countries/publications/currentreport/2005annualrpt.pdf> – Accessed 4 August 2006 – Attachment 39; 'First Catholic-run Non-Profit Organization Registered With Government' 2006, UCANEWS.com, 3 August <http://www.ucanews.com/search/show.php?q=First+Catholic-run+Non-Profit&page=archives/english/2006/08/w1/thu/CH00811RA.txt> – Accessed 7 August 2006 – Attachment 28).

## **10. Are disabled children denied access to education?**

Under Article 18 of the *Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons*, disabled people are guaranteed the right to education and provides for compulsory education for disabled children and juveniles. The CIR and DPI also note that other laws, e.g. Law of Education, Law of Higher Education, contain special provisions for disabled people (*Law of the People's Republic of China on the Protection of Disabled Persons*, Adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on 28 December 1990 and implemented 15 May 1991, China Disabled Persons' Federation website [http://www.cdcpf.org.cn/english/info\\_01.htm](http://www.cdcpf.org.cn/english/info_01.htm) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 21; Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.28 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

According to the CIR and DPI report a mixed system of integrated education and special education has increased educational opportunities for disabled people. However, it was also reported that, in 2003, there were still 323,000 school-aged children with disabilities who did not have access to education due to such factors as family poverty. The report also noted that special education was available primarily to those that are blind, deaf or have severe intellectual disabilities (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, pp.28-29 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

On higher education the CIR and DPI state:

According to the Law on Higher Education, no institution may discriminate or reject any student on the basis of his or her disability. Yet, until recently, students with disabilities still experienced implicit barriers such as the physical examination requirements of some universities. Such requirements were recently lifted by the Ministry of Education in order to give effect to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities. In 2003, there were 3,072 disabled students enrolled in

universities and 827 at special higher institutions. The lack of accessible conditions and reasonable accommodations on campuses remains a barrier for people with disabilities. However, in the case of Wang Wei vs. Henan Pingdingshan City Finance and Trade Institute, the judge ruled that eligible student candidates like Mr. Wang, who has polio, could not be rejected by the Institute on such grounds as a lack of accessible computer labs. The ruling declared it the responsibility of the relevant institution, to the best of their ability, to provide people with disabilities equal opportunities for and access to education (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.29 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).

The US State Department has reported that the state-run media have stated that 3,821 disabled youth from poor families entered colleges. It also noted that students with disabilities were discriminated against in access to education. The US State Department reported that the law permitted universities to legally exclude otherwise qualified candidates from higher education (US Department of State 2006, 'Persons with Disabilities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

## **11. Are there any programs designed for the disabled in China?**

The CIR and DPI write that the government has included rehabilitation in four national and social development plans. The report continued:

The government has developed and supported rehabilitation programs that aim to mainstream and facilitate the participation of people with disabilities in society. These programs include sight-restoring cataract surgery, low-vision training, speech training for hearing-impaired children, corrective surgery for people with physical disabilities, and provision and installation of assistive devices. From 1996 to 2000, about 4.33 million people with disabilities throughout the country received rehabilitation services. Services were delivered through key rehabilitation centers as well as Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) initiatives. CBR aims to improve the physical functioning and independent living skills of people with disabilities in order to facilitate their participation in social life and their communities and is an important and foundational part of rehabilitation efforts in China. According to the ongoing "National Programme on Disability in Tenth Five-Year Plan Period," some 5.1 million people with disabilities will receive rehabilitation services delivered through the joint efforts of governments and communities from 2001 to 2005.

In response to the many people with disabilities, especially in poverty-stricken rural regions, who could not afford rehabilitation services, the government and NGOs collaborated on the projects "Rehabilitation for All among Leprosy-disabled Persons" and "Helping the Hearing-Impaired by Donating Hearing-Aids," which have helped over one million people. With support from commercial banks, the government also established a project called "Rehabilitation for Poverty Reduction among Persons with Disabilities." In the 5-year period from 1996 to 2000, the project received 2,210,148,000 RMB yuan of earmarked funds to help people with disabilities living in poverty. For 2003, 650 million RMB Yuan were earmarked for the project (Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 2005, *International Disability Rights Monitor: Regional Report of Asia*, July, p.32 [http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR\\_IDRM\\_Asia\\_05.pdf](http://www.ideanet.org/uploads/file/CIR_IDRM_Asia_05.pdf) – Accessed 25 September 2006 – Attachment 22).



The US State Department reported that the government, together with NGOs, sponsored programmes aimed at integrating disabled persons into society. However, it noted that conditions in China failed to provide disabled people with access to programmes designed to assist them. The Department stated that, in 2004, 16.2 million of China's 60 million disabled people found employment, however, another 12 million remained unemployed. It noted that state-run media had indicated that some 1.7 million people with disabilities "escaped poverty" (US Department of State 2006, 'Persons with Disabilities' in *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005 – China*, 8 March – Attachment 23).

According to the CDPF assertive devices have been provided to people with disabilities and "Rehabilitation training and community-based rehabilitation services have been all-roundly launched". It states that rehabilitation departments have been set up in "comprehensive hospitals". Rehabilitation centres are said to have been established at provincial, city, county and township levels ('Rehabilitation' (undated), China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) website [http://www.cdpf.org.cn/english/function\\_01.htm](http://www.cdpf.org.cn/english/function_01.htm) – Accessed 28 September 2006 – Attachment 40).

Also, a Chinese government report states:

Social security for the disabled has been better implemented. Large numbers of disabled people have benefited from the minimum living standard program. Classified assistance has been carried out in some areas, where special aid is provided for disabled people with excessive difficulties, such as seriously disabled people or families with more than one disabled members, by raising their minimum living guarantee standard and level. In some urban areas, impoverished disabled people who are self-employed are entitled to subsidies for participating in basic old-age insurance. At present, 4.469 million disabled people in China are provided with social security of various forms. The aid-the-poor development program for the rural areas continues to provide special aid to the impoverished disabled people, and people from all walks of life in the society have assisted impoverished disabled people in various ways. In 2004, 1.27 million disabled people no longer had the problem of having enough to eat and wear. To improve the housing conditions of impoverished disabled people, the central treasury appropriated 50 million yuan for subsidies and the local governments at various levels funded 277 million yuan in total to renovate the houses of over 20,000 households, benefiting 27,000 disabled people (Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China 2005, *China's Progress in Human Rights in 2004*, April, p.27 <http://www.china.org.cn/e-white/20050418/index.htm> – Accessed 2 May 2005 – Attachment 41).

## **12. Do the Chinese authorities allow Christians to practice their religion in the privacy of their homes?**

Country information indicates that the Chinese government has made public statements that family and friends are free to hold prayer meetings in their own homes but formal worship is required to take place in a registered venue (US Department of State 2006, 'Improvements and Positive Developments in Respect for Religious Freedom' in *International Religious Freedom Report 2005 – China*, 15 September – Attachment 42; Mann, William C. 2006, 'Despite new rules, China's record on religious freedom remains poor, U.S. says', *Associated Press Newswires*, 15 September – Attachment 43).

The religious report stated that:

Local officials have great discretion in determining whether "house churches" violate

regulations. The term “house church” is used to describe both unregistered churches and gatherings in homes or businesses of groups of Christians to conduct small, private worship services. SARA [the State Administration for Religious Affairs] officials confirmed during the year that unregistered churches are illegal, but said prayer meetings and Bible study groups held among friends and family in homes are legal and need not register...(US Department of State 2006, ‘Restrictions on Religious Freedom’ in *International Religious Freedom Report 2005 – China*, 15 September – Attachment 42).

One news article also mentioned that many Chinese Catholics remain loyal to the Vatican and worship in unofficial churches and private homes (‘Reports: Beijing Releases Unofficial Chinese Roman Catholic Bishop’ 2006, *Voice of America Press Releases and Documents*, 27 September – Attachment 44).

### **13. To what countries could the standard of care in hospitals in China be compared to?**

News articles have compared the Chinese health system as follows:

- United Nations figures from 2003 ranked China 61<sup>st</sup> in health performance among 192 UN countries. It also noted that China had one of the most unfair systems in the world (Powell, Alvin 2005, ‘Health care reform in China discussed’, *Harvard University Gazette*, 15 September <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2005/09.15/09-china.html> – Accessed 14 September 2006 – Attachment 45; Lague, David 2005, ‘Healthcare falls short, Chinese tell leaders’, *International Herald Tribune*, 20 August <http://www.ihf.com/articles/2005/08/19/news/china.php> – Accessed 22 August 2005 – Attachment 46).
- A WHO study ranked China fourth from the bottom of 191 countries in terms of the fairness of medical coverage (Browne, Andrew 2005, ‘Health Crisis: Chinese Doctors Tell Patients To Pay Upfront, or No Treatment – Parents of Boy With Leukemia Scramble for Cash to Cover New Chemotherapy Round – Threat Seen to Social Stability’, *Wall Street Journal*, 5 December – Attachment 47; ‘Funding for health care dire, says minister’ 2006, *South China Morning Post*, 20 February – Attachment 48).

### **14. Question deleted.**

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World Health Organization <http://www.who.int/en/>

#### **Non-Government Organisations**

World Bank <http://www.worldbank.org/>

#### **International News & Politics**

BBC News <http://news.bbc.co.uk/>

#### **Region Specific Links**

ANU Virtual Library: Pacific Studies <http://coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-PacificStudies.html>

Pacific Islands Report <http://pidp.eastwestcenter.org/pireport/graphics.shtml>

#### **Topic Specific Links**

Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR)

<http://www.cirnetwork.org/content.cfm?id=5B5E&memberMenuid=0&>

IDEAnet <http://www.ideanet.org/content.cfm?id=5B5A74&memberMenuid=0&>

#### **Search Engines**

Google search engine <http://www.google.com.au/>

Open Directory Project <http://dmoz.org/>

### Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIMA Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

ISYS (RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State Reports)

RRT Library Catalogue

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3. ‘Fear of Domination Sparked Anti-Chinese Riots’ 2006, *Asia Media Forum*, 22 April  
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