

Editorial

Today we can present to our readers the first 2014 issue of *Religions & Christianity in Today's China* (中国宗教评论).

As usual, it includes the regular series of News Updates with recent events and general trends regarding religions and especially Christianity in today's China.

In his article "Relationship between Religion and State in the People's Republic of China," Prof. Dr. Zhuo Xinping – Director of the Institute for World Religions at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing – describes this relationship as neither integration nor separation of religion and State. The only relationship, he states, that ever existed in China was the primacy of the State and the subordination of religion. However, today this relationship is also influenced by present developments and the global context. "What role religion should or could play in the PRC, whether religion in China can be accepted as a normal phenomenon among the people and whether there is a possibility for politics to be linked to religion is still a matter of contention in China today. Of course all these problems may be discussed nowadays which shows that there is an open and tolerant atmosphere with regard to this question in Chinese society." In his conclusion Prof. Zhuo gives an outlook on three possible future developments of the complicated relationship between religion and State in the PR China, with the third – "realistic" – possibility in which the Chinese Government would give religion more freedom and maintain the existence of religion within the current framework.

The issue concludes with a report on the international conference "Catholicism and China: Dialogue, Inculturation and Responsibility" in Hong Kong in November 2013. The conference was jointly organized by the Yuan Dao Study Society (Diocese of Hong Kong) and the Centro Studi Li Madou (Macerata/Italy), with the Monumenta Serica Institute and the China-Zentrum (both in Sankt Augustin, Germany) as co-organizers. More than half of the participants came from Mainland China, both from State universities and from the Church.

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Sankt Augustin, February 2014

The Editors