

Editorial

Today we would like to present to our readers the fourth 2013 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 the first 2013 issue of *RCTC* we started with the publication of contributions to the symposium "Faith-based social services in China today," conducted by Caritas Germany and Jinde Charities in cooperation with the China-Zentrum, Freiburg/Germany, October 18–19, 2012. Following Prof. Deng Guosheng's (Director of the Center for Innovation and Social Responsibility of Tsinghua University, Beijing) article "The Decline of Foreign Aid and the Dilemma of the Chinese Grassroots NGOs" in that issue, today we continue with the two other contributions offered by Chinese speakers: Prof. Wang Meixiu (Institute of World Religions at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing) gives an insight into "Church-State Relations and Their Impact on Christian Charity in China" and Fr. John B. Zhang (Jinde Charities, Shijiazhuang) in his presentation "Walking in Love and Service Together with China and the Chinese Church" stresses, among others, the importance of charitable awareness and a continued support for the development of faith-based NGOs. Cooperation in social services both in China and with international partners might be "also a way to resolve contradictions between Church and State in China, as well as to portray a positive image of the Church."

Last but not least, with a little overview we want to introduce to our readers the work of the China-Zentrum on the occasion of its 25th anniversary since its foundation in the year 1988. Many people have helped to make it possible for the China Center to carry out its commitment in the past and on into the future to serve as a bridge to China and its churches and religions in the context of society and culture. Thus the brochure is also an expression of gratitude for their continuous support.

Religions & Christianity in Today's China is freely available on the website of the China-Zentrum, www.china-zentrum.de. Additionally, readers who subscribe to *Religions & Christianity in Today's China* will regularly receive e-mail updates providing web links to the contents of each newly published issue.

The China-Zentrum is a non-profit organization. For the publication of *Religions & Christianity in Today's China* we are dependent on the generosity of our friends and readers. In order to help us cover inevitable costs, we would be very grateful if you could consider sending in a voluntary contribution.

Sankt Augustin, November 2013

The Editors