

# Symposium Report

*By Anwei Feng and Bob Adamson*

To begin with, we all felt we had a very successful and productive symposium at Southwest University in Chongqing on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2011. It was evident that participants felt benefited and inspired by the research papers presented and ideas exchanged. We have reasons to feel very proud of our achievement so far.

Below is a summary report of our symposium.

a) First of all, we agree that we owe our success to the organising committee headed by Prof Liu Chengyu at SWU. Prof Liu and his team, including Bonnie, Hongdi, and some dedicated student helpers, devoted much time and effort to make this event smooth and meaningful. Our heartfelt thanks also go to Prof Wen Xu and Prof Xiang Xueqin for their encouragement and generous support.

b) It was agreed that the research papers were of higher quality than in those presented in previous years not only in terms of content but also format. All presentations were more focused, yet thorough, while they took the overall context in mind. All the presentations will be uploaded onto our password-protected website.

c) There was clear evidence in adopting a common approach to investigating the phenomena of trilingualism and trilingual education. At the same time, we also saw a variety of research projects. The Guizhou project, for example, took a different approach and is a valuable addition to the project. We also agreed between teams there should and could be more collaboration in many aspects of research, including bidding for funding and data analysis.

d) We also agreed that the conceptual framework, particularly the typological grid developed for trilingual education, is useful because it helps to analyse our research data, to keep the language and terminology in each chapter consistent and coherent and to make the comparisons between schools and between regions manageable and meaningful. The typology is especially helpful for our book project.

e) The timeline for the book project was determined.

f) Towards the end, we discussed how we can increase the impact of our research on individuals and the society. The detailed notes of the discussion taken by Hongdi will be circulated in due course. In essence, we discussed:

- what research impact is
- how we can disseminate research findings more effectively
- how we can proactively create impact
- how we keep records of the evidence of impact
- how we share the information demonstrating the impact of our research on individuals and the society to benefit all of us.