

## **Domestic Violence of the China Law Society**

### **Phase II Report**

(2003.5 - 2006.4)

The Network for Combating Domestic Violence is a three-year extension of the Project of Combating Domestic Violence in China: Research, Intervention and Prevention (2000-2003). The Network for Combating Domestic Violence (referred to as the Second-Term Project or the Project in the below) is established and operated by the Network and Research Center for Combating Domestic Violence of China Law Society (referred to as DVN or the Network in the below).

The Second-Term Project is implemented over three years, and except for part of the research results that are waiting for press after revision, other work has all been completed in the general. We hereby present the Narrative Report of the Network/Research Center for Combating Domestic Violence of the China Law Society, Phase II (2003.5-2006.4)

**I. Project Goals and Review of Working Plans** (For the goals and working plans, please refer to the original Application to the Second-Term Project for details)

#### **Project Goals:**

1. To expand the Network so that a truly nationwide popular domestic violence network with memberships in all of the major provinces and cities in China will take form; to improve and refine the Network operation mechanisms.
2. To establish a domestic violence information database (which is to use the Resource Center of the Network as the basis, to continue to network with concerned parties both in and outside the country, and to gather a full range of data on the topic of domestic violence and violence against women and children), to provide a reference point for interested individuals, and to disseminate information both at home and abroad.
3. To continue theoretical research about the dynamics of domestic violence and intervention strategies in the Chinese context, to improve the multi-organizational intervention model and to promote this model into other member provinces and cities. The other goals are to push for domestic violence legislation at the local level, to integrate domestic violence legislation into the state legislative agenda and to encourage state governments at all levels to include this issue as one of their concerns.
4. To carry out gender-sensitiveness training to legislators and law enforcement personnel affiliated with the member organizations of the Network, and to provide TOT training to potential trainers.

5. 9 books are waiting for press. Some of them are unpublished research results from the first-term project. The others include training manuals on domestic violence and gender perspective. These publications are meant to provide for the training plans laid out in goal 4, to expand social influence and to enhance public awareness.

### **Three-Year Working Plans**

1. To set up a database on the website, to disseminate information in both Chinese and English and to provide online consulting service.
2. To continue media campaigns, and to open DVN and/or domestic violence special column in the Prosecutor's Daily and China Women's News.
3. To develop a domestic violence databank as an extension of the Resource Center and to develop it into the leading information center on domestic violence in the country; to continue issuing the "Newsletter" bimonthly.
4. To expand the existing gender training sub-project and to set up a gender and domestic violence training base for China within three years. To provide training for all the member organizations, for the leaders, law enforcement officers, social workers, trainers of grassroots women cadres of those institutions that request such training social workers, and for politically important grassroots institutions and organizations.
5. To embrace as many major administrative regions as possible into the Network, to organize Network activities for members both in and outside Beijing, to hold annual experience exchange meetings every year, and to organize a TOT workshop to teach about intervention skills and gender approach to domestic violence for Network members each year.
6. To continue the theoretical and action research sub-project, to refine the interventional models in urban, rural and medical communities, to conduct theoretical research on domestic violence and to develop an intervention theory framework able to provoke deeper thoughts and discussions about how to address the issue in the local context of the Chinese society.

## **II. Overview of the Second-Term Project**

On May 12, 2003, the Executive Council was elected into being by the votes of DVN members. On June 5th, 2003, the Executive Council of DVN called its first meeting on which a President and Vice President were elected and the Director and Assistant Director were hired for the Network (Office). The transition from a project management to a Network management is the first step of DVN in terms of structural and institutional reform.

Within the three years of the Project period, DVN has organized a range of activities and utilized a variety of forms, committing a great deal of time and efforts to the capacity

building of the organization. Its practice and exploration has contributed to the development of the NGO sector in China.

In the three years, DVN has also been an active participant in the numerous domestic violence and violence against women activisms both at home and abroad, the result of which is an increased social influence of the organization. DVN's delegation team not only participated at the 9th International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma, it also conducted a successful China workshop at the conference. At the 49th session of the United Nation's Commission on the Status of Women, which reviewed and appraised the implementation of the Beijing results and the outcome documents of the Beijing+5 special session of the General Assembly, DVN representatives delivered two public reports on initiatives against domestic violence in China. DVN's remarkable interventions against violence against women have elicited positive social response. In both China's Implementation Report to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discriminations against Women (CEDAW) and Evaluation of the Implementation of the Beijing results, the State has written about DVN's work. In his report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the Beijing +5 special session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has also mentioned and affirmed the social impact of DVN.

In the three years, DVN has organized a series of public forums and seminars on the topics of violence against women and human rights, raising discussions on a spectrum of thematic issues including violence against women, domestic violence legislation, adjudication of battered women, and sexual harassment in the workplace and so on. Through these discussions, DVN has stimulated public concern for the status of women's rights and interests.

In the three years, DVN has actively push for domestic violence legislation, improved the model of multi-organizational collaboration on the intervention against domestic violence, and advocated the state governments of all administrative levels to integrate domestic violence as an issue on the state agenda.

In the three years, DVN has delivered many training sessions to educate different audiences about gender and domestic violence; at the same time, DVN also has made creative use of diverse forms of media to promote anti-domestic violence campaign, advocating for changes in public opinions and social awareness.

During the process of pressuring the State to shoulder more responsibilities in domestic violence intervention, DVN has also actively organized and supported the efforts of its member organizations to provide varied services and aids to victims of domestic violence.

What's our next focus? What kind of historical mission should be assumed by DVN? How to help the members to grow along with the Network? These are questions that DVN has been contemplating and discussing since its inception. In the last year of the second-term, DVN

organized a Network-wide discussion, listened to different voices representing a spectrum of interests, perspectives and professional backgrounds within the organization, and produced a well-shaped strategic plan to initiate the Network into the next phase of work.

To sum it up, in general, the Network has fulfilled expected goals and fully implemented the working plans. In some aspects, the Network has achieved outstanding results.

### **III. Operation of the Network**

One of the important goals of the Second-Term Project is to expand the Network, improve the operation and to form a nationwide popular domestic violence network with memberships in all of the major provinces and cities in China. To better accomplish this goal, DVN organized a variety of activities aimed to stimulate the growth of the Network and provided a platform for experience and information sharing in order to facilitate communication and cooperation among DVN members. At the same time, DVN also made great efforts to participate in social events and cultivate public relations with external parties, which helped build a reputable image for DVN as a non-governmental organization.

#### **1. Network Building**

**Membership Development:** At the beginning of the Second-Term Project, DVN experienced a stage of rapid expansion. To ensure the healthy development of the Network at an appropriate pace, at the end of 2004, DVN decided to suspend recruitment of new members temporarily. At present, the number of individual member stands at 138 and the number of member organization is 46 (distributed across 24 provinces)

According to the plan, recruitment of new members will resume after the Strategic Plan has come out. The first step will be a re-registration of current members; then, the Network will begin to accept new members in accordance with the Network Member Rule and continue to expand the geographical boundaries of the membership.

**Management:** Right after the Second-Term Project was commenced, the Network decided to separate its decision-making, monitoring and management functions, and the Executive Council hired one director and two assistant directors to form a management body for the Network. In early August, 2004, the Executive Council assigned one of its board members to manage the Network after the previous director quit her job. In the meantime, the Network opened its management positions to the public. An ad-hoc hiring committee was set up with the participation of the Executive Council, the management personnel and leaders of the sub-projects to review the applications and to select the most suitable candidate. In February, 2005, the newly hired director arrived at the Network. Concomitantly, the two assistant directors of the Network also resigned their positions separately due to personal reasons, and another hiring process started to look for a new assistant director.

**Capacity Building:** At the beginning of the Second-Term Project, to keep up with the speed of the Network's development, DVN organized and participated in various capacity building

activities addressing a broad range of issues such as executive council building, leadership building, team building, human resources, financial management, and strategic planning. 15 of these activities organized or participated in by the Network were enabled by the assistance of the Winrock Program on NGO Capacity Building (funded by the Ford Foundation), and the number of participants at these events stood approximately at almost 200 person/times. The Network is not simply a beneficiary in these events, it also has committed time, energy and a matching fund of more than 30,000 RMB. In addition, with the sponsorship of Oxfam Netherlands, the Network Office staff members have been able to visit Thailand and Hong Kong to examine the NGOs in other countries and regions. On these trips, the Office staff gained a deeper understanding of the operation system and management models of NGOs.

**Strategic Planning:** The Annual Network Conference in 2004 was a warm-up for strategic planning. In July, 2005, the Executive Council decided to set up a strategic plan working group. Under the directorship of this group, DVN organized 3 consecutive meetings amounting to a 6 days in total from September to November in 2005, involving the participation of the Executive Council members, the Executive Director, leaders of the sub-projects, the Office staff, DVN members and representatives of the Network's sub-projects outside Beijing. The result of the three organized discussions was a draft proposal of Strategic Plan. At the Annual Network Conference held in December, 2005, the principles of this draft proposal were discussed and passed. In June, 2006, the Executive Council approved of the Plan.

**Evaluation of DVN's Social Impacts:** From February to March, 2006, DVN carried out an evaluation of its social impacts in accordance with the donors' requirements. Two evaluators were involved, one recommended by the donors and the other by the Network. Many Network members both in and outside Beijing and DVN's collaborators have been contacted and interviewed for the evaluation. This activity not only helped DVN develop a new perspective on its past work, it also stimulated new ideas and visions for the next stage of DVN's development.

**The Overall Evaluation of the Project:** Between April and May, 2006, DVN carried out an overall evaluation of the Second-Term Project. This evaluation was overseen by an evaluation work team, executed by an external collaborator and conducted internally. All of the 8 sub-projects, the Office and the Executive Council have been evaluated respectively.

## **2. Network Activities**

The Network has organized an Annual Conference each year in accordance with the Project plans. At the same time, it also organized numerous thematic events and activities both in and outside Beijing.

### **The Three Annual Conferences and Their Themes**

1) On November 15th and 16th, 2003, “The National Annual Conference of the Network (Research Center) for Combating Domestic Violence of China Law Society - In Commemoration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” was held in Beijing. Discussions at this conference focused on difficult issues of domestic violence intervention, strategies and ways to overcome these obstacles, and the theoretical framework and interventional model for addressing domestic violence. At this conference, members also discussed and passed *DVN - Organization and Activity Rule*.

2) In Kunming, Yunan province, between November 12th and 14th, 2004, the Network organized the second “National Annual Conference of the Network - In Commemoration of the 5th Anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.” This event was the first National Annual Conference of the Network held outside of Beijing since the Project of Combating Domestic Violence in China, China Law Society, was launched in 2000. This event marked the extension of domestic violence movement resources to Non-Beijing areas. (the themes of this conference were Beijing+10 and Network development)

3) From December 8th to 10th, 2005, the third “National Annual Conference for DVN, China Law Society- In Commemoration of the 6th Anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women was held in Beijing. The contents of this conference can be divided into two sections: 1) Revolving around the three topics of “How Far have We Come Along,” “Our Challenges,” and “Our Actions and Creative Ideas,” the first section of the conference was a two-day seminar discussing about how to promote domestic violence legislation and implementation across the country, a review of the trajectory of the Chinese movement against domestic violence, and a planning of future actions at the same time; 2) the second section on the third day of the conference focused on the discussion of the organization’s development issues. The Strategic Plan was also discussed and passed at the conference. 180 participants attended this event, marking the conference with a record number of attendants out of all the annual conferences organized by the Network so far.

### **Major Network Activities**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2003, DVN and the Gender and Education Forum of Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, co-organized the show of Vaginal Monologues at the Guangdong Arts Museum.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004, DVN co-sponsored “Artistic Action on V-day” with the Today’s Arts Museum in Beijing, an event consisting of an exhibition of contemporary female artists, white ribbon activisms, and a domestic violence signature campaign conducted on a paper roll of one hundred meters long and other activities.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Network and the publisher of the Project’s book series, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Press, co-sponsored publicity and public counsel event to disseminate the news of the publication of DVN’s book series and provide public

counseling at a bookstore in Wang Fujing shopping district. This was the first public outreach event organized by DVN in the form of book promotion. One of the image ambassadors for the Network, Wang Tong, also attended the event and signed many campaign posters. More than ten media, such as China Women's News, the Xinhua Net, the Eastsouth Net, etc, reported the event.

Between September 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005, DVN co-sponsored a seminar in Chengdu on the issue of "defending for public interest and women's rights," in joint efforts with the Asian Law Program Committee of the American Bar Association and the Lawyers' Association of Sichuan Province. Several DVN's member organizations spread across five Western provinces, including Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Guizhou and other provinces, have sent their rights-safeguarding specialist and lawyer partners to this seminar.

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, DVN invited Dr. Gu Xuebin from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University to give an academic speech titled as "some thoughts on participation and action, practice and future directions."

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at Huiqiao Hotel in Beijing, DVN of China Law Society held a "Seminar on the Issues in the Adjudication of Battered Women who Killed their Abusive Husbands." The seminar discussed about the varying lengths of sentences delivered in these cases, the issue of evidence collection and other challenges facing the adjudication of such cases. Since these cases have formed a highly contended issue these years, the conference attracted a great deal of social attention. The conference not only solicited numerous valuable suggestions from several well-esteemed scholars present at the meeting, it also resulted in the concern of the Supreme People's Court who expressed its will to follow up on this issue. More than 66 media reported this conference, including the People's Net, Xinhua Net, the People's Court Net, Legal Daily, etc.

Between May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, DVN co-organized the "Seminar Workshop on the Prevention and Elimination of Sexual Harassment against Women in the Workplace" with the Center for Gender and Law Studies, Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. This two-day conference addressed issues of how to prevent and set up prevention mechanisms to stop sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Two foreign specialists, one from the U.S. and the other from the Philippines, and several Chinese scholars delivered speeches. More than 80 people from 11 provinces and cities, including legislators from the People's Congress, female cadres from the All-China Women's Federation, individual Network members in Beijing and DVN's collaborators, attended the conference.

### **3. Exchange and Collaboration**

DVN, while promoting a domestic violence movement in China and carrying out activities to build itself into a stronger organization, has also paid particular concern to exchanging with and learning from the international women's movement, forming a mutually supportive

network with other NGOs in the country, and encouraging communications among Network members.

Within the 3 years, DVN has been visited by GOs and NGOs from the U.S., Norway, Korea, Japan and other countries, introduced them to the progress of domestic violence activisms in China, shared the Network's experiences, and led some of the visitors to the program sites for field investigation.

Other NGOs in the country have also paid visits to DVN. For example, a team led by the All China Women's Federation of Tianjing Municipality has visited the Network and its Urban and Rural Intervention projects to study about how to carry out domestic violence intervention in the community. PRA from Guizhou, the Research Association of Reproductive Health of Yunan and other organizations have also paid visit to the Network and shared their experiences of NGO building and management.

The exchanges among the Network members are more numerous and frequent. For example, after domestic violence legislation has made some progress in Hebei province, more than 10 member organizations of the Network organized study trips to Hebei for the local People's Congress, courts and other departments in their regions.

Exchanges of experiences and opinions brought more information to all the exchanging parties and also gained DVN many collective partners with whom DVN has formed friendly relations with. Oxfam Hong Kong, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Population Fund, the American Bar Association, the Tangzun International Media Agency, the Junwei Cultural Communication Company of Beijing are among the numerous friends who have either provided varied support for and have worked with the Network on miscellaneous occasions.

#### **IV. Sub-projects in Beijing** (please refer to the individual reports submitted by each sub-project for more information)

##### **The Media Sub-Project**

###### **1. Media campaigns and coverage**

The Media sub-project has been an active organizer and coordinator between the Network and the media, gaining much media coverage for the activities organized by the Network and its separate sub-projects. On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women of each year, the Media sub-project has organized massive domestic violence education and publicity campaign to raise media attention and enhance media sensitiveness in reporting of domestic violence.

###### **2. Keeping special columns and feature reports on domestic violence in China Women's News**

As a mainstream woman's media, China Women's News has been a leading effort in reporting of the issue of domestic violence. In the past 3 years, approximately 500 articles and more than 10 feature reports on domestic violence has appeared in China Women's News.

### **3. Collecting and monitoring reports in the popular media**

Since the beginning of the Second-Term, the Media sub-project, while still focused on domestic violence, has broadened the range of monitored issued and included various forms of gender violence, such as rape, sexual molestation of children, sexual harassment and so on, into the object group of its monitoring activism. Each year, the sub-project has collected about 200 media reports and articles. Due to a limited budget and shortage of manpower, the sources of the collected materials so far are confined to the mainstream media, particularly the print media.

### **4. Seeking other funds and exploring the use of new media in the public campaign against violence against women**

With a budget of around 10,000 USD to be split over three years, the Media sub-project was financially challenged at the very beginning. Therefore, the Media sub-project has made conscious efforts to seek alternative financial resources and raised about 200,000 RMB from miscellaneous donors, which not only solved its financial problems but also helped the sub-project tap into new areas of activism.

#### **The Website**

1. Establishes, maintains and develops a website specializing in providing domestic violence information. The Website has posted 2,333 articles and been accessed by 93,065 visitors in total. The peak number of visitors accessing the Website simultaneously is 23.
2. The media kit for journalists and other columns on the Website promote the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the reportage conducted by mass media.
3. The special column on local projects and activisms facilitates the process information sharing within the Network.
4. The personal growth of the participants in the sub-project: each of the two graduate students working for the Website project has put forward a master thesis of high quality on the issue of domestic violence (the titles are "Analysis of 20-year Media Coverage of Domestic Violence in *China Women's News*" and "The Ideology Analysis of Rape Reporting in Legal and Law Newspapers" respectively)

Significant experience: 1. The Website, as a replacement media for the popular women's NGO, should not only serve as a resource pool, but should also serve as a battleground for

social movement. 2. The Website need to interact and engage the mass media in journalistic activism. 3. It is necessary to set up and develop independent information resources. Reflection: the Website has to explore means and forms of collaboration with the Network's other sub-projects and the sub-network of DVN member organizations outside Beijing.

### **The Resource Center**

At present, the Resource Center has become the largest and most comprehensive domestic violence information center in China.

During the Second Term, the Resource Center has purchased and collected altogether 1,122 books; has collected 1,270 volumes of materials and classified the materials into 127 thematic categories (including international law, gender equality, marital rape, domestic violence, NPO, domestic violence in the U.S. and Britain, human rights in Taiwan, etc.); 25 electronic issues, 13 of which are published in Chinese language and contain 2,748 articles, 12 of which are in English and contain 130 articles; 12 audiovisual programs saved on CDs. The Center has also arranged for the translation of 48 articles discussing about the issue of domestic violence in foreign countries, the total number of translated words calculated at 372,808. According to available feedback, the users view translated materials as important and valuable references.

Since 2005, the Center has subjected its possessions to systematic classifications and categorizations, and also has saved the information on the computer, making the ideal of a computerized Resource Center one step closer. In the 3 years, the Center has received more than 20,000 requests in person to borrow and read (including simply consulting on site) its books and materials. It also has received about 130 visits from both domestic and international organizations and agencies. 15 visitors are international GOs and NGOs, 7 are domestic GOs and NGOs, and 26 are media agencies both domestic and foreign. The Resource Center is also responsible for the "documents and literature" and "book information" columns on the Website to provide readers with easier access and faster service. The Center has altogether published 13 issues of the Newsletter up until now, and all of the issues have been delivered to the Network members and related organizations on time.

Reflection: the Resource Center has not yet been connected to other similar libraries or information centers on the internet, which, to a certain degree, has affected the process and scope of information sharing. At the same time, due to inadequate funding and lack of manpower, the majority of the foreign-language materials have not yet been translated into Chinese yet.

### **Gender Training Sub-Project**

1. Gender and domestic violence training

Since August, 2003, the Gender Training sub-project has carried out 14 training programs with the funds for the Network and the number of participants amounts to 1,489. There are 491 male participants, accounting for 33% of the total number of participants and far exceeding the project's expectations.

Compared with the impact of the training project in terms of the number of its primary participants, the influence and effects of the secondary training programs designed by the primary participants in accordance with the specific needs and interests they discovered in their own work environment are more significant. According to incomplete statistics culled from Changsha, Xiaogan and other 4 project sites, the number of participants at the training programs organized by the original trainees in the TOT workshop offered by the sub-projects is estimated at 4,000 at minimum.

Aside from batterers and battered women, the training sub-project has reached all types of audiences targeted by the Project. They include the headpersons and managers of the Network's member organizations, medical workers, police officers, legal workers (judges and prosecutors), and ACWF cadres. According to the feedback collected from the questionnaires distributed to the participants after the training and reflection of the trainers, gender training has not only brought forward perception changes, attitudinal changes and new work styles, it also has enhanced the different organizations' cooperating skills with each other.

2. The writing of the training manual on gender perspective and domestic violence intervention.

Since it is a training manual for potential trainers, the writer's group has hoped to be able to substantiate the manual with more experience of training practice. Therefore, the writing is arranged to begin towards the end of the Second-Term Project. At present, this manual is still in the writing and plans for publication by the end of this year.

### **The Three Action Research Programs**

**The Medical Sub-project:** on the basis of the medical sub-project in the first term, the project begins to promote the medical domestic violence intervention model to the other hospitals supervised by the Public Health Bureau of Fengtai district in Beijing. In the candidate hospitals, the sub-project provided full training to the hospital staff and wrote up and edited an extremely accessibly Handbook of Medical Intervention against Domestic Violence for medical workers. The sub-project is also producing a domestic violence intervention flash to be broadcast on the scrolling screens in the lobby of different hospitals. The flash is meant to help the patients know about and learn to use the medical system with assurance to intervene in domestic violence (it is still in the production).

To encourage more medical institutions to accept the idea that the medical system is also an intervention mechanism against domestic violence and to further develop the multi-

organizational collaboration model in other regions, the sub-project has also provided special training on the issue in Changsha (Hunan province), Xiaogan (Hubei province), Yinchuan (Ningxia province), Luohe (Henan province), Zhangjiakou (Hebei province) and other places. According to the feedback, these training programs are well-received. The All-China Women's Federation of Zhangjiakou Municipality and the local Public Health Bureau have co-authored a document declaring their joint decision to introduce the medical intervention model into selected hospitals.

In addition, the medical sub-project has also written up a handbook called *Training Manual for Medical Workers Involved in Domestic Violence Intervention*, which will be published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences soon.

**The Rural Sub-Project:** Building from the partner-network formed in the first term, the Second Term Project has developed a much larger network that includes 22 working partners and provides a stronger organizational basis for effective domestic violence intervention, such as the judicial system, the prosecutorial system, the court, the office in reception of letter inquiries and personal visits, the bureau of civil and political affairs, the commission on education, the television and broadcast center and others. In addition, the government has issued documents to integrate domestic violence as one of the areas for performance evaluation across different institutes and work units. In the "100-point competition of the annual evaluation of work performance," domestic violence has become a 2-point area of examination. In the past, domestic violence is by no means an aspect of investigation or evaluation. The county-level court has adopted policies to accelerate case proceeding for battered women and to reduce or waive the prosecution cost for poor women victims of domestic violence, making more commitment to helping battered women. The case records taken by the police in its investigation are also allowed as significant evidence in court decisions with regard to domestic violence cases.

In the implementation of the second-term, the sub-project has paid more attention to accommodate the rural cultural context and popular tastes, carrying out a series of education campaigns ("fight against domestic violence on the campus," "fight against domestic violence at work," "fight against domestic violence in the mountains) which have inculcated a higher awareness among and provided useful information to the local government institutions, law enforcement officers and populace. The effect can be described as "preventive". For each year from 2001 to 2005, the numbers of domestic violence complaints that have come to the attention of the Rural sub-project (including 110 calls to the police, calls received by domestic violence hotlines and personal visits) are 78、172、124、128 and 136 respectively. According to the reception records, it is obvious there are more attempts at help seeking before than after the incident, indicating that the project has truly grown into a "preventive mechanism."

In 2004, the local program sponsor of the Rural sub-project, the local government of Yanqing county, was awarded the encouragement prize of the "Reform and Innovation Prize for Local Governments in China." In 2005, the National All-China Women's Federation has approved

of the Diaoqianying Village of Kangzhuang Township as one of the first exemplary communities of “zero domestic violence.”

**The Urban Sub-project:** in the second term, the project has achieved the following tasks:

1. Promoting the multi-organizational collaboration model on domestic violence intervention practiced in the urban communities within You’anmen sub-district to the rest of the urban areas in Beijing.

In December, 2004, the project organized a conference on “exchanging experience of domestic violence intervention in urban communities” to promote the You’anmen experience and discuss about the unique means adopted by diverse residential area in the intervention program. In the same month, the project conducted a “gender and domestic violence intervention” training program for the rights-safeguarding special cadres of the district, sub-district and suburban ACWF branches and the police officers working for Chengba District. In 2005, the project has carried out 12 training sessions on the same topic for ACWF cadres, police officers, judges and judicial cadres in Fengtai District, Chaoyang District and Shijingshan District respectively. The total number of participants is 1,350.

2. Continuing to improve and develop the You’anmen Model

The domestic violence intervention project has been running for 6 years in You’anmen sub-district. In the 6 years, there is a high turnover of leadership across all departments, such as the residential committee, the ACWF, the public security bureau, the judicial department and so on. Despite this fact, the project is unperturbed. Through a rolling training program, the You’anmen sub-district government office has cultivated a volunteer force that possesses a basic social work approach, independent organizing abilities and the will to be actively involved in the practice and promotion of the project. The You’anmen model has refined and expanded the general multi-organizational collaboration model on domestic violence intervention in urban communities.

3. Theoretical research and the multi-organizational collaboration model on domestic violence intervention

In the three years of implementation during the second term, the project group has adopted the action research approach and actively involved itself in the entire process of the implementation and program promotion. With a large amount of first-hand information collected from this process, the project plans to publish its research results in a book called *Researching and Practicing the Multi-organizational Collaboration Model on Domestic Violence Intervention*.

### **The Theoretical Research Sub-Project**

1. Legislation Research

In accordance with the plans, the project has completed the draft proposal of *Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence in Beijing* and submitted the proposal to relevant authorities. The aspiration of this proposal is acknowledged in the “Eleven Five” Development Plans for Women and Children in Beijing. Besides, the project has co-organized a conference with the Department of Law of China Women’s College discussing about the revising of the Law on the Protection of Women’s Rights and Interests. This conference not only elicited substantial discussions on the issue of domestic violence, it also produced detailed suggestions for the revision of the Law. The suggestions have been submitted to the Commission on Legal and Labor Issues of the National People’s Congress through the Network.

## 2. Theoretical Research

The original goal of this project is to research and develop a theoretical framework and intervention model for domestic violence activism in the Chinese context. However, due to various reasons, the research project has decided to shift the focus to “Researching Domestic Violence Intervention Model of the Domestic Violence Network Project, China Law Society,” in order to take advantage of the rich experience accumulated by the Network and to raise this experience to a higher theoretical level. So far, the writing (draft) has been completed but has yet to be finalized after being evaluated and reviewed for revision opinions by Network members.

### **The New Additions to the Working Plans in the Third Year**

At the second Annual Conference, Network members proposed new ideas for activism and suggested that the Network organize a project to commemorate the “Beijing +10” conference. When funds are made available in the third year of the second term, the Network added two new items to the project agenda for that year: 1) to organize a seminar workshop on sexual harassment, 2) to produce a documentary on the domestic violence movement in China in tribute to the “Beijing+10” conference.

#### **1. Seminar Workshop on Sexual Harassment**

“The Seminar Workshop on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment against Women in the Workplace” was held on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006. More than 80 participants from the People’s Congress, the All-China Women’s Federation, the Labor Union, the Public Security Bureau, the Court, NGOs and the academia across 11 provinces and cities came to attend the conference.

This conference was organized to flesh out and operationalize the general principle prohibiting sexual harassment included in the newly revised Law on the Protection of Women’s Rights and Interests in 2005. In 2006, the development of specific means to implement the Law on the Protection of Women’s Rights and Interests is listed on the work

agenda of many local women's federations. This conference has aimed to promote this agenda and to feed more specifics into the clause prohibiting sexual harassment by introducing international legislations, legal causes of action and skills of case defending with regard to the issue of sexual harassment to the participants.

In order to give the conference a specific and pragmatic focus, we decided to narrow the topic to the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace. 1) The conference placed emphasis on the employer's accountability, pointing out that the employer should set up effective mechanisms at the workplace to prevent and stop sexual harassment against women; 2) the conference also suggested that government should supervise the employer and make sure that preventive mechanisms against sexual harassment are formed in all workplaces.

We invited two specialists from abroad to be our keynote speakers. One is Ms. Pat Shiu, a U.S. lawyer, and the other is Judge Sitaca from the Philippines. At the same time, we also invited many legal and social sciences scholars at home. The conference not only introduced the history of sexual harassment legislations and the legal procedures of prosecuting the crime in the U.S., the Philippines, and the European Union, it also discussed about several sexual harassment cases in the country and the obstacles to promoting local legislations.

The end product of this conference will be a collection of papers. The articles are being edited right now and will be arranged for publication in early September.

This activity has enlisted substantial support from the American Bar Association, while the Center for Gender and Law Studies of the Institution of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, was the co-sponsor of this event.

## **2. The Documentary in tribute to the "Beijing +10" Conference**

The Beijing +10 sub-project is the first attempt of the Domestic Violence Network to document and represent the historical trajectory of women's domestic violence movement in China through audiovisual means. The most significant challenge for the project is to figure out a way to condense a lengthy process of historical transformation into a brief documentary of about several tens of minutes; the other challenge is that there aren't many gender-sensitive film professionals within the Network. Therefore, exploring new media and cultivating new talents for women's NGOs are the other major goals of this project.

At present, the project has set up a production team, settled down on a general representational framework and the themes to be addressed, and drafted a rough screenplay. The next step is to conduct interviews and start filming. In summary, the most difficult and onerous groundwork has been completed, and the group plans to finish the rest by the end of autumn.

### **Notes on the part of the Project that hasn't been completed on time**

To sum up, the Second-Term Project has been completed on time, and some tasks have even been completed ahead of schedule. Only a small portion of the Project hasn't been completely finished yet, which is mainly affected by two reasons: one is the temporary suspension of all work due to the Network's decision to focus on its own development; the other is the length of time required for the publication of research results. According to the organization policies and rules of the Network, all research results and findings to be published have to be submitted to both internal and external experts for evaluation, revision and finalization before going to the press.

We listed the uncompleted tasks in the below:

1. The fund provided by Oxfam Netherlands for the purpose of staff capacity building. In the last two years of the Project, the Office has been coping with work overload. Therefore, the Network Office has postponed staff capacity building plans to ensure the regular operation of the entire Network. (Notes: there should have been 5 staff members in the Office, but for a long time, the Office is understaffed with only 4 hands. Besides, the constant change of personnel also interferes with our work planning as it creates many uncertain factors).
2. The communication fund for the Network members outside Beijing. In 2004, after the Network stopped recruiting new members, in order to make a more fair and appropriate use of the resources, the Network also suspended the communication fund. Therefore, aside from the 30,000 RMB allocated to three member organizations in the first year during the second-term, we have not distributed the remaining fund yet. We expect to resume the use of this fund when the Network begins to accept and develop new members before the start of the project in the next term.
3. Growing up with the Domestic Violence Network has been edited and is expected to come out in August.
4. The General Report of the Domestic Violence Network is still in the writing and expected to finish by the end of this year.
5. The "Beijing +10" documentary project is expected to finish by the end of this year.

## **V. Sub-Projects outside Beijing**

The "Zero Domestic Violence: Community Building and Promotion" program in Changsha, Hunan province, the "Domestic Violence and Legal Aid" project in Liaoning province and the "Domestic Violence Volunteer Training and Aid for Battered Women and Children" project in Xiaogan, Hubei province are the Network's sub-projects located outside Beijing and all of them are funded exclusively by Oxfam Netherlands (NOVIB). DVN is mainly responsible for financial supervision and management in relation to these sub-projects.

### **The Changsha Sub-Project**

The “Zero Domestic Violence: Community Building and Promotion” program of Changsha installs several pilot sites. They include Furong District and other 8 sub-districts and towns or counties (also called exemplary sub-districts, towns and counties) governed by the Changsha Municipal Government. Aiming to promote the urban community intervention model, the Changsha sub-project has carried out numerous well-received education campaigns and training workshops, however, one of their most remarkable achievements is the set-up of a domestic violence statistics database at some locations. At present, Ms. Xiao Yaxing, President of the Municipal All-China Women’s Federation of Changsha, is communicating with the directors of the municipal public security bureau in the hope that this statistics collecting and classifying procedure will be introduced into the entire public security system.

### **The Liaoning Sub-project**

The Liaoning sub-project is a provincial project with 5 program sites in Shengyang city, Anshan city, Jingzhou city, Fuxin city and Chaoyang city. As a project focused on legal aid, in the three years, it has provided legal advocacy to 350 women and children living in poverty, financially assisted 6 shelters, and altogether aided 340 financially challenged women and children who are victimized by domestic violence.

The All-China Women’s Federation of Liaoning Province, the implementer of this sub-project, observes that the most significant achievement of the sub-project is the promulgation of *Regulations on Preventing and Stopping Domestic Violence of Liaoning Province* under the influence of sub-project. During the implementation, the sub-project conducted extensive research and advocacy. It is through these efforts that the local government has been persuaded to include the shelter policy for battered women into local regulations, ordering women’s shelters be set up by each level of local government above the county and shifting the responsibility of providing shelter from the popular organization and ACWF who have been providing this service previously.

### **The Xiaogan Sub-project**

In the three years of the implementation of the Xiaogan sub-project, 328 women have been trained in legal knowledge and occupational skills and 156 of them have found jobs with the assistance of this project. In addition, the sub-project also has prosecuted on behalf of 103 women and children for free, provided free injury identification service and medical care to 242 women and children physically victimized by domestic violence, and sheltered more than 1,000 women in need of financial assistance.

The sub-project elicited the support of the government for domestic violence prevention work, who has offered a 300m<sup>2</sup> house with a courtyard to be used as the domestic violence shelter and provided a match fund of 50,000 RMB each year for the cause against domestic violence. This sub-project also has made conscious efforts to refine its rules, ameliorate the environment of the shelter, standardize the management of the shelter (called the Xiaogan

Green Shade Center), and build a professional and loving volunteer force. The sub-project is also engaged in theoretical research and discussion and one of the results is the *Purple Book on the Fight against Violence Against Women*, a collection of papers written, edited and printed by the sub-project on its own initiative.

## **VI. Beneficiaries of the Project**

Since each sub-project is aimed at different target populations, the number and types of beneficiaries of DVN are of roughly equal quantity. According to the forms of benefits, the beneficiaries of DVN can be approximately divided into 4 categories. However, due to lack of standard criteria in the statistics collection process, it is hard to get a hand on the figures on some categories of the beneficiaries, especially those who have benefited indirectly from the Network. The following figures are calculated according to the separate figures provided in each report by the sub-projects.

- a. The number of Network members: including individual members, member organizations and working partners. We don't have a figure on the number of individuals affiliated with the Network because, with regard to organizational members and our partners, we only keep a record of the number of organizations and institutions.
- b. The number of serviced clients: the urban sub-project reported having serviced 102 male batterers and 200 female victims of domestic violence; the Liaoning sub-project reported having provided legal aid for 350 women and children living in poverty; the Xiaogan sub-project reported having helped 156 women find a job, represented 103 women and children for free in prosecutions, provided 242 victimized women with free injury identification service and medical care, and sheltered more than 1,000 women in need of financial assistance.
- c. The number of trainees: in the urban sub-project, 4,984 people received training over 22 sessions; the media-project trained 18 people in altogether one session; the training sub-project conducted 15 sessions and trained about 500 people; the number of the so-called "secondary training" sessions carried out by the original trainees is about 100 and the number of participants exceeds 4,0000 with 30% being male; the rural sub-project trained more than 10,000 participants, 50% being male and 15% being juniors; the Changsha sub-project conducted 12 training programs drawing in more than 5,000 participants; the Liaoning sub-project conducted 9 training programs for 2,600 participants in total.
- d. The number of participants in Network's various public campaigns and the scope of audience reached by the media: the various education activities organized by the office of You'anmen sub-district participating in the urban sub-project has mobilized roughly 50,000 participants, while similar activities carried out in the other sub-districts have mobilized approximately 400,000 participants. The estimated number of spectators and listeners who have been exposed to the numerous television and radio programs initiated by the rural sub-project is estimated to be about 70% of the county's entire population and half of that

population are male. By the end of June, 2006, 93,065 visitors have accessed the Website; the Resource Center has received more than 3,000 requests/visits to access its materials, and it has put forward 13 issues and delivered 4,000 copies of the Newsletter; 100 participants attended the Seminar Workshop on the Prevention of Sexual harassment against Women in the Workplace, and the number of readers of the papers resulting from this conference is estimated at 5,000. The Changsha Sub-project has printed 180,000 copies of a brochure it designed by itself on the issue of domestic violence, distributed 17,800 copies of a public letter, created 35 immobile boards for public education and more than 2,000 bill boards printed with the phone numbers of domestic violence hotlines or slogans advocating against domestic violence. It also has organized 10 public performances to promote the goal of "Fighting Domestic Violence, Creating Civil Families", which attracted more than 5,000 viewers residing in that area; staged 4 plays on the theme of "fighting domestic violence," attracting more than 2,000 viewers residing in that area; and organized a public discussion on the topic of "Keeping domestic violence away from the family," with the participation of above 1,000 residents. The Liaoning sub-project has printed 200,000 information sheets in public campaigns against domestic violence, produced 150,000 copies of brochures containing various information on women's and children's rights and interests, created 30 boards on the theme of safeguarding women's and children's rights that have traveled for display across 50 towns and counties. The Xiaogan sub-project has distributed 10,800 free copies of Resolutions of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Hubei province On Preventing and Curbing Domestic Violence, Preventing Violence Against Women and other materials. In addition, it also has provided on-site consulting service for more than 1,600 persons/times.

## **VII. Achievements, Challenges and Visions**

### **Achievements**

Separating decision-making, monitoring and management functions and putting the principles of democracy, transparency, openness and fairness to practice is a necessary stage of development for NGO. During the Second-Term Project, DVN has made conscious efforts at practicing and exploring these ideas, achieving a positive social impact in the NGO sector in China, especially with regard to the sector of women's NGO. Despite the cost of time and energy, feelings of frustration and the challenges of risk factors entailed by the transition, the Network, with the support and assistance of all of the members and donors, has accomplished the transition in a smooth and peaceful manner. What we get out of this process-the affirmation of the Network's core values, the increase of our management capabilities, strengthened trust and collective identity, the increased credibility of the organization-is beyond numerical calculation. Moreover, the increased vitality and management skills of the Network will yield visible and predictable results. Therefore, the most significant and worthwhile achievement of the Network during the second term is the successful transition of the organization.

In fact, in the third year of the second term and after the transition is complete, the Network has carried out many influential advocacy activities, all of which have clear goals, combined both theory and practice and facilitated the mainstreaming of gender perspective. Two such examples are the conference on the issues in the adjudication of battered women who have resorted to violence to stop the violence against them and the seminar workshop on the prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace. These innovative activities not only reflect the dynamic spirit of the Network, they also result from the Network's reform at self-management and -government.

The NGO Research Institute of Qinghua University, the National Information Research Center of the China People's University and other institutes have begun to study DVN as an object of research.

### **Challenges**

1. As a social movement, the Network for Combating Domestic Violence has brought forward visible changes after years of massive public education and advocacy campaigns. One of the most visible changes is the increased appearance of the term "domestic violence" in the public arena, such as in state documents and the mainstream media, indicating that more and more people have come to accept the concept. Moreover, the Network's efforts have also provoked some changes in the legal arena. However, we have to remain sober about the facts that the traditional male-dominated culture is still quite entrenched, the traditional perception of domestic violence as a private affair has not been fundamentally shaken and the cause to prevent and stop domestic violence still has a long and arduous journey ahead.

Besides, though the cause against domestic violence has achieved some landmark successes, how to keep the public attention and deal with the shifting priorities of the state in response to the fights and negotiations among numerous interest groups are important questions. How can we keep the public concerned with the cause against domestic violence? How to forge ahead in advocacy and to promote the mainstreaming of the cause? How to form effective preventive mechanisms? All of these questions pose challenges we must address in the future. We need new theories and more in-depth research to help the Network resolve these perplexities encountered in the promotion of our mission.

2. NGO sector in China is in need of more social support and resources. Most NGOs operate on a relatively economic budget. Given this situation, how to mobilize more volunteers with specialties and attract and keep a professionally trained staff are common problems facing most NGOs in China. These are also the challenges faced by DVN in its development.

### **Visions**

1. DVN will continue to enhance its functions as a network and provide more services, particularly professional support, to Network members.

2. The Network will focus more energy on advocacy and enhance its advocating skills; will strengthen collaboration with the government and other NGOs, open up more dialogues and promote the domestic violence cause into further progress.

### **VIII. Financial Report**

The Second-Term Project of the Network/Research Center for Combating Domestic Violence, China Law Society, has received a total sum of \$ 902,213.77 in aid from the Ford Foundation, Oxfam Netherlands (NOVIB), SIDA (Sweden) and the Norwegian Center for Human Rights at the University of Oslo. When the amount of occasional small grants (acquired from Oxfam Hong Kong, the Canadian Embassy, the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Population Fund and other agencies), donations and deposit interest are added, the total income of the Project is calculated at \$ 943,352.89. By April 30th, 2006, the Network has disbursed \$ 857,614.70 and the closing balance by then stands at \$ 85,738.19. The amount of the balance will be used to cover the expenses entailed by the Network between the end of the Second-Term Project and the commencement of the Third-Term Project. This amount also contains portions allocated for those sub-projects that have not been completed yet (including the following 5 sub-projects: the Office, the Resource Center, the Website, the Media sub-project and the “Beijing+10” documentary project). Therefore, all of the balance will be used up when the remaining wrap-up work is completed.