

# morning tears newsletter

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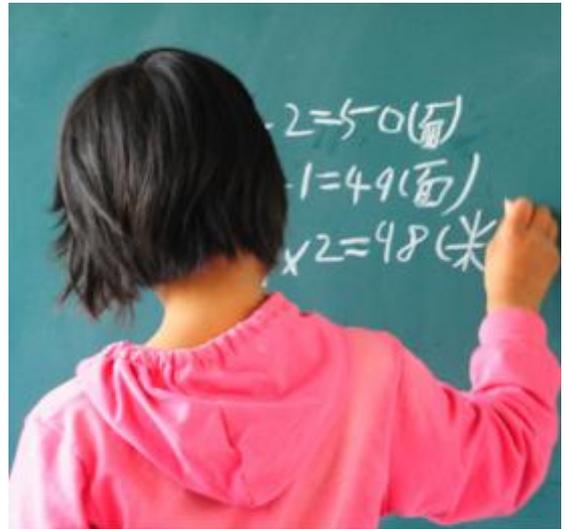
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## Editorial

### New economic powers back to destroying children

It was a great week giving staff training to our social workers in the Morning Tears program of Cambodia. Satisfied I go to my hostel, knowing that our staff now understands better the destructive impact abuse, neglect and trauma have on children. When parents are in prison, children are often left unprotected, and that is when bad things happen. But now, after this training, our team is better armed to prevent and recognize abuse and provide psychological interventions and help where needed.

When I first came to Cambodia in 2003, there was progress. The laws that most of the Western countries introduced had positive effects. Their nationals who abuse children abroad would also be sentenced in their home country. Child abuse decreased. But the social workers of Morning Tears in Cambodia explained to me this week that this trend has changed. The rise of China has led to more Chinese international tourism. And that includes sex tourism. The local staff also told me that Koreans are now doing the same.

I decided to go for an evening walk at the riverside. Cambodia is really in so many ways a great country. People smile despite poverty and their willingness to help is a relief when you come from other places. But at the side streets of the romantic riverside I see the different Cambodia: flourishing sex clubs and massage parlours. I walk back to the main pedestrian area along the river. I have an early flight the next day to Beijing, so I take a tuktuk back to my hostel. On the way the driver offers me young girls. That is the moment two things were lost: he lost his tip, and I lost my good mood. He promotes what we are fighting against.

Every business is driven by the law of what is being offered and demanded. The sex business is not any different. The demand went up again. The consequences of the enormous increase of people with some money in



## Editorial (cont'd)

the new economic powers has now reached the Cambodian children. Children of prisoners are amongst the most prone to be trafficked, enslaved and abused. We fight for them. Join us. Help them.

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## News

### Social Worker Training Workshop series started in Phnom Penh

The second week of December 2013, we started a series of Social Worker Training Workshops in Phnom Penh ('train the trainer'). With these trainings Morning Tears aspires to build up a team of social workers with special expertise in helping children, who have been severely traumatized by the incarceration of their mothers. These children are living with their mothers inside prisons and therefore it is very difficult for them to learn the life-skills that a normal life in their society would teach them. Their mothers need support, not only with daily necessities, but also with learning how to let their children play and learn actively.

During these trainings the social workers learn how to recognize early problems in child development, physically as well as mentally. They learn how to understand the special effects of trauma on these children and how they can support both mothers and children in the most practical way during their prison visits.

A feasible approach to daily and long-term problems, that takes into consideration the normal living conditions in Cambodian society is very important. As in all project countries, Morning Tears works with mainly local staff and therefore we can adjust our knowledge to each country's needs and settings. The trainings include a train-the-trainer approach for suitable staff, which guarantees a sustainable knowledge transfer towards the Cambodian team for the future.

We make sure that the children get all the help that is especially needed in their lives in Cambodia and get a chance to integrate well into their society and extended family systems once they leave prison.

This training has been made possible by a generous donation from the Danish Lauritzen Fonden, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our sponsor.

For more information you can visit Lauritzen Fonden at Facebook [www.facebook.com/lauritzenfonden](http://www.facebook.com/lauritzenfonden).





## Happy (Chinese) New Year!

On January 31, the new Chinese year begins. “The year of the horse arrives. Traditionally, the year of the horse is a year of fast victories, unexpected adventure, and surprising romance. Energy is high and production is rewarded. Decisive action brings victory.”

Romance is something that I would like to wish for everybody who supports Morning Tears. For the other predictions mentioned above, there might be some truth to them. Energy is indeed high in Morning Tears and we have gained some victories, but it is relative. Our victories are small: individual children are helped to overcome emotional traumas, a politician is convinced that action needs to be taken, a training for therapists, policemen or caregivers is completed, which results in better interaction with our children. But on the other hand we lose: the number of people who are in prison worldwide continues to grow, and therefore there are more children of prisoners. And these children on their turn have a much higher chance of going to prison themselves. We are losing that battle. Actually, the whole of human kind is losing that battle. If we pretend that we are somewhat civilized, we should make joint efforts to turn this trend around. But instead we do even worse: every day our elected politicians privatize more prisons. Don't have illusions, for private institutions, the interests of the children of prisoners is inferior to money making.

The fast victories predicted in the year of the horse are unlikely to come. To help individual children is a process that takes time. To change the current barbaric trends of growing prison populations and prison privatization will take even more time. It will also take manpower. That's where you come in. We need you. The children need you.

Wishing you a happy Year of the Horse on behalf of the Morning Tears children and the whole Morning Tears Community.

## News from Morning Tears Germany

In Germany we were happy to end the year 2013 with some nice fundraising events.

Conny Linnhöfer organized an art exhibition in Düsseldorf and the proceeds of the catalogue sales will go to Morning Tears, which we are grateful for!

Ulla Krogmann was organizing yet another sale of beautiful things from China and India and supporting our project in Cambodia with a percentage of her sales. We are happy for her on-going engagement to specifically support our children in Cambodia.

The Social Initiative from communication students at Macromedia University supported us in two ways with their creativity. While the Hamburg team worked to enhance our Facebook profile and range, the Stuttgart team invented a new fundraising idea: At regional Christmas markets people were encouraged to donate their deposit when returning their Glühwein mugs. A clever and well received idea! We sincerely thank all the students for the money raised! And we are happy that with their engagement and all material created, they are also supporting our fundraising efforts with a sustainable idea, which we can build on in 2014.

For any further news please visit us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MorningTearsDeutschland?ref=stream](http://www.facebook.com/MorningTearsDeutschland?ref=stream).





# Reflections on Morning Tears' Efforts to raise funds in Hong Kong

By Paloma Caballero

A year passed with combined legal and administrative hurdles for MT Hong Kong preventing it from becoming fully operational despite efforts by our local team. But it was useful to learn about the potentially best strategy to raise funds in a society where the concepts of philanthropy and charity are different from other parts of the world.

While we still haven't managed to set up a legal structure for MT here, we expect to overcome these obstacles in the next few months and hope to become a valuable part of the organization.

You can divide the potential donor community here into two general groups: expatriate individuals and companies, and their Hong Kong counterparts. For potential Hong Kong origin donors, the challenge is to go beyond long-established norms which prioritize donations for extended family members or those with close links.

"I don't remember stories in classical Chinese literature about the importance of generously helping others without return benefits," said a wealthy Hong Kong national recently when asked for a donation. "Maybe there were some more recently, at the beginning of the 20th century... For westerners and particularly Christians, sharing wealth is something intrinsic. But traditional Chinese religions ask you to concentrate on yourself or your family," she said.

Locals wanting to contribute to charity beyond their family or social group may, for example, dedicate a small percentage to help local schools, or perhaps to institutions promoting traditional Chinese culture and artistic values.

Despite 150 years of British rule, Chinese cultural practices prevail in super-modern Hong Kong. It is a serious challenge to raise interest in fundraising for the children of people who parents have broken the rules, and because of their imprisonment are considered to be outside of normal society.

Another factor is that Hong Kong is still adapting to the new political reality—now it is officially part of China, and ruled from Beijing and not London.

One thing we need to emphasize in contacts with potential donors, local and expatriates, is that Morning Tears is working with the backing and endorsement of the Chinese central government and local governments.

The same applies also to the expat community, and particularly companies. Many Western-owned companies in Hong Kong are responsible for Greater China operations, and need convincing that helping Morning Tears won't damage their business prospects in the mainland.

Expat individual donors are less concerned about that issue, but as many of them work for Western companies operating in the mainland, there are some concerns there as well.

One thing we in Morning Tears Hong Kong are considering, once we get legally established, is the possibility to focus on fundraising for projects outside of China, such as Cambodia, or other countries of South Asia which could help overcome worries about getting on the wrong side of the mainland authorities.

In our fundraising, we intend to follow the successful example of Morning Tears in Beijing, where the targeting of foreign businesses, networking organisations, foundations, and the diplomatic community has produced good results.



## Mobile donation

Morning Tears can now also accept donations via your phone and the Zapper app. Just scan the code and pay by credit card. Contact [hans.lenders@morningtears.org.cn](mailto:hans.lenders@morningtears.org.cn) for more information.

The image shows a promotional graphic for the Zapper app. On the left, a blue arrow-shaped flowchart with three steps: 'Download the Free Zapper App', 'Scan QR Code', and 'Enter card details and DONATE'. Above the flowchart is the 'zapper' logo with icons for Android, Apple, and Windows. Below the flowchart is the text 'Quick. Simple. Secure.' On the right, a white box titled 'DONATE BY CARD' contains a large QR code with a 'Z' in the center. Below the QR code are logos for Mastercard, VISA, and Maestro.

## A busy but rewarding period in China

It has been a busy but rewarding period for Morning Tears in China. In November and December we were beneficiary of a number of big events including:

- Oxford Cambridge Charity Gala Ball
- Dulwich Dinner Dance
- Beijing International Chamber Orchestra Concerts
- Hilton Christmas Train

These events raised 500.000 CNY for the Coming Home Program, which is much needed to continue support for the children in the Coming Home Program (for 2014 we need another 900.000 CNY to cover expenses for this program alone). In addition, these events helped us reach thousands of people in Beijing and make them aware of the challenges and what can be done for children of convicts. This success would not have been possible with the trust, (corporate) support and hard work of many, many people at Hilton, Friends of Dulwich, Oxford Cambridge Club of Beijing, Beijing International Chamber Orchestra and Morning Tears! We are very, very grateful as this allows us to continue our work. For the children it's a sign that people care, that they are not forgotten and that there is hope for a brighter tomorrow no matter how dark the past was.

## Finances

The upgrade of our financial management system is taking shape and organizational changes over the past months (including the new Governance Policy) further strengthen our financial management and accountability.

In the next newsletter we will present the financial statements for 2013.



## Morning Tears' strategy

### A productive Morning Tears Alliance Board annual meeting

On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October the annual meeting of the Morning Tears Alliance Board took place in Antwerp. It was a very productive and constructive meeting which was attended by the representatives from Morning Tears China, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands and Belgium.

To keep helping the children currently under our care and to help more additional children of convicts in more countries we need to professionalize and grow in a sustainable manner. The Board in consensus made a number of important decisions:

- Adopted an updated version of the Morning Tears Charter. The main difference with the 2011 version is the language and wording. No fundamental substantial differences to our vision or mission.
- Adopted the Governance Policy & Procedures & updated Organizational Structure which outline how we are organized and function as a non-profit organization. It also puts in place clear checks and balances within the organization and better describes roles and responsibilities. The aim was to have a framework which reflects the current situation but also provides a framework for growth in the years ahead.
- To strengthen the functioning of the Alliance as an umbrella organization for the different Morning Tears countries the President of the Alliance (Luc Poppe) will be supported by a Treasurer (Nora van den Broek) and Secretary (Anne Katherine Mehlsen).
- Internal communication within Morning Tears is done as much as possible in Salesforce. Dropbox can be used for exchanging files. Our bookkeeping system in China is also transferred to the cloud. Making the best use of non-profit discounts, these technologies allow us to more efficient and effective at minimal costs.

With people working for children of convicts in so many different places in the world the yearly Board meeting is also an important opportunity to share experiences, best practices and to look ahead towards 2014. Furthermore, it's an opportunity to learn about the relevant developments in the field of childcare and protection. The Board meeting was complimented by an interesting and enriching visit to De Kade in Kortenberg (a centre for psychological assistance to adolescence). Overall, a lot of valuable exchanges and lot's of thoughts, ideas, information and decisions to take back home to continuously improve our effectiveness and efficiency in the work we do for children of convicts.

## Relevant Actualities

- **Bonding From Behind Bars (scroll down in the article)**  
An article in the New York Times about how the prison population has almost quadrupled over the last 30 years in the United States and how this affects children and families.  
Source: [www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/health/families.html?\\_r=2&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/26/health/families.html?_r=2&)
- **An article in The Economist contributing to the debate on family visits**  
Source: [www.economist.com/news/international/21588887-prisons-increasingly-allow-conjugal-visits-not-britain-and-america-no-laughing](http://www.economist.com/news/international/21588887-prisons-increasingly-allow-conjugal-visits-not-britain-and-america-no-laughing)



## News from Coming Home Project - Henan

- November 5, seven children visited their parents at Pingyuan prison, Henan 2<sup>nd</sup> prison, Henan Womens' prison.
- November 15, the caregivers and staff of the Coming Home Program attended a periodical review meeting about the performance of the primary and middle school children. One of the children got excellent results and received honors from the school.
- December, officials from Zhengzhou Charity Federation had a work inspection and said that the Coming Home Program does a great and efficient job for children of convicts.
- On the 1st of December, the new Belgian Ambassador, H.E. Michel Malherbe, visited the Coming Home Program together with a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He spoke with staff and children over the course of the two-hour visit and left 'impressed.' He also brought presents (food and books) for the children.
- December 3, a small group from the Shanghai Australian Womens' Association visited the Coming Home Program. The Association has been a long-term home provider. Their visit was a pleasure for both the children and it allowed members of the association to see first-hand the impact their support has.
- December, Professor Carine Defoort from Leuven University visited the coming home program. The children enjoyed her wonderful Chinese and her great stories. She also advised Morning Tears in negotiations with several of our Chinese partner institutions in Henan Province.
- December 6, the Coming Home Program received 11 boxes full of clothes and an electronic piano from the Morning Tears Shanghai office.
- December 8, the Coming Home Program received hawthorn sweets from the Morning Tears Beijing office and they were distributed to every family.
- December 21, Zhaohui (a girl) had to go to the hospital (Zhengzhou 4th People's Hospital) for an operation on her ear. She stayed there three weeks and came back well.
- January 1st, the children were taken to the puppet theatre to watch Balala Magic Fairy Princess. They left at 12am and came back at 6pm. Because of exams, only children from kindergarten and primary school went.
- January 4, three interns from Collaborative Zhongyuan University of Technology came to the Coming Home Program and organized sports activities for the kids. The activities consisted of five different parts (individual and team activities). Afterwards, they took them for a barbecue and helped them buy a cake to celebrate a birthday.
- January 11, officials from Zhengzhou Youth League Committee came to the Coming Home Program express their sympathy. They brought eggs, pens and books, played with the kids and expressed their best wishes for the New Year to them.
- January 20 will begin the winter holiday for the children. They go back to school again on February 15. The Chinese New Year holiday will be celebrated with special food, fireworks, movies, a visit to the park and other nice outings.



### **Morning Tears Belgium**

BNP Paribas Fortis  
 Account No: 001-4495454-65  
 IBAN: BE 18001449545465  
 BIC/SWIFT: GEBABEBB

### **Morning Tears Netherlands**

ABN Amro  
 Account No: 45.75.13.764  
 Stichting Morning Tears Nederland  
 IBAN: NL81ABNA0457513764  
 BIC/SWIFT: ABNANL2A

### **Morning Tears Spain**

La Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions  
 Account No: 2100.0233.99.0200332319  
 IBAN: ES28 21000233990200332319  
 BIC/SWIFT: CAIXAESBXXX

### **Morning Tears Denmark**

Danske Bank  
 Account No: 10490189 Reg. Nr. 1551  
 IBAN: DK14 3000 0010 4901 89  
 BIC/SWIFT: DABADKKK

### **Morning Tears in China**

Bank of China, Beijing Xi Cui Lu Sub-Branch  
 [中国银行北京西翠路支行]  
 Account No: 3259-5481-6793  
 Beneficiary: Guo Zhi Hong (郭志弘)  
 BIC/SWIFT: BKCHCNBJ110

*Morning Tears rebuilds the world for children who have lost their own world.*

Morning Tears rebuilds the world for children who have suffered or are suffering heavy emotional pain.

We focus particularly on:

- children whose parents are in prison;
- children whose parents have been sentenced to death;
- children who have been abused or neglected;
- orphans;
- children who haven't been registered at birth, and thus have no rights;
- street children.

Morning Tears has been operating since 1999 on an informal basis without legal structure. However, in March 2005 Morning Tears became a formal non-profit organization registered under Belgian Law. Currently, Morning Tears has offices in Belgium, Spain, The Netherlands, Denmark, France, Italy, the USA and China.

Morning Tears is run mainly by volunteers. These volunteers are mostly professionals from the social sector or development aid workers, although we also have journalists and engineers in our group.

The running costs of Morning Tears are kept very low, so that donations can go almost entirely to the children in need.