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SRI AUROBINDO IN CHINA
THE LEGACY OF HU HSU

In October and November of 2019, a delegation from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram visited China, exploring publication opportunities for Hu Hsu’s many translations of Sri Aurobindo’s works in Chinese.

India and China, the most populous countries on earth, have been neighboring civilizations for thousands of years. Though separated by the highest mountains in the world, they have interacted throughout history with far-reaching consequences, including the spread of Buddhism to much of Asia. A famous episode in the long story of their cultural and spiritual connection occurred in the seventh century. This was the epic journey of the Buddhist pilgrim, Xuanzang. Seventeen years after he set out for India across the Gobi Desert, he returned to China at the head of a caravan loaded with Sanskrit manuscripts and other treasures. He spent the rest of his life translating the texts he had brought back.

Many people in China have been struck by similarities between Xuanzang and his modern counterpart, Xu Fancheng, who travelled to India in 1945 and lived from 1951 to 1978 in

“Largely due to Hu Hsu’s legacy, Sri Aurobindo is increasingly known and respected in China as a philosopher and sage”.

Funding the evolution of consciousness around the globe...
the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, where he is known as Hu Hsu. He spent much of his time translating Sri Aurobindo’s works into Chinese. Remembered in the Ashram especially for his paintings, this remarkable individual was described by the Mother as “a scholar, who is at once an artist and a yogi.” After his return to China, he joined the Institute of World Religions at the prestigious Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. Since his passing in 2000, far from being forgotten, his reputation has continued to grow.

Hu Hsu forged a unique link between Sri Aurobindo and China. Perhaps no other translator of Sri Aurobindo has been so highly regarded in his own country, particularly among intellectuals. Largely due to Hu Hsu’s legacy, Sri Aurobindo is increasingly known and respected in China as a philosopher and sage. Yet relatively few Chinese have actually read what he wrote. This is partly because Hu Hsu’s translations of several of Sri Aurobindo’s books and some articles and talks by the Mother have not been easily available apart from the sixteen-volume set of his collected works, where they are published along with Chinese translations of Nietzsche, Kalidasa, the Upanishads and other material.

From October to November 2019, three members of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram visited China with the support of a grant from the Foundation for World Education. The trip’s primary purpose was to make Sri Aurobindo’s thought more accessible in China by arranging for the publication of an introduction to his works compiled from Hu Hsu’s translations. The Centre for Indian Studies at Shenzhen University enthusiastically agreed to take up this project. The book is expected to be the first of a series of proposed publications in Chinese which will eventually include writings Hu Hsu did not translate.

At Shenzhen University, at the China Academy of Art located in Hangzhou, in academic circles in Beijing and elsewhere, the visitors from the Sri Aurobindo Ashram—one of whom was Indian, one American and one Chinese—were welcomed with utmost respect as representatives of the Ashram and cultural ambassadors of India. At the request of their hosts, they gave talks on Sri Aurobindo, Hu Hsu and similarities between Indian and Chinese philosophy. Audiences listened attentively for hours at a stretch. Several areas of possible collaboration between the Ashram and individuals or institutions in China were explored. From the point of view of arousing interest in Sri Aurobindo and stimulating cultural interchange between India and China, the trip was successful beyond all expectation.

About the author: After studying philosophy and Sanskrit at Yale and the University of Washington, Richard Hartz moved to India and in 1980 joined the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Archives. More recently, while writing his book, “The Clasp of Civilizations: Globalization and Religion in a Multicultural World”, he became interested in the cultural and spiritual link between India and China. In 2012 he took up Chinese with the help of Chen Xiaoyan (Asana), then newly arrived from China, who teaches Chinese at the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education (SAICE). Devdip Ganguli, another teacher at SAICE, had meanwhile formed many contacts with individuals in China. In 2019, funded by the Foundation for World Education, these three Ashramites visited China to set in motion a project to publish Sri Aurobindo’s writings in Chinese.

PLanting seeds of human unity...
Auromira is an education center for a comprehensive and healthy life, which supports spaces of silence, self-observation, work and study to achieve a complete development of the human being, of their physical, mental, vital and spiritual capacities. Based on the teachings of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother it respects the unique spiritual path of each individual seeking human unity, peace and respect for diversity.

Along with a meditation room that contains the relics of Sri Aurobindo, Auromira offers translations of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother’s writings in Spanish, hosts meditations, classes and workshops, supports local schools, leads Awareness of the Body sessions, and offers residential opportunities at their center near Iqaque National Sanctuary. Recently, they have begun developing a new 900+ acre location, as well. Over the years, Auromira has been the recipient of several grants from the Foundation for World Education in support of their inspiring work. For more information, visit www.fundacionauromira.org.
GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Foundation for World Education invites grant applications from individuals, programs and groups who share the vision of a transformed world espoused by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. All proposals must be presented to the FWE through the auspices of a nonprofit organization and are subject to review by members of the board before a decision is taken. Proposals must be received by the board four weeks in advance of a scheduled meeting. Please email your proposal to the secretary: info@FoundationForWorldEducation.org. If your organization is submitting a proposal for the first time, please include a copy of its nonprofit tax exemption status, or the name of the nonprofit organization that will facilitate should your grant proposal be approved. If your organization is not registered in the U.S., please additionally attach certification of its ability to receive funds from the U.S.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

- **Summary/overview:** Name of your project/program and brief explanation of what you plan to do.

- **Need/rationale:** Justify the significance of your project/program in relation to your organization’s mission and the work of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

- **Program implementation and schedule:** Explain how you will implement this project. Include a time line and statement of the future viability of this project. Is it self-sustaining after initial seed money from the FWE, or will there be future requests to support the program?

- **Personnel:** Names and qualifications of groups and individuals directly responsible for project.

- **Project’s contribution:** What is the duration and extent of influence your project will have for Sri Aurobindo and the Mother’s vision of the Integral Yoga? How is your project related to other organizations or individuals currently engaged in the work of the Integral Yoga?

- **Current and future funding:** List sources of income and/or other funding sources for your project.

- **Budget:** Detail income and expenditure.

- **Final and progress reports:** Indicate method proposed to evaluate effectiveness of the project/program while in progress; written final report to be submitted within one year of completion of the grant or grant renewal. Indicate name of person who will prepare the final report.

**DUE DATE FOR NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS**:

- **JANUARY 7, 2021** (for main granting session)

- Grant applications received at other times of the year will be considered at the next available board meeting, dates of which fluctuate.

**Funds Managed by the Foundation for World Education**

**Main Endowment Fund**

- The Eleanor Montgomery Endowment Fund

**Donor Designated Funds**

- Mickey’s Fund (bequest of Eugene “Mickey” Finn)
- Ron’s Fund (bequest of Ron Anastasia)
- Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Fund (bequest of Krishna Sapru)
- Morning Star Fund
- Karma Yoga Fund
- Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham New Creation Endowment Fund

How you can participate...

The Foundation for World Education allocates annual grants through disbursement from its main endowment. Since grant requests keep growing, we are able to fund only a portion of the worthy projects we consider each year. We therefore seek to grow in our ability to give grants by increasing the main endowment. The FWE encourages donations, bequests, long term giving, and tax advantaged estate planning. We also welcome the establishment of designated funds for areas of special interest—see our website for further details. As we are a 501(c)3 nonprofit foundation, contributions within the U.S. may be partially or fully deductible for income or estate taxes. Please consult with your own tax advisor to determine the specific tax benefits that may available to you. Your gift to the FWE is a gift to future generations and to conscious evolution in diverse fields of human endeavor.

Foundation for World Education
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GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2019

**Total Grants and Disbursements** $140,059.33

**Main Endowment Fund Grants** $64,967.00

- Auroville (via the Projects Coordination Group) $29,408.00
  - Village Dog Sterilization $3,996.00
  - Empowered Children/Healthy Homes $3,387.00
  - Children’s Book Fair $3,218.00
  - Yoga and Health Education $2,908.00
  - Neuro-Dramatic Play Workshop $2,508.00
  - Auroville Unity Fund $2,505.00
  - Vivekanandam $2,321.00*
  - Management, Training & Development $2,113.00
  - Be True, Not Violent (Peace Education) $1,958.00**
  - Beyond the Step Film Festival $1,065.00
  - People and Cultural Diversity Field Trip $1,089.00
  - Endangered Craft Mela $1,000.00
  - Development Through Drama $857.00
  - Water Eco System (School Project) $563.00

- Auroville/Anatoch Partnership Teacher Training $6,500.00

- Sri Aurobindo Ashram Delhi, Science Teacher Workshop $5,577.00

- Sri Aurobindo in China $4,500.00

- Sri Aurobindo Ashram Delhi Br. Educational Handbk $4,437.00

- Devi Stuti Digital Audio Music/Maṇḍal Lessons $3,900.00

- New Creation International Playground Equipment $3,000.00

- AUM Conference Scholarship Fund 2019 $3,000.00

- Sri Aurobindo Divine Life Education Ctr. New Campus $3,000.00

- AVI International “Creating A Way Forward” $1,645.00

- Mickey’s Fund $1,092.33
  - Matrimandir $546.17
  - Matagiri $360.47
  - Sri Aurobindo Center of Boston $185.70

- Karma Yoga Fund $29,200.00

  - Sadhana Forest (AV) $14,400.00
  - Matagiri $7,200.00
  - Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham $5,000.00
  - AVI-USA $2,600.00

- Morning Star Fund (Birth Center-Auroville) $30,000.00

- Anuradha Sapru-Kohls Fund (Auro Mira Service Society) $14,800.00

* (this grant is dedicated to the memory of June Maher)

** (this grant is sponsored by Ron’s Fund)

FWE thanks the non-profit organizations, Matagiri and Sri Aurobindo Sadhana Peetham, for their role in sponsoring four of the grant recipients during 2019.