

## **AWARDED PROJECT:**

### **NEW VISION FOR EAST ASIAN PHILOSOPHY**

#### **NARRATIVE:**

The John Templeton Foundation has been supporting intellectual research as well as spiritual enrichment that could expand the horizons of humankind. One of Sir John's visionary goals was to promote fruitful dialogues between science and religion from various angles and in diverse cultures. The current project, "New Vision for East Asian Philosophy," aims to bring scholars on Chinese philosophy into these dialogues.

The "new vision" was initially suggested by Dr. Robert Neville, who challenges Chinese philosophers to bring historical Chinese philosophy into the global context of the contemporary world, and to address current philosophical issues. The Association of Chinese Philosophers in America (ACPA), founded in 1995, has been promoting philosophical exchanges between Chinese philosophers and American philosophers. It takes up Dr. Neville's challenge to call for creative efforts to construct new visions for Chinese philosophy.

The project will be led by Dr. JeeLoo Liu, President of the ACPA. The first stage of this project involves organizing two group sessions at the most well-attended philosophical convention: the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern convention, to be held in Boston in December of 2010. The first session, "Chinese Philosophy and Contemporary Philosophical Issues," consists of a panel of four distinguished philosophers from the U.S. and from China: Dr. David Wong, Dr. Philip J. Ivanhoe, Dr. Roger T. Ames and Dr. Xiaogan Liu. Dr. Owen Flanagan, a renowned American philosopher, will serve as an interlocutor for the session and Dr. JeeLoo Liu will chair the session. The second session, "New Projects in Chinese Philosophy," includes five papers answering Dr. Neville's challenge and Dr. Neville himself will chair the session and give brief comments on the papers. The intended audience for these sessions are American philosophers who attend the APA meeting for professional reasons, and the intended purpose is to promote more creative thinking on Chinese philosophy. This will only be the first step toward a more systematic development of new visions for Chinese philosophy.

One other activity in this project is a conference on "Metaphysics and Epistemology in Chinese Philosophy", jointly organized by the ACPA and the Philosophy Department of Renmin University in China. The conference will take place in Beijing on July 10-11 of 2010. The intended audience will be primarily Chinese philosophers and philosophy students in China. The purpose is to further encourage Chinese philosophers' engagement with the Big Questions about the ultimate reality, human understanding and the role of humankind in the world. This will be one of the many endeavors to investigate the nature of ultimate reality from within the Eastern philosophical heritage.