

AAAS Project Begins Work with Disability Groups In China

WITH some 20 million disabled citizens, China is anxious to explore many new avenues toward rehabilitation for these individuals. While traditional treatments, such as acupuncture, massage, and physical exercise, date back some 2000 years, modern rehabilitation services are very new in China. This year, the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science has begun cooperating with their Chinese counterparts as the Chinese work to provide better education and career opportunities for their country's disabled.

Martha Ross Redden, director of the AAAS Project, visited China in January and met with representatives of the China As-

sociation for Science and Technology (CAST) and a number of disability groups.

She was an invited guest at the First International Conference on Rehabilitation of the Handicapped in the People's Republic of China. The conference, the first of its kind in China, was cosponsored by the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped and Health Design Concepts.

Noting the critical role China can play in advancing rehabilitative services, Deng Pu Fang, director in chief of the China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped and honorary chair for the conference, said "It is well known that China is the country that has the greatest number of dis-

abled persons in the world. The rehabilitation services will affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. . . . The tremendous size of the disabled population has made clear that China's rehabilitation services will have definite world influences. . . . I am convinced that in a progressive society, disabled people should have the chance to win."

Redden met with Wan Shou Shan, secretary general, and other officials of the Beijing Association for the Handicapped and visited their center. The Association provides a range of services for disabled people in the city. Plans are under way to build a rehabilitation research center that would include a rehabilitation hospital, a research and training center, and a rehabilitation engineering center.

She met, as well, with several representatives of CAST, including Liang Hui of the International Department and Wang Zheng, who served as deputy secretary of the first Chinese delegation to visit the United States as guests of the AAAS—in 1979—and who is now retired.

Law now mandates that all disabled young people in China receive an education, and Redden found a great eagerness among those who work with disabled people to share materials and information. She was able to demonstrate one exciting example of the kind of technology now being developed here that holds great possibilities for the Chinese. While traveling in China, Redden showed Chinese disability officials and others a portable personal computer with voice synthesizer that had been programmed to translate English into Chinese. The program, a prototype for a package with a much more extensive vocabulary, was designed by John B. Eulenberg, director of the Artificial Language Laboratory at Michigan State University and by Gou Daju, guest scientist at the Artificial Language Laboratory and member of the Department of Computer Science at Sichuan University.

"News about technologies that can be adapted for disabled people and other materials and information," says Redden, "are the kinds of things the AAAS Project on the Handicapped in Science can offer the Chinese. We are anxious to expand our cooperation with CAST and disability groups in China as both they and we work to better integrate disabled individuals into the mainstream of our societies."

Grants to Self-Sponsored Foreign Graduate Students to Attend AAAS Annual Meeting

AAAS expects a limited number of grants of up to \$250 to be available to assist self-sponsored foreign graduate students now studying in the United States to attend the AAAS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, 25 to 30 May 1986. Registration for successful applicants will be paid by AAAS.

Applicants should submit (i) curriculum vitae, including phone number; (ii) budget (round trip to Philadelphia and estimated living expenses); and (iii) a short statement (200 to 300 words) describing the subject area of current study and/or research, career plans, and benefit in attending the Annual Meeting. Applications should be sent to Priscilla Reining, Office of International Science, at the AAAS address. Deadline for receipt of applications is 12 April 1986.

Causality in Heredity and Aging

Professor Barbara E. Wright's Pacific Division presidential address, "Cause and Effect in Heredity, Differentiation, and Aging," has been published by the division.

Wright, research professor of microbiology, University of Montana, delivered her presi-



Martha Redden (center) with officials and staff of Beijing Association for the Handicapped at their center in Beijing.