

## Amity Foundation, China

### Ms. Ling Chunxiang

#### *Organisation profile*

Amity Foundation is an independent Chinese NGO founded in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians led by Bishop K.H. Ting and joined by people from all walks of society, works to promote education, public health, poverty alleviation, social welfare, community development, environmental protection, climate change, disaster relief and other philanthropic undertakings in China and other parts of the world. Amity projects have benefited more than ten million people at home and abroad.

Aspired to grow into an international organization with a global reach, Amity identified and placed internationalization at the core of its organizational strategy since 2009 and has continuously invested in international programs and organizational capacity to operate globally. Its global footprint include Amity Hong Kong Office established in 1986, an international office in Geneva established in 2016 (the first Chinese NGO to set up an office in Geneva), African Office in Ethiopia in 2015 and Kenya Office in 2019. Plus, Amity Foundation is member of key international humanitarian NGO networks such as ACT Alliance since 1996/2010 and ICVA in 2020 as its first member from China. Amity acquired the UN ECOSOC special consultative status in 2014, and has forged partnership or in dialogue with several UN agencies such as UNHCR and UNICEF mainly in the areas of humanitarian action and refugees work.

Amity is primarily operational with humanitarian work as one of its key program areas. Amity responded to the fire hit the forest in northeastern China back in 1987 and has responded to all the major natural disasters that hit across China ever since. Amity has been one of the few top foundations in China in Disaster Relief area. From early 2010s, Amity began to respond to disasters affected other countries, namely the cyclone hit Philippines in 2013 and later years, the earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, the earthquake that hit Ecuador in 2016, the flood hit Sri Lanka in 2017, the drought that hit Ethiopia in 2017, the flood hit Pakistan in 2022, and more recently the earthquake hit the Turkey in 2023. Now its humanitarian work has reached over twenty countries spreading from south-east and south Asia, Africa to Latin America. Amity consciously applied and localized the international standards and principles such as Sphere and CHS in those humanitarian responses.

In recent years, Amity also steps up its efforts on humanitarian advocacy. In 2014, Amity initiated and cooperated with several other organizations hosting the Asia Disaster Relief Conference in China. In 2016, Amity and other organizations initiated the Disaster Relief Committee within the China Charity Alliance and acted as the chairing member till now. Amity is also a key member of China NGO Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction (CNCDRR). In 2018, Amity led to set up the Benevolence Group and was granted Sphere's Focal Point, the first and the only one so far from mainland China. The Benevolence Group contributed to the global consultation of SPHERE handbook revision and jointly launched the localized Chinese version of Sphere handbook with Oxfam HK in Beijing in December 2019. Amity has trained Chinese humanitarian actors and policy makers on Sphere and accountability, localized key policy documents such as the UN and ISAC Collective Outcomes Light Guidance, ICVA's brief on the Grand Bargain, to advance Chinese humanitarian NGOs' capability in understanding and applying international standards.

Amity also attended key global and regional humanitarian conferences, notably OCHA's HNPW, RHPW (Asia Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week), Civil Society 20 Summit in the past few years to share our practice and experience from global south. With ICVA's support, Amity also organized seminars and webinars on localization to amplify the voices from China's civil society.

## Nominee Information

### Ms. Ling Chunxiang

### Video presentation



**Gender: Female**

**Job title: General Secretary**

Ms. Ling Chunxiang, General Secretary of Amity Foundation. She joined the organization in 1999 and has been working with Amity for twenty-five years, successively taking the roles of Deputy General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Director of Administration and Management team and Rural Development Project Manager prior to be appointed as General Secretary in September 2018. Under her leadership, Amity has become one of the leading foundations in China with an annual income of over 60 million USD in 2023 with more than 430 staff members for different philanthropic work. It's also widely recognized as one of the top humanitarian NGOs in China, responding to disasters both in China and beyond.

She's the key decision-maker in Amity's contact with ICVA and membership application. In October 2019, she attended a conference that was jointly organized by Amity and ICVA where she met with ICVA leadership which paved the way for Amity's membership to ICVA. She's also a strong supporter to ICVA-Amity strategic partnership, under which we localized ICVA's Grand Bargain brief and UN-ISAC light guidance document to Chinese audience and jointly organized a webinar in May 2022 to introduce the humanitarian coordination mechanism at global, regional and country levels to Chinese audience.

In May 2021, Ling was successfully elected into ICVA board. In her past 3-year tenure, she actively attended the board meetings, bringing in a good knowledge about Chinese NGO sector and rich experiences in humanitarian responses. She also serves in the Membership Committee. ICVA is much better connected with Chinese humanitarian sector and enrolled more members from China. The fact that she's a senior female leader of a leading NGO from China in the global south will bring more diversity to ICVA's new board.

***Please indicate whether, if elected as a member of the Board, you would be willing to stand for election for***

- ***Chair – No***