

CONNECTING

The World

Evergreen
Education
Foundation

Rural
China
Libraries

Rural China
Middle &
High Schools

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Evergreen Education Foundation

The Evergreen Education Foundation is a **US based non-profit** organization with a strategic focus on improving education for children and young adults in rural China; **promoting information literacy** via school and community libraries; and **servicing as a bridge between China and the world** in joint efforts to better the rural education.

The Evergreen Education Foundation (EEF) was founded 2001 by a group of Chinese and American professionals and academics. The **Foundation's purpose is to enhance educational opportunities for middle and high school children in rural China**. Seed money has been provided by Mr. Richard Hsin, a Hong Kong entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Programs of Evergreen Education Foundation **focus on developing rural schools and community libraries**, capacity building of educators and librarians, and helping passionate yet financially disadvantaged rural students to **secure education opportunities**. Our programs are constantly evolving to catch up with fast changing students and community needs. Nonetheless, Evergreen consistently provides opportunities based on our **three fundamental programs** to achieve its goal.

The Library Information Literacy Program focuses on developing rural school and community libraries.

The Scholarship Program sponsors promising but financially disadvantaged students.

The Teacher Development Program builds the skills, abilities, and knowledge of educators and librarians through workshops, conferences, and study tours.

EVERGREEN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Bring Education Opportunities to Rural China

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DFRobot
Kit Swap
Initiative

6 Rural
China
High Schools

DFRobot

Science & Technology Center (STC)

2016 EVERGREEN & DFROBOT KIT SWAP INITIATIVE

The Partnership: DF Maker Community has always been the community to adhere to the slogan of “**share the joy of sharing**” and to provide a wide range of creative products and tutorial contents for most of makers and fans. This time, DF Maker Community collaborates with the Science and Technology Center (STC) of Evergreen Education Foundation. **The Purpose:** Through the **hardware swapping activities**, DF Maker Community expects to bring more opportunities to a broader range of teachers, familiarize them with the Maker Education, and allow them the preemptive opportunities to experience the educational kit of DFRobot. **The Audience:** **High School teachers** who are working with the school affiliated with the Evergreen Education Foundation. **The Kits:** DFRobot provides **12 Free** Arduino sets and related instructions. **The Participants:** **6 Rural China High Schools**. **Gansu Province 4 schools:** Tongwei No.1 High School, Tongwei No.3 High School, Maying High School and Tianzhu No.1 High School. **Shanxi Province 1 school:** Danfeng High School. **Guizhou Province 1 school:** Kaili No.1 School. From 1st April to 10th June 2017, **7 Teachers and 90+ Students**. **The time frame:** **2-month free trial** with materials provided by DFRobot, to gain Maker experience in Arduino projects.

The Pilot: The DFRobot Kit Swap from **April 2017 to June 2017** is the pilot project for EEF affiliated rural school educators and students. **The Goal:** **Provide more access** to Maker activity and hands-on projects. **The Requirement:** **Complete 9-16 small hands-on projects**, submitting periodic review documents and videos as feedback to the activities by the end of the project. **The Award:** The most excellent maker educator selected by EEF STC team will win a **RMB1,000 voucher** towards DFRobot Arduino kit sets.

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The Impact: 7 teachers from these 6 rural schools have all mentioned the **great passion and interest that students have cultivated in learning** the DFRobot Kit Sets. Most of the **students have spent 4+ hours each weekly** on the project and 2 Arduino sets are sometimes shared among 15-20 students.

THE CHALLENGES: At the time this article is written, the school were in their 5-6 weeks of this 2-month program. we have surveyed teachers regarding the challenges they faced so far facilitating this program. The following are some of the most common hurdles: **1) Recruitment** - Students are selected by convenience. The teachers tend to select students from the grade they teach. **2) Spreading the words** - Difficult to raise awareness of the program to the entire school. **3) Limited skill set** - Observed in both teachers and students. Most had to spend at least a couple of meetings at the beginning to get familiar with the hardware and software. **4) Slow progress** - Although the students seem interested at the prospects and they are eager to get their hands on the kits, due to lack of experience and knowledge, progress is very slow. **5) Limited meeting time** - The teams usually meet 1 to 2 times during the week for a couple of hours. However, all schools had stopped in mid-May for about 2 weeks due to the college entrance examination. Even if the students in the DFRobot project are not participating in the exams, teachers are not available to hold meetings.

The Future: After this summer, the Arduino **kits will be circulated in the other EEF schools** who applied for the second round of DFRobot Kit Swapping project.

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THE SNAPSHOTS:



DONATION + PARTNERSHIPS, & COLLABORATIONS

EEF strives to bring the best resources to assist rural educators to building skills, abilities, and knowledge of educators. The DFRobot Kit Swap Initiative is only one of the many initiatives EEF STC team has set forth in 2017 and beyond. In 2017, EEF plans to fund 30 EEF affiliated STEM educators to attend 2 workshops and 1 study tour in Shanghai to explore more creativities of makerspace in high schools in rural China. Moreover, our 2017 Maker Contest will open this summer. If you or your organization would like to donate or join effort with us, please visit our website or contact us at info@evergreeneducation.org.