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Math War in China: They Know What They Don't Know. Preliminary report.

Since the establishment of the 1989 NCTM Mathematics School Standards, the world has jointly engaged in the improvement of mathematics learning and teaching. The stage of this global mathematics reform becomes larger and larger. Both mathematicians and mathematics educators are key players on this stage. Much debate has arisen between mathematicians and mathematics educators. This "Math War" has continued in the US for more than a decade. Yet, America is not alone. In this presentation, Dr. Annie Han will share her impressive and unforgettable experiences gained in the Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad - "History of Chinese Mathematics and Mathematics Reform in China." China has a long history in mathematics education. However, over 2500 years, only a few educational reforms had a historical impact on the country's education. Basically, Chinese mathematics education remained "practical problem solving" oriented. But for the last 10 years, China started to emphasize logical thinking and creativity in their mathematics curricula. (Received September 28, 2005)