STATEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION RISKS

During the adoption process, your family's expectations will most likely have to change several times. Your expectations may have to change regarding one or more of the following:

1) Adopting a particular child
2) Time frames for the completion of your adoption process
3) Travel arrangements
4) Adoption fees and/or expenses associated with the adoption process
5) Other undetermined factors.

Due to the variety of individuals involved in the adoption process, the legal requirements, the cultural differences, the language differences and the politics of adoption (to name a few), international adoptions are always very complex. It is the exception to the rule to have a flawless international adoption. You must be emotionally prepared for whatever may come your way. Although Gladney cannot predict exactly what complexities may occur during your case, we will try to facilitate your adoption as smoothly as possible.

Gladney cannot guarantee referral or placement of a specific child with your family, nor can we guarantee referral or placement of a child from a specific country with your family. Gladney provides prospective adoptive families windows of opportunity to adopt in several different foreign countries. When children become available from a particular country who meet the preferences of approved and waiting families, Gladney makes referrals and facilitates the adoption process. There are many factors outside of Gladney's control and thus Gladney cannot guarantee the actions of any agency or individual over which it does not have complete control. This includes U.S. Immigration and U.S. Embassy Consulate officials, foreign attorneys and other foreign referrals sources, foreign adoption and immigration officials, and foreign facilitators.

Once you have committed to a particular foreign program, your window of adoption opportunity may change. Adoptions in the country may dramatically slow down or the country may even cease to permit adoptions for a period of time. International adoption opportunities are tied closely to foreign national and international politics. When the political environment changes, adoption opportunities may change. This may impact your adoption at any point in the process.

There are several necessary approval steps in the adoption process. In order to complete an adoption, you must be approved by various agencies and officials along the way. At any step in your case, approval could be withheld. You may not be approved by Gladney, by the U.S. Immigration Service, or by the foreign country adoption officials.

You may be assigned a child and subsequently lose the child referral for any of several reasons:

1) You do not obtain Gladney approval. (Referral of a waiting child does not signify approval by Gladney. You must receive a formal approval letter to be considered approved by Gladney.)
2) The child becomes too ill for placement.
3) The child does not become legally suitable for adoption within an adoptive family's time frame or within the country's window of opportunity or it is determined the child will never be legally free for adoption.
4) The foreign authority or referral source who assigns the child may withdraw referral of the child with or without explanation. This may be due to:
   a) Local or national politics,
   b) A change in officials,
   c) Increased sensitivities regarding international adoptions,
   d) The birth parents coming forward for the child within the window of opportunity (differs by country) that they have to reclaim the child, or
   e) A national family could come forward for the child within the window of opportunity that they have to do so (differs by country).
If you lose a child referral, an acceptable second child referral may not be available immediately, or even if one is available, it may take a while to finish the adoption process (this varies greatly by country). Although Gladney will work diligently to make you another acceptable child referral as soon as possible, Gladney cannot guarantee the length of time it will take to refer such a child.

Your adoption process could take longer than you originally expected due to changes in:

1) The political environment in the foreign country
2) The sensitivity of the foreign public regarding international adoptions
3) Adoption bureaucracy leadership, and
4) Other unknown factors.

The child you adopt internationally may develop some sort of medical problem while waiting for you to bring him/her home. This may necessitate your paying for extraordinary medical expenses and emotionally coping with the situation from afar. The medical information presented to you at time of referral for the child you adopt internationally may be incomplete or inaccurate. Medical situations may either be over or under-diagnosed. The differences in medical terminology used by foreign medical personnel and U.S. physicians may cause confusion such that you may be over or under-anxious when accepting a referral. A child may test negative for a particular laboratory test prior to referral and test positive at home in the United States.

Although Gladney only refers a child for adoption whose foreign sources believe can be successfully adopted, it is possible that unresolved legal situations may arise during the adoption process which may make the child no longer available for adoption. Legal availability cannot be clarified in some cases. Foreign officials have limited time and money and typically will not clarify a child's legal situation until an adoptive family has accepted the child's referral. In other cases, a birth parent or national family's rights may become issues to be resolved. Birth parents must be given the time allowed under their country's law to reconsider their adoption plan. National families also have an opportunity to claim the child for adoption.

A woman may misrepresent herself as the legitimate birth mother of a baby that she places for adoption. In such a case, even if the adoption is successfully completed in the foreign country's court, the U.S. Embassy may withhold issuance of the visa if it suspects birth mother fraud. The Gladney Center cannot guarantee the legitimacy of the relationship between the purported birth mother and child as we have no contact with the birth mother.

The U.S. Embassy Consulate office which processes your adopted child's U.S. immigration visa may find that your child does not meet the Citizenship & Immigration Service's definition of "orphan" and thus your child may not be granted a U.S. immigration visa. Whether or not a particular child meets the orphan definition is dependent upon the U.S. official and his/her desires, biases, and review of both your information and the child's information and the relationship you represent you have had with the child both before you traveled and after the placement. Although Gladney seeks to refer only children who meet the "orphan" definition, we cannot guarantee that the U.S. government will issue any particular child an immigration visa.

(l)We understand that the adoption fees, especially those paid to foreign agencies or facilitators may change at any point in the process. All adoption fees paid to foreign facilitators or attorneys are non-refundable. You will be notified of changes in Gladney fees. Events causing fee changes or the overall expense of your adoption trip to rise may occur at any time. The economics of supply and demand, inflation, or the need for additional adoption services required by new U.S. or foreign regulations may cause prices/fees of services to rise. Gladney will try to keep you apprised of those situations of which it has knowledge. However, Gladney cannot control these things.

The Gladney's Center's goal is to help you adopt a child. The Gladney International Staff are personally committed to helping you. Although Gladney does not have complete control over many aspects of the adoption process, Gladney will facilitate, advise, counsel and support you throughout the entire adoption process through both the good and difficult times. This adoption is a partnership. You must do your part to maintain perspective and remain committed and cooperative during the entire adoption process.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand the potential risks outlined herein in proceeding with an international adoption. You further understand that it is impossible for Gladney to relate every possible difficulty or concern you may encounter along the way. You acknowledge that, in order to reduce your vulnerability during the adoption process and to ensure that you are PREPARED to adopt a child, you must fully educate yourselves by:

6300 John Ryan Drive • Fort Worth TX 76132-4122 • 817-922-6000

Initials/Male Applicant     Initials/Female Applicant
1) Reading as much as possible about international adoption  
2) Speaking with many families who have adopted internationally, both from the country where you are adopting as well as from other countries  
3) Gathering information from the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in the foreign country where you will be adopting  
4) Studying the culture and language of the country from which you are preparing to adopt. 

You understand that by doing these things you will be much better PREPARED to adopt, that you will have better perspective and are better able to manage the wait for your child, and that the entire process will be much more enjoyable because you have more realistic expectations. 

You have read and understand these risks. You are willing to pursue an international adoption in light of these risks.

_________________________________________  ________________________________  
Signature                                                                                  Signature

_________________________________________  ________________________________  
Date                                                                                      Date