

## Kite Festival Draws Over Thousands in North Wales



A two-week Kite Festival held by the Confucius Institute at Bangor University, starting from 21 September, came to a successful end on 5 October, 2013. The kite festival included 19 events and drew over 1000 participants in North Wales. Out of these events, 12 activities, with more than 500 participating students, were run in kite-painting workshops set in schools. Another 4 events were held in arts centers in Holyhead, Bangor, Caernarfon and Llandudno, drawing about 450 kite fans in Wales. There were also kite lectures and indoor kite flying in the workshops and arts centers.

With the support from Hanban, and assistance of China University of Political Science and Law (the Chinese partner of the Confucius Institute at Bangor University), the Confucius Institute made contact with Mr. Yongxun Wang, a kite artist from the Land of Kites (Weifang). Mr. Yongxun Wang, an heir of intangible cultural heritage, once won the first prize in the Weifang International Kite Festival, and was given the title of Weifang Arts and Crafts Master.

### Kite Festival workshop and reception at Bangor CI



On 3 October 2013, after the Kite Festival had run for half a month at arts centers and local schools in Bangor, the workshop and reception for students and faculties from Bangor University started at the Confucius Institute. To begin with, Dr. David Joyner, Executive Director of the Confucius Institute, gave a warm welcome to Mr. Yongxun Wang, a Chinese kite artist who came from the Land of Kites (Weifang) to support the Kite Festival. Mr. Wang gave a brief introduction to the history and culture of kites. Then he raised the question of when the tradition of Chinese kites started, and the one who got the best guess to right answer received a prize.



Following that, Mr. Wang performed the indoor kite flying for us. To show it was not easy to get a kite fly indoors, Mr. Wang let Prof. Liying Zhang, Co-director of the Confucius Institute, have a try first. Yet indoor kite flying could be done with one thread, two threads, four threads or even more, it was much harder than outdoor kite flying both in making kites and flying skills and tricks. Since the indoor kites were usually as light as less than 10 grams, the key lay in the flying skills of converting wind resistance into impetus, as long as buoyancy forces were greater than the weight of the kite. When Mr. Wang flied his kite in the room, everyone was amazed at this magic flight, for the kite got so close to the ceiling.

In the kite-painting part, students with enthusiasm in drawing came early, and joined the reception two hours later. After everyone finished their pieces of work, Prof. Zhang, Co-director of the Confucius Institute, held the Most Popular Kite Competition. The gorgeous goldfish kite was voted to win the Most Popular Kite award.



1, Mr. Wang talked about the kites' history, and then raised the question of when the tradition of Chinese kites started. Emma, the girl who got the best guess to right answer, which was since 2800 years ago, received an exquisite small kite as a prize.

2, Mr. Wang flied his kite indoors, with incredible flying skills by using the aerodynamics.

3, Students were carefully drawing their kites.

4, The kite Marst Mr. Yongxun Wang awarded Most Popular Kite to the winner.

5, Group photo of attendees. College students' painting looked quite professional.

6, After kite-painting in workshop, Prof. Zhang, Co-director of the Confucius Institute, held the Most Popular Kite Competition. The one who got most votes from the audience won the Most Popular Kite award.





## kite-painting workshops in schools

More than 500 students participated kite-painting workshops in Bangor, Cowen bay, Caernarfon and Llandudno.

In a kite-painting activity at a special school, one teacher told us that, it was absolutely unprecedented for a boy, who normally had difficulty in concentration for more than 5 minutes, to keep concentration for over 30 minutes on kite-painting.





1



**Kites lecture in Caernarfon**



4



5



6

On 4 October 2013, a kites lecture open to the public was held by the Confucius Institute in BOCS, Caernarfon. Before the lecture started, there was a buffet-style reception. Attendees included professionals from art community and local people who were very keen on Chinese culture and kites. The lecture lasted two hours, and Mr. Yongxun Wang gave a detailed explanation during his speech.

The lecture started with Vicky Washington, the marketing manager of the Confucius Institute, introducing the kite artist Mr. Yongxun Wang and expressing gratitude to Yvonne, the head of BOCS which provided field support this time. The interpreter of the lecture was Catherine Chen, a girl with 7 languages. Mr. Wang addressed about the history, culture and craftsmanship of Chinese kites. In the following Q&A part, the one who got the right answer received a small kite as a gift. Where there was a chance to explain the pattern and design of small kites, Mr. Wang never let it go.

- 1, Mr. Tiefei Liu, a friend of Mr. Wang's brought his original painting about Red Sorghum, adding more color to the event.
- 2, Siri co-organized several kite festival events with Prof. Liying Zhang. She came a long way to attend the lecture.
- 3, Vicky Washington, the marketing manager of the Confucius Institute, was introducing the kite artist Mr. Yongxun Wang to the audience.
- 4, Mr. Wang's lecture on kites lasted about 2 hours. Volunteer Catherine Chen was the interpreter.
- 5, In the following Q&A part, the one who got the right answer received a nice kite as a gift.
- 6, The audience came up with some truly professional questions.



Paintings of Mr. Tiefei Liu, a friend of Mr. Wang's, added more color to the event. There were an original of Mr. Liu's paintings about Red Sorghum at the buffet and a replica of his called the Great Olympic Games at the lecture site. Mr. Liu was the designated artist by the 2012 London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Locog). In April, 2012, the Locog announced the 15 designated artists in art design, including designs of medals, poster, stamps and paintings for this Olympic Game. Among the 15 artists, there was only one foreign artist that was Mr. Tiefei Liu from China. Mr. Liu's Great Olympic Games was a painting about the annual Binhai Weifang China International Kite Surfing Open Invitational Tournament. In this picture, athletes, with threads in hands, were vigorously kite surfing.

1, The little girl won a prize for participating in indoor kite flying.  
 2, Mr. Wang was introducing his friend Mr. Tiefei Liu's painting, the Great Olympic Games, which was about the annual Binhai Weifang China International Kite Surfing Open Invitational Tournament. In this picture, athletes, with threads in hands, were vigorously kite surfing.  
 3, Group photo of Directors and Co-directors of the Confucius Institute at Bangor University and the Confucius Institute for Northern Ireland at the University of Ulster, faculties from Bocs and the Confucius Institute at Bangor University.





kite flying along the seashore



In a cloudless morning on 5 October, the final kite flying took place under beautiful skies. Before the final flying, there was a kite-painting workshop set at Venue Cymru arts center, Llandudno, a well-known seaside resort in Wales. The workshop was open to the public, attracting over 60 people joining the event. Because of insufficient tables, participants took turns painting their kites, with others waiting.

When the final kite flying began along the Llandudno seashore, Mr. Wang started with the Octopus Kite he brought from China. Hundreds of tourists and local people were drawn to the beach once the Octopus soared into the sky. Some participants can't help trying their hand-made kites. Others were already had the kites brought by themselves fly in the sky. When the long-tail Dragon kite rose up, people cheered wildly again. In the meantime, faculties from the Confucius Institute and volunteers kept busy with the preparation work, transportation, taking photos and videos and first aid. The kite festival came to a successful end, thanks to everyone's efforts. Later that day, Mr. Wang, volunteers and faculties from the Confucius Institute had a simple and nice meal to celebrate it.





Three directors of the Confucius Institute at Bangor University and two directors from the Confucius Institute for Northern Ireland at the University of Ulster were flying the Octopus kite together.

A little girl, along with her family driving from Caernarfon to Llandudno, took part in 3 events of kite festival.



## Work of the organization in Kite Festival

The project of Kite Festival was all planned out a year ago, drafted and budgeted by Prof. Liying Zhang. With Hanban's guidance, the proposal was revised several times, with the size of the project expanding from the original 250 people to a large scale one with over 500 people from different schools. As Dr. David, Prof. Zhang, Vicky and Siri paid visits to and connected with local schools, the enthusiasm from schools and community turned out to be surprisingly high, resulting in a larger scale of over 1,000 people. This event also got support from CUPL. Ms. Linlin Ma and Shandong Weifang Government were the one in charge of choosing the kite master.

During the organization, Vicky and Siri had done a lot work, from connecting with a dozen of schools, arts centers and galleries to dealing with all legal permission and insurance. In some occasions, Dr. David Joyner and Vickey chaired the events. Dr. David Joyner also was in charge of transportation of material and facilities.

The interpreters were taken by Jing Gao and Catherine Chen in several activities. Prof. Liying Zhang, Yan Li, Lei Zhu in charge of taking photos. Prof. Liying Zhang, Lin Shen and Vicky were in charge of video. Several volunteers and Vicky also took the job as security guards. Reports and newsletters were written by Prof. Zhang, and translated by Meng Yu. Every time running an event, faculties needed to get everything well prepared and settled. These series of work included materials transportation, facilities preparation, getting photo permission from pupils' parents and participants, handing out blank kites and paint, giving introduction and instruction on kite-painting, recording with due permission and getting comments and feedback from participants. Everyone contributed a lot in this project and was rather glad to see the 2-week Kite Festival with 19 events having a successful end.

Dr. David Joyner chaired several events and delivered speeches there.



Transporting



Preparation

The painting from Mr. Tiefei Liu, a friend of Mr. Wang's, to add more color to the lecture site.



To decorate the event site with the Dragon kite.



Handing out blank kites and paint.



To get photo permission from their parents



Making the Guestbook ready





Giving instruction and illustration on how to paint a kite.

Interpreters



In charge of taking photos.



In charge of video.



Security guards and first aid

# NEWSLETTER 15

October Special 2013



Getting things clean and tidy



The Student Ambassadors were pleased to support.

## CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT BANGOR UNIVERSITY

### CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT BANGOR UNIVERSITY



To celebrate

Contact Details:  
Tel: 01248 388555

Email: [Confuciusinstitute@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:Confuciusinstitute@bangor.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.bangor.ac.uk/confucius-institute](http://www.bangor.ac.uk/confucius-institute)

Address:

Confucius Institute at Bangor University

9<sup>th</sup> Floor Chemistry Tower

(Alun Roberts Building)  
Bangor Gwynedd LL57 2UW, UK