



CI's First Board Meeting held at Bangor University

The first Board Meeting of the Confucius Institute (CI) at Bangor University was held on 11 October, 2013. Attendees included Prof. John G. Hughes, Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University, Prof. Huaide Ma, Vice-President of China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), Mr. Shenyang, Minister-Counselor of the Education Section of China Embassy in UK, Prof. Dermot Cahill, Dean of School of Law at Bangor University, Dr. Wei Shi, Director of the CI, Prof. Liying Zhang, Co-Director of the CI, Dr. David Joyner, Executive Director of the CI, Prof. Qingjiang Kong, Dean of CUPL International Law School, Dr. Xinyu Wu, Director of the International Development at Bangor University, and Associate Prof. Tao Zeng, Deputy Dean of CUPL School of Continuing Education.

The Board Meeting started with an annual report of Year 2013 given by Prof. Liying Zhang, Co-Director of the CI. With the concern from three parties, Bangor University, Hanban and CUPL, Prof. Zhang gave a thorough report of what CI had done in last year.

In support for Bangor University, the CI assisted the School of Law to get the Law with Contemporary Chinese Studies LLB program pass the evaluation, with further support on courses including Contemporary Chinese Studies, Chinese Commercial Law and Chinese Language. As in Chinese Language, the CI worked with School of Modern Languages to offer Chinese language credit courses. The CI also cooperated with other schools and departments, such as co-organizing concerts with School of Music and possibly co-building a Chinese garden with the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography.

In terms of Hanban's concern, the CI organized the Summer Camp, and run Chinese language courses in some local schools which the CI had built a stable relationship with. With regard to CUPL's concern, the CI contributed in establishing a Government Procurement Research Center and a Chinese Information Center, as well as in academic exchanges and students and faculties exchanges.

In administrative management, the CI Management Board was set up in Bangor University. The work place was expanded from two offices into several offices and classrooms of over 330 square meters. The CI also built its own profiles and documents. As in the visibility, which was one of the criteria in Hanban's assessment of the CI five years later, the Institute actively engaged in reporting. In the very first year, there was already 54 times of reporting on print and online media. In addition, the CI made newsletters of the events and activities on a monthly basis.

Following that, Dr. David Joyner, Executive Director of the CI, gave a financial report in the meeting, which included a final report of start-up funds and the budget report of Year 2013. In the report, there was still some surplus in start-up funds. And since the budget report of Year 2013 was the first budgeting of the Institute, some part might differ from actual expenditure. According to the Hanban's requirement, where there was a change of over 10%, a timely report and adjustment shall be made.

Director Dr. Wei Shi then reported on the CI five-year plan. The plan took into account three parties' concern. The CI would continue to work on Chinese language teaching and to cooperate with schools and departments in law, linguistics and East Asian studies. It would accomplish sorts of programs from Hanban, such as Principals' Delegation, Summer Camp, Chinese Bridge and HSK test. As for CUPL's concern, the CI would endeavor to help in establishing a Government Procurement Research Center and a Chinese Information Center, as well as in exchanges between two universities.

Prof. John G. Hughes, Mr. Shenyang, and Prof. Huaide Ma gave credit for the work CI had done in last year, and expressed gratitude for all parties' efforts and support in preparations for the CI's construction. After that, attendees discussed about and passed the interim regulations of the Confucius Institute at Bangor University on financial management system and on responsibilities of CI Directors. CUPL Vice-President Prof. Huaide Ma indicated that the system of performance reviews and term of office for CI Directors had better be set up as soon as possible. Also, it would be nicer for



Vice President Ma Huaide led a delegation to the Confucius Institute

From the 9th to the 12th of October 2013, Prof. Huaide Ma, Vice President of China University of Political Science and Law(CUPL), led a delegation to Bangor University. During the visit, Prof. Ma attended the China-EU Law Forum and the CI's board meeting.

The Confucius Institute at Bangor University was the first one launched by CUPL overseas, also the first one with law flavour. Prof. Ma Huaide was a renowned administrative law expert with rich experience and academic research. He participated in the draft of State Compensation and Administrative Penalty Law as well as research in a number of additional rules and regulations. He attended the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection three times. The delegation received a warm welcome from Dr. David Joyner, Executive Director of the Confucius Institute. Then Co-director Prof. Liying Zhang introduced the activities that the Institute has carried out since it was established a year ago. Director Wei Shi also held talks with the delegation.



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1, Vice President Ma visited the Confucius Institute and listened to the work report.

2, Vice President Ma led a delegation to the Confucius Institute at Bangor University.



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During the visit, the delegation paid a visit to the School of Law, Bangor University, which contributed a lot to the establishment of the Confucius Institute. The two parties has cooperated in passing the assessment of LLB programme concerning law and China Studies, holding law conferences, and translating legal documents since the Institute's establishment.

During the meeting with School of Law, Prof. Dermot Cahill introduced the institutions about the University and its Law School, after which the two parties expressed the willingness to cooperate in several aspects, such as law research, students exchange, scholars visits, overseas research centres, and information exchange.

Furthermore, a government procurement meeting was held, with participants from Bangor University government procurement team, CUPL delegation, and a member from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs who attended the WTO Government Procurement Negotiation. Prof. Dermot Cahill was a renowned expert in government procurement. And the government procurement week held by him attracted hundreds of people to attend from all over the world. The hot topics and current situation about China's government procurement and the establishment of research centres overseas had been discussed. The delegation led by Prof. Ma received a warm welcome from President John G Hughes of Bangor University. During the visit, President Ma also met with Minister-Counsellor of the Education Section of China Embassy in UK.



1, Vice President Ma tried Guzheng in Confucius Institute.

2, Meeting with the Law School of Bangor University

3, A Government Procurement Roundtable.



Celebrate the Mid-Autumn festival

By Jack Williams

On the 19th september, the Bangor Confucius Institute hosted a mid-autumn festival celebration; also known as the moon festival. Guests from several academic Bangor schools such as the environmental sciences and music schools attended the celebration; along with the Confucius family. In China, the festival is similar to a bank holiday, the people may have three days off work to relax and spend time with their families, enjoy a meal and eat deliciously sweet mooncake while in the presence of a beautiful full-moon, to appreciate the value of family.

- 1, The Confucius family welcome the guests.
- 2, A traditional Chinese fan-dance performance.
- 3, A moon-dance with fans.
- 4, The guests tuck into a delicious Chinese buffet.



New Semester's Open Day

On 17 October, 2013, an Open Day of the new semester was held in Confucius Institute at Bangor University. The Open Day started with Chinese cuisine tasting, and went on with a series of cultural events, including two lectures on Chinese ethnic costumes and musical instruments, Chinese taster session, Tai Chi and Tai Chi Sword, Guzheng performance and Chinese calligraphy. Over 30 students and faculties from the Confucius Institute had a wonderful and enriching Chinese culture day together. To begin with, the Chinese cuisine tasting became an attractive event for foreign students. It was an aesthetic and joyful experience by having sorts of Chinese dishes on the table. Traditional Chinese food like Chinese dumplings and other steamed pasta were fresh and new to these students. Also there were fried chicken and vegetables cooked in Chinese way drawing lots of attention. People talked about differences between Chinese food and other cuisine, and shared their ideas of Chinese food culture during the meal.

Interactive activities were hugely popular during the day. There were students dressed up as Chinese ethnic models in Chinese ethnic costumes lecture, and digital sound effects of Chinese instruments in another lecture. Following that was a piece of classic Guzheng music. Everyone seemed deeply absorbed in this catching tune of Guzheng, with feelings beyond words. Tai Chi and Tai Chi Sword were another favorite for foreign students. They tried their best to learn from the performer Prof. Zhang,, and they did it! Some of them were quite interested in the Tai Chi Sword, and compared it with the fencing sport in material, length and flexibility. There's quite a lot in learning from Chinese culture.

- 1, Among sorts of activities on the Open Day, the Chinese cuisine tasting became an attractive event for foreign students.
- 2, Chinese musical instrument (Guzheng) performance
- 3, Trying to play Guzheng.
- 4, Everyone seemed deeply absorbed in this catching tune of Guzheng, with feelings beyond words.





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The Chinese taster session was more than a course to learn Chinese. It became much fun in Ms. Zhihui Li's class. Everyone was amazed at how Chinese characters evolved throughout the years. Also the combinations and variations of Chinese characters were interesting. One "rén" (means a person in English) was a person, and three "rén" s combined became "zhóng" (means lots of people in English). It was without doubt an unforgettable Chinese lesson. During the Open Day, Prof. Zhang had a meeting with Penny who was in charge of another cultural institution. They had a discussion on how to better improve cultural exchanges and to get the most out of feedbacks on every cultural event.



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- 1, In the Chinese taster session, Ms Li was teaching the fourth tone in Chinese.
- 2, Ms Li was talking about the evolution of Chinese characters.
- 3, Tai Chi was led by Prof. Liying Zhang.
- 4, In the Chinese calligraphy, Prof. Liying Zhang was teaching the writing rules in calligraphy.
- 5, Prof. Liying Zhang had a meeting with Penny who was in charge of another cultural institution.
- 6, Trying Chinese calligraphy.



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Open Day in Denbigh

On 8 November, 2013, a Chinese Day was held by the Confucius Institute at Bangor University in Denbigh High School, with over 70 students from 5 local schools participating in it. To begin with, Dr Paul Evans, the assistant head teacher of Denbigh High School, introduced faculties from the Confucius Institute to the students. They were Prof. Liying Zhang, Co-director of the Confucius Institute, Ms. Meng Yu and Ms. Zhihui Li.

A brief introduction of the Confucius Institute was given by Prof. Liying Zhang, and then followed by an interesting Chinese Culture Q & A. In the Q & A part, anyone who got the right answer received a Chinese knot as a prize, which soon made the spirits come alive. To set stage for later mask painting, Ms. Yu illustrated the Beijing Opera Mask, and showed them how each color represented different characteristics. Following that was a small lecture on basic ideas of Chinese calligraphy delivered by Prof. Liying Zhang.

Then students were divided into two groups, one for Chinese taster and lecture on Chinese ethnic costumes, the other for practicing Chinese calligraphy and Beijing Opera mask painting. To help the students better understand and get close to traditional ethnic costumes, four pupils were asked to dress up as ethnic models, just like Bai, Han and Zang people in China. Ms. Yu explained on Chinese ethnic groups and features of their unique costumes.

- 1, Ms. Yu talked about the features in Bai's costume.
- 2, Ms. Li was demonstrating Chinese calligraphy.
- 3, Prof. Zhang taught Dr. Paul Evans how to write Chinese characters.

Several questions related to ethnic costumes were raised up, and none of them baffled students, even for the most difficult one, i.e. where the “Wind Flower Snow Moon” was in Bai girls’ headdress. The one who got most right answers was excited to win an embroidered coaster as a prize.

In following Chinese taster by Ms Li and Ms Yu, the students soon got the idea of four tones in Chinese and learnt how to express greetings. Pandas were kids’ favorites, which were also used to help them practice Chinese.

The room for Chinese calligraphy was quiet. Every pupil was carefully practicing, step by step, trying their best to learn from two teachers and write Chinese characters. After a session of practicing on magic water paper, Prof. Zhang and Ms. Li taught them how to write Chinese characters they chose with ink on rice paper, and to sign their names on it. At the end of each session, through judgment by teachers, two winners were selected from each group. Among the students, a girl, who wrote the “niao” (means birds in English) correctly both on structures and the order of strokes, became the champion in the competition, and won a 3D great wall as a prize.

The Chinese Day run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. During the day, everyone was enthusiastic about the cultural activities and showed great interests in learning Chinese. Feedback from teachers coming from 5 schools was referred by Dr. Evans. They believed the Chinese Day was well organized with lively atmosphere, colorful contents and prizes, serving as a perfect chance from pupils at their ages to both learn and play. The teachers even learnt a lot from these cultural activities. At the end of the day, Mr. Richard Hatwood from Ysgol Esgob Morgan suggested the Confucius Institute organizing a similar culture day at their school. The Chinese Day proved quite impressive and successful.



- 1, Dr. Paul Evans was introducing the Chinese course they had in Denbigh High School.
- 2, Preparing for the Chinese Day.
- 3, Getting ready with the computer.
- 4, Helping students get dressed in ethnic costumes



Here is a link to the blog that the children have done after the open day.



Cooperation between CI and BOCS

On 17th September 2013, Vicky and Professor Liying Zhang paid a visit to BOCS and attended the talks about further cooperation on culture and languages exchange between both sides. The both sides made an agreement on the further support to be offered by CI to BOCS, an organization which is interested in cultural and art activities, in several fields such as Chinese teaching, culture, calligraphy, knots, and taichi. Chinese musical instruments lecture started. Around four o'clock p.m., the audience went into the guzheng experience room. As soon as the young player took a seat and her hands slightly beat in between the

Talks with Mike Gould

On 21st Sept 2013, Prof Liying Zhang and Yan Li visited Ucheldre Arts Centre in Holyhead. Mr Mike Gould, the Arts centre manager, showed them around the center and talked about future cooperation. Ucheldre Arts Centre is a famous cultural center in Holyhead. It was converted from a church. Mike was a former RAF squadron leader and barrister who had gone on to train as a commercial airline pilot in Canada. He had returned to Britain to obtain his UK flying licence. But it was a bad time for jobs. Mike then took the job as an arts centre manager. Mike is now a highly-experienced arts centre manager, his role these days extending well beyond Holyhead as chair of the Anglesey Arts Forum and of the Anglesey Attractions Association. He has done all this, and somehow still found time to act. He has been a leading member of the Ucheldre Repertory Company since its foundation, with roles as diverse as Shakespeare and farce.



To support St David's Day Group IP Project Meeting

On 8th October, 2013, there was a IP Project Meeting organized by Research & Enterprise Office, Bangor University. CI supported a presentation- "Doing business in China and some legal issues, particularly intellectual property rights" by Prof. Liying Zhang. Before that, CI also offered translation and legal advice support.





Talks with Arnold Milburn

On 28th October 2013, Mr Arnold Milburn paid a visit to Confucius Institute at Bangor University and held talks with Professor Liying Zhang. Arnold Milburn is the Chairman of Governors of Llangefni Secondary School, Town Clerk of Llangefni, Anglesey and former Head of Anglesey Adult Education. Arnold also works closely with Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones LLB. MP AM Deputy Welsh 1st Minister rtd. They both very keen to promote Anglesey / North Wales business and technology possibilities here and abroad. Professor Zhang introduced the major activities held by CI, such as Chinese language teaching, summer camp, delegation visiting, and cultural activities. Concerning the Commercial Conference to be held in 2014, they discussed the issues about the opening ceremony, present members as well as arrangements.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT BANGOR UNIVERSITY



Students get dressed in ethnic costumes

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