



China-EU Law Forum

The China-EU Law forum, co-organized by the Confucius Institute at Bangor University, School of Law and China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), was held on 11 October, 2013. The Institute was a Confucius Institute with distinctive law flavor. Prof. Huaide Ma, a well-known administrative law expert, led the CUPL delegation this time.

The forum focused on legal issues such as new developments of administrative law in China, government procurement, reforms in maritime law and WTO law and practice. At the start, Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University, Prof. John G. Hughes gave a warm welcome to attendees and wished the forum a complete success. The meeting was held at the old Council Chamber and divided into four parts. The first part was about administrative law, chaired by Prof. John Williams from Aberystwyth University. Prof. Huaide Ma gave a report on new developments of administrative law in China, expressing his views regarding some legislative and judicial hotspot issues of the current administrative law in China. Prof. Ma's reports greatly interested Prof. Dermot Cahill and Prof. John Alder from Bangor University and Prof. John Williams from Aberystwyth University. They enjoyed a lively discussion about the government's chance of winning in administrative proceedings and state compensation provided that the government lost its case. The second part was government procurement, chaired by Prof. Dermot Cahill who later delivered a lecture on Judicial Review in Britain's Government Procurement. Following that, two reports were given by CUPL professors.





1, The first part was about administrative law, chaired by Prof. John Williams from Aberystwyth University.

2, Prof. Huaide Ma gave a report on new developments of administrative law in China.

3, Prof. John Alder enjoyed a lively discussion about the government's chance of winning in administrative proceedings.

4, The government procurement part chaired by Prof. Dermot Cahill.

5, Prof. Qingjing Kong gave a report on Prospects of China's Joining the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).

6, Prof. Rhidian Thomas from Swansea University gave an address on The Prospective Reform of Marine Insurance Law in the UK.

The one was about Prospects of China's Joining the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) from Prof. Qingjing Kong, Dean of International Law School. The other was on Some Legal Thoughts about China's Joining GPA from Prof. Tao Zeng, Deputy Dean of School of Continuing Education. Dr. Ama Eyo and Dr. Pedro Telles from the Government Procurement Project team at Bangor University and Prof. John Williams also joined the discussion. Later, CUPL Associate Prof. Long Dai exchanged ideas with others on competition law. The third part focused on maritime law, chaired by Prof. Liying Zhang. The reports mostly discussed current issues including reforms in maritime law and marine insurance law. A renowned British maritime law expert Prof. Rhidian Thomas from Swansea University gave an address on The Prospective Reform of Marine Insurance Law in the UK.



Then, CUPL Prof. Xiaobo Fan reported on Judicial Interpretation in Chinese Insurance Law, following by two lectures given by Bangor University professors. The one, delivered by Dr. Hayley Roberts, was about Legal Protection for Historic Shipwrecks in the UK, while the other from Dr Zhen Jing was on Insurance and Transfer of Risks during the Insured Period. Since time was limited, CUPL faculties Jie Jiao and Huan Qi continued their discussion with Prof. Rhidian Thomas after the meeting.

The fourth part was about issues regarding WTO and Intellectual Property (IP), chaired by Dr. Wei Shi. A lecture, titled Foreign-trade Zones in China from a Legal Perspective, was delivered by Prof. Xiaoli Shi, Director of CUPL International Economic Law Research Center. The lecture involved the newly-established Shanghai's Free Trade Zone in China. Afterwards, Prof. Liyan Yang from Southwest University of Political Science and Law gave a report about Thoughts on RTA Investment Rules, and Dr. Mark Hyland from Bangor University talked about IP Rules in European Union (EU). CUPL Prof. Dr. Jingbo Dong also expressed her ideas on legal analysis of EU's carbon levy on aviation as well as corresponding measures taken by China.

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Chinese Ethnic Costumes Lecture Held in Confucius Institute



On 17 October, 2013, the Confucius Institute at Bangor University held its first Chinese ethnic costumes lecture. With the help of six students all dressed up as Chinese ethnic models, Ms Meng Yu, the Institute's junior Chinese teacher gave an interesting lecture, and a Chinese fashion show with the models.

It was a warm, breezy afternoon. Several students came a bit early and volunteered in the lecture's preparation. They were thrilled to take the job as models, wearing colorful ethnic costumes, which added more exotic beauty to them once they got dressed. A blonde girl in a Tibetan robe looked quite charming, and improvised a Tibetan dance joyfully.

The lecture started with a basic introduction on the ethnic composition of China and different ethnic groups with unique costumes. Then Ms Yu, dressed in a cheong-sam, continued to give a detailed presentation on costumes of 5 ethnic groups – Manchu, Bai, Han, Tibetan and Miao.

1, Ms Yu started the lecture with the features of different ethnic costumes.

2, A blonde girl in a Tibetan robe looked quite charming, and improvised a Tibetan dance joyfully.



The Manchu women's costume was what cheong-sams originated from. What's interesting was that, when comparing today's cheong-sams with those from Ming and Qing Dynasties, and the period of the Republic of China, the cheong-sams had gone through remarkable changes. Changes can be seen from everywhere, from the length of sleeves, the height of slit to the delicate design showing graceful feminine curves. The Bai people really liked white and light colors in their clothes, as everyone can see from what the two Bai models wore. When Tim, one of the Bai models, surprisingly found his shadow on the screen, he performed an improvised acting of shadow for the audience. Han costumes, like Qunjun and Wojun, showed the touch of classic elegance from a bygone era, while Tibetan and Miao people were fond of accessories, especially silver jewelry for Miao people.

Apart from enjoying the charms of ethnic costumes, the students also learnt a Chinese character from Ms Yu's riddle. What was the character when Ms Yu bobbed a curtsy as an ancient Chinese lady did? "It's the character of 'Nǚ' (means female in English)!" Emma, the girl who learned Chinese at the Confucius Institute last semester, got the answer immediately.



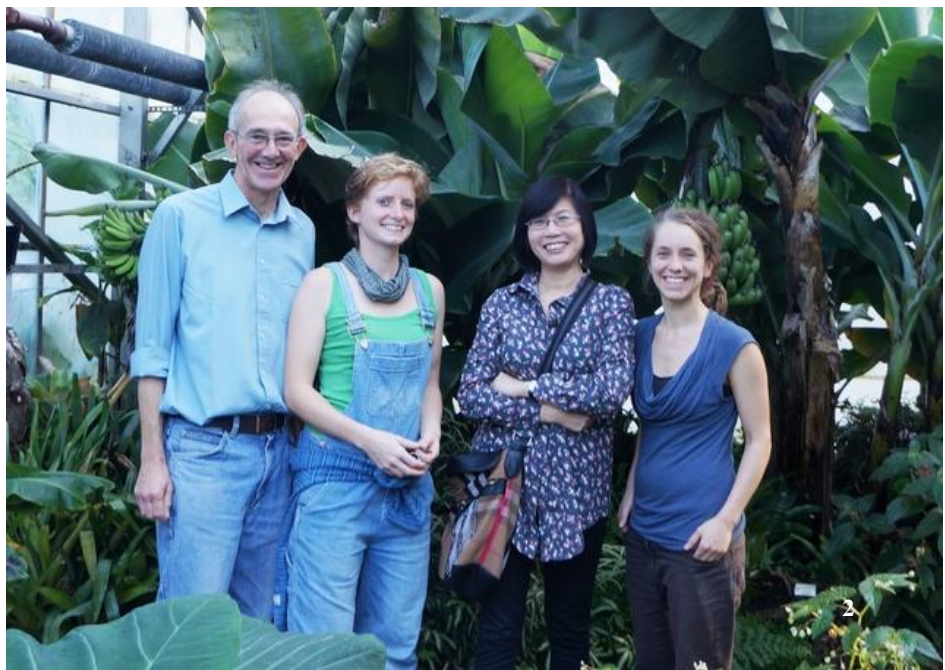
The most fun part of the lecture was the guessing game. What was the tassels' function in Manchu women's headdress puzzled everyone. The students' answers varied from decoration to keeping warm, all of which were not right. The correct answer lay in what Tim, the model, was demonstrating on the stage. It was clear that when Mike strutted up and down, the tassel on his headdress slapped himself right in the face. So the fact was that the tassel was a way of keeping a girl walking like a lady, otherwise a punishment of being slapped was waiting for her. Another puzzle was about the headdress of Bai girls. Their headdress was a hat full of romance, containing the word of romance in Chinese, that is, Fenghuaxueyue (literally Wind, Flower, Snow and Moon). It didn't take much time for everyone to find the Flower on the hat, the Snow at the brim and the Wind in the tassels. But where is the Moon? Ah! It was right there in the crescent moon design of the hat. How interesting!

- 1, When Tim, one of the Bai models, surprisingly found his shadow on the screen, he performed an improvised acting of shadow for the audience.
- 2, Group photo of Ms Yu and models helping the lecture.



Cooperation talks in Treborth Botanic Garden

On Friday 27th September 2013, Liying Zhang, co-director of the Confucius Institute, and Sophie Williams, lecturer from the School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography (SENRG) visited Treborth Botanic Garden to discuss potential collaborative projects. The main idea discussed focused on developing a Chinese Garden at Treborth.



From left: Nigel Brown – Curator of Treborth Botanic Garden, Rosie Barratt – Horticulture technician at Treborth Botanic Garden, Prof. Zhang, Sophie Williams – Lecturer in Conservation Science



Sophie Williams is part based in Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden (XTBG). With these connections to XTBG we could develop a tropical Chinese garden at Treborth. This could be located in part of the existing tropical glasshouse. However, as the glasshouse is 65 years old it will need replacing the next five years. Potentially this project could develop a new glasshouse specifically focusing on Chinese plants and culture.

In discussion with Nigel Brown, Curator at Treborth, they have outlined ideas for progression of the project. This project requires an exchange of horticultural expertise with XTBG, and is eligible for funding from the British Council. Additional funding would be required to cover costs of developing plans and implementation for the garden, provision of education materials for the garden and to cover expenses for an opening ceremony.

This new resource at Treborth Botanic Garden has many benefits:

- promotes greater awareness about Chinese culture and horticulture
- provides a new long term teaching resource at Treborth
- attracts the local Chinese community to Treborth
- strengthens the relationship between Treborth Botanic Garden and Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanic Garden
- Provides opportunity of horticultural training, building the capacity of horticulturists in both Wales and China
- Promotes the conservation of important plant species



Chinese music instruments Lecture

On 17th October, 2013, an Open Day was held at the Confucius Institute. As a part of the activities, the Traditional Chinese Musical Instruments Lecture attracted many foreign students to attend.

Chinese musical instruments abounded in China, with a long, distinguished history of traditional Chinese music. The instruments made of different materials such as bamboo, metal and stone, were not only the carrier of phonological melody, to express people's feelings and emotions, but also the carrier of naturalness, to show the universal philosophy and Chinese civilization.

Chinese musical instruments were one of the important extensions of traditional Chinese culture. While there were boundaries among different languages and cultures, you can easily transcend these boundaries via music. Immersed in the wonder, people from different cultures can identify more with each other, and open their hearts to start a fantastic trip into exotic cultures. Along with the two *guzheng* music pieces "*zhantafeng*" and "*yuzhouchangwan*", the traditional Chinese musical instruments lecture started.

Around 4 p.m., the audience went into the *guzheng* experience room. Once the young player took a seat and her hands slightly beat in between the strings, the room was filled with beautiful melody. Sonorous sound of music was magnificent, while the mild note was meandering. For foreign audiences, although they could not tell the content of the pieces, in their eyes, there were true reverie and experience. With the second song "*yuzhouchangwan*" coming to the end, the students responded with enthusiastic applause. At this moment, just next door in the multimedia classroom, Ms Li was ready for more information about Chinese traditional instruments for the students.

Basically, the traditional instruments were categorised as playing class (typically dulcimer, flute, flute, *suona*, *hulusi*, *xun*), plucking class (typically *guzheng*, lute), percussing class (typically drum, gong) and pulling strings class (typically *erhu*, horse head string instrument, *pipa*).

Considering it was the first time for the foreign students to make contact with those instruments, it may lead to some positive thoughts by finding out the proper way to play each instrument. Ms Li also prepared a prize for the interactive part. The students were encouraged to look at the thirteen icon instruments in the graph, combine the melody and guess which instruments belonged to playing class. Then Ms Li began to click the icons in turns. There were gentle "*hangongqiuyue*" by *guzheng*, melodious "*yueguangxiadefengweizhu*" by *hulusi*, sonorous "*shimianmaifu*" by *pipa*, and "*erquanyinyue*" by *erhu*. After the presentation, there came a guessing game for students, which made the scene suddenly lively. A boy named Tim, who had stayed a month in China, had five correct answers and became the final winner. Other students who were not awarded were not upset because the activity had a more interesting episode waiting for them, which was to play musical instruments. Ms Yu took the lead in the experience. She picked a *hulusi* up, showing the correct way of holding it to others. And then she performed "*zhulinshenchu*". After that, Ben tried a *sheng* with great interests. Satisfied smile showed on his face even though he could only make a voice. Nick, who was talent in music, selected a *xun* and successfully played a simple melody.

1, Miss Li is making introductions in detail via the audio wall map from Hanban.

2, Miss Yu is playing *hulusi*.





Given the preliminary understanding that audiences had on traditional Chinese musical instruments, Ms. Li conveyed the concept "Charm" to them in enjoying Chinese music. Compared with Western music, Chinese folk music preferred to charm then chord. Each folk instrument had its own unique character, based on which were different personalities of music. For instance, erhu, born with a desolate personality, was proper to touch one's soul. Pipa's character was uncertain, even sadness in it, but there was rarely misfortune. Xun's character was as deep as its unique voice, which was always distant from the horizon. However, we can't stereotype any instrument. The conclusion only came from one's own taste and understanding. Finally, in the students' thinking and praising, the lecture was drawn to a successful close.

Visits to Denbigh and Prestatyn High Schools



- 1, The students are listening carefully.
- 2, Experiencing playing guzheng.

Confucius Institute at Bangor University (CI) staff visited Denbigh and Prestatyn High Schools on 17th October 2013, to discuss supporting these important schools in north Wales with Mandarin language lessons and cultural exchange activities, with a view to long term collaboration. In Denbigh School, with 430 students, CI staff met the departments of History and Modern Languages, agreeing to establish weekly beginners Mandarin language classes from November 2013. Links with the school's history programme will also be developed. Also, CI's 'CULTURAL CAROUSSEL' event was agreed to be held at the school on Nov. 8th 2013, at which a range of Chinese cultural experiences will be presented to a group of visiting local primary school students. In Prestatyn School, one of the largest schools in Wales, with over 1600 students, it was agreed to begin two parallel weekly Mandarin classes in November 2013 and to support students to take the full range of the HSK exams (levels 1 to 6).

Both schools wish to develop applications to operate Confucius Classrooms in order to open up the maximum number of opportunities for links with China to their staff and students.



- 1, Dr Paul Evans of Denbigh High School and Executive Director David Joyner
- 2, Group photo with Prestatyn High School teachers.





Prof. Liying Zhang and Director Guo.

Visiting Goldsmith CI

On 7th October 2013, Professor Liying Zhang visited Goldsmiths Confucius Institute for Dance and Performance at University of London and met with Director Aiping Guo and Co-director Weixia Sun. The talks involved several issues such as the administration of the CI, Chinese courses, HSK test, cultural activities, Chinese Day, and Spring Festival. The two parties also discussed on further cooperation in organizing activities.

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Talking about the administration of the CI.

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