Chen Yuxiu - Dean of the Confucius Institute at San Diego State University

When I first arrived in Trier, it was beautiful late autumn. As I walked around the campus, I felt as if I was in a magic garden with golden-leaved trees; the autumn sunlight shimmered through the leaves, a splendid feast for our eyes. The harmonious co-existence of man and nature lent the tranquil campus a touch of vitality.

Only in such a campus can one find that unfailing light in the library which illuminates scholars and students, and reveals the ever-vital aspirations of German culture; only in such a city, can the great minds have entertained the thoughts, the culture have blossomed that have laid the solid foundation for the German people. I believe that mutual recognition and respect can exist between great cultures, and I feel so honoured to be a cultural ambassador helping build a platform for exchanges between our two nations.

"I am crossing the culture bridge."

Yang Xiaoqing-Dean of the Confucius Institute at Universität Trier

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Bai Yuguo-Dean of Confucius Institute of Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand

The establishment, under its first Dean, Professor Huang Jianjun of our Confucius Institute, an overseas standard-bearer for Xiamen University, brought the Xiamen University motto "Pursue excellence; strive for perfection" to Thailand. The responsibility of the Institute is the promotion of the Chinese language and culture, to which end it has provided Chinese courses at various levels for different institutions and organisations. We have also held Chinese cultural events of many kinds in order to give the overseas Chinese living in Thailand a more comprehensive understanding of Chinese culture. In 2009, the Institute set up a website for learning the Chinese language, the only overseas website supported by the Hanban. This website has made the promotion of the Chinese language and culture internationally much more effective. The Institute has also teamed up with Thailand's most important Chinese language publication, the ShiJie Ribao (World Daily), to launch a special Confucius Institute supplement, 3 issues of which have been published to date, an enthusiastic response by the Chinese community.

In 2010, the Institute will continue to innovate in the areas of publishing, cultural promotion, Chinese language teaching, and website development to ensure the continuing progress in our task.

"The best method of teaching Chinese in Thailand is to make friends with people."