

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



We arrived here just at the busiest time of year for the Institute, and started to work even before we had time to settle in properly. We learnt quickly through one meeting after another and a succession of on-site studies, and adapted to our work in the shortest time possible. Every single progress we have made is through untiring endeavour. To quote the President of a school, "When you think that, in 20 years' time, these children will become the first cohort of university graduates who speak fluent Chinese, this is a major undertaking we are carrying out." We were even invited by parents to attend their parent-teacher meeting to discuss the feasibility of running a Chinese course for parents who wished to learn Chinese with their children. These things have made us realise to the full that Chinese language education reaches far beyond the classroom.

We have made a lot of new friends during the last two months, and I have been greatly impressed by a number of young fellow-teachers who work in primary and secondary schools. I have been learning at the same time as working, truly experiencing that our entire life is an unending learning process. I am wondering what else I will have learnt when I return to China in two years' time.

"Here I am, a goodwill ambassador presenting China to the world."

Yang Xiaoqing-Dean of the Confucius Institute at Universität Trier

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."



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 to 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."