



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

孔子学院

2012 Annual Report

Confucius Institute
at Victoria University
of Wellington





The Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington

From the Chairman

In February Prime Minister John Key launched the government's *China Strategy* emphasising the importance of China to New Zealand's economic and social future in this, the 40th anniversary of New Zealand and China establishing diplomatic relations. More recently the *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper sets a challenge for Australia to raise its level of Asian literacy, and in particular to build a nation that is attuned to and fluent in the languages and cultures of its major trading and regional partners. That challenge confronts New Zealand no less than it does Australia, and the work being done by the Confucius Institutes contributes in an important way to making New Zealand, and particularly New Zealand's younger generation, better equipped to meet the opportunities that China offers us. The Confucius Institute at Victoria University must therefore become even more of a catalyst for the growth in learning Chinese language and culture in this country. It is a goal that will underpin all we do over the next twelve months.

Tony Browne,
Chairman of the VUW Confucius Institute



Tony Browne, Chairman of the VUW CI Board introduces HE Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the Chinese Political Consultative Conference while visiting VUW

Our Mission

The mission of the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington is to build New Zealanders' understanding of and familiarity with China, its language, culture and people.

The Institute works to expand opportunities for New Zealanders to learn Chinese, at school, in community classes, and through courses that it runs itself. It acts to build knowledge in New Zealand of China's long and rich culture by bringing artists to perform and giving audiences the opportunity to see and hear Chinese productions. Being part of Victoria University of Wellington it contributes to enhancing scholarship about China, and to building academic links between China and New Zealand,

The Confucius
Institute is
part of Victoria
University's
strategy
to build its
engagement
with China.

especially those with its Confucius Institute partner, Xiamen University. Hosting the Confucius Institute is part of Victoria University's strategy to build its engagement with China.

Our History



Chairman Xi Jinping, who launched the VUWCI in 2011 during a visit to Wellington as Vice-President of China. Seen here with VUW Vice-Chancellor Professor Pat Walsh.

The Confucius Institute at Victoria University is the newest of three such Institutes in New Zealand. It was opened by China's new Leader, Xi Jinping, in March 2011 as a partnership between Victoria University and Xiamen University in China, making it part of the worldwide association of nearly 400 CIs operating with the financial backing and support of Hanban, the Chinese Language Council International, and the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing. Its establishment was hailed as an important step in building cultural, educational and academic links between New Zealand and China.

Our People

The Confucius Institute at VUW is staffed by both Victoria and Xiamen universities. Its Advisory Board, which is chaired by New Zealand's former Ambassador to China, Tony Browne, has senior staff from both universities, led by VUW Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Neil Quigley, and Vice President of Xiamen University, Prof.

Wu Daguang. The other members of the Board are Mr Wang Shenggang (Education Counsellor, Chinese Embassy), Prof. Deborah Willis (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, VUW), Mr Mao Tongwen (Director of International Cooperation, Xiamen University), Prof. Huang Xiaoming (Director of New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre), Prof. Wang Yiyang, (Professor of Chinese, VUW), Prof. James Liu (School of Psychology, VUW) and Mr Feng Yu (Wellington College). The Advisory Board meets at least twice a year to review work-in-progress, plan new projects, and discuss personnel and budgetary issues.

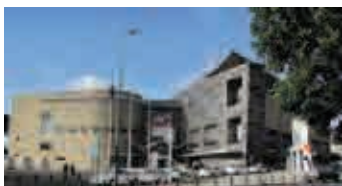
Victoria University appointed Dr Luo Hui as Director of the Confucius Institute; Xiamen University appointed Dr Chen Ben as the Deputy Director, while Mr Liu Yaru has been seconded by Hanban as a Chinese Teacher. The office is managed by Ms Nastassja van Gucht. In addition to its regular staff the Institute benefits from the support it receives from its musical consultant, acclaimed composer Jack Body, and by a number of people from the Chinese community in Wellington who manage the Discover China workshops. While Dr Luo has been away from New Zealand on research leave in the second half of 2012 the Institute's chairman, Tony Browne, has filled the role of Acting Director.

Who We Work With

The Institute's primary collaboration is with the schools and other organisations that are teaching Chinese, or wish to introduce Chinese into their curriculum. Within the University the Institute is working to develop its partnership with the Chinese Language Programme, the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre, and other sections of the university involved in developing the university's links with China. Victoria University has had a Chinese language programme for 40 years, so the Institute does not compete with existing teaching in the University. CI classes are run for non-degree students and members of the public, with some being run in conjunction with the University Community Continuing Education.



The Confucius
Institute at VUW
is staffed by both
Victoria and
Xiamen
universities



Promotion of its cultural programme sees the Institute working closely with the New Zealand International Film Festival, the New Zealand Federation of Film Societies, the New Zealand School of Music, Te Papa (National Museum of New Zealand), Chinese community organisations, NZ Centre for Literary Translation, the Asia New Zealand Foundation, NZ China Friendship Society, NZ Chinese Language Association, Mandarin Corner and International Languages Exchanges and Pathways at Auckland University. The Institute particularly values its close working relationship with the PRC Embassy.

CI Resources

The CI is grateful for the support it receives from Victoria University of Wellington, from Hanban and from Xiamen University. VUW supports the CI through the provision of premises, staff, administrative support, facilities and equipment. The Institute shares a building at 18 Kelburn Parade with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre. The University meets just over half the Institute's costs. The CI is also grateful for the generous support for its operational budget provided by Hanban, along with the supply of books, teaching materials and other funding. The Institute's library and resource centre is largely stocked with books and resources supplied by Hanban. Xiamen University supports the Institute by supplying staff and offering on-going guidance.



Where We Work

The three Confucius Institutes provide services throughout New Zealand, with the VUW CI having responsibility for those parts of the North Island south of a line running roughly between Gisborne and New Plymouth. Resources make it difficult to extend full support to all parts of that region, but particular effort is being placed on supporting the exceptional commitment to Chinese teaching in Rotorua.

2012 Highlights



Countertenor Xiao Ma
performing in Wellington



Chinese Community Class
at Tauranga



Taiqi classes at Rotorua

Hanban has
approved two
new Confucius
Classrooms
affiliated with
the VUW CI.

Community Schools

The Institute has worked with five community based language schools in Wellington, Palmerston North, Tauranga, Rotorua and Opotiki. The Wellington Chinese Language School, the Manawatu Chinese Community Trust, the Chinese Community school at Tauranga's Girls' College, the Rotorua Chinese Association and the Opotiki Community School all offer a range of Chinese classes.

School Support

The Institute has continued its programme of providing advice and teaching materials to schools seeking support in establishing programmes of Chinese teaching. Data from the Ministry of Education indicate that Chinese is now being taught in 19 Wellington schools, and it is a challenge for the Institute to develop a close working relationship with them all. This will require active outreach to schools and a carefully prepared package of support that can be offered to them.

In addition to the existing Confucius Classroom at Rotorua Boys' High School Hanban has approved two new **Confucius Classrooms** affiliated with the VUW CI. Wellington College and Wanganui High School both have eminently successful Chinese language programmes and the distinction of being selected as a Confucius Classroom is well deserved. This brings the total number of Confucius Classrooms in New Zealand to ten.



Confucius Classroom at Rotorua Boys' High School

Discover China!



Discover China: Martial Arts Class at Wellington High School (left) and Dumpling Class at Te Aro School (right).

The Institute has continued to develop its programme ‘Discover China!’ – a scheme to take aspects of Chinese culture to schools to give students an introductory experience of Chinese calligraphy, painting, martial arts, music, cuisine etc. Responses to this programme have been positive from students and teachers alike, and with the generous support of members of the Chinese community in Wellington this programme will be rolled out more widely in 2013.



Mandarin Language Assistants

The Institute has cooperated with Hanban to place three Mandarin Language Assistants in schools in its region. This programme, which sends carefully selected young Chinese graduates to spend a year in New Zealand assisting in schools that are teaching Chinese, has broadened the opportunities for New Zealand children to extend their experience of speaking Chinese. Gao Xinru, Zhang Qian and Hu Yufang have been working in Rotorua, Whakatane/Opotiki and Tauranga.



Chinese Bridge Speech Competition

Teacher Training and Language Qualifications

The Institute’s Chinese teacher, Mr Liu Yaru, has run a programme of teacher training workshops for teachers of Chinese at Wellington schools aimed at enhancing techniques and methods for effective teaching of Chinese language and culture.



Wellington Chinese
Operatic Society



Gu-zheng player Xiyao Chen



Pianist Jian Liu

The Hanban-run tests measuring levels of Chinese proficiency – HSK for adults and YCT for school children – have seen students sitting six different levels of HSK qualification in tests administered by the Institute. Encouraging participation in the YCT tests will be a goal for 2013 as only Rotorua Boys' High School has entered students for this qualification this year.

Cultural Activities

Highlights of the Institute's cultural programme in 2012 included:

- **Two Countertenor Concert tour** of Xiao Ma and Stephen Diaz in January/February performed to an audience of more than 10,000 at more than ten concerts throughout New Zealand. This tour was also supported by the Asia NZ Foundation, the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the Chinese Embassy.
- **Cantonese Opera:** Two Cantonese Opera Nights were held at the Little Theatre in Lower Hutt, co-organised with Wellington Chinese Operatic Society.
- **Gu-zheng Concert:** Xiyao Chen, teacher at the NZ School of Traditional Chinese Music in Hamilton and coming from a highly regarded musical Chinese family, visited Wellington to give a traditional gu-zheng concert. He performed with Zuo Ruoyan, a graduate of the Music School at North-western Normal University in China.
- **Five Songs – Chinese Musicologists delegation:** A delegation of Musicologists from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing visited the NZ School of Music, and participated in a roundtable discussion of Five Songs, a sound-and-image presentation of Chinese ethnic music.
- **Piano Fantasies:** The Confucius Institute at VUW co-sponsored a piano recital featuring Jian Liu, Head of Piano Studies at the New Zealand School of Music. This concert was a joint venture with NZSM and part of the 2012 Sunday Concerts Series of Wellington Chamber Music.

- **‘Ten + One’ Childhood Memories piano concert:** Last year in Wellington Jian Liu and ten of his students presented ‘Ten + One’ Childhood Memories Chinese piano concert. This year, with CI backing, they took the recital to Palmerston North and performed to an audience of more than 200. This concert featured traditional Chinese music, folksong and children’s songs rescored for piano, as well as original piano works by acclaimed Chinese composers Tan Dun, Gao Ping and Shen Nalin. The programme was jointly organised with the Manawatu Chinese Community Trust.
- **Films:** The CI sponsored the Wellington and Auckland film screenings of *11 Flowers* by acclaimed Chinese Director Wang Xiaoshuai at the 2012 New Zealand International Film Festival. Furthermore, it has supported the film evenings of the NZ Chinese Language Association and three films in twelve Film Societies throughout New Zealand.



‘11 Flowers’ at the 2012 New Zealand International Film Festival

Looking into the future



The Confucius Institute at VUW is well established, and its programmes of cultural promotion and Chinese language growth must now kick on to the point that they can be seen to be making a measurable difference to New Zealand's Chinese "literacy". Victoria University's commitment to building its links with China provides the Institute with a generous and supportive backer for the programmes it is implementing. The support that the Chinese government gives Confucius Institutes worldwide makes possible what the Institute at VUW sets out to achieve. The interest in New Zealand schools in introducing Chinese learning is still well short of where we hope it will reach, and where it needs to be if the objectives in the government's *China Strategy* are to be realised. In part this is due to the shortage of teachers experienced and qualified to teach Chinese, and having the necessary personal experience of China itself. Changing that will be neither easy nor quick, but a gradual increase in the number of schools offering Chinese, and increased exposure on the part

China Scholarship success
for VUW students
From left to right:
Caleb Hoyle, Kristen Ng and
Asher Stadlin-Robbie



The Institute's
Board has
approved a five
year Strategic Plan
for the VUW CI.

of students, teachers and the community to Chinese culture, will follow from the programmes that the three Confucius Institutes offer in New Zealand.

The Institute's Board has approved a five year Strategic Plan for the VUW CI, the key elements of which are to strengthen the emphasis on Chinese language support in schools and to expand the number of schools teaching Chinese. In the cultural area the goal is to ensure that cultural performances supported by the CI meet criteria of quality, relevance and value for money. It seeks to have the Institute become more closely involved in University programmes and scholarship, and promote research on China by individual staff and students. In doing so it aims to support programmes promoted by Hanban headquarters, but always within the constraints of being relevant to the actual situation in New Zealand and especially its education system, the needs and interests of New Zealanders more widely, and the special circumstances and strengths of our host university.



Contacts

Chairman of the Board

Mr Tony Browne

Director

Dr Luo Hui

Victoria University of Wellington

Deputy Director

Dr Chen Ben

Xiamen University, China

Chinese Teacher

Mr Liu Yaru

Hainan University, China

Administrator

Nastassja Van Gucht

Confucius Institute

Victoria University of Wellington

18 Kelburn Parade

PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

TEL +64(4) 463-9549

WEB www.victoria.ac.nz/ci



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Confucius Institute

Victoria University of Wellington

18 Kelburn Parade

PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

TEL +64(4) 463-9549

EMAIL confucius-institute@vuw.ac.nz

WEB www.victoria.ac.nz/ci

Cover image by Lee Ka-sing – Courtesy of Lee Ka-sing