

孔子学院

2011 Annual Report

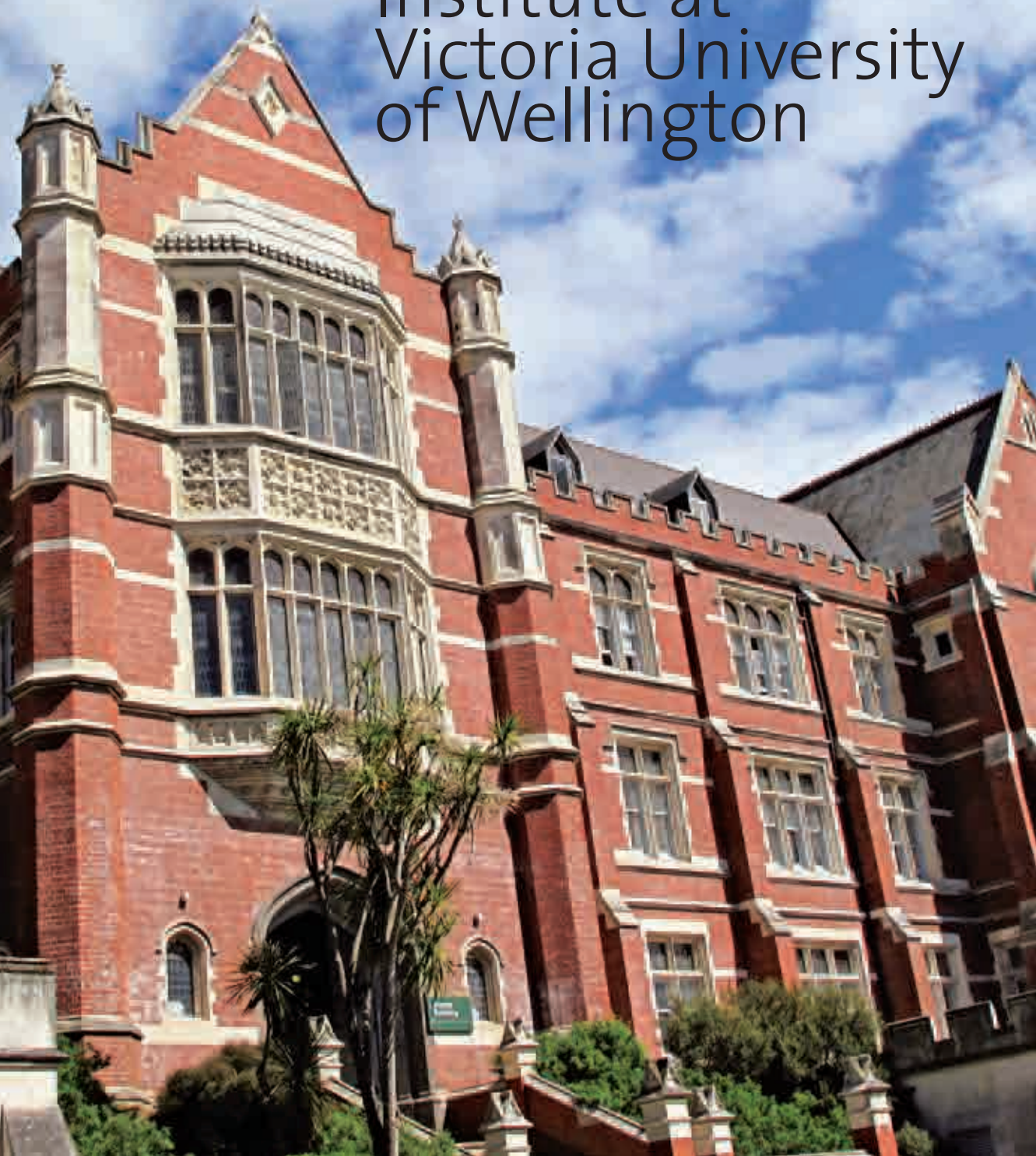
Confucius Institute
at Victoria University
of Wellington



CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



About the Confucius Institute at Victoria University of Wellington



Our Mission

The Confucius Institute (CI) at Victoria University of Wellington aims to promote the understanding and appreciation of Chinese language, arts and culture in Wellington and throughout New Zealand. Drawing from the rich cultural resources that the University and the national capital have to offer, the CI is dedicated to promoting cultural and academic exchange between China and New Zealand. The CI also aims to contribute to the research environment for Chinese studies, to disseminate knowledge and to increase sensitivity of one of the world's most important civilizations amongst New Zealand students, scholars, and the general public.

Our History



The Confucius Institute is a partnership between Victoria University of Wellington and Xiamen University, China. On 19 June 2010, Pat Walsh, the Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, and Zhu Zhiwen, Party Secretary of Xiamen University, signed an agreement to establish the Confucius Institute at Victoria University. On the same day, the Vice President of P.R. China, Xi Jinping, unveiled the Confucius Institute plaque at the launch ceremony in Wellington. On 24 March 2011, Victoria University hosted a grand opening ceremony which

Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping and Vice-Chancellor of VUW Pat Walsh at the Confucius Institute official launch.

signalled the commencement of the full operation of the Institute. The establishment of the CI is an important event in the development of academic, educational, economic and cultural relations between China and New Zealand and one of the key projects in the international strategy of Victoria University, particularly its China initiatives.

Our People

The Confucius Institute at Victoria's Advisory Board consists of members of senior management from both partner universities as well as representatives from China-related educational and cultural organisations. Mr Tony Browne, a senior diplomat and former NZ ambassador to China, has been appointed the Chairman of the Board. Board members include Prof. Neil Quigley (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, VUW), Prof. Wu Daguang (Vice-President, Xiamen University), 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. Xiaoming Huang (Director of New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre), Prof. James Liu (School of Psychology, VUW), Mr Feng Yu (Wellington College) and Mr Douglas Day (New Zealand China Friendship Society).

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 has appointed Dr Luo Hui as Director of the Confucius Institute; Xiamen University has appointed Dr Chen Ben as the Deputy Director. CI staff also includes Sue Ryn Ong (Administrator) and Liu Yaru (Chinese Teacher). Acclaimed New Zealand composer, Jack Body, serves as CI's Musical Consultant.



From the Chairman

New Zealand's links with China continue to grow, bringing with it an inescapable need for New Zealanders to expand their understanding of China. The VUW Confucius Institute's support for the teaching of Chinese language and culture, at schools and in the community, increases the opportunities New Zealanders, and especially young New Zealanders will have to learn about China and its rich cultural history. This is a long term investment in New Zealand's future, as it is in Victoria University's own comprehensive engagement with China, and in particular with our partner in this Institute, Xiamen University.

Tony Browne,
*Chairman of the Confucius Institute
at Victoria University of Wellington*

We are one of
three Confucius
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Our Network

We are one of three Confucius Institutes in New Zealand and part of a network of 300+ at universities worldwide.

This global network is an important educational and cultural initiative of the 21st century spearheaded by the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing.

Within New Zealand, we strive to build mutually beneficial relationships with prominent cultural institutions such as Te Papa (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), NZ School of Music, International Institute of Modern Letters, NZ Centre for Literary Translation, NZ Federation of Film Societies, and the Education and Culture Sections of the Chinese Embassy. We have a close working partnership at VUW with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre.



We have also established close working relationships with the CIs at the University of Auckland and the University of Canterbury, and will work to see that cooperation grow. The three CIs meet regularly to share experiences and discuss issues of common interest. The three New Zealand CIs also collaborate on projects of national coverage such as the annual 'Chinese Bridge' Speech Competitions.

Facilities and Finances

Within the first year of the CI's operation, Victoria University has steadily increased its investment in the CI in terms of facilities, equipment and human resources. Now the CI occupies a freestanding office building shared with NZ Contemporary China Research Centre, at 18 Kelburn Parade. Designated office space has been doubled from the initial 50 square metres to the current 100 square metres, with five offices equipped with computers, Internet access, a heavy-duty printer, a scanner and a projector. The CI also has a 30 square-metre library and classroom, with a collection of 3,000 books and audio-visual material related to Chinese language and culture. In 2011, the CI launched its official website (www.victoria.ac.nz/ci) with assistance from the University web development team.

Victoria University's allocation of well-equipped office space significantly reduced the CI's expenditure in office supplies, thus enabling the CI to utilise most of the Hanban start-up funds to develop its cultural and language programmes. We hope to further develop 18 Kelburn Parade into a multi-functional meeting place and resource centre for all students and teachers of Chinese in the Wellington region.



2011 Overview

The most successful feature of the CI's operation in the past year has been its friendly and fruitful cooperation with educational and cultural organisations within Victoria University and in the broader community. We extend thanks to Vice-Chancellor Pat Walsh and the senior management of the University for their unfailing support.

The CI at VUW welcomes the support that has been extended to it by Xiamen University and by Hanban and looks forward to continuing the close cooperation that has marked the first year of our establishment in Wellington. The coming year will see more opportunity to develop understanding of our achievements, our needs and our shared goals. We will continue to support Victoria University of Wellington's wider links with Xiamen University and Wellington City's sister city relationship with Xiamen.

Located in Wellington, one of the most dynamic, diverse and accessible capital cities in the world, the CI at VUW has a vantage point to tap into the rich cultural resources in the area. Being in the capital city enables us to liaise smoothly with relevant government organisations and gain quick access to information on NZ education policies. Collaborative relationships with prominent organisations such as Te Papa and the New Zealand School of Music allow us to reach our core target audience. Outreach initiatives involving community organisations, such as Mandarin Corner, NZ China Friendship Society, the NZ Chinese Language Association, City Jazz, and Volunteer Wellington, help us build a solid foundation for friendship and mutual understanding.

New Zealand has a large and growing Chinese ethnic community with strong interest in seeing the promotion of closer cultural, economic and personal ties between New Zealand and China. This community is both a key constituency of support for the Institute's activities and an important participant in our programmes.

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2011 Highlights

Since its opening in March 2011, the Confucius Institute at VUW has made considerable progress in promoting Chinese arts and culture and supporting Chinese language teaching in Wellington and across New Zealand. Our work in arts and culture in particular has gained the attention and respect of music and film industry professionals, members of the University, and our peers at other CIs.



Cultural Activities

Promoting language learning and cultural understanding through the arts is one of our core philosophies. In 2011 we presented 22 cultural events to the public, including concerts, film festivals, art exhibitions and lectures, attracting an audience of over 2,500. The high quality of our cultural events has generated encouraging responses from audiences, industry professionals and mainstream media. Our events are regularly featured in local and international media such as Xinhua News Agency New Zealand Office, Phoenix Satellite TV, and the popular local Chinese newspaper *Home Voice*.



Major arts and cultural events in 2011:

- Opening Ceremony Concert featuring the New Forbidden City Orchestra, the finest traditional chamber music ensemble from China (March)
- Te Papa reading of Tang poetry in Chinese and English translation by two leading Canadian poets Roo Borson and Kim Maltman (March)
- ‘Country City Home’, the first film festival in NZ to focus on urbanization and human migration in China (April)
- ‘New Photography from China’, an exhibition that toured four different gallery and schools in Wellington, Rotorua and Whanganui (April-May)
- ‘Eleven + One: Childhood Memories’, a concert performance of Chinese piano music by Jian Liu and eleven piano students at the New Zealand School of Music (October)



Chinese Language Teaching

Nathalie
Harrington
[second from the
left] ... won First
Prize in the final
'Chinese Bridge'
competition
in China.



Since its establishment, the CI has made efforts to promote Chinese language teaching both at the Institute and off-site. In 2011 the CI has conducted a total of five Chinese language classes – one at the CI, one for NZ Trade and Enterprise, one for Opatiki County Council, two at Victoria University – with 121 students in total.

The CI at Victoria University was the main contributor to the 2011 'Chinese Bridge' Speech Competitions. We hosted both the Wellington regional competition and the NZ national competition. In the worldwide final competition held in China this year, Nathalie Harrington, a second-year student in the Chinese programme at Victoria University, won First Prize and the title of 'Chinese Language Messenger'. Nathalie was also awarded the Prize of 'Excellent Eloquence' at the competition. We are very proud of her achievements.



Teacher Training and HSK Tests

Chinese language initiatives at the CI have been boosted with the arrival of Mr Liu Yaru, the Chinese teacher sent from Hanban, in October 2011. We have conducted three Chinese language teaching workshops, which prepared 15 local teachers for entry



into a rigorous professional development programme next year. We also offered workshops on Chinese proficiency exams prior to the first HSK test held at the CI on 4 December 2011.

Joint Language Programmes

The CI has reached an agreement with Wellington Chinese Language School, the largest community language school in the city, to jointly offer specialised courses that the school currently does not offer. The courses, including Chinese for Studying in China, Chinese for Business, Chinese for Travellers, and Conversational Chinese, will be run with CI resources and are open to both regular students and members of the public.

Confucius Classrooms

The CI at Victoria University currently manages the Confucius Classroom at Rotorua Boys' High School. The CC at RBHS now has a total of four classes and 81 students. Rotorua has a strong Maori culture, and the Chinese courses offered at RBHS feature comparative studies of Chinese and Maori language and culture. The CI has also assisted Wellington College and Whanganui High School with the preparation of their Confucius Classroom applications and is beginning discussion with other schools that are interested in making similar applications. In 2012 we expect to have three CCs under our management.

Academic Exchanges

A seminar on China-US relations and Chinese urbanization by two prominent Chinese scholars, Prof. Tao Wenzhao and Prof. Wang Xu was held in November 2011. The CI will continue to look for ways in which it can support academic dialogue between China and New Zealand, in cooperation with the New Zealand Contemporary China Research Centre and other parts of Victoria University.



The Confucius Classroom at Rotorua Boys High School now has a total of four classes and 81 students.

Looking into
the future



2012 will be a year of strategic importance when the CI will need to fine-tune its language and cultural programmes to lay a good foundation for a midterm five-year development plan. In 2012, we will develop several important language teaching initiatives. In the area of arts and culture, the CI plans to organise and sponsor a series of cultural events to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of China-NZ diplomatic relations.

According to Ministry of Education surveys, Chinese is now being taught at 40 schools in the region covered by the CI at VUW. A challenge for us in the year ahead is to build our links with those schools, to better understand their needs and to make them more aware of the services that we can provide. To this end we will be making efforts to assist in the development of teaching materials to support the NZ Ministry of Education's Chinese curriculum. We will similarly be working to develop stronger partnerships with those teaching Chinese at VUW and in community-based schools.

Chinese Language Growth Initiative

The CI will allocate funds to help expand existing Chinese programmes and to set up new programmes at local schools and communities. Support includes teaching material, teacher training, relief teaching, extra-curricular activities, etc. Target for 2012 is to help six schools to increase their Chinese language class enrolment.

Teacher Training Workshops

A programme of monthly teacher training workshops for the professional development of local teachers of Chinese, including lectures on Chinese language teaching, teaching demonstration by experts, and roundtable discussions of local pedagogic issues. Trainees receive a CI Teacher Training Certificate upon successful completion of the programme.



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E-learning MOODLE Website

The CI will launch an interactive e-learning website for NZ students and teachers of Chinese using locally developed courses, online lessons, and other audio-visual material suitable for the NZ curriculum. The e-learning environment will be developed and managed by the CI at Victoria University, with contributors and end-users across New Zealand.

Cultural Classes for Language Learners

Recognising an understanding of Chinese culture a key factor in stimulating and maintaining students' interest in language learning, the CI will develop a series of culture classes and activities and assist schools to implement them. These will include half-day 'Discover China!' workshops and short-term lunchtime or weekend courses on Chinese music, painting, calligraphy, dance, martial arts and cuisine.

Arts and Culture

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of NZ-China diplomatic relations, our arts and cultural events in 2012 will emphasise friendship, collaboration and exchange between New Zealand and China.

Highlights include:

- Joint NZ/China musical performances:
 - Concert performances and festival appearances by two counter-tenors, Xiao Ma (China) and Stephen Diaz (NZ)
 - Two Piano Virtuosi: Xiang Zou (Beijing) and Jian Liu (Wellington) play Ligeti and Debussy
- Limited Edition poetry chapbooks featuring bilingual versions of Chinese and NZ poets, including the late Rewi Alley
- Sponsorship of Chinese films for film societies in 12 NZ cities and the annual NZ International Film Festival
- 'Three Tours': multi-city of cultural performances by an artists delegation from Xiamen University

Small Grants for China Research Projects and Cultural Events

The CI will allocate a number of small grants to encourage research projects related to Chinese language and culture.

The grants are open, on a competitive basis, to faculty and advanced students at Victoria University and Massey University as well as independent scholars in NZ.

An equal number of small grants will be made available to cultural organisations that wish to co-present or co-sponsor Chinese cultural and educational events.

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

Ms Sue Ryn Ong

Confucius Institute

Victoria University of Wellington

18 Kelburn Parade

PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

TEL +64(4) 463-9549

FAX +64(4) 463-6195

WEB www.victoria.ac.nz/ci



Confucius Institute
Victoria University of Wellington
18 Kelburn Parade
PO Box 600, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
TEL +64(4) 463-9549
FAX +64(4) 463-6195
EMAIL confucius-institute@vuw.ac.nz
WEB www.victoria.ac.nz/ci

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