

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth,
Jamaica Director

SEMESTER I

September 2017

September 2017 saw the resumption of activities at the Confucius Institute. As of this date the members of staff were:

- Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, Jamaican Director
- (Associate) Professor Yu Wansuo, Chinese Director
- Ms. Keneisha Sappleton, Senior Secretary
- Mrs. Guo Zhouya, Mandarin Lecturer
- Mr. Adrian Lindsay, Mandarin Teacher
- Ms. Wu Runxia, Part-time Chinese Instructor
- Ms. Clair Dunn, Office Attendant

Regular classes resumed in the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, 1st–3rd year. A total of 181 students were registered in the credit course.

Classes at the Western Jamaica Campus were suspended due to the fact that there were too few students.

Evening/community classes for Mandarin learners also resumed at the Confucius Institute with a total of 10 students.

As of May 2017, a document written in order that the Confucius Institute might decentralize teaching and disseminate volunteers to schools across the island, has been sitting with UWI legal representative, Mr. Karl Lawrence. Up to the point of writing this report there has been no response to same.

The Confucius Institute at the UWI, in the last academic year, did not necessarily feel full support from the CI Headquarters, Hanban, in Beijing.

September 14, 2017: Both directors welcomed the Director of CRICAL (Centro Regional de Institutos Confucio para América Latina/Regional Centre of Confucius Institutes in Latin America) Mr. Roberto Lafontaine, to the CI at Mona. This was a courtesy visit to see in what capacity CRICAL might be of assistance to us.

September 28 – Annual Confucius Institute Day: The Annual Confucius Institute Day was celebrated in the Faculty of Humanities courtyard. The day was a success though many of the high schools invited did not attend. Lion dancers from the Chinese Benevolent Association performed on this occasion, with the usual displays from the CI.

To close the day, the Confucius Institute hosted Dr. Yuri Peshkov, UNESCO's Programme Specialist at the Kingston Office, at the invitation of the Archaeological Society of Jamaica. He presented a lecture titled, 'Heritage of Silk Roads: towards the successful nomination to the World Heritage List'. This was well supported.

December 2017

HOD, Professor Paulette Ramsay, Chinese Director, Professor Yu Wansuo and Dr. Courtney Hogarth travelled to Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, to participate in the 12th Global Confucius Institute Conference. We participated in the President's and Director's Fora.

In addition to the Global Conference, we had a Work Meeting with representatives from the partner university, Taiyuan University of Technology.

SEMESTER II

January 2018

The Survey of Chinese Culture course, as part of the Minor in Chinese was offered this semester. Numbers fell from twenty (20) students in 2017 to a total of seven (7) students in the current year.

February 2018

On February 5, Dr. Courtney Hogarth and Senior Secretary, Ms. Keneisha Sappleton met with the Dean of the Medical Faculty, Dr. Tomlin Paul, to discuss an invitation extended to Prof. Zheng Huaiyu, Traditional Chinese Medical practitioner. She is slated to visit Mona through an In-Residence Programme designed by Dr. Hogarth. Through this, she would spend the semester at Mona exchanging ideas with her western counterparts.

The Confucius Institute participated in Research Days, 2018, February 7–9.

Dr. Hogarth raised funds totaling JMD \$60,000.00 to offset costs with airing a radio programme in Mandarin. This was an initiative of the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures and saw the UWI students of Mandarin showcasing their language proficiency.

March 2018

On March 6 both Prof. Yu and Dr. Hogarth met with Rev. Claude Ellis,

Principal, Pembroke Hall High School. He is interested in having Mandarin Classes at his institution. There could be no progress here as our document was stuck with the UWI legal representative.

On March 24, the Confucius Institute administered the HSK (Chinese Proficiency) test to six students across levels IV, V and KK2.

April 2018

Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney Hogarth was awarded a Special Initiative Grant to undertake research on the Jamaican artist, Maurice DaCosta. His research will end in the writing of a monograph to be titled, 'Maurice DaCosta – A Life In Images'.

The Confucius Institute participated, as usual, in the Modern Languages Day celebrations.

May 2018

May 17, 2018 – A delegation arrived to the Mona Campus from the Taiyuan University of Technology, our partner university for the CI. Dubbed a Work Meeting, there were several matters under discussion.

The CI started its community classes in Mandarin. These will run until the end of July. Said classes were offered at this time due to a shortage of teachers in the course of the semester.

The Chinese Director, Yu Wansuo, ended his tenure and returned to China.

At the end of May, Dr. Hogarth travelled to London to participate in the conference, 'Art, Materiality & Representation' organized by the British Museum (June 1–3, 2018). Here he presented the paper, 'Towards A Life In Images – The 'Walk About' Sketches of Maurice DaCosta'.

July 2018

The community classes came to an end.