

## CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



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Director

The Confucius Institute is a unit within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures whose primary objective is to promote the learning of Chinese language (Mandarin) and culture among Jamaicans.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES 2012–JULY 2013

September, 2012, saw the beginning of the third academic year of operations at the Confucius Institute. The following constitute the members of staff:

- **Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth**, Jamaican Director (University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica)
- **Professor Lu Shaogang**, Chinese Director (Taiyuan University of Technology, China)
- **Mrs. Shen Xiaoyan**, Chinese Teacher (TUT)
- **Mrs. Liang Yingping**, Chinese Teacher (TUT)
- **Mrs. Yu Chunping**, Chinese Volunteer (Embassy of China in Jamaica)

- **Mr. Wang Junwei**, Chinese Volunteer (Shanghai Foreign Studies University)

The following courses and the number of students registered were as follows:

- Mandarin 43
- Tai Chi 18
- Film of the Month

In September the Institute prepared and sent seven (7) Hanban Scholarship students to Taiyuan University of Technology in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province, China.

The Institute celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival during the month of September with an evening reception attended by students and staff, including the Principal of the Mona Campus, Professor Gordon Shirley.

October 2012, saw the launch of the Affiliated Chinese Classrooms at Ardenne High School and Campion College. The event was attended by Professor Gordon Shirley, members of the Local Advisory Board of the Confucius Institute as well as Principals and students of the aforementioned high schools. Professor Shirley brought greetings from his office, wishing the endeavour success. Dr. Ramsay brought greetings from the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, as well as Mrs. Nadine Malloy, Principal of Ardenne. Notably, Mrs. Grace Baston, Principal of Campion College was absent due to ill health. This launch saw performances from the UWI students, as well as from the high school students. It was also covered in the print media. In total there were about 60 people in attendance.

During December, Dr. Paulette Ramsay, Head of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, Professor Lu Shaogang and Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, travelled to China for a meeting of the Confucius Institute Board at the Taiyuan University of Technology. Following the meeting the group travelled to Beijing to participate in a reception hosted by the Jamaican Embassy in Beijing in celebration of 40 years of diplomatic relations between Jamaica and China. The work of the Confucius Institute in Jamaica was praised in an address delivered by Jamaican Ambassador to China, H.E. Courtenay Rattray.

The group also participated in the seventh Annual Hanban Conference, at the Beijing International Conference Centre.

On December 4, 2012 the Confucius Institute administered its first ever HSK Exams.

During the month of February, the Institute welcomed Professor Al Huang Chungliang, well respected author, philosopher, Taiji master, performing artist, founder-president of the Living Tao Foundation and the international Lan Ting Institute in the sacred Wu Yi Mountains of China. Professor Huang was in Jamaica for the fourth Confucius Institute Anniversary Lecture. He spoke on the topic: “The Three Pillars of Asian Wisdom: Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism in the West”. This lecture was covered by the print media and saw approximately 300 people in attendance. Professor Huang also hosted a Tao (Taiji) Workshop for members of the community and spoke at a Modern Languages and Literatures seminar on ‘Taoist Philosophy in Everyday Living’. Among the panelists were, Dr. Paulette Ramsay, Professor Lu Shaogang and Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth. This was well attended by members of the community, though primarily arranged for the UWI students.

In addition there was a book-signing at Bookophilia in Kingston, at which Professor Huang spoke and signed copies of his books. This was well attended and well received.

On March 3, 2013, the episode of Ian Boyne’s Profile, featuring Professor Al Huang Chungliang was broadcast on Television Jamaica.

At the end of March, Professor Du Juemin of the Central Academy of Fine Arts arrived in Jamaica. He came at the invitation of the Confucius Institute and the Mona Campus, to be Artist-in-Residence for a five week period.

On March 24, 2013, the Confucius Institute again administered the HSK Examinations for students hoping to eventually study in China.

The Confucius Institute played an active role, once again, in the Modern Languages Day activities of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures on March 31, 2013.

While in Jamaica, Professor Du engaged in the following activities:

- April 18–May 4, 2013, ‘Reflection’, an exhibition of ink paintings

almost spanning the breadth of Professor Du's career. This was held at the Olympia Gallery in Kingston and opened by Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth.

- Delivered a lecture titled, "The Soul of Chinese Painting" at the Confucius Institute on April 2, 2013. This was well attended by artists, a few students and members of the wider community.
- On April 11, 2013, Professor Du also delivered a lecture of the same title at the Edna Manley College, School of Visual Arts.
- Also on April 11, Professor Du presented the film 'Life on a String', directed by Chen Kaige.
- Professor Du's final presentation in his residency programme was the film 'Black Blood', directed by Zhang Meiyan. Interestingly, Professor Du had a hand in the production of the film. Shown on April 26, 2013, this film was attended by students and members of the community.

The YCT Examination for high school students from the Affiliated Confucius Classrooms at Ardenne High School and Campion College was administered at the Confucius Institute. In total 16 students from both schools sat this exam.

Once again the Confucius Institute administered the HSK Examination for its students in May 2103.

The Confucius Institute, as part of its mandate to train local teachers, sent Ms. Giselle Jones to China for training. For the duration of a month she received training in Beijing and Shenyang on teaching Chinese to speakers of other languages.

On June 12, 2013 a special version of our annual Mid-Autumn Festival was organized. It was special because of the fact that the Mid-Autumn Festival, the send-off ceremony for two CI volunteers, as well as the Mandarin Retreat for students of the Confucius Institute community classes were all rolled into one.

On July 2, 2013, Chinese and Jamaican Directors, Professor Lu Shaogang and Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth travelled to Medellin, Colombia for the Annual Regional Meeting of Latin American Confucius Institutes. During this meeting we addressed several aspects of the Confucius Institute management and spoke of long-term plans to 2020.