

Work Report of the Confucius Institute at the University of Geneva

January – December 2018

1. Teaching of Chinese Language, Cultural Lectures and Chinese Bridge Competition

In 2018, the Institute provided 9 Chinese classes for the University of Geneva. Four of those classes especially catered to the need of students of the Global Studies Institute, and a course on contemporary Chinese society was set up to go with those language classes as required by the university's academic administration, delivered by professors from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Department of East Asian Studies who do deep research on China. To the graduate students of the Department of East Asian Studies and the resident Chinese teachers, the Institute offered the course "Chinese Linguistics and Chinese Teaching". All the above-mentioned classes are incorporated within the University's ECTS credit system, and were open both to students of the university and the general public. In addition, through the University's Faculty of Continuing Education, the Institute offered 6 Chinese classes and 4 HSK preparation classes of different levels, and a four-week intensive summer Chinese language class (80 class hours) with four Chinese cultural lectures targeting the general public. The Institute organized 7 public lectures on Chinese culture with a total number of participants of more than 400. The Institute also actively helped students of the University of Geneva to apply for Hanban's scholarships for summer school and long-term programs, by which it has contributed to fostering cultural exchange on both sides. In 2018, 22 students of the University of Geneva got scholarships to attend the summer school at Renmin University, 20 of which got scholarships from Hanban and 2 from Renmin University of China. In addition, the Institute helped 1 student get a scholarship from Tsinghua University and attend its summer school. The Institute actively encouraged the students to participate in the Chinese Bridge Competition and went all out to help them with the preparation. This year, four students from the University of Geneva got the first, the third, the fourth, and the fifth place respectively in the college student group competition in Switzerland. All the four students have taken the Chinese language courses offered by the Institute.

In the past year, the Institute completed the Chinese-French translation of the HSK vocabulary of all levels. Unlike the layout of the vocabulary in the HSK outlines issued by Hanban, the vocabulary edited by the Institute is arranged according to the test level, and each level of vocabulary is no longer mixed with other levels of vocabulary, which is more convenient for students' learning. Currently, the glossary is available online at the Institute's website and is available for free download. This is a major project completed by the Institute for Chinese language teaching and learning. It is of great significance for students from French-speaking countries and regions in preparing for HSK examinations and even for general Chinese studies.

2. Research and Ph.D Program

The Institute's China Studies Ph.D. Program is progressing well. Of the three

doctoral students who are fully sponsored by the Confucius Institute Headquarters, Ozan Sahin is now in his fourth year of study and is currently working on his doctoral thesis in China; Pascale Bugnon has completed a year of study in China and, with the field work and data collection required by her thesis successfully completed, she is now at the stage of the actual writing of the thesis. Pierrick Porchet actively participates in various academic conferences and activities. This summer in Cangzhou, Hebei Province in China, Pierrick did a one-month survey and obtained a wealth of first-hand research materials.

In 2018, the Institute helped China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration to train two visiting scholars. With the help of the Institute, the two scholars took relevant courses at the University of Geneva, conducted relevant research, and successfully completed their study plan.

In the past year, scholars of the Institute published the following papers and books:

1) "What I Saw and Heard in Guangfu Town" (Foreword). In Sun Jianguo, "Wu Family Biography of Taijiquan". People's Sports Publishing House.

2) "Analysis of the Body Language of Modern and Traditional Yang Style Taijiquan". Paper presented at The 22nd European China Studies Association Conference.

3) "The Transformation of Traditional Chinese Martial Arts in Accordance with Competitive Sports: Taking Bajiquan as an Example". Paper presented at the Third Asian Studies Conference for Baltic Countries.

4) "A Study on the Transformation Process of Chinese Martial Arts Practice in Accordance with Competitive Sports". In *Tsantsa* No. 23.

5) "A Study on the Development of a Parallel Corpus of Specialized Chinese Teaching Based on the ODS Multilingual Text Data of the United Nations Official Document System". Paper presented at the 5th Chinese Interlanguage Spoken Corpus Seminar.

6) "An Analysis of Related Parameters of the "Snowball" Vocabulary Expansion Method". Paper presented at CASLAR-5 (Hongkong).

7) "Vocabulary Expansion and the Morphology". (2017). In *Applied Chinese Language Studies IX*, eds. Zhiyan GUO & Shuai ZHAO, pp.58-64. Sinolingua, London.

8) "Three perspectives on the concept of "Chinese culture" ". *Asiatische Studien / Études Asiatiques*, 72(1), pp. 87-116, 2018.

9) « The art of accommodating the ancestors of the nation. Analysis of Muslim cultural heritage in China», *Tsantsa*, n° 23,2018.

10) « Territorial and Identity Negotiations in Xinjiang (China): The Case of the Heritage of Muslim Tombs», *Autrepart*, 2018.

11) « "Memory from Beyond the Grave": The Revitalization of Muslim Shrines in Southern China », Paper presented at the 4th Biannual Conference of the Association of Critical Heritage Studies.

3. Support of and Involvement in local Chinese Teaching

In 2018, the Institute organized a Chinese teaching seminar and a Chinese teacher training for the resident teachers. Every month, a Chinese teaching workshop for the resident Chinese teachers was held to discuss various problems encountered in Chinese teaching and to provide ideas and solutions for the problems in question. The Institute participated in the first poetry translation competition of more than 20 Confucius Institutes in the French-speaking countries/areas in 2018. More than 20 universities participated in the competition and 57 translated poems were submitted for judgment. Of the 7 prize winning entries, 6 were by the students from the Institute's literary translation workshop. The 6 winners are also students of the Unit of Chinese, Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Geneva. The translation workshop is held once a month, rotating every other year with the Chinese teaching workshop. 2018 was the year of Chinese teaching workshop.

4. Main Events

On January 15, the 2017 Council Meeting of the Confucius Institute was held at Renmin University of China. The meeting was presided over by Professor Du Peng, Vice President of Renmin University of China and Vice Chairman of the Council of the Confucius Institute. Michel Oris, then Vice President of the University of Geneva, attended the meeting on behalf of the members of the Institute's Council of the University of Geneva. Also attending the meeting were the current Swiss and Chinese directors of the Confucius Institute, members of the Institute's Council at Renmin University and relevant leaders. At the meeting, the 2017 work report of the Confucius Institute and the work plan for 2018 were discussed and approved. The expenditure of the Institute in 2017 was also reviewed.

On January 15th, coordinated by the Confucius Institute, Professor Michel Oris, then Vice President of the University of Geneva and professors of the School of Social and Population Studies of Renmin University of China had a meeting and reached an agreement on the cooperation and exchange between the two universities in demographic research.

On January 26, the Institute's HSK exam intensive training classes started. This year, a total of four classes at all levels were offered.

On February 11, a conference on Chinese Teaching in Switzerland, organized by the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy, was held in Bern. Wang Xiaolu, deputy director of the Institute and Bao Yinhui, the Chinese teacher, attended the conference. Bao gave a speech on the topic of "Second Classroom for the Chinese Bridge Competition for Middle School Students".

On February 15, the Institute held a Chinese New Year Thank-You Party. Nearly 90 people from all walks of life in Geneva attended the party.

On February 20, the Institute organized a public speech entitled "China in the Eyes of a Swiss Journalist". The speaker was Frédéric Koller, a journalist and associate editor of the *Le Temps* in Geneva.

On March 8, the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce hosted a reception to celebrate the Chinese Lantern Festival. Mr. Zhang Xiangchen, Ambassador of the

Chinese Delegation to the WTO and Professor Yves Fluekiger, President of the University of Geneva, gave speeches on economic, trade, academic and higher education cooperations between China and Switzerland. Five people from the Institute, including the director and deputy directors, attended the reception and promoted the work of the Institute to the business community in Geneva.

On March 20, the Institute organized a public lecture on the topic of “China's Environmental Issues – Today's Challenges and Solutions”. The speaker was Dr. Matteo Tarantino, a research fellow at the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva and an associate professor at the Catholic University of Milan.

On April 13th, the Institute and the Geneva-Tsinghua Project Management Center jointly held a brainstorming seminar on “Innovation of Higher Education, Sustainable Development and International Cooperation”. Experts, academics and professionals from the University of Geneva, Webster University in Geneva, Tsinghua University, Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, famous law firms based in Geneva, the Cantonal Bank of Geneva and other institutions attended the seminar. After the seminar, the participants witnessed the signing ceremony of the cooperation agreement between the University of Geneva and the School of Public Administration of Tsinghua University to establish a joint dual master's program.

On April 16, more than 30 students from the Institute participated in the 2018 UN Chinese Day to help promote this event of celebrating the Chinese language and Chinese culture which was held throughout the world on the same day.

On April 17, the Institute organized a public speech on the topic of “Sino-Japanese Relations”. The speaker was Professor Pierre François Souyri of the Japanese Department of the University of Geneva. Professor Souyri first explained the current situation of Sino-Japanese relations, especially the root causes of conflicts between the two countries. He came to the conclusion that from a historical perspective the long-standing Sino-Japanese relationship had been friendly more often than not. Finally, he stressed that the stability of the Sino-Japanese relations was very important for the development of both countries and world peace.

On April 27, with the mediation of the Institute, Professor and Executive Deputy Dean Wang Jianping, and Professor and Deputy Dean Diao Keli of the School of Foreign Languages of Renmin University of China visited the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva. The two sides reached a consensus on signing a memorandum of understanding on inter-institutional cooperation and exchange. Now this MOU has entered the stage of lawyer review. This marks a further step forward for the two universities on the basis of the extant cooperations.

On April 28, the Institute and the Geneva Chinese Education Foundation co-organized a teacher training for the resident teachers. Professor Wang Xiaolu from Sichuan University, Professor Wan Ying from Huazhong Normal University, and Principal Wang Jing from the Primary School Affiliated to Shandong University delivered lectures respectively on the topics of "The Relationship between the Chinese Language and Culture: Chinese Teaching in Different Contexts", "Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language: Why, What and How to Teach", and “Methodology of Teaching Chinese in the Primary School: Reading and Writing as Examples”.

On May 22, the Institute organized a public lecture on the topic of “One Belt and One Road: China's Strategic Interests and New Axis”. The speaker was Remi Castets,

head of the Department of Sinology at the University of Montaigne in Bordeaux, France. Professor Castets is an expert on western China and Muslim population issues. Nearly 80 people listened to the speech.

On May 27, the preliminaries of the "Chinese Bridge" World Contests for College and Middle School Students were held in Bern. Two contestants, Jenna Khamis and Arissandra Egorova, selected by the Institute to represent the University of Geneva, won the first and third places, and the other contestants, also selected by the Institute, won the awards of excellence.

On June 6, the Institute and the Fondation Baur Musée des Arts d'Extrême-Orient jointly organized a series of lectures on the topic of "One Day in China" with the theme of "Chinese Art", attracting more than 60 enthusiasts. The one-day event was composed of four lectures. Mr. Wang Fei, a lecture of the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Geneva introduced the art of Chinese calligraphy. Estelle Niklès van Osselt, curator and sinologist of the Fondation Baur Musée des Arts d'Extrême-Orient introduced the artistic auspicious pictures of China. Dr. Marie Wyss, a Swiss sinologist introduced Chinese folk art. Marie Orsi, a graduate in art history and sinology at the University of Geneva gave a lecture on contemporary Chinese art.

On June 14, the Institute hosted a Thank-You Party. More than 100 academics, staff and students from the University of Geneva participated in the party.

In June, the Institute participated in the first poetry translation competition of the Confucius Institutes in the French-speaking countries/areas in 2018. More than 20 universities participated in the competition and 57 translated poems were submitted. Of the 7 prize winning entries, 6 were by the students from the Institute's literary translation workshop. The 6 winners are also students of the Department of Chinese at the University of Geneva.

From July 2nd to 6th, the Institute and the Department of Mathematics at the University of Geneva jointly organized a high-level international mathematics summer seminar entitled "Geometry, Quantum Topology and Asymptotic Analysis". More than 40 Ph.D students and postdoctoral fellows from more than 30 world-renowned universities including Tsinghua University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Geneva, the City University of London and the University of Oxford participated in the five-day seminar. Associate Professor Babak Haghighat of the Mathematics Center at Tsinghua University, Professor He Yanghui of the City University of London and other academics delivered speeches at the seminar. Wang Fei, Chinese calligrapher and lecturer at the University of Geneva delivered a speech on Chinese calligraphy and gave a writing demonstration.

On July 7th and 8th, the Institute participated in the "Scientific Night" series events organized by the Geneva Cantonal Government and the Museum of History of Science in Geneva. During the events, more than 10 institutions from Geneva and the French-speaking parts of Switzerland set up demonstration booths with thousands of participants. In the series of activities of the Institute, Dr. Xie Honghua gave a special speech entitled "Chinese Characters as Art". Pierrick Porchet, a Ph.D. student at the Institute gave a speech entitled "The Art of the Broadsword in Chinese Martial Arts: From Theory to Practice". The speech was accompanied with the demonstration of two Swiss Chinese martial arts enthusiasts in order to help the audience to better understand the speech. Dr. Basile Zimmermann, Director of the Institute gave a speech on the relationship between technology and contemporary Chinese culture. The "Scientific

Night" event was established in 2000 and this year's event is the 12th in sequence. The purpose of the event is to enable everyone to observe and understand science in a friendly environment, to enable direct dialogue between the general public and scientists, and to find innovative ways to present and deliver scientific knowledge.

From July 5th to 14th, the Institute, the Department of Archaeology at the University of Geneva and the Department of Archaeology at Renmin University jointly organized the "Sino-Swiss Archaeological Summer Workshop". Over the workshop, the Chinese team and the Swiss experts, scholars and researchers in archaeology, cultural relics and museology discussed archaeological issues. Under the guidance of relevant experts from Switzerland, the Chinese team visited the underwater archaeological tools developed by Hublot Watch Company, the archaeological excavation site under St. Peter's Cathedral in Geneva, the Roman Colosseum, various ancient ruins in the city of Martigny, the treasure of the Geneva Cantonal Archaeological Institute and other ancient remains, and participated in the archaeological excavations in Avenches.

On July 10, the Institute helped the GTI Project at the University of Geneva organize the GTI Summer School.

On August 28th, the Institute held the 4th networking event for the Chinese Alumni Association in French-speaking Switzerland. More than 30 Swiss friends who have studied in China attended the event. Mr. Gérald Bérout, President of the Swiss-Chinese Association of the French-speaking Switzerland and Ms. Béatrice Ferrari, representative of the Swiss Federal Government's Science, Technology and Cultural Center spoke at the event. Mr. Marc Laperrouzza, lecturer and researcher at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne and co-founder of "China Hardware Innovation Training Camp", introduced the cooperation between the training camp and the Chinese maker community.

On August 31, "China Club", which was a high-profile business exchange event jointly organized by the Institute and the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce was held in the Institute. Mr. Geng Wenbing, Chinese Ambassador to Switzerland, Mr. Yu Jianhua, Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, Mr. Zhang Xiangchen, Chinese Ambassador to WTO and Mr. Dal Busco, Minister of the Cantonal Government of Geneva attended the event. More than 60 Chinese and Swiss high-profile entrepreneurs discussed the development status and broad space of exchanges in the future between the two countries in the economic field. The event also provided a platform for related Chinese institutions to communicate their ideas and received good results.

On September 17, Pascale Bugnon, a Ph.D student of the Institute gave a lecture on the topic of "Asia's Cultural Heritage: A Cross-Cultural Perspective" to the graduate students of Asian Studies at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. In the Lecture, Mrs. Bugnon touched on the cultural heritage of China, Vietnam and Laos, research on the Muslim cultural heritage in China, and public participation in these studies.

From September 21 to 22, the Institute held an international academic seminar on the theme of "Diversity of Food and Religions - Comparative Study of China and the Mediterranean Region". Fourteen academics from China, France, Switzerland and the United States including Vincent Goossaert, professor at EPHE, Vincent Durand-Dastès, professor at the French National Institute of Oriental Languages and Cultures, James

Robson, professor at Harvard University, and Cao Xinyu, professor at Renmin University of China did presentations at the seminar.

On September 25, the Institute invited Mr. Blaise Thierrée, Director of the Confucius Institute in Brittany, France to make a public speech entitled “Cultural Diplomacy or Demonstration of Soft Power? — Comparing Alliance Française the Confucius Institute”. More than 40 people attended the lecture.

On September 27, some faculty members of the Institute participated in the launching ceremony of the second edition of the book "*China in Our Memory*" written by some Swiss people who used to study in China. The event was organized by the Education Section of the Chinese Embassy in Switzerland. Dr. Basile Zimmermann, Director of the Institute, made a speech at the ceremony.

On October 9, the Institute received a delegation from the Chinese Association of European and American Alumni. Director Zimmermann introduced the work of the Institute to the delegation. Secretary-General Wang Pijun of the Association introduced the work of the Association, especially its mission as people diplomacy. It was agreed on that in the future, both the Institute and the Association could work together for the friendly exchanges between China and Switzerland.

From October 11 to 12, the Institute held an international academic seminar on the theme of “Gender, Culture and Globalization”. Academics and researchers from more than a dozen universities in Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Belgium and China explored and discussed a series of topics on gender studies.

On October 13 and 14, Dr. Basile Zimmermann, Director of the Institute, was invited to participate in the 9th Symposium on Finance, Technology and Society organized by the Department of Sociology in Peking University. He gave a lecture entitled "Waves and Forms: The Materiality of Digital Flows".

On October 16, the Institute invited Ms. Adeline Herrou, a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology and Comparative Sociology of the French National Academy of Sciences, to give a public lecture entitled “Taoism in Contemporary China”. More than 130 people participated in the lecture.

On October 29, Dr. Basile Zimmermann, Director of the Institute gave a lecture entitled “Problems of and Solutions to Cultural Concepts” to the graduate students in the Graduate Institute of Geneva.

On November 13, the Institute invited Vincent Goossaert, professor at EPHE to deliver a public lecture entitled “The Piety Books in Modern Chinese Religion”. More than 40 people participated in the lecture.

On November 27, the Institute organized an open class of Chinese with students coming from the University of Geneva. Bao Yinhui, Chinese teacher of the Institute, gave a demonstration of college Chinese classroom teaching. The event was targeted at resident teachers of Chinese so as to offer a platform for them to discuss and perfect their teaching.

From November 29 to December 2, the Confucius Institute organized a martial arts cultural exchange event. The event was divided into two parts: On November 29, Associate Professor Adam Frank of the Central Arkansas University in the United States gave a public speech on the topic of "Ghost Hunting: Practice, Memory and

Convergence in Taijiquan Style Wu". From December 1 to 2, Tai Chi masters Yang Jun from the United States and Sun Jianguo from China conducted Tai Chi training for the local public. About 100 people participated in the speech session, and more than 50 people participated in the two-day practice workshop of Tai Chi.

From November 27 to December 7, the Institute held the 2018 Chinese Teaching Workshop. Chinese teachers from the Confucius Institute, the Department of Chinese Studies at the University of Geneva, the Chinese School in Geneva, and the Chinese Education Foundation in Geneva participated in the workshop. This workshop mainly consists of two parts: real classroom activity observation and after-class discussion and sample mini-class presentations. On November 27th, Mr. Bao Yinhui from the Confucius Institute presented an elementary Chinese class (for students at the University of Geneva) with participants of the workshop sitting in on the class. On December 7th, the participants presented mini-classes and carried out discussions.

On Dec. 11, the Institute invited Prof. Noel Dutrait of the University of Aix-Marseille to deliver a speech on the topic of "Gao Xingjian: the Itinerary of a Free Man". The lecture showed the unique universe of the Nobel Laureate of Literature Gao Xingjian in contemporary history of China, France and the world.

5. Serving the Partner Universities and the Region in Switzerland and Expansion of Work Field of the Institute

The Institute has always regarded serving and promoting the cooperation and exchange between the two partner universities as one of its important tasks. Under the guidance of this work policy, in July, the Institute and the Department of Mathematics at the University of Geneva jointly organized an international mathematics symposium.

This year, the Institute actively promoted the cooperation between the Departments of Archaeology at the University of Geneva and Renmin University of China. In summer the archaeological studies team of Renmin University visited the University of Geneva and worked with the archaeological experts and scholars of the University of Geneva for 10 days. Based on this successful exchange, the archaeological studies team of the University of Geneva will travel to China to exchange and conduct field archaeological work with the archaeological team of Renmin University of China in 2019.

With the mediation of the Institute, the School of Foreign Languages of Renmin University and the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting of the University of Geneva conducted detailed consultations on academic cooperations. The memorandum of understanding between the two sides has entered the stage of lawyer review. This marks a further step forward for the two universities on the basis of the extant cooperations.

After seven years of hard work, the Institute has formed a relatively distinctive cross-cultural, interdisciplinary exchange oriented character featuring academic diplomacy. Beginning from this year, the Institute has tried to expand its field of work to Sino-Swiss exchanges in other fields to maximize the convenience in people diplomacy between the two countries. This year, one of the main achievements of this work concept is the "China Club" event held in cooperation with the Swiss-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (for a brief description of the activities of this event, see the event on August 31 in Part 4 of this document).