



# CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

*Departmental Report August 2020 - July 2021*

**Prof. Feng Lei** · Director

## TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The University of the West Indies, Mona (The UWI, Mona), Jamaica signed an agreement with Taiyuan University of Technology (TYUT), China in July 2019 to continue collaboration in co-running the Confucius Institute for another period of five years. In the second half of 2020, there was a transfer of administration and responsibilities from the Confucius Institutes Headquarters to Taiyuan University of Technology which will in the future play a major role from the Chinese side. On 17 September, 2020, The UWI Mona Principal Professor Dale Webber confirmed the acceptance of transfer by sending two letters to leaders of both the new organization Chinese International Educational Foundation (CIEF) and TYUT respectively. A Certificate of Authorization (CI2020232) was issued by CIEF reconfirming the agreement between The UWI, Mona and TYUT.

### II. CI Budget for 2021

A budget for 2021 was sent to TYUT and approved in Feb in the meeting of the president and vice-presidents. The total sum is USD 44,320.00. In July, the first sum of USD15,000.00 was confirmed to have been received by the financial department. The budget mainly covers some necessary equipment in the new CI building, upgrading and service of the vehicle for the Chinese director, and the cost for some language-related competitions and cultural activities.

### III. Chinese Language Proficiency Test (HSK)

A new HSK contract was signed between UWI Mona (signed by the principal) and Chinese

Test International Co. Ltd. (CTI) in Beijing in Feb, 2020, effective to the end of 2022. In 2020, three tests were organized (one face to face and two online) in March, October, and December respectively, 16 candidates sat the test. In the first half of 2021, three tests were organized in March, April and June respectively (all online), 14 candidates sat the tests.

#### **IV. Chinese Classes offered**

1. Two Community classes were offered in 2020 with 9 students in total (Level one and two). Two classes were offered in the first half of 2021 (Level two and three), with 8 students in total.

2. From March to July, 16 short intensive HSK courses were offered online by TYUT teachers, mostly free, attracting over 1,200 learners from all walks of life in Jamaica. Only about 500 learners who registered attended these courses, due to various problems ranging from internet connection to technique skills. The platform used is Voovmeeting, developed by Tencent Company, one of largest in the world, and the platform is free.

#### **V. Covid-19 Donation from TYUT**

In May 2020, The University Health Center (UHC) received a donation from TYUT via Confucius Institute. The handover was held on third of May. A letter signed by the principal was sent to the Chinese director to express gratitude to TYUT's kind gesture.

#### **VI. Activities organized**

1. Chinese bridge competition was organized on line in 2020, attracting 12 participants from various locations in Jamaica.

2. Chinese Poetry Reading Competition was organized in Feb, 2021, five judges from Chinese institutions were invited as the third party panel.

3. Chinese Poetry Translation competitions were offered in Feb and July, 2021 in collaboration with One Hundred Translators, an international translation project running daily since April, 2019.

#### **VII. Chinese Staff**

Confucius Institute continue to give full support by providing teachers for the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures. Three Chinese staff Dr Feng Lei, Dr Li Kailin and Ms Guo Zhouya taught courses in the department. Dr Li Kailin from TYUT returned to China in July 2021. He had been worked for two and half years and was popular among the students. No new teachers and volunteers arrived due to the covid-19 pandemic. Ms Guo Zhouya plans to stay for at least one more semester. A local instructor of Chinese was planned with the offer of the salary by TYUT to address the shortage of teachers.

## VIII. CI Building

In January, 2021, the building was covered with WIFI signal, thanks to the support of the principal's office. Some minor problems occurred and were duly addressed by the Chinese construction company. After two years of handover, which was in conducted on 15 October, 2019, The University is supposed to be responsible for the maintenance of the building.

