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Confucius Institute/Chinese Language Foundation **SCHOOLS NETWORK NEWSLETTER** May 2008

By Raewyn Ho and Stella Turner

For further information please contact : stella@clf.org.nz and l.shi@auckland.ac.nz

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2008!

It's a big year for schools teaching Chinese.

The joint venture between Confucius Institute (CI) and Chinese Language Foundation (CLF) to promote and develop Chinese in New Zealand schools is now signed and sealed.

The NZ-China Free Trade Agreement and the Beijing Olympics has put China on the forefront of both global and local news. The new Languages Policy and Languages Curriculum have focused schools to think about the importance of introducing languages in the mainstream. The Asia Knowledge website has been released with an excellent package of resources on China and the 2008 Olympics.

In addition, we have the NZ Association of Language Teachers Biennial Conference coming up in Wellington, a Language Immersion Day for teachers and many other opportunities for professional development for new and existing Chinese language teachers.

This first edition of the newsletter for 2008 will go out to all schools that teach or have taught Chinese language, according to the Chinese Language Advisor and the Confucius Institute database. If you are not a member of the CLF Schools Network and would like to continue to receive this newsletter, simply fill out an application form to be part of the network and email this to Lisa Shi at l.shi@auckland.ac.nz. Forms can be downloaded from our website www.clf.org.nz

BREAKING NEWS

SIGNING OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT – A Great Opportunity for Education

New Zealand's profile as a quality education provider has received a huge boost through the signing of the NZ-China Free Trade Agreement, Education Minister Chris Carter says.

"At this moment in China, our country's profile just couldn't be higher, so this has been the perfect opportunity to make sure Chinese students see New Zealand as an education provider of first choice,"

"We welcome Chinese postgraduate students who want to study in New Zealand and the new New Zealand curriculum requires all our Year 7 and 8 students to study a second language, significantly increasing opportunities to learn Mandarin," Chris Carter said.

The scholarship encourages Chinese researchers to do some of their work in New Zealand universities and New Zealanders to do the same at China's universities.

The recent launch of the "Asia Knowledge" website is designed to help New Zealand schools build Asian learning components into the curriculum.

The Minister also visited Peking University to award prizes for the "New Zealand Through My Eyes" blog competition, organised by the New Zealand Embassy in China and sponsored by Education New Zealand. Selected winners, along with journalists from Chinese media, will visit New Zealand and write for the Chinese public, about what they see and experience here.

CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN NEW ZEALAND : 2008 TO 2012

On 20 November 2007 the Joint Boards of the Confucius Institute in Auckland and the Chinese Language Foundation entered into a Joint Venture project for Chinese language education in New Zealand to cooperate and work towards the goal of promoting and developing Chinese in New Zealand Schools with a view to achieving a target of 50,000 students learning Chinese by 2012.

Agreed Outcomes of the Joint Venture

- to implement the joint objectives of CI and CLF.
- to increase Chinese language learning in New Zealand schools, from 0.9% to 7% (50,000) students in 5 years time
- to increase the number of schools teaching Chinese language from 70 to 120 in 5 years time
- to increase the number of Chinese language qualified teachers, teacher trainers and teacher assistants by 40% in 5 years' time
- to improve the quality of teacher training and student learning in this area
- to influence and change education policy in New Zealand so as to facilitate the teaching of Chinese language

This will be an exciting partnership! Both CI and CLF are working strongly and collectively with the National Chinese Language Advisor (Dr Han Xi), Ministry of Education Senior Advisors in Languages (Glenda Koeford and Margaret Hardiman), NZ Chinese Language Association (President, Laytee George), Asia:NZ Schools Coordinator (Janine Chin) and the Regional Language Advisors to ensure the success of the Joint Venture project.

MEET OUR NEW COORDINATOR AND ADMINISTRATOR

Both are based at the offices of the Confucius Institute in Auckland, level 4, 58 Symonds Street, Auckland.

*Introducing the **CI/CLF TRAINER/COORDINATOR: Stella Turner:** stella@clf.org.nz Ph: 021 362838*

Stella (Li Fan) is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese and English and has been teaching Chinese for the past eight years in New Zealand. She has an MBA and a Post Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching. She developed, established and taught a full programme of Chinese from year 9 – 13 at Wanganui High School and has experience working with international students, taking school trips and was a guardian and subject tutor. She has been actively involved in the NZ Chinese Language Association and the NZ Chinese Association and is passionate about sharing Chinese culture and language especially with New Zealand youth. She has taken up the role of the CI/CLF Trainer/Coordinator in January 2008.

*Introducing the **CI/CLF ADMINISTRATOR: Lisa Shi:** l.shi@auckland.ac.nz Ph: 09 3737577 extn 84493*

Lisa has an MA degree in English Language and Literature and an MA in Professional Studies in Language Teaching from University of Auckland. She has been teaching Chinese Language and tutoring Asian Studies related subjects at the School of Asian Studies, University of Auckland for the past six years. Before she came to NZ, She was a lecturer in English Language at Liaoning University and an Executive Assistant at the China Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Corp in Shenyang. She has been the Administration Assistant at Confucius Institute from 2006 and has taken up the position of CI/CLF Administration Assistant in January 2008.

RELEASE OF THE NEW ASIA KNOWLEDGE WEBSITE

This new website, now live on TKI, is designed to support schools with the process of school curriculum design and becoming more Asian aware.

Why an Asia knowledge website?

Asia is growing faster than any other region and in the 21st century will be extremely important to New Zealand economically, politically, and socially. It is vital that students in New Zealand have opportunities to learn about Asia to ensure they are equipped to be successful in this changing environment.

Asia Knowledge is a priority in the International Education Agenda and the New Zealand Curriculum and therefore has official status as a context for integrated learning and as a context for the future-focused themes. Schools have the flexibility to design relevant and meaningful learning programmes to encourage students to become active and positive members of their local, national, and global communities. Learning about Asia is an important aspect of this.

SHOWCASE CHINA: New curriculum support: years 1-10 integrated resource for teachers

http://asia-knowledge.tki.org.nz/showcase_china_beijing_2008

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, which will begin on 8 August, are a unique opportunity to engage students in learning about one of the world's most dynamic countries and cultures, at the same time as celebrating this important global event.

The Ministry of Education has partnered with Asia:New Zealand Foundation, Confucius Institute, International Languages Aotearoa New Zealand and the New Zealand Olympic Committee to develop this online teaching and learning resource to be used in the lead-up to the Games.

Showcase China is aligned to the new curriculum, and in particular is an opportunity to engage students with the future-focused themes of globalisation and sustainability through making connections across the learning areas, values, and key competencies. There are two teaching and learning resources, each with activities for years 1–10. Learning areas include: Social Sciences, The Arts, Learning Languages and Physical Education. **Showcase China** includes one way that teachers and learners can approach current issues leading up to and during the games.

Professional development and one day courses for **Showcase China** are planned in mid June for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. See the NZ Education Gazette for further details.

CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT PROGRAMME – PILOT IN ROTORUA

Congratulations to Rotorua Intermediate School, Rotorua Primary, Kahoroa School and Mokoia Intermediate who were selected for a pilot Ministry funded project in Rotorua which teams Chinese Language Teaching Assistants up with classroom teachers, to collaboratively deliver Chinese using the Hao programme. The principals and BOT's of the four schools have also committed their own funding and are supporting classroom teachers in their professional development to attend language and PD workshops. For further information, contact Coordinator Laytee George.

This is a great model for the rest of the country and we look forward to hearing more of its success this year.

CI and CLF are planning a similar project to be run in Auckland in 2008. Interested schools and teachers please contact Stella Turner at stella@clf.org.nz as soon as possible to register interest.

CASE STUDY: KRISTIN SCHOOL

CLF has recently completed a case study of Kristin School which gives us an informative and insightful look at how the school has established its highly successful Chinese programme from Kindergarten to Senior School. The case study gives us an overview of the school's Chinese language programme and features a personal interview with Maureen Gottard, the Languages Coordinator. We also hear some personal points of view from the students.

The Case Study can be viewed at www.clf.org.nz

UPDATES

THE CLF SCHOOLS NETWORK

We now have nearly 40 schools nationwide in our network which is free to join. We are pleased to report that more and more schools are introducing Chinese Language and Culture Programmes and supporting both their students and teachers in learning Chinese.

Being part of the CLF Schools Network entitles the school and the teacher(s) to be part of a Chinese language teaching community with access to teacher professional development and resources, exchange opportunities, financial support for programmes, scholarships and other CI/CLF initiatives. We will be keeping schools up to date with other initiatives in Chinese language via email and newsletters.

If you know of schools interested in joining our network please pass refer them to our website www.clf.org.nz where an application form can be downloaded.

CHINESE LANGUAGE TASTER PROGRAMME

The Chinese Language Taster Programme sponsored by the Confucius Institute is targeted at schools that are proposing to develop and establish a Chinese Language Programme. This free 10 week programme is taught by a professional, qualified and experienced language teacher. The programme has been successful in creating interest in Chinese language learning amongst students, providing professional development to classroom teachers wanting to teach Chinese and has led to its implementation within the school's core curriculum.

CI and CLF plan to target 20 new schools this year to introduce the Chinese Taster Programme. If you wish to have a Taster programme in your school, please contact Stella for more information.

If you already teach Chinese language at your school, we wish to reach schools in your School's cluster area. Please contact Stella with names of recommended schools as soon as possible.

CLF TEACHERS WEBSITE

TEACHERS!!! Please use our free downloadable resources on our website www.clf.org.nz and click on Resources and Links.

We now have a range of activities for years 7 – 13 and also have a collection of teacher references, games, songs and cultural activities.

Check out the Unit Activities for the topic of 'Family' for year 8 students and the Animal 'Snap' Game or if you want your students to practise their numbers or characters try the 'sudoku puzzle.' All can be downloaded from www.clf.org.nz/resources&links.htm

We intend to grow this website at a steady pace as we collect and share more and more resources. All Chinese resources will be checked and edited by Arima Wang, an experienced Chinese Language Teaching Specialist in Auckland. Please take a look and feel free to download whatever you find useful. Constructive feedback, suggestions or comments on the resources and site are welcome. We also welcome any contributions from you.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Confucius Institute Resource Centre has more than 3000 titles in its collection. To apply for a library membership, please visit Confucius Institute website: www.confuciusinstitute.ac.nz, and download an application form. The Resource Centre at Level 4, 58 Symonds Street in Auckland, is open on Thursdays and Fridays (apart from public holidays) from 1.30pm-5.00pm.

CLF TEACHERS RESOURCE LIBRARY

Resources held in the CLF Resource Library are also housed at the Confucius Institute Resource Centre, can be viewed online by category at http://www.clf.org.nz/resources&links_library.htm

There are now some excellent junior readers available which would suit primary/intermediate or junior high school students. Several have pinyin or/and English as well as characters.

For teachers of senior students there is a copy of the DVD set 'Real Chinese' which introduces the students to Modern Culture and Language under five headings. It is an excellent way to stimulate interest amongst students at the beginning or end of a topic and gives insight into modern Chinese life.

Or come and take a look at Margaret Fruary and Deborah Kesslers new book called 'Lai Wan You Xi' which has some excellent ideas, resources and games for junior levels.

There are also a range of bingo games and flashcards, teacher references, cultural books and student text books on loan.

To borrow these resources, go to the Confucius Institute Resource Centre at the times above.

CHINESE TEACHERS LIST SERVE/DISCUSSION GROUP

Dr Han Xi, the National Chinese Adviser, is keen to establish an online discussion group for Chinese language teachers in NZ schools. Teachers will be able to ask questions online about language teaching, grammar and culture, or share opinions or comments. The advantage is that Han Xi will be able to answer any curly questions you or your students have about Modern Standard Chinese, China or Chinese culture. If you are interested in joining this discussion group, please email chinese@ilanz.ac.nz

RECENT EVENTS

CLF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMP Shakespear Lodge, Whangaparaoa, December 2007

In December 2007, CLF organised its third annual Chinese Language and Culture Camp for year 7 and 8 students from the CLF Schools Network. The event took place over two nights and three days at Shakespear Park, Whangaparaoa, where students enjoyed the great outdoors while learning to speak Mandarin.

The residential programme focused around the 2008 Olympic Games and again, aimed at a full immersion experience – learning through fun, games, activities, food, and cultural appreciation with an expectation that this would enhance the students' Chinese language proficiency.

Fifty students were selected to attend the camp on the basis of their ability and interest in the language. The schools represented were Kowhai Intermediate School, Kristin School, Royal Oak Intermediate, Sutton Park School, ACG Parnell College, ACG Strathallen School, Christian Renewal School, Glen Eden Intermediate and St Mary's School.

About 50 parents and principals braved the rain to watch the showcase concert where students were able to perform what they had learned. Highlights were the lion dance, calligraphy and the final diabolo performance.

The feedback from the participants was very positive. If you are interested in participating in the 2008 Chinese Language and Culture Camp, please contact Stella Turner at stella@clf.org.nz for details.

NZ TEACHERS CHINA SCHOLARSHIP 2008

4 January to 2 February, 2008

In early February ten teachers from NZ returned from a month of intensive language study at Peking University. This scholarship is funded by the Ministries of Education in New Zealand and the People's Republic of China and managed jointly in New Zealand by the Chinese Language Foundation and the Confucius Institute in Auckland.

The programme covered oral and written Chinese language, Chinese music and culture. Lectures took place daily from 8.00am to 12.00 noon which left afternoons and weekends for teachers to explore on their own. The proficiency levels of Chinese language varied but all teachers from both the North and South Island returned with a shared understanding of the importance of Chinese language for New Zealanders and a commitment to enhance the teaching of Chinese language for their students.

2008 NZ Teachers China Scholarship holders were:

Yvonne Blair, Paparoa Range School, Greymouth
Chris Bryant, Brooklyn School, Wellington
Sarah-Jane Codyre, Glen Eden Intermediate School, Auckland
Michelle Dalley, Kaikorai Valley College, Dunedin
Mike Debney, South Wellington Intermediate School
Alexandra Fraser, Hutt Intermediate School
Kristin Holmes, Brooklyn School, Wellington
Hoon Juay Lim, Royal Oak Intermediate School, Auckland
Heather Stevens, Wainuioru School, Masterton
Mark Young, Avonhead School, Christchurch

For further information about how to apply for the 2009 scholarship, see Professional Development below.

NZ STUDENTS CHINA CAMP Dec 2007 – 26 Jan 2008 Taiyuan Shanxi University

This first ever Camp for NZ secondary students was jointly organised by Hanban and ILANZ last year. 18 NZ secondary school students studying Chinese in Years 11 – 13 were selected by Dr Hanxi and Catherine Hannigan, for a month long educational immersion camp with Laytee George and Yu Feng as Camp leaders.

This Camp achieved its educational objectives

- all students learnt and improved their Chinese, after a month long programme of Practical Chinese, Music, Art, Martial arts and Film appreciation classes. Proudly passing the 2 final examinations with distinctions with Shanxi University certificates to display.
- all students built a rapport with Shanxi University teachers and people on campus, particularly at the Hotel Staff Night, when our students performed to entertain the staff
- Shanxi University staff were very impressed with the NZ students politeness, study and class attendance

The Camp was a great success in that:

- students immersed well, appreciating the food and their stay on campus, and bargaining at local outlets using their recently acquired Chinese skills
- students presented a good image of NZ and NZ students
- it created long term links with Shanxi University. NZCLA will be bringing to NZ the art teacher Mr Hu Zinan to conduct art exhibitions and workshops in August 2008. Mr Hu will be enjoying home stays with some of the students of this Camp.
- It brought all students home safely to NZ after month long stay in China

The 18 NZ students wish to say “shìfēn gǎnxiè 十分感谢” to

- ILANZ and Hanban for this wonderful opportunity to further their understanding of Chinese language, culture and its people
- Dr Hanxi for all her efforts
- Shanxi University Foreign Affairs Dept for their wonderful hospitality and programme

- Mr Yu Feng – for setting up the website for all to view and being a wonderful co- camp teacher

Laytee George
Co- Camp leader

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NZALT INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 6-9 July 2008, Wellington ‘Absolutely, Positively, Languages’

Theme: Motivation

The NZ Association of Language Teachers holds a national conference every two years. This is a wonderful chance to meet and network with old and new friends while learning about the latest trends in language teaching and learning. Inspirational international and NZ based speakers will give generic language presentations with colleagues and experts presenting specific language sections. The venue for this year’s conference is Wellington Girls’ College, Pipitea Street, Thorndon. Chinese convenor: Wang Li Wei.

For more information and how to register go to www.nzalt.org.nz

CHINESE LANGUAGE IMMERSION DAY FOR TEACHERS

Sunday 6 July 2008, Wellington

Venue: Wellington East Girls College

This is an opportunity for non-native speaker teachers to rejuvenate, improve on and practise their language skills in a Chinese language immersion workshop. The immersion day will be on the Sunday before the National Conference and focus on the following outcomes:

- improve language proficiency of non-native Chinese teachers
- increase participants’ intercultural awareness and knowledge
- raise awareness of effective language teaching strategies/activities
- gain more resources/ideas for teacher’s own teaching practice

Past NZ Teachers China Scholarship participants are strongly encouraged to attend. Please register your interest with Stella Turner at stella@clf.org.nz as soon as possible.

NZ TEACHERS CHINA SCHOLARSHIP 2009 – Peking University, 5 – 30 January 2009

The NZ Teachers China Scholarship is open to teachers teaching Chinese language in 2008 or beginning to teach in 2009. It will be advertised in the May/June Education Gazette. The deadline for applications will be 30 June 2008.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LANGUAGE IMMERSION AWARDS

AFS Intercultural Programmes

10 one month and 12 one year awards are offered to teachers and 20 semester awards to students of languages within the NZ curriculum.

Successful candidates will spend time overseas improving their language proficiency and cultural knowledge in authentic settings, so they can apply the knowledge and skills gained during their experience to improve language learning outcomes.

The awards are funded by the NZ Ministry of Education through the Government’s Growth and Innovation Framework. AFS Intercultural Programmes are responsible for selecting teachers and students; arranging all travel and host country details; providing orientation both pre-departure, on arrival in host country and on return home; and providing the necessary support in the host country according to AFS international policy and procedures. Criteria and detail for both awards including the application documents are available at www.afs.org.nz

Final date for applications: **30 May 2008** for students; **8 July 2008** for teachers (note: no late applications will be accepted). Email the Project Coordinator, Prue Elwood, at Prue.Elwood@afs.org for more info.

COMING UP

NATIONAL NZ CHINESE SPEECH COMPETITION

Topic: Prosperous China, Charming Language

Organised by Dr Han Xi, National Chinese Language Adviser and Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International), the finals for this National Chinese Speech Competition will be held on 6 or 7 June in either Auckland or Wellington. Regional Competitions will be held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch by the end of May.

Schools can send up to 10 candidates. The speech competition is divided into two categories: Junior Secondary (Years 7-10) and Senior Secondary (Years 11-13). Non-native speakers of Chinese, with NZ citizenship or PR, are eligible to take part.

Special prize winners of the Senior Secondary category will be sent to China in July to take part in the Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign High School Students. International airfare and accommodation, food and transport are covered by Hanban.

Prize winners of the Junior Secondary category will have first priority to attend the China Summer Camp for students.

Note:

- Teachers, whose students win the special prize, will be able to apply to take NZ students to the competition held in China in July
- All regional participants will win certificates and souvenirs from Hanban

For more information about how to register, when and where the regional competitions will be, please contact Dr Han Xi, National Chinese Language Adviser
Ph: 04-9136481 or email: chinese@ilanz.ac.nz

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK

17 – 23 August

Start planning now for international languages week in term three 17 – 23 August. There will be ideas to follow in the next edition of the newsletter.

NZ PRINCIPALS CHINA VISIT 2008

21 – 30 September 2008

Principals from NZ schools who are currently offering or plan to offer Chinese language as part of their school curriculum are invited to apply to join this Principals delegation to China. Organised by the Confucius Institute in Auckland, the programme includes school visits, visits to NZ companies in China, seminars on Chinese culture, meetings with Chinese government officials, sight seeing in Shanghai, Beijing and surrounding rural areas. Expenses in China including domestic travel, accommodation, food etc. will be covered by Hanban (The Office of Chinese Language Council International).

For more information about this visit and application forms, please email Lisa Shi at l.shi@auckland.ac.nz.

CLF CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CAMP

28 – 30 November, 2008

The 4th annual Chinese Language and Culture Camp for year 7 and 8 students from the CLF Schools Network will be held from 28 to 30 November 2008. As only a limited number of students will be selected to attend the camp on the basis of their ability and interest in the language, please register your school's interest as soon as possible by emailing Stella Turner at stella@clf.org.nz.

USEFUL WEBSITES AND TIPS

www.Chinesepod.com If you are interested in learning or maintaining your Chinese, log on to Chinese pod. It has a range of levels from beginners and elementary to intermediate and advanced. Podcasts are excellent and very relevant. Go for the free month trial or subscribe. Podcasts can be used as teaching resources too!

<http://www.learn-chinese-through-music.com> If you like singing or want to teach your students some language through songs, this website is quite good. It has popular Chinese artists and songs and you can print out a copy of the words in Chinese, pinyin and English.

<http://www.technolote.com> A teacher from Hawkesdale P12 College in South West Victoria has started her own blog about teaching languages and integrating ICT in the classroom. Take a look when you have time. There are some great ICT and teaching ideas. Leave a blog if you would like to give feedback on her site or comment.

To Receive Our Term Two Newsletter, email Lisa Shi at l.shi@auckland.ac.nz for an application form to join our Schools Network ASAP.

Note: If your school is not a registered member, it will not receive any more newsletters
