



Presentation at NZ Association of Language Teachers Biennial Conference 3 July 2006

“Enhancing learning and motivating students outside the classroom – A Chinese Language and Culture Camp”

Speech by Maylene Lai, CLF Founding Trustee and Vice Chair

The Chinese Language Foundation is a non-profit charitable trust, which aims to encourage and enable the learning of Chinese in New Zealand. In December last year, the CLF facilitated the design and delivery of a successful ‘Language and Culture Camp’ for year 7 and 8 students from 4 schools in Auckland.

Our aim was to enhance student learning beyond the classroom environment, to enable them to encounter Chinese Language in a more authentic cultural setting and to share their Chinese learning experiences with students from other schools. It also encouraged the involvement of teachers and parents who were able to share and exchange ideas as learners as well as teachers.

This presentation will show how teachers can look at learning outside of the classroom by showing you a successful model of a ‘Chinese Language and Culture Camp’. It emphasises the advantages of having independent fresh insights outside of school, the benefits of an open and inclusive environment for sharing and learning and the need for rigorous critique as we developed creative ways of motivating and validating student learning.

We will outline the planning process, show how we designed the course and selected topics and themes, demonstrate the inventive and practical ways of delivering those themes and share some of the challenges we faced.

A demonstration DVD will be also shown.

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