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CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE
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通讯
(Tōngxùn- newsletter)

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

12/07/2018
November, 2018



Confucius Institute in Edmonton Received the Award 'Confucius Institute of the Year' at the 13th Confucius Institute Conference in Chengdu on December 5, 2018

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CIE Organized the Second Edmonton Chinese Singing Contest

On November 24, the final of the second Edmonton Chinese Singing Contest was held at the Muttart Hall Theatre at MacEwan University.

Close to 100 students and persons auditioned for the contest. After the first round of auditions, 70 contestants advanced to the preliminary contest on November 18. From the preliminary round, 46 contestants were chosen to continue to the finals where they competed in four categories: elementary, junior and senior high, adult and non-citizen or non-immigrant. After nearly four hours of competition, four people were awarded First Place, seven people received Second Place, and ten persons won Third Place. Special awards were also given to eight additional contestants from the four categories.

During the award ceremony, special guests delivered speeches. The special guests included: consul Fu Yunan from the China Consulate in Vancouver; Dr. Liang Tian, Special Chinese Advisor for Alberta Education; Ms. Grace Chi as



The 13th Confucius Institute Conference

The 13th Confucius Institute Conference has been held in Chengdu of China from December 3 to 5. This is annual conference organized by Hanna/Headquarter of Confucius Institutes.

More than 1500 delegates from more than 550 Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms from more than 140 countries around the world attended the conference.

Ms. Sun Chunlan, the Vice Prime Minister and the Board Chair of Directors of Headquarter of Confucius Institutes, attended the open ceremony and also made the important speech as the keynote speaker. Mr.

Wang Baosheng, Education Minister of China also attended the conference as a MC. Mr. Peng Qinghua, the governor of Sichuan Province, presented the welcome remark at the open ceremony.

the co-organizers representative and Ms. Peggy Yu as the representative for the judges.

The CIE presented Organization awards to the following five schools: Dovercourt, Caernarvon, Edith Rogers, Ottewell and Ross Sheppard. Appreciation certificates were also presented to the five judges and six co-organizers.

The Edmonton Second Chinese Singing Contest was organized by the CIE and by co-organizers such as the Edmonton Tianjin Association, the Edmonton Beijing Opera Society, Greenland Music, the Canada China Friendship Society of Edmonton, the Edmonton Chinese Unity Association and the Edmonton Chinese Journal.



The singing contest was not only to encourage students to improve their singing skills. It also provided the opportunity for students to learn more about the Chinese language and culture as well as to build their confidence. Five judges provided free individual tutoring for those attending the final.

This competition was very successful and well received by both the participants and audience. Many people expressed their appreciation that CIE organized this event.



Many workshops and sessions will be held as well during the conference to discuss the future development of Confucius institutes as well as to discuss some concerns and issues to improve the work of the Confucius Institutes to have its better position to be a bridge to connect China and the world to create a better understanding and to enhance a better friendship and relationship in the areas of culture, education, trade and business.



Confucius Institute in Edmonton was again

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awarded as 'Confucius Institute of the Year' in the closing ceremony of the conference. This is the third time CIE received this award during the last 10 year. In addition, CIE also received the 4 excellence performance individual awards.

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The 10th Chinese Writing Contest Award Ceremony

On November 23, the 10th Chinese Writing Contest Award Ceremony was held at McCauley Chambers in the Center for Education, Edmonton Public Schools.

The Writing contest has taken place for 10 years to encourage students to improve their writing skills and to learn more about Chinese culture through the writing process. CIE has awarded more than \$20,000 to the various winners over the last 10 years.



Visit from Coquitlam Public School Board

From November 25 to 27, a delegation of 10 Principals and teachers led by Mrs. Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Coquitlam Public Schools, paid a two-day visit to the Confucius Institute in Edmonton and Edmonton Public Schools.

The purpose of the visit was to get to know more about Edmonton's Chinese bilingual program and to share and discuss experiences and issues relating to the program.

The delegation spent a full day at the Confucius Institute in Edmonton for a sharing and discussion session. The session was attended by both teachers and principals from Edmonton Public Schools. Mr. Norman Sieweke, a Chinese Bilingual Program consultant with Edmonton Public Schools, gave a presentation on the Edmonton Chinese bilingual program which was highly received by the guests. The information



The theme for this year's contest was "Nature and Me". Ms. Bridget Stirling, Vice Chair of the Edmonton Public School Board; Dr. Lorne Parker, Assistant Superintendent of Edmonton Public Schools; Deputy Consul General Gao Zhenting from the Chinese Consulate in Calgary and Dr. Liang Tian, Special Chinese Advisor of Alberta Education attended the ceremony and offered greetings to congratulate the contestants and winners.

Overall, approximately 250 people including contestants, family members, teachers, principals and special guests attended this year's ceremony. In total, 154 contestants submitted their work. 63 were from elementary schools, 32 from junior high schools, 42 from senior high schools and 17 from the public. Out of the 154 contestants, 32 were selected as winners this year.

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and experiences shared by Edmonton Public Schools was greatly appreciated by the delegation from Coquitlam Public Schools and will hopefully be helpful to them in the further development of the Chinese bilingual program.

The sharing and discussing session covered various areas included in the Chinese bilingual program such as the curriculum, resources, assessment, teacher training and the teaching pedagogies.



The delegation also had the opportunity to visit M. E. LaZerte Senior High School, Londonderry Junior High School and Kildare Elementary School. During these visits, the delegation members had the opportunity to see actual classrooms in action. They were very impressed with achievements of the students' achievements in the Chinese bilingual program.

The visit was a great success and of benefit to the Chinese bilingual programs in both school districts.

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New Book Launch Ceremony

On November 16, the Confucius Institute in Edmonton, in partnership with the Alberta Chinese Outdoor Adventure Club (ACOAC) and Edmonton Chinese Writing Club (ECWC), held a ceremony to launch Mr. George Dong's newly published English to Chinese translations of the books Hayden's Rescue and Old Scroll. More than 100 people attended the launch ceremony including special guests and community leaders.



Mr. George Dong is a long-time friend of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. He has been very active in the media. He has worked as a journalist for OMNI and BBC, and he has reported on many stories about the CIE. He was also one of the founders of the Calgary Chinese bilingual program and has a passion for Chinese language and culture education.

Mr. Jinjun Wang, Chinese Director of CIE and Mr.



The 13th International Chinese Language Teaching Conference

From November 8 to 9, the 13th International Chinese Language Teaching Conference was held at Beijing University in Beijing. Conference organizers were the World Chinese Teachers Association and Beijing University. More than 340 delegates from over 32 countries attended the conference.

The purpose of the conference was to provide an opportunity for Chinese teachers and researchers to share their experiences and best practices for teaching Chinese. It also focused on encouraging innovation in Chinese Language Teaching; Chinese Language Assessment Criteria; Localization of Chinese Teachers; Chinese Program Design and Implementation as well as the impact of high technology on Chinese language instruction.



Tony Li, President of ACOAC offered opening remarks to welcome all the participants and to thank Mr. George Dong for his contribution to Chinese language education. Ms. Yanyu Zhou, President of the Edmonton Chinese Writing Club, gave the audience an introduction about Mr. George Dong. Finally, Dr. Liang Tian presented a speech on the two books, and her recognition of the importance of the work by Mr. Dong to foster Chinese language learning.

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Chinese Cultures at Grey Cup's Celebration

On November 22-23, the Government of Alberta Arts Branch from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism invited CIE to offer a children's workshop during Grey Cup Festival celebrations in downtown Edmonton.

It was the 106th Grey Cup in Canada. One week before the game, the city of Edmonton and Alberta Government offered a huge celebration in the heart of Edmonton's downtown for anyone who wished to attend. Thousands of people and

During the conference, the fourth meeting of the directors of the World Chinese Teachers Association also took place. Dr. Mianmian Xie represented Edmonton Public Schools as their standing director.

Dr. Liang Tian presented at the conference on behalf of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. Her presentation on the impact of the Edmonton Chinese Bilingual Program on graduates and their career development was well received.

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Canada Chinese Chess Conference in Montreal

From November 16 to 17, the Confucius Institute in Quebec together with the Canada Chinese Chess Association of Montreal hosted the second Canada Chinese Chess Conference in the city of Montreal. Directors from Confucius Institutes across Canada were in attendance, as were leaders from numerous Chinese Chess Associations across the region.

The Chinese Chess Association of China was represented by Ms. Dong Bo. Ms. Bo is a Chinese Chess master in China. She presented at the conference and offered workshops for

students participated in the celebration.



The Confucius Institute in Edmonton was invited to offer Chinese cultural activities for the students and community members. Chinese dough Art, Chinese Paper Cutting and Chinese Knots were all available.

During the two-day celebration hundreds of people showed a great interest in these Chinese arts. With the help of CIE visiting teachers they learned to make dough art figures like birds, flowers and pandas, Chinese Knots like butterflies and a bracelet, as well as Paper Cutting such as “double happiness”.

Every year, Alberta Tourism invites the Confucius institute in Edmonton to participate in various events and festivals in celebration of multi-culturalism.

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students at a Confucius Classroom in Montreal.



As part of the conference, participants discussed plans and strategies to promote Chinese Chess in Canada. They noted that people in Canada have shown an interest in Chinese Chess, therefore efforts should be made to organize events which may increase the number of people playing the game.

Although Chinese Chess is similar to International Chess, there are some differences; however, if people already know how to play International Chess, learning Chinese Chess should not be too difficult.

It is hoped that CIE may organize a Chinese Chess competition in Edmonton in 2019.

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Calligraphy Classes at Hillcrest School Confucius Classroom

Hillcrest School is a newly established Confucius Classroom affiliated with the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. The number of students learning Chinese language and culture has seen an increase in the last couple of years with more than 60 students now in three grade levels.

Recently, Hillcrest School invited CIE teachers to provide calligraphy classes to their students. Two of CIE's visiting teachers spent a full day offering calligraphy lessons to the three Chinese classes.



Chinese calligraphy is a Chinese traditional art that has more than one thousand years of history. It involves not only art but also the writing of Chinese characters. People can learn not only the artistic features but also the meaning of the characters written.



Visit from the Delegation from University of Alberta

On November 27, a delegation of special guests of the University of Alberta paid a visit to the CIE. The delegation consisted of 42 administrators from various universities in China who are participating in a three-month special training program at the University of Alberta.

Dr. Wei Li, Director at the CIE, provided a presentation on the Confucius Institute in Edmonton. The topics covered a variety of the areas including the establishment, operation and development, achievements and challenges experienced at the CIE. After the presentation, a Q & A session followed where many questions were asked. It was a very good discussion session.



After lunch, the delegates visited Meadowlark School to learn more about the Chinese bilingual program and to know more about Canada's basic

More than 60 students have shown a great interest in learning Chinese calligraphy and they have made great efforts in the writing of their pieces.

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education system.

The delegates were very impressed by the many achievements of the Confucius Institute in Edmonton as well as the Chinese bilingual program.

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Confucius Institute in Edmonton
13750 Woodcroft Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5M 3M4
780-970-5233

Brenda Chan
Brenda.chan@confuciusedmonton.ca
Phone: 780-970-5233
www.confuciusedmonton.ca



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