

UIBE's President, Shi Jianjun, attends the first joint conference of the Iberia-American Confucius Institute

Professor Shi Jianjun, UIBE's president, attended the first Iberia-American Confucius Institute Joint conference - held by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL), from the 27th of July to the 30th in Valencia, Spain. The conference was attended by leaders of 16 Chinese colleges and universities, and the heads of more than 20 Confucius Institutes around Iberia-American countries. Xu Lin, Director of HANBAN and Zhao Guoqiang, Deputy Director of HANBAN, addressed the conference. During the conference 10 Confucius Institutes shared their school running experiences.

Accompanying President Shi were Han Liang, Executive Director of the Center for International Business Chinese at UIBE, and Professor Zhao Xuemei, Associate Dean of the School of Foreign Studies (SFS).

Opening with a speech reviewing and summarizing the accomplishments and experiences gained by NOCFL in the promotion of the Chinese language in Iberia-American countries, Xu Lin pointed out the challenges and opportunities all Confucius Institutes are facing today. She hoped more support would be provided by Chinese colleges and universities for the training of Chinese teachers; she showed her support for the Spanish teachers training classes to be held by NOCFL in both Spain and China. She then introduced the medium & long term development plans made by NOCFL, and the nine key projects funded in 2009, which answer the growing enthusiasm the Iberia-American countries are showing for the Chinese language.



President Shi Jianjun visits Madrid's Confucius Institute

“UIBE is involved, and will give support to the training program of Chinese teachers,” said President Shi, on a visit to Madrid’s Confucius Institute. During the conference, President Shi was busy in networking with other heads of universities. Among them was Ms. Sarah Angsila, who is in charge of the Mexico-based Confucius Institute’s external affairs at the Universidad Autonoma De Nuevo Leon, and partnered with UIBE’s Confucius Institute program.

. President Shi also met with Pablo Echeveria, the person in charge of Columbia-based Medellin Confucius Institute; together, they focused on challenges and opportunities the two parties may face during the construction phase of the Institute.



A photo with Ms. Sarah Angsila

The attendees agreed that the Confucius Institute is not only a platform for Chinese teaching, but also a platform for interaction between different cultures, between teachers and students, and between different disciplines.





President Shi Jianjun visits the Autonomous University of Barcelona



President Shi Jianjun visits Vice President Carlos Haym of the Autonomous University of Barcelona

Following the conference, President Shi paid a visit to the Autonomous University of Barcelona (AUB), with whom UIBE has signed an agreement on student exchange in 2007. So far, 9 students have been benefitted from this exchange. During this visit, President Shi met Carlos Haym, Vice President of AUB the Director of External Affairs Department, as well as the Head of the Department of Economics and Department of Humanity. They discussed the “4+2” joint education program, for broadening areas of cooperation and exchanging scholars to deepen teaching cooperation and research. President Shi was shown around the AUB campus, and the Department of Translation’s simultaneous translation international conference facility, as well as the School of Cross-Cultural Research’s collection of Chinese books and periodicals.