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Inheriting the Spirit of Craftsmanship and Experiencing a Smart China

From June 17 to July 5, Tianjin Vocational College of Mechanics and Electricity hosted teachers and students from the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal, Portugal for a specialized training program under the Portugal Luban Workshop. The program featured five key components: professional skill learning, competitions, cultural immersion, participation in an industry expo, and a heritage tour. The participants discovered the richness of Chinese traditions while witnessing the country's cutting-edge technological advancements. A highlight of their journey was visiting Qufu in Shandong Province, the birthplace of Luban, where they gained a deeper appreciation of the ingenuity and creativity of this legendary Chinese crafts master.



The program was rooted in the EPIP teaching model-short for "Engineering Practice and Innovation Project". This approach emphasizes real-world engineering projects as a teaching tool, enabling students to build knowledge and skills through practical application. Over three weeks, the Portuguese participants delved into courses on industrial robotics, programmable controllers, machine vision, and motion control technologies, gaining valuable expertise and hands-on experience.



Competitions played a central role in the program, creating opportunities for students and teachers from different countries to share expertise and refine their skills. On July 2, two international competitions-the Yalong Cup: Intelligent Production Line Installation and Debugging and the Bono Cup: Industrial Robot Applications-took place in Tianjin. Participants from seven countries, including China and Portugal, joined the competition. Working alongside their Chinese counterparts, the Portugal Luban Workshop team took home the top prize, showcasing the program's success in fostering collaboration and learning.



The 2024 World Intelligence Expo held in Tianjin starting on June 20 provided a unique opportunity for the visiting group. The participants explored cutting-edge developments in fields such as renewable energy and high-speed rail. Engaging with Chinese students at the expo, they exchanged knowledge and ideas, gaining insights into the future of intelligent industries. The event offered an immersive platform for dialogue and collaboration between the students.

The Portuguese visitors also embraced Chinese traditions through various cultural activities, including paper cutting, printmaking, tie-dyeing, and cloisonné enamel crafting.

These hands-on experiences provided them with a closer connection to the artistry and philosophy behind China's cultural heritage.

A visit to Luban's Hometown Park in Qufu allowed the group to connect with the legacy of China's most celebrated craftsman. Guided by Liu Yuming, a leading expert on Luban's techniques, the group explored ancient tools and building methods, such as mortise-and-tenon joints and kite designs. Professor Lucas from the Portuguese delegation reflected, "Visiting Luban's hometown was an unforgettable experience. His dedication and innovation have left a lasting impression on me."

The Portugal Luban Workshop serves as a bridge, linking cultures and fostering collaboration between China and Portugal through education and technical training. By knowledge sharing and cultural exchange, the program is paving the way for deeper cooperation and lasting friendship, writing a new chapter in the story of international vocational education.



Faculty and Student Exchange Camp with UK Leeds Beckett University

From June 18 to July 1, Rizhao Polytechnic successfully hosted an exchange camp for students and teachers with Leeds Beckett University (LBU), the United Kingdom. Participants included 26 members of the Creative Media Technology Course at LBU. The

event was aimed at enhancing the professional abilities and artistic literacy of both Chinese and British students with specialized courses for learning and cultural experiences, thereby promoting cultural exchanges between the two countries.



In the exchange camp, the college planned a series of meticulously designed professional courses focusing on digital media art and design. The courses covered short video script writing, planning, shooting, editing and operation. Following the instructor's guidelines, the students applied their knowledge to produce short videos as the culmination of their coursework. These courses not only provided a valuable platform for technical exchanges between the two institutions, but also ignited the students' strong interest and innovative thinking in digital media art, truly achieving the application of knowledge by both Chinese and visiting teachers and students.



The exchange camp offered, in particular, traditional Chinese handicraft courses, including techniques such as cloisonne enamel, floating lacquer, flower hairpin, clay

sculpture, and temari ball, as well as culture courses in Chinese calligraphy, painting, martial arts and Tai Chi. These unique courses not only deepened the British faculty and students' understanding and appreciation of traditional Chinese culture, but also highlighted the characteristics of creative design majors. After completing each course, the students took home their creations, such as cloisonne makeup mirrors, lacquer fans, flower hairpins and brooches, and clay succulent plant desktop decorations. Through these courses and hands-on practices, faculty and students from both countries showcased their distinct cultural characteristics and shared artistic aesthetics. The UK visitors personally experienced the unique charm of traditional Chinese culture, which helped deepen their understanding and recognition of Chinese culture.



The exchange camp organizers also arranged a variety of cultural visits to famous local attractions in Rizhao City, such as Tiantai Mountain, Fulai Mountain, and the ancient city of Juguo. At the scenic area of Tiantai Mountain, students collected seashells, made sand paintings, picked tea leaves, tasted tea, and sewed sachets. In Ju County, students saw the 4,000-years-old ginkgo trees in Fulai Mountain and visited the ancient city of Juguo. These activities allowed the UK participants to appreciate the beautiful natural scenery and longstanding history of China and know more about China's history, geography and folklore.

During their study in the camp, members from both schools learned from each other, made progress together, and forged deep bonds of friendship. As Will Summers, a U.S. student, said at the closing ceremony, "During the past two weeks, I learned a lot about Chinese culture, created many traditional Chinese handicrafts and toured the beautiful scenery of Rizhao. I also made some Chinese friends and felt the national confidence of the Chinese people. I'd like to use the Chinese idiom 'Changle' (Eternal Happiness), which I learned in the calligraphy course, to wish everyone happiness and joy."



Communications University of Zhejiang Hosts Summer School Program

From June 26 to July 3, Communication University of Zhejiang (CUZ) successfully hosted a summer school program under the theme of media and cultural exchange. More than 30 outstanding student representatives from France, Greece, Italy and other European countries participated in diverse learning and exchange activities with the faculty and students of CUZ. The event not only enhanced the understanding and friendship between Chinese and European students, but also created a new platform for Sino-European cultural exchange.



► A media academic feast that inspires innovative thinking

The Chinese and European students engaged in in-depth academic discussions on topics such as Cultural Communication in the New Media Era, and Cross-Cultural Communication and Understanding. With their insightful lectures, VUZ professors shared the current developments and cutting-edge trends in China's media industry. At the same time, European students from France, Greece, and other countries actively shared their experience of and insights in the media and journalism fields in their respective countries. Through intellectual exchange, both sides broadened their academic perspectives and stimulated innovative thinking.

► In-depth cultural experience helps appreciate the charm of Hangzhou

In addition to academic exchanges, the program also incorporated a variety of cultural experience activities. Chinese and European students visited Hefang Street, an ancient street of the Southern Song Dynasty. They experienced the charm of West Lake and explored the culture of Gongchen Canal. They immersed themselves in the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Hangzhou. At Liangzhu Museum and Liangzhu National Historical Site Park, the students learned more about China's 5,000-year civilization and developed a

strong interest in Chinese history and culture. Furthermore, they toured the 4K eSports studio in CUZ, experiencing the seamless integration of technology and culture in Hangzhou, a smart city. The participants also took part in traditional Chinese cultural activities, such as calligraphy, tea art, and ceramics, deepening their understanding of Chinese culture.



► Bridges of friendship connect Europe and China

Through a week of intensive exchanges and cooperation, the Chinese and European students built strong friendship. At the closing ceremony, the European participants remarked that the program had not only fueled their minds with knowledge, but also allowed them to forge valuable friendship. They hoped for more opportunities for future exchanges and collaborations with Chinese students to jointly promote the development of Sino-European cultural exchanges. Anna Lydia from Greece gave a heartfelt speech by sharing her initial impressions and expectations of Chinese culture. She promised to cherish the opportunity to continue learning about Chinese media arts, history, and culture and expressed the hope to serve as a cultural ambassador between China and Greece, fostering friendly exchanges between students from both countries.



The successful completion of the program at CUZ not only showcased the media features and cultural heritage of the college, but also created a new platform and bridge for Sino-European cultural exchange. It is believed that in future, Chinese and European students will continue to work together to promote the prosperity and development of the media and cultural industries.

2024 University of Lorraine Summer Camp Held at Wuhan University of Technology



From July 1 to 13, the University of Lorraine's summer camp was successfully conducted at Wuhan University of Technology. Eleven students from the University's Confucius Institute visited cities including Wuhan, Beijing and Shiyang to gain an in-depth understanding of traditional Chinese culture. The faculty and students from the University of Lorraine, France spent a fulfilling and unforgettable time in China.

During their stay in China, the faculty and students experienced Tai Chi and Chinese language classes, feeling the charm of traditional Chinese martial arts and the

historical evolution of Chinese word characters. At the school's quality education base and art museum, they experienced Peking Opera and Guqin music, feeling the school's rich cultural heritage and artistic atmosphere. Lilou, a summer camp student, said that through personal experience with Peking Opera costumes, she further discovered the charm of Peking Opera.

Hubei Provincial Museum's rich collection showed the long history and culture of Hubei to the students. In the performance of bianzhong (ancient Chinese chime bells) – the Prime Treasure of the Museum, everyone was shaken by the solemn atmosphere created and the various musical works played with the ancient instrument. At the Intangible Cultural Heritage Experience Center, the teachers demonstrated the entire process of making lacquer fans and incense. Under their guidance, the students created their own works and experienced the subtlety of traditional Chinese crafts through personal involvement. The students also visited Voyah Automotive Technology Co., Ltd and had a firsthand the safety and comfort of Chinese cars. At the International Intelligent Connected Vehicle (Wuhan) Test Demonstration Zone, the students had a foretaste of driverless technology and witnessed the innovation and development of China in the field of automobile manufacturing.

At the Taoist sacred site of Wudang Mountains, the students not only practiced Tai Chi, but also visited many Taoist historical sites, gaining a deeper understanding of Tai Chi, Taoist culture, traditional Chinese religion, and martial arts. "This is the fist-and-palm salute in traditional Chinese culture, with the right hand in a fist and the left hand covering the right hand...." Following the teacher's explanation and demonstration, everyone learned together,

step by step, forming their fists, extending their fingers, pushing their palms, and folding their hands in a salute... Soon they got the main points of the movements.



At the Ceramic Factory of Wuhan University of Technology, the students made ceramic handicrafts on their own. They showed a keen interest in traditional Chinese crafts and hoped for more opportunities to experience Chinese culture in the future. At the Yellow Crane Tower, the characteristic snack street of Hubei Alley, and the river bank, they felt the rich history, urban landscape, and folk life atmosphere of Wuhan. Everyone commented with works of praise that the charm of Wuhan lies not only in its perfect fusion of the ancient and the modern, but also in the fierce collision and sparks between traditions and modern technology.

From July 9 to 13, the summer camp teachers and students went to Beijing to explore traditional Chinese culture. They watched the flag-raising ceremony at Tiananmen Square, entered the Palace Museum to feel a journey of a thousand years, with the crimson walls and royal yellow tiles telling China's history, took rickshaws in Beijing hutongs, experiencing tranquility behind the city's hustle and bustle, and climbed the Great Wall to feel its magnificence and made a vow of "He who has not been to the Great Wall is not a true man".



With their students reluctant to part, the University of Lorraine's summer camp activities came to a successful end and the visiting teachers and students alike gained a lot. This summer camp helped enhance the cultural exchanges between Chinese and French students and promote their friendship. The teachers and students said that they would share what they had seen and heard in China with more friends, enabling more people to understand and love China.

Beijing University of Chemical Technology Hosts Summer Exchange Program for European Students

From July 7 to July 20, Beijing University of Chemical Technology successfully organized the BUCT 2024 "Chemistry-plus" International Science and Technology Innovation Summer School, which brought together 25 students from France, the UK, Spain, Hungary and Russia.

Under the initiative to improve the talent development in foundational disciplines and foster outstanding innovative professionals, the University organized the program on the theme of Interdisciplinary Integration of Fundamental Chemistry and Emerging Technologies. Supported by its "Double First-Class" discipline cluster in Green Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Materials, the university drew on high-level national platforms such as the Top-notch Students Training Program 2.0's Hongde Chemistry Training Base and the National Key Laboratory

of Chemical Resources Utilization. These resources enabled BUCT to create a diverse array of "Chemistry-plus" thematic activities and cultural exchange programs, providing a rich and comprehensive learning experience for participating students.



Research-Based Experimental Exploration:

Four research topics were introduced for students to engage in hands-on experiments. Working in teams, the participants conducted laboratory experiments, presented their findings, and received valuable feedback and guidance from experts. These activities not only honed the students' teamwork and problem-solving skills, but also enhanced their ability to hypothesize, design experiments, validate findings, and summarize conclusions, laying a solid foundation for scientific discovery.

Cutting-Edge Academic Lectures: The academic lectures, centering around the "Chemistry-plus" theme, spanned interdisciplinary fields such as chemistry and biology, materials, environment, and artificial intelligence. The topics included chemical biology, environmental chemistry, resource chemistry, energy chemistry, and molecular simulation methods. The professors delivered these complex topics in an engaging and accessible manner, transforming intricate scientific principles into captivating narratives. Through these sessions, the students gained a solid grasp of cutting-edge technologies and

learned to apply their knowledge to real-world challenges.



Industrial Immersion: The participants visited Zhongguancun Life Science Park to experience cutting-edge technologies firsthand. From advanced biomedical research equipment to frontier gene-editing techniques, every exhibit left the students in awe. This immersive experience offered a rare opportunity to explore the intersection of life sciences and chemistry, deepening their appreciation of the limitless potential and allure of scientific innovation.



Chinese Cultural Experience: The students took part in a series of vibrant cultural courses that offered them deep insights into both traditional Chinese culture and contemporary society. At the Global Culture Exchange Center, they attended the forum under the title of *What Is Different but Beautiful Can Be Shared*, where discussions comparing Chinese and Western cultural differences enhanced their understanding of diverse lifestyles and values rooted in different cultural backgrounds. During a lecture on traditional Chinese medicine, they

experienced the four diagnostic methods of TCM, i.e., observation, listening and smelling examination, inquiry, and palpation (pulse-taking), which sparked their interest in the remarkable efficacy of TCM. In the calligraphy class, they learned to write their names using the traditional brush pen. Martial arts sessions allowed them to practice each move under the instructor's guidance, experiencing the harmonious balance of strength and flexibility that defines Chinese martial arts. Additionally, paper-cutting and Chinese painting workshops introduced them to the unique charm of traditional Chinese art forms.



Experience China: Atop the Great Wall, the students marveled at the ingenuity and resilience of ancient Chinese laborers. At the Temple of Heaven, they experienced its unique architectural style and profound cultural significance. During their visit to the Drum Tower, they not only admired the exquisite ancient structures, but were also fortunate enough to be interviewed by Beijing Television. Nanluogu Alley and Houhai (Rear Lake) provided the perfect setting for the students to immerse themselves in the charm of old Beijing. Strolling through the traditional hutongs, they savored authentic Beijing snacks and experienced the warmth and simplicity of the residents, gaining a deeper appreciation for the city's rich cultural heritage.



For the visiting students, the 14-day summer school was an unforgettable journey of scientific exploration and cultural exchange. The participants remarked on the program's profound impact and noted how it had enhanced their professional expertise and strengthened their resolve to pursue advanced research in science. Moreover, they had gained a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity and expressed their commitment to fostering stronger cultural ties between China and Europe.

An International Summer School in Emerging Engineering Education at Leading Enterprises

On July 14, more than 70 international students from 15 overseas partner universities, including Imperial College London, the University of Edinburgh, Lancaster University, the University of Bradford, Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Claude Bernard University Lyon 1, the University of Nantes, Ingolstadt University of Applied Sciences, and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, gathered at the Guangzhou International Campus of South China University of Technology (SCUT). Together with representatives of SCUT's faculty and students, they kicked off the International Summer School to explore the development of the Greater Bay Area and the allure of China through SCUT as a window.

This summer school was a strong demonstration and an important initiative to promote "internationalization at home" and "two-way internationalization" at SCUT. Invitees were renowned scholars from top universities in China and abroad to give courses, featuring a focus on cutting-edge research, in-depth industry studies, cultural immersion, and historical exploration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Through interdisciplinary courses and rich cross-cultural learning, international students experienced China firsthand, gained insights into its scientific advancements and deepened their understanding of the country.



Three representative companies were carefully selected for the program: GAC Aion New Energy Automobile Co., Ltd., Tencent Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd., and the Guangdong Branch of China Mobile Communications Group Co., Ltd. These enterprises are leaders in China's new energy vehicle, internet and mobile communications sectors respectively.

Through face-to-face interactions with scholars, experts, and senior executives, the international students explored the latest applications of state-of-the-art technologies including "Intelligent+", "Internet+", and "5G+" in China. They experienced the rapid development of Chinese technology and gained a deeper understanding of the Chinese companies' innovative spirit and development.

► Intelligent+ at GAC Aion

On July 15, the study tour began with a visit to GAC Aion where the international students uncovered the "Chinese secret" behind new energy vehicles (NEVs). The development of the global leading NEV enterprise mirrors the overall industrial progress in China. It is the only global automaker with a "lighthouse factory" for NEVs and one of the few NEV companies globally with in-house R&D and manufacturing capabilities for the three core technologies of electric vehicles-batteries, motors, and electronic control. GAC Aion was also the brand that reached a sales volume of one million units within the shortest span in the world. During the visit, Zhong Jian, an SCUT alumnus and Deputy Director of GAC Aion's Second Intelligent Manufacturing Center, introduced the company's overall situation and the development history of its two brands-Aion and HYPTEC.

The students had the opportunity to experience GAC Aion's NEVs firsthand, test-driving them to directly feel their excellent performance and driving pleasure. They also visited the GAC Technology Museum and the final assembly workshop, where they witnessed how robots, mechanical arms and other high-end automated equipment worked together at an incredible speed and with great precision on the production line. The highly digitalized, informatized, and intelligent level of GAC Aion's smart ecological factory left a deep impression on all the international students present.



► Internet+ at Tencent

On July 18, the students arrived at Tencent's headquarters in Shenzhen, the second stop of the study tour. Tencent is one of the most influential internet technology companies in China and worldwide. With communication and social services that connect over a billion people globally, Tencent helps its users stay connected with their families and friends, facilitating travel, payments and entertainment. In addition, the company's business covers a wide range of areas including online gaming, digital content, fintech, cloud services and artificial intelligence.

During the visit, Wang Changlun, also an SCUT alumnus and Director of Tencent's Data Growth and Product Center, shared insights into the company's strategic blueprints for areas such as digital transformation, industrial upgrades, carbon-neutral practices, market expansion and innovation capacity building. The students were highly impressed by Tencent's outstanding customer experience and robust product capabilities. The visit featured engaging discussions during which many students inquired about Tencent's recruitment process, showing a keen interest in internships and possible employment with Tencent.

Through the visit, the students not only gained an in-depth understanding of Tencent's corporate culture and milestones, but also experienced the modern office environment brought by high technology. At Tencent's Exhibition Hall, the students witnessed how cutting-edge technologies like big data and cloud computing are deeply integrated into real-life scenarios, providing efficient and convenient services to the public, businesses, and government departments. What stood out even more to the students was Tencent's expertise in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and data processing.

Tencent's development is closely tied to the rise of Shenzhen, a city at the forefront of China's reform and opening-up. It is a living example of China's economic rise and technological innovation.



► 5G+ at China Mobile Guangzhou Branch

On July 23, the final stop of the study tour brought the students to the China Mobile Guangzhou Branch. As a Chinese telecommunications operator, China Mobile ranks first globally in network scale, customer base, and revenue, leading in innovation capacity, brand value, market capitalization and profitability. The company mainly operates mobile voice, data, broadband, VoIP and multimedia services. It has been on the Fortune Global 500 list for 23 consecutive years, ranking 62nd in 2023.

At China Mobile Guangzhou Branch, Zhang Jianhui, yet another SCUT alumnus and General Manager of the Network Department, engaged in an in-depth exchange with the students. He provided detailed answers to students' questions on topics such as 6G networks, future technology development, market landscape, telemedicine, and data privacy protection, sparking lively discussions among the students. The students spoke highly of China Mobile's technological strength and global vision, expressing admiration of the global market layout of Chinese companies.

During the tour, the students showed great interest in China Mobile's VR technology

in the exhibition hall, marveling at its fine visual effects. They also gained a deeper understanding of the company's technological innovations in frontier areas such as 5G and big data. In particular, the robotic dogs captured the attention of all with their forward-looking design concepts and wide range of application scenarios.



With its unique mobile classroom model, this study tour provided the international students with a window to explore China's corporate culture and technological innovation beyond national boundaries. At GAC Aion, they felt the incredible power of intelligent manufacturing; at Tencent, they experienced the infinite possibilities of the digital ecosystem; at China Mobile, they witnessed the rapid development of the 5G era. Each visit and exchange sparked the students' deep interest in and reflection on science and technology.



This journey was not only about accumulating knowledge and broadening horizons, but also about touching souls and blending cultures.

The students expressed their hope to take this valuable experience back to their own schools and countries to promote cultural exchange and understanding. At the same time, they looked forward to returning to China someday to continue exploring this land full of opportunities and vitality.

2024 International Summer School: Global Change and Ecological Health Opened at UCAS



The University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS) held an international summer school on the theme of Global Change and Ecological Health from July 18 to 27, 2024. 30 students from 19 countries, including France, Germany, and Denmark, were selected. For the first international summer school held on the main campus of UCAS, the program was focused on the latest findings and development trends in environmental science-related fields as well as the major eco-environmental issues caused by global changes. The program was designed to enhance academic exchanges between Chinese and overseas teachers and students and to jointly address the challenges posed by global changes.

► Reports from Chinese and international experts

The summer school invited over ten Chinese and international experts, including Academicians

Zhu Yongguan and Fang Xiaomin, delivered keynote reports to the students. The experts gave in-depth lectures on the changes, drivers, and ecological consequences of grasslands on the Tibetan Plateau over the past 40 years and the rise of different blocks of the Tibetan Plateau in the Cenozoic era. The students learned about the latest findings and development trends in these fields, increased their awareness of global changes, and paid greater attention to ecological health.



► On-site teaching

The students also visited some scientific research institutions and high-tech enterprises. In Huairou Science City, they visited the High Energy Photon Source (HEPS) - a large device for exploring the microscopic world, the UCAS Research Center for Environmental Material and Pollution Control Technology, and the Beijing Yanshan Earth Critical Zone National Research Station, among others. These immersive and diversified studies and exchanges enriched the students' professional knowledge, deepened their understanding of scientific research methods, and inspired their enthusiasm for scientific exploration.



► Interaction between Chinese and overseas teachers and students

During their meeting with the mentors, the students were divided into different groups according to their majors and personal interests. They engaged in academic discussions with professors from related fields, shared their insights and scientific research results, and promoted the academic exchange and mutual learning. In this way, the students acquired a deeper understanding of the UCAS research institutes while experiencing its unique talent cultivation mode and vibrant academic atmosphere.

► Experiencing traditional Chinese culture

The summer school also provided opportunities for the students to visit museums, wear Chinese Hanfu garments, appreciate Chinese painting, and investigate the development of new rural areas. Through Chinese culture courses and hands-on activities, the students experienced the unique charm of Chinese culture and felt the speed of China's social development.



During the 10-day joint learning and exchange, the students gained a new perspective of China from various aspects such as science and technology, academics, culture and lifestyle, which broke down their original stereotypes of China. This international summer school helped enhance the mutual understanding of the students and promote the exchange and

integration of diverse cultures. Moreover, it enabled the visiting students to experience the depth and breadth of traditional Chinese culture.

CQMU Study and Culture Tour Summer Program Concludes in Chongqing



On July 26th, the two-week Study and Culture Tour Summer Program concluded at Chongqing Medical University (CQMU). 41 faculty members and students from 10 global partner institutions, including the University of Antwerp (Belgium), University of Debrecen (Hungary), Karolinska Institute (Sweden), Medical University of Pleven (Bulgaria), joined the cultural and academic exchanges.

During the program, the participants visited the First Affiliated Hospital of CQMU, State Key Laboratory of Ultrasound Engineering in Medicine, and Chongqing Human Life and Health Museum, gaining insights into China's advancements in medical education and healthcare. They were impressed by CQMU's pioneering focused ultrasound technology and its applications. At the Jinyun Campus Clinical Skills Center, the participants practiced clinical techniques, appreciating the precision and efficiency enabled by technological advances. The tour offered enriching and tailored course packages, including metabolomics, traditional Chinese medicine, stomatology, pediatrics, and Chinese culture, enabling the participants to

engage in academic exchanges in line with their interests and expertise.

The overseas faculty members and students immersed themselves in traditional Chinese culture through the Chinese culture course, Tai Chi practice, Chinese calligraphy learning and round fan crafts. These activities offered a hands-on appreciation of China's rich cultural heritage and its enduring pursuit of peace, amity and harmony.



The participants embarked on a "city walk" to explore Chongqing, the renowned "8D city". They visited the thousand-year-old Ciqikou Ancient Town, learned about the rich history and cultural charm of the Bashu region. At the Dazu Rock Carvings, they marveled at China's ancient stone carving artistry. The tour also included the Chongqing Planning Exhibition Gallery, where they learned about the city's history, development, and plans, and Chongqing Forbidden City Cultural Relics South Relocation Memorial Hall, which highlighted the remarkable efforts to protect cultural treasures and preserve China's heritage.

To give the visitors a more comprehensive understanding of the local residents, they were hosted in the homes of 24 volunteer families. Over tea, dumpling-making, pottery, singing, and lively conversations, the visitors experienced the heartfelt warmth and hospitality that Chongqing's people are known for, which left them with unforgettable memories.

At the closing ceremony, the visiting faculty and students expressed heartfelt gratitude to the

teachers and volunteers of CQMU for their effort and dedication, sharing touching moments, memorable experiences, and new insights. They spoke of taking these experiences back to their countries to share with their teachers, friends, and families. The participants reflected on how the experience helped them grow, forge friendly ties, and broaden their perspectives. They also shared their aspirations for the future.

The farewell party saw the international and local faculty and students united in a vibrant celebration filled with singing and dancing. The event highlighted the strong friendship developed during the program as participants expressed both their joy and reluctance to part, with friendly sentiments that trickled into streams that flowed in everyone's heart.



2024 China Root-Tracing Journey Summer Camp Held at Tianjin Chengjian University

From August 26 to September 2, 24 Chinese-descendant youths and their teachers from Bavaria, Germany gathered at Tianjin Chengjian University (TCU) for a unique experience-the 2024 China Root-Tracing Journey Summer Camp. Over ten days, the participants expanded their knowledge, honed practical skills, and gained a profound appreciation of the richness of traditional Chinese culture while gaining an in-depth experience of the unique charm of Tianjin as a modern city.

At the opening ceremony kicked off with well-arranged captivating shows of guqin (Chinese zither) and calligraphy, Tai Chi, traditional opera

and Jingdong Dagu (a form of narrative singing). They highlighted the distinctive cultural heritage of Tianjin, exposed the audience to the charm of traditional Chinese dramas, and offered them a deeper understanding of the diversity and inclusiveness of traditional Chinese culture.



Wang Zhongliang, President of TCU, expressed his hope that the summer camp would allow the participants to explore China's vast historical and cultural treasures. He encouraged them to embrace cultural exchanges to draw on the strengths of various cultures, broaden their international perspectives, and enhance cross-cultural communication skills, ultimately contributing to global cultural dialogue and the shared advancement of world civilizations.

► A cultural journey through Tianjin

The participants explored the Tianjin Geological and Paleontological Fossil Museum and learned about fossil formation, classification, and the scientific significance while experiencing a visual feast that blended natural science and art. At Wudadao (the Five Great Avenues) cultural tourism area, they admired exotic architectural styles, reflected on modern Chinese history, and savored authentic Tianjin cuisine. Along Tianjin's Ancient Culture Street, they delved into the essence of local traditions by appreciating the works of Clay Figurine Zhang, a family legacy passed down for six generations, and crafting their own clay sculptures. From the

scenic Haihe River to the rich display of cultural exhibits and sophisticated technological equipment at Tianjin Cultural Center, the participants were immersed in Tianjin's cultural richness, which fostered a deeper admiration for China's profound heritage and rapid scientific advancement. At Yangliuqing Ancient Town, visits to the Shi Family Grand Courtyard and the Yangliuqing Folk Culture Museum provided hands-on experiences with traditional Chinese tea ceremony and zongzi-making. The participants were engaged with the essence of Dragon Boat Festival customs and Tianjin's folk traditions as they wandered around.



► Charming Tianjin - a theme for experiential Chinese classes

Teachers from TCU offered immersive Mandarin lessons, introducing the students to the city's historical evolution, local customs, heritage sites, and modern development through vivid explanations and multimedia presentations. The workshops on traditional arts like paper-cutting and Peking opera mask printing offered insights into the origins, evolution, and artistic features of these crafts. The students also engaged in distinctive lessons covering classical Chinese poetry, guqin, and calligraphy, which helped deepen their understanding of China's cultural traditions. A thematic class on the Spring Festival introduced the students to the origin, traditional customs, and characteristics of this festival and offered hands-on activities in which the participants wrote couplets, cut paper decorations, and made dumplings, all the while experiencing the festive joy of this iconic

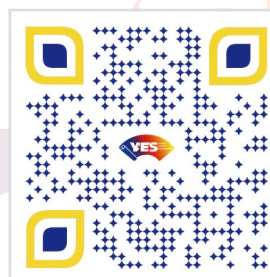
Chinese celebration. Additional activities, such as staging a play based on the mythological tale Chang'e Flying to the Moon and ancient pottery-making sessions, allowed the students to immerse themselves in the depth of Chinese culture through creative activities.



At the closing ceremony, the participants engaged in lacquer fan painting and rehearsed a theatrical performance before presenting a full program of their meticulously prepared artistic shows. They fully displayed the rich gains and growth journey they had experienced during the summer camp. The participants said that this journey was worthy experience as it helped realize their dreams, offered many novel experiences, and deepened their understanding of Chinese traditions.

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