



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – Confucius Institute

TAG-Confucius NewsletterIssue 86 - July 2023

TAG-Confucius Institute:

The Institute was established in September 2008 to introduce the Chinese language and culture, as well as achieving a greater mutual understanding between the Arab and Chinese cultures. This unique initiative is based on the cooperation agreement between TAG.Global and Confucius The Institute in China Institute has been named after the great intellectual, mentor and philosopher, Confucius, whose ideas had influenced China and other regions around the world for over 2,000 years.

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TAG-Confucius Institute is the first institute accredited by the Chinese Government to teach Chinese language in Jordan.

<u>TAG-Confucius Institute</u> is holding a new course to teach the basics of the Chinese language for beginners:

A. Threshold Level for Adults: starting 7/8/2023 Schedule: Monday – Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

B.Threshold Level for Kids : starting 5/8/2023 Schedule: Saturday – Tuesday from 3:00 – 4:30 pm

*All Chinese language teachers are from China specialized in teaching Chinese language for

foreigners and accredited by the Confucius Institute in China.

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Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute Facilitates Granting Scholarship to Students of Chinese Language to Confucius Institute Headquarters

AMMAN - A total of 14 students were awarded scholarships by Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) - China under the recommendation of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG-CI).

The awarded students will begin their one-academic-semester study and one-academic-year study in China September 2023. After finishing their study, they will be able to have opportunity to apply for their Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Shenyang Normal University, the official partner of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG-CI), in addition to high school and executive programs with other concerned universities in China.

Through teaching Chinese for kids and adults and introducing the language and Chinese culture, conducting Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK), providing consultation services in education



in addition to other services, TAG-CI has been fulfilling the vision and goals of HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh to strengthen the existing cooperation relations with China in various fields of education and academic exchange.

TAG-CI pays special attention to the teaching of the Chinese language in Jordan, noting that the Chinese language is the most widely-spoken language in the world not only in China, but also in South East Asia, North America and Europe.

In addition, the Chinese economy has been witnessing a fast growth as potentially the biggest global market in the 21st Century. More people around the world are fascinated by China's rapid technological development and economic growth; thus getting to realize the potential benefits they can reap by learning about the Chinese culture and communication skills.

Sino-Arab relations

Sino–Arab relations have extended historically back to the first Caliphate, with important trade routes, and good diplomatic relations. Since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), modern Sino-Arab relations have gotten significantly closer, with the China–Arab States Cooperation Forum (CASCF) helping the People's Republic of China and the Arab nations to establish a new partnership in an era of the growing globalization. As a result, close economic, political and military relations between the two sides have been maintained.From 2018, the relations became significantly warmer, with the PRC and the Arab countries exchanging state visits, establishing cooperation mechanism and providing support to each other.

Since 1990, no Arab country has official diplomatic relations with the Republic of China (ROC), although it is diplomatically represented in some nations via Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices.

History

Medieval era

During the Tang dynasty, when relations with Arabs were first established, the Chinese called the Arabs Old Chi.

The Caliphate was called "Da Shi Guo".

The word is thought to be a transcription of Persian Tāzik or Tāzī, derived from a nisba of the Arab tribe Ţayyi'.

The modern term for Arab is (Ālābó or Alabo).

The Arab Islamic Caliph Uthman Ibn Affan (r. 644–656) sent an embassy to the Tang court at Chang'an.

Arab sources claim Qutayba ibn Muslim briefly took Kashgar from China and withdrew after an agreement but modern historians entirely dismiss this claim.

The Arab Umayyad Caliphate in 715 AD deposed Ikhshid, the king the Fergana Valley, and installed a new king Alutar on the throne. The deposed king fled to Kucha (seat of Anxi Protectorate), and sought Chinese intervention.

The Chinese sent 10,000 troops under Zhang Xiaosong to Fergana. He defeated Alutar and the Arab occupation force at Namangan and reinstalled Ikhshid on the throne.

Chinese General Tang Jiahui led the Chinese to defeat the following Arab-Tibetan attack in the Battle of Aksu (717).

The attack on Aksu was joined by Turgesh Khan Suluk.

Both Uch Turfan and Aksu were attacked by the Turgesh, Arab, and Tibetan force on 15 August 717. Qarluqs serving under Chinese command, under Arsila Xian, a Western Turkic Qaghan serving under the Chinese Assistant Grand Protector General Tang Jiahui defeated the attack. Al-Yashkuri, the Arab commander and his army fled to Tashkent after they were defeated.

Although the Tang dynasty and the Abbasid Caliphate had fought at Talas, on June 11, 758, an Abbasid embassy arrived at Chang'an simultaneously with the Uyghur Khaganate envoys in order to pay tribute.

A Chinese captured at Talas, Du Huan, was brought to Baghdad and toured throughout the caliphate. He observed that in Merv, Khurasan, Arabs and Persians lived in mixed concentrations. He gave an account of the Arab people in the Tongdian in 801 which he wrote when he returned to China.

Arabia [Dashi] was originally part of Persia. The men have high noses, are dark, and bearded. The women are very fair [white] and when they go out they veil the face. Five times daily they worship God [Tianshen]. They wear silver girdles, with silver knives suspended. They do not drink wine, nor use music. Their place of worship will accommodate several hundreds of people. Every seventh day the king (Caliph) sits on high, and speaks to those below saying, 'Those who are killed by the enemy will be born in heaven above; those who slay the enemy will receive happiness.' Therefore they are usually valiant fighters. Their land is sandy and stony, not fit for cultivation; so they hunt and eat flesh.

This (Kufa) is the place of their capital. Its men and women are attractive in appearance and large in stature. Their clothing is handsome, and their carriage and demeanor leisurely and lovely. When women go outdoors, they always cover their

Faces, regardless of whether they are noble or base. They pray to heaven five times a day. They eat meat even when practicing abstention, for they believe the taking of life to be meritorious.

The followers of the confession of the "Dashi" (the Arabs) have a means to denote the degrees of family relations, but it is degenerated and they don't bother about it. They don't eat the meat of pigs, dogs, donkeys and horses, they don't respect neither the king of the country, neither their parents, they don't believe in supernatural powers, they perform sacrifice to heaven and to no one else. According their customs every seventh day is a holiday, on which no trade and no cash transactions are done, whereas when they drink alcohol, they are behaving in a ridiculous and undisciplined way during the whole day.

An Arab envoy presented horses and a girdle to the Chinese in 713, but he refused to pay homage to the Emperor, said, he said "In my country we only bow to God never to a Prince". The first thing the court was going to do was to murder the envoy, however, a minister intervened, saying "a difference in the court etiquette of foreign countries ought not to be considered a crime." A second Arab envoy performed the required rituals and paid homage to the Emperor in 726 A.D. He was gifted with a "purple robe and a girdle".

There was a controversy between the Arab ambassadors and Uyghur Khaganate Ambassadors over who should go first into the Chinese court, they were then guided by the Master of Ceremonies into two different entrances. Three Da shi ambassadors arrived at the Tang court in 798 A.D. A war which was raging between the Arabs and Tibetans from 785 to 804 benefited the Chinese.

Products were traded by sea routes between China and Arabs.

Military and political relations

One legend among Muslims in China said that China during the Tang dynasty exchanged 3,000 Chinese soldiers sending them to the Arabs and the Arabs in turn sent 3000 Arab Muslim soldiers to China.

In 756, 3,000 Arab mercenaries joined the Chinese against An Lushan

A massacre of foreign Arab and Persian Muslim merchants by Tian Shengong happened during the An Lushan rebellion in the Yangzhou massacre (760), since Tian Shengong was defecting to the Tang dynasty and wanted them to publicly recognized and acknowledge him, and the Tang court portrayed the war as between rebel hu barbarians of the Yan against Han Chinese of the Tang dynasty, Tian Shengong slaughtered foreigners as a blood sacrifice to prove he was loyal to the Han Chinese Tang dynasty state and for them to recognize him as a regional warlord without him giving up territory, and he killed other foreign Hu barbarian ethnicities

As well whose ethnic groups were not specified, not only Arabs and Persians since it was directed against all foreigners.

The Tang dynasty recovered its power decades after the An Lushan rebellion and was still able to launch offensive conquests and campaigns like its destruction of the Uyghur Khaganate in Mongolia in 840-847. It was the Huang Chao rebellion in 874–884 by the native Han rebel Huang Chao that permanently destroyed the power of the Tang dynasty since Huang Chao not only devastated the north but marched into southern China which An Lushan failed to do due to the Battle of Suiyang. Huang Chao's army in southern China committed the Guangzhou massacre against foreign Arab and Persian Muslim, Zoroastrian, Jewish and Christian merchants in 878–879 at the seaport and trading entrepot of Guangzhou, and captured both Tang dynasty capitals, Luoyang and Chang'an.

A medieval Chinese source claimed that Huang Chao killed 8 million people.

Even though Huang Chao was eventually defeated, the Tang Emperors lost all their power to regional jiedushi and Huang Chao's former lieutenant Zhu Wen who had defected to the Tang court turned the Tang emperors into his puppets and completed the destruction of Chang'an by dismantling Chang'an and transporting the materials east to Luoyang when he forced the court to move the capital. Zhu Wen deposed the last Tang Emperor in 907 and founded Later Liang (Five Dynasties), plunging China into the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period as regional jiedushi warlords declared their own dynasties and kingdoms.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Arab_relations

Automotive industry in China

The automotive industry in China has been the largest in the world measured by automobile unit production since 2008. Since 2009, annual production of automobiles in China accounted for more than 32% of worldwide vehicle production, exceeding both that of the European Union and that of the United States and Japan combined.[5]

The traditional "Big Four" domestic car manufacturers are SAIC Motor, Dongfeng, FAW and Chang'an. Other Chinese car manufacturers are Geely, Beijing Automotive Group, Brilliance Automotive, BYD, Chery, Guangzhou Automobile Group, Great Wall and Jianghuai (JAC). In addition, several multinational manufacturers have partnerships with domestic manufacturers.

While most of the cars manufactured in China are sold within China, exports – accounting for 11.5% of total production – reached 3.11 million units in 2022, making the country the world's second biggest car exporter.[6] China's home market provides its automakers a solid base and Chinese economic planners hope to build globally competitive auto companies that will become more and more attractive and reliable over the years.

China's automobile industry can be traced back to the early origin of Changan Automobile in 1862. China's automobile industry had mainly Soviet origins (plants and licensed auto design were founded in the 1950s, with the help of the USSR) and had small volumes for the first 30 years of the republic, not exceeding 100–200 thousand per year. Since the early 1990s, it has developed rapidly. China's annual automobile production capacity first exceeded one million in 1992. By 2000, China was producing over two million vehicles. After China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, the development of the automobile market accelerated further. Between 2002 and 2007, China's national automobile market grew by an average 21 percent, or one million vehicles year-on-year.

In 2009, China produced 13.79 million automobiles, of which 8 million were passenger cars and 3.41 million were commercial vehicles and surpassed the United States as the world's largest automobile producer by volume. In 2010, both sales and production topped 18 million units, with 13.76 million passenger cars delivered, in each case the largest by any nation in history.

In 2014, total vehicle production in China reached 23.720 million, accounting for 26% of global automotive production.

The number of registered cars, buses, vans, and trucks on the road in China reached 62 million in 2009.

The consultancy McKinsey & Company estimates that China's car market will grow tenfold between 2005 and 2030.

China had about 250 million cars by the end of June 2019, according to the Ministry of Public Security.

The main industry group for the Chinese automotive industry is the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers .

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automotive_industry_in_China

Chinese space program

The space program of the People's Republic of China is about the activities in outer space conducted and directed by the People's Republic of China. It involves the capacity to enter and return from space and ability to engage in space exploration, utilization and governance.[1]

The technological roots of the Chinese space program trace back to the 1950s, when, with the help of the newly allied Soviet Union, China began development of its first ballistic missile and rocket programs in response to the perceived American (and, later, Soviet) threats. Driven by the successes of Soviet Sputnik 1 and American Explorer 1 satellite launches in 1957 and 1958 respectively, China would launch its first satellite, Dong Fang Hong 1 in April 1970 aboard a Long March 1 rocket making it the fifth nation to place a satellite in orbit.

After half a century of development, China today has one of the most active space programs in the world. With space launch capability provided by the Long March rocket family and four spaceports (Jiuquan, Taiyuan, Xichang, Wenchang) within it border, China conducts either the highest or the second highest number of orbital launches each year. It operates a satellite fleet consisting of a large number of communications, navigation, remote sensing and scientific research satellites. Its range of activities have expanded from low Earth orbit to the Moon and Mars.

China is also one of the three countries with independent human spaceflight capability.

Currently, most of the space activities by China are managed by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). Major programs include China Manned Space Program, BeiDou Navigation Satellite System, Chinese Lunar Exploration Program, Gaofen Observation and Planetary Exploration of China.

In recent years, China has conducted a considerable amount of world-class space missions, including Chang'e-3, Chang'e-4, Chang'e-5, Tianwen-1 and Tiangong Space Station. In the near future, China is steadily pursuing advanced projects like crewed missions to the Moon, space telescope, counterspace capabilities, quantum communications, orbiter and sample-return missions to Mars, and exploration missions throughout the Solar System and deep space.

Mission and principles

According to the white paper China's Space Program: A 2021 Perspective released by the Chinese government in 2022, the mission of China's space program is described as:

- To explore outer space to expand humanity's understanding of the earth and the cosmos;
- To facilitate global consensus on our shared responsibility in utilizing outer space for peaceful purposes and safeguarding its security for the benefit of all humanity;
- To meet the demands of economic, scientific and technological development, national security and social progress;
- To raise the scientific and cultural levels of the Chinese people, protect China's national rights and interests, and build up its overall strength.
- The white paper also stated the principles of China's space program to ensure a high-quality space industry, which is subject to and serves the overall national strategy:
- Innovation-driven development
- Coordination and efficiency
- For peaceful purposes
- Cooperation and sharing

History

Early years (1950s to mid-1970s)

Qian Xuesen, the forefather of Chinese space program

The space program of China began in the form of missile research since the 1950s. After its birth in 1949, the newly founded People's Republic of China were in pursuit of missile technology to build up the nation's defense for the Cold War while most of

Its industry were destroyed or heavily damaged during the decade-long wars. In 1955, Qian Xuesen, the worldclass rocketry scientist, returned to China from the United States. In 1956, Qian submitted a proposal for the development of China's missile program, which was approved in just a few months. On October 8, China's first missile research institute, the Fifth Research Academy under the Ministry of National Defense, was established with less than 200 staff, most of which were recruited by Qian. The event was later recognized as the birth of China's space program.

To fully utilize all available resources, China kick-started its missile development by manufacturing a licensed copy of two Soviet R-2 missiles, which were secretly shipped to China in December 1957 as part of the cooperative technology transfer program between the Soviet Union and China.

The Chinese version of the missile was given a code name "1059" with the expectation of being launched in 1959. But the target date was soon postponed due to various technical difficulties.

Meanwhile, China started constructing its first missile test site in the Gobi desert of Inner Mongolia, which later became the famous Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, China's first spaceport.

After the launch of mankind's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957, Mao Zedong decided during the National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party on May 17, 1958, to make China an equal with the superpowers (Chinese: "闹顾榷犬) 鞠署哪扑"; lit. 'We too need satellites'), by

Adopting Project 581 with the objective of placing a satellite in orbit by 1959 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the PRC's founding. This goal was soon proven to be unrealistic and later adjusted to the development of sounding rockets first.

Mao Zedong inspecting a T-7M rocket after its successful launch

The first achievement of the program was the launch of T-7M, a sounding rocket that eventually reached the height of 8 km on February 19, 1960. It was the first rocket developed by Chinese engineers.

The success was praised by Mao Zedong as a good beginning of an indigenous Chinese rocket development. However, due to ideological differences in Marxism, the friendly relationship between the Soviet Union and China soon turned to confrontation. As a consequence, all Soviet technological assistance was abruptly withdrawn after the 1960 Sino-Soviet split, and Chinese scientists continued on the program with extremely limited resources and knowledge.

It was under this harsh condition that China successfully launched the first "missile 1059", fueled by alcohol and liquid oxygen, on December 5, 1960, marking a successful imitation of Soviet missile. The missile 1059 was later renamed as Dongfeng.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_space_program



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