

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
CAVE HILL CAMPUS
INAUGURAL CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE LECTURE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018
7:00 P.M.
WALCOTT WARNER THEATRE

The hosting of this inaugural Confucius Institute lecture is a natural progression by the institute into the wider academic life and discussions taking place on campus and within the wider local community.

China is currently playing a significant role in Caribbean economic development. We at Cave Hill can attest to this, not only through our academic studies, but because we are about to roll out one of the most comprehensive entrepreneurial and development programme. The Dukes Agri-business Project is a

UWI/China collaboration that is being implemented with funding provided by the People's Republic of China.

In the near three years since its establishment in April 2015, the Confucius Institute has made a significant impact on the Barbadian educational and cultural landscape. It began formal teaching only six months after its inauguration and to date thousands of students from across the Caribbean have benefited from its presence in Barbados.

From last September, the Institute began teaching Chinese language and culture courses as part of the BSc in Software Engineering. Through its teaching of Mandarin, and the promotion of a variety of China-related activities, the Institute has offered rich insight and understanding of China as a global super power. This has helped scholars, business people and others immensely in their ability to better comprehend and

navigate the Chinese society. It is no understatement to say that the Confucius Institute has been primarily responsible for an enhancement of intercultural communication and cultural connections between Beijing and Barbados, and the rest of the Caribbean.

Last year when ten Barbadians received scholarships for undergraduate and post-graduate study in China, the Confucius Institute held orientation programmes for them to provide insight into their forthcoming experience in China. This two-day programme was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign trade of Barbados, and the Embassy of China in Barbados.

However, the Institute's educational and co-curricular engagement has not been limited to this campus only, for the

Institute has taken its classes into the local community including primary and secondary schools. It began off-campus teachings at nearby St. Stephen's Primary and later expanded to Ellerslie Secondary and several other educational institutions. So it has given students a "taste of China" and it has also developed and delivered a series of programmes with key government agencies.

Adding its Oriental flair to the Campus' vibrant cultural offerings, the Confucius Institute has enabled us to enhance our outreach programmes, a key university mandate.