FESTIVE LAUNCH
of the
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AT THE VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
on
18 May 2016
at
Bibliothèque Solvay, Brussels

The Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is primarily research-oriented, especially prominent in the humanities and economic & social sciences. It focuses on Chinese language teaching at the academic and professional level, academic research in education, political sciences, social sciences, diplomacy, knowledge transfer, and the interplay between European and Chinese cultures. The institute complements and capitalizes on the expertise of VUB professors and students with an interest in contemporary China. The institute will support cooperation between universities, industry and government. It has the ambition to do government policy related studies through academic research and consulting services, taking into account the Chinese and European/Belgian contexts. The Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel will address a large variety of societal actors. Special focus will be on EU-officers, representatives from international organisations and headquarters in Brussels, diplomats, and representatives from member states, NGOs, and others.

The Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is a collaboration between Renmin University of China, Sichuan University and VUB.
PROGRAMME

14:00 Registration

Speeches and cultural performances

14:30 Welcome by Prof. dr. Paul de Knop, Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

14:40 Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel by Prof. dr. Jan Cornelis, Vice-Rector International Policy of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

14:50 Mr. Dirk Achten, Secretary General at Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

15:00 Mr. Li Jianmin, Minister-Counsellor of the Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the European Union

15:10 Mr. Vito Borrelli, Responsible for EU-China relations at DG Education and Culture, European Commission

15:20 Tai Chi performance led by Shifu Wang Nan

15:30 Prof. Jianming ZHANG, Executive Vice Chairman of the University Council, Renmin University of China
15:40 Prof. Shijing YAN, Vice President of Sichuan University

15:50 Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

16:00 Musical Guzheng performance by Ziyu Quan studying at VUB

16:10 Introduction and keynote on the picture album “CHINA-EU, Mutual Benefit, Strategic Partnership and Comprehensive Cooperation” (published by China Intercontinental Press) by

Prof. dr. Xinning Song, Chinese Director Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Mrs. Shada Islam, Director of Policy of Friends of Europe

16:40 Final word by the directors of the Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel

European Director Prof. dr. Chang Zhu (VUB)

Chinese Director Prof. dr. Xinning Song (Renmin University of China)

17:00 Reception

18:45 End
Practical information  The festivities will be held at Bibliothèque Solvay, Leopoldpark, Belliardstraat 137, B-1040 Brussels. For more information on how to get there, click here. The launch event is free of charge. Registration is required.

Further information  The Confucius Institute at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel is housed at the VUB Campus Etterbeek (Pleinlaan 5, 5th floor, B-1050 Brussels).
Website: www.vub.ac.be/en/confucius
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