

TAG-Confucius & TAG-Visa Newsletter | Issue 47 - April 2020

Talal Abu Ghazaleh-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-Org and Confucius Institute in China. The 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.

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

A. Online Threshold Level for Adults: starting 03/05/2020 Schedule: Sunday to Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

B. Online Threshold Level for Kids: starting 03\05\2020 Schedule: Sunday to Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

*All Chinese language teachers are from China specialized in teaching Chinese language for foreigners and accredited by the Confucius Institute in China.

Abu-Ghazaleh Chairs Online Board Meeting of TAG-Confucius Institute



Mr. Luay Abu-Ghazaleh chaired an urgent online meeting of TAG-CI with Shenyang Normal University to discuss the 2020 Budget of the institute. Shenyang Normal University was represented by Dr. Han Guohai, Vice President, Dr. John Wai, Dean of the Faculty of Education and International Relations; and Dr. Wang Rui, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Education and International Relations. While TAG-CI was represented by Mr. Mamoun Abu-Al Sebaa, Executive Director of TAG-CI and Dr. Yang Songfang, the Chinese Dean.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh started the meeting by expressing his support and solidarity with China and the Chinese people in facing the pandemic of coronavirus. "On behalf of myself and my family, I wish to express our full solidarity and support to the Chinese people in the face of evolving of the Coronavirus disease," he said.

"I'm heartened by the efforts that the Chinese Government is making to rein in this challenging threat to public health in China and around the globe. The contribution that frontline health and emergency services at the epicenter of the epidemic in China are making and the determination of the Chinese people deserve my admiration." He added.

Dr. Han Guohai thanked Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh for his kind words and for HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for his contribution and support to China during the pandemic of coronavirus. He also showed his and Shenyang Normal University support to Jordan and the Jordanian people in facing COVID-19.

During the meeting, TAG-Confucius Executive Director, Mr. Mamoun Abu Al-Sebaa', presented a detailed report on the cultural, academic, artistic and social events TAG-Confucius will conduct next year, stating that the Institute will strive to increase its academic and cultural activities to promote the Chinese language online all over the world.

Abu-Ghazaleh: I do believe in China's Ability to swiftly overcome coronavirus crisis. Jordan achieved success in crisis management

The Era of American Global Domination will End, and a New Bipolar World Order will Begin



AMMAN - HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, founder and chairman of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global), highly commended the Jordanian-Chinese relations, expressing his pride in the years' long, strong and deep-rooted ties between China and TAG.Global, at both official and personal levels.

During his interview with China Global Television Network (CGTN), Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh stated that TAG.Global was one of the leading international corporations to establish branches in the People's Republic of China. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global opened three offices in full operational capacity in (Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong). Today, TAG.Global offers its services and activities through a total of six offices in China announcing that the seventh office will open soon.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh referred to the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Confucius Institute (TAG-Confucius) which represents the most prominent tools of cooperation with China for disseminating the Chinese language and culture. The Confucius Institute is considered the main institute to teach the Chinese language at the regional level, he added.

In his speech, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh renewed confidence in China's ability to quickly overcome the corona virus crisis. At the same time he praised the success achieved by the government of Jordan under the directions of HM King Abdullah II in dealing effectively with the crisis.

"We have learned from the Chinese experiment, as the government of Jordan has taken the precautionary measures to mitigate the possible damages of this hidden enemy; therefore, we may say that we are among the best countries in dealing with the virus worldwide with fewer confirmed cases and less deaths compared to the world figures" Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh pointed out that the coronavirus crisis has exposed the global system which proved not to be 'global' at all. "At the beginning of the COVID-19 virus outbreak, the whole world should have assembled in China, to discuss this epidemic from an international perspective since all countries were threatened. Unfortunately, the global response was far below the required level, thus all countries around the world were badly hit'.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said that the whole world will suffer great post-corona depression, except for China whose economy will grow by 1%, pointing

to the disintegration of some giant economic entities. He warned that the reason of the failure to deal with the corona crisis globally is due to lack of world leadership and the absence of international effort to face the crisis collectively. 'That's why I believe that we will witness the end of globalization in the post- coronavirus crisis era', he said, adding that he expects fresh agreements to be concluded by the two confronting powers China and the US; agreements that will shape a new world order.

"Starting 2021, we will move into building a new world governing system. The effort will jointly be led by China and the United States, and that will mark the end of America's global domination era, and a new bipolar world order will commence," Abu-Ghazaleh affirmed.

Regarding the precautions and the measures implemented by TAG.Global following the outbreak of the coronavirus, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said: "We, at TAG.Global, have taken all the required measures to protect the lives of our employees, and at the same time, we developed plans to continue our business and activities. Accordingly, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global didn't suffer any negative economic effects and we continue to offer our services in the same world-class level as we did before."

Most Famous Temples and Monasteries in China

Chinese temples and monasteries are well kept cultural artifacts of every dynasty. The temple or monastery culture has deep influence in every aspect of Chinese people's life, for example, panting, music, sculpture, calligraphy, architecture, folk custom, kongfu and many others. China has innumerable temples and monasteries, among which the following ten got the greatest reputation.

White Horse Temple

Located east of Luoyang, White Horse Temple is nested between the Luo River and Mang Hill. During the Eastern Han Dynasty, the emperor



dispatched several monks to India for the sake of obtaining Buddhist scriptures. They were brought back to China on a white horse, which is why the White Horse Temple got its name. With its distinctive red walls, exquisite palaces and towering pagoda, the temple sits gently amid green pines and cypress groves, adding a solemn and silent quality to the complex.

It is honored as 'the Cradle of Buddhism in China'.

White Horse Temple is a historic sit with possesses more than 1,900 years with a well-preserved appearance. This great antique architecture can be divided into some parts namely the Hall of

Heavenly Kings, Hall of the Great Buddha, Hall of Mahavira, Hall of Guidance and the Cool and Clear Terrace appear in proper order in the temple, as they were when it was first built.

Xiangguo Monastery

Xiangguo Monastery was originally built in 555 AD during the Northern Qi Dynasty; it has a history of over 1,400 years. In the Northern Song Dynasty, the monastery was enlarged many times and became the largest monastery and the national Buddhist

During the Northern Song Dynasty, it was deeply worshipped and respected by the royal family enlarging for several times, it once occupied an area as large as 500 mu of land, with 64 meditation yards, law yards under its administration, with more than 1,000 monks, being the biggest monastery in the capital city and the center of national Buddhist activities.

Shaolin Temple

First built in 495 AD, Shaolin Temple is famous for Chinese Kung Fu or Martial Arts and the Zen Buddhism wide-spread in East Asia. Shaolin Temple is one of China's most famous ancient temples. Shaolin Temple once had many monks on its premises. Those monks of the lower level mostly came from the secular society and some of them knew some martial arts before entering the temple. Those who knew martial arts taught and helped each other to improve their skills. They also absorbed the experience of their predecessors and gradually developed their martial arts into the unique Shaolin School.

The Shaolin Temple is famous for the coexistence of Chan School and martial art. It became famous in the Sui and Tang dynasties, in early Song Dunasty, the 13-Rod Monk was conferred title of nobility on saving the life of King of Qin. Soon the Shaolin martial art developed into its own system and became famous as the unique Shaolin School among Chinese martial cicles.

During the Yuan and Ming dynasties, the Shaolin Temple housed some 1,000 monks and became a large Buddhist temple known at home and abroad. Today it has become an attractive tourist destination in China.

Jokhang Temple

Located at the center of the old Lhasa, Jokhang Temple is the spiritual center of Tibet. It was built in the mid-seventh century by Songzain Gambo for the Tang Princess Wencheng and Nepalese Princess Bhrikuti. It has a history of more than 1,300 years. The temple is the fine product of Han, Tibetan and Nepalese architecture techniques. Visitors will be treated to the sight of various exotic and sacred sculptures. Jokhang Temple also houses many invaluable cultural relics. Every year, the Great Prayer

Festival is held here. The temple was called the Tsulag Khang or (House of Wisdom) but it is now known as the Jokhang which means the (House of the Lord).

Jokhang Temple has remained a key center of Buddhist pilgrimage for centuries. It was sacked several times by the Mongols, but the building survived. In the past several centuries the temple complex was expanded and now covers an area of about 25,000 sq. meters. There is a walled enclosure in front of the Jokhang which contains some willows called the Jowo Utra (<Hair of the Jowo>) and a doring or inscribed pillar erected by the Chinese in 1793 during a smallpox epidemic. It records the Sino-Tibetan treaty of 822 concluded by King Ralpacan and includes <China and Tibet>s vow of eternal peace and mutual respect of the borders of their independent states> as well as advice on hygiene measures to prevent smallpox.

The Jokhang Temple complex has several decorated shrines and rooms. The main hall of the temple houses the Jowo Shakyamuni Buddha statue, perhaps the single most venerated object in Tibetan Buddhism. There are also famous statues of Chenresig, Padmasambhava and King Songtsan Gambo and his two famous foreign brides, Princess Wen Cheng (niece of Emperor Taizong of Tang Dynasty) and Princess Bhrikuti of Nepal.

For most Tibetans it is the most sacred and important temple in Tibet. Along with the Potala Palace, it is probably the most popular tourist attraction in Lhasa. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site (Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace).

Famen Temple

Famen Temple is located in Famen town, 120 km west of Xian, Shaanxi province. It was designated as "the ninth wonders in the world" by United Nations educational scientific and cultural organization. From 5-12 May 1987, after the opening of underground palace, four relics claimed to be directly related to Buddha were found. Thereafter, Famen Temple became Buddhist pilgrimage.

This temple is famous for discovery the fingers bones of Sakyamuni. And historical records reveal that eight emperors of the Tang Dynasty once welcomed the finger bones of Buddha to the palace and donated a large number of treasures to the underground palace of the temple.

Confucian Temple

Confucian Temple (the full name is Temple and Cemetery of Confucius and the Kong Family Mansion in Qufu), as one of the in highlights Qufu, is a must-see attraction when you plan Shandong tour. Confucian Temple is located in the center of Qufu City. In order to commemorate the great philosopher Confucius, this temple was originally built as early as in 478BC, one year after Confucius death.

The temple was built according to the specification for imperial palaces; it is one of the three ancient building complexes in our country and holds an important position even in the world. It covers an area of 50 acres. Inside of this complex, there are 9 yards, each among which has its own characters. The temple has an outer wall, with four corner towers, which shelters ancient pines. The main buildings along the middle route are Kuiwen Pavilion, Thirteen Stele Pavilion, Xingtan Pavilion, Dacheng Hall, Hall of Confucius Wife and Shengji Hall. Among them the Dacheng Palace and the Kuiwen Cabinet are its main buildings.

Zhongyue Temple

Zhongyue Temple was first built during the Qin Dynasty (221-206 BC) and was the place where emperors and ministers from various historical periods paid their respects to the God of Mount Songshan in central China. It is the largest and oldest intact building complex among the Five Holy Mountains in China. It is praised as the palace

It is praised as the palace museum in central China and the sixth paradise of Taoism.

The Zhongyue Temple, the grandest ancient architectural complex best maintained in the Songshan Mountain, are basically unchanged in scale since the remedy of the Qing

Dynasty, covering more than 100,000 square meters with 11 establishments lying one behind another along the axis with a total distance as long as 6.5 km from the first to the last.

https://www.topchinatravel.com/china-guide/most-famous-temples-and-monasteries-in-china.htm



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