



Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – Confucius Institute

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Chinese Visa Section  TAG-Visa



## TAG-Confucius & TAG-Visa Newsletter | Issue 49 - June 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.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Abu-Ghazaleh Envisions the World Post COVID-19 Crisis

TAG-Confucius Institute Held the Second Online HSK Test

Sino-Arab relations



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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 06/07/2020**  
Schedule: Monday to Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- B. Online Threshold Level for Kids : starting 06/07/2020**  
Schedule: Monday 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.**



*In an exclusive interview with the Washington-based Inside Arabia Magazine*

**Abu-Ghazaleh Envisions the World Post COVID-19 Crisis**



AMMAN- The world was already in crisis when the Coronavirus (COVID-19) surfaced. What COVID-19 contributed is that it sprayed more ‘salt on the wounds’ of the global economy, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Chairman and founder of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) told the Washington-based Inside Arabia magazine in an interview.

Inside Arabia, an online news publication that provides in-depth news and analysis, focused on Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh’s vision and earlier predictions of an economic crisis and his views regarding the impact of the COVID-19 on the Middle East both economically and politically.

At the outset, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh highlighted the efforts of Jordan’s government headed by His Majesty King Abdullah II in fighting the COVID-19 saying “Jordan did the best performance in fighting such a pandemic and so far we only had nine fatalities. Jordan established a special unit with full authority to lead the fight against the Coronavirus.”

“Saving lives is very important but saving the economy is important as well, and both should be addressed in parallel,” he said, adding “The crisis existed before the Coronavirus and I have warned back in 2017 and on several occasions that the world is approaching a major crisis that will start in the United States and will last longer, with far more devastating impact on Western economies, causing stagflation and leading to bankruptcies,”.

“Today, we are witnessing the impact, as I predicted, on so many levels that is affecting the Western countries and subsequently the Arab region, resulting in high unemployment rates and inflation, to be ultimately followed by a World War . We cannot blame everything on Coronavirus,” Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh further affirmed.

Regarding possible solutions in facing such a crisis whether regionally or globally, Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said, “If we want to give credibility to the IMF which said the exit out of this depression in each country will depend on the measures taken or to be taken; several countries started early enough in imposing economic measures such as restructuring and decisions to support the economy by adding incentives or providing additional liquidity.”

“Now every country in the world realizes that we are in a depression and that there is a need to take action. In my opinion, there is something good in everything that is bad. Since 2001, I have been stating that we need to have a revolution in our educational institutions, economy and government towards digitalization and now Coronavirus forced us towards such a path. Digitalizing became more of a necessity than a luxury and we need to become a digital society in everything,” he said.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh who submitted 16 points in facing such a crisis believes that becoming self-sufficient and independent is another solution.

“When the United States sneezes, the whole world catches a cold. I think that it is obvious that no one should expect anything from the US as it has its own problems now internally, unemployment and huge deficits. Today, there is no world leader,” he said.

Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh who has a strong presence in the Gulf region through his offices in every major city in the GCC countries believes that the COVID-19 impact was less in the Gulf region saying, “if we look at the European Union which is a union; the GCC is not a union and it is only an association and an umbrella for cooperation; each country in the EU closed its borders when the virus started as if saying I don’t care about my neighbor and “I” come first.”

“The Corona proved that there is no union and in my opinion the EU is facing two challenges whether to restructure itself to become a real union or it will not exist in the near future; meanwhile in the Gulf, there was no open borders from the beginning, it was only agreements on customs and travel and they were very independent; so the damage was much less than what the EU countries dealt with,” Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

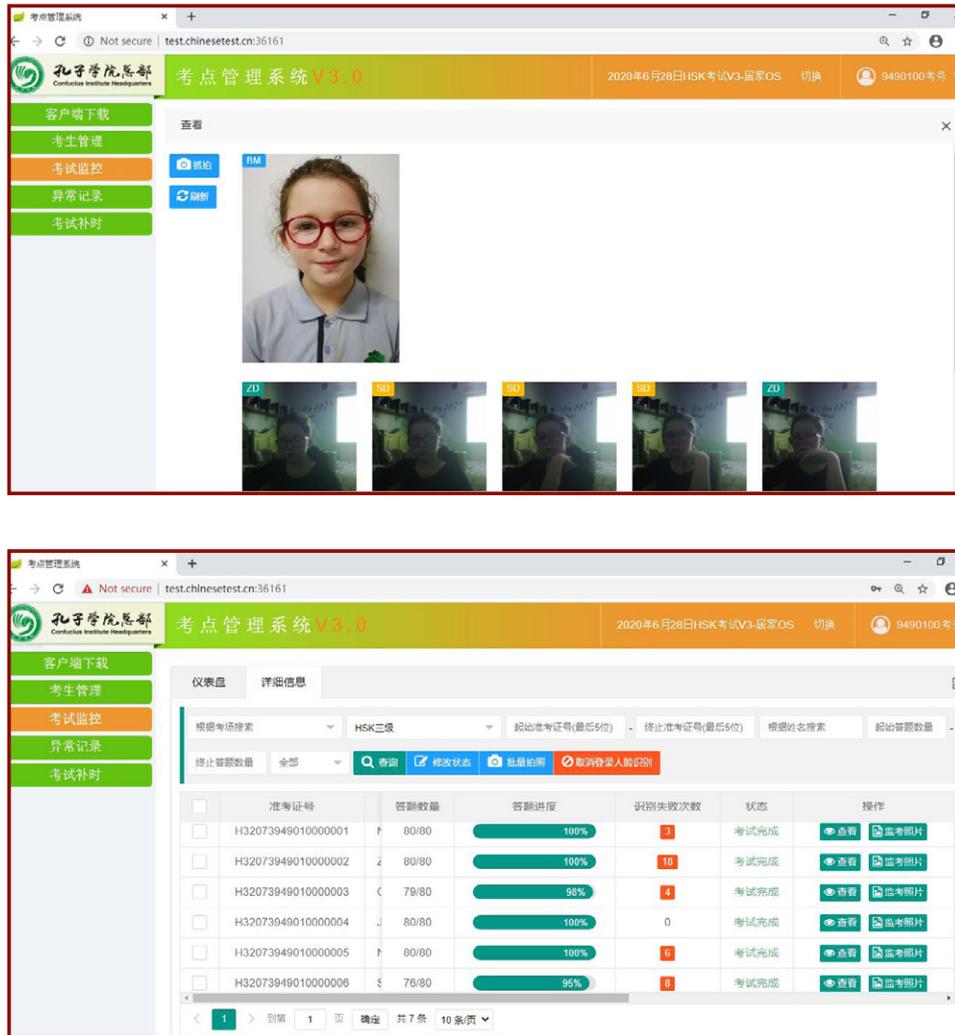
The challenging relation between the US and China was also tackled by Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh re affirming his view that “The world is now in cold war phase.”

“The cold war means that the two countries will have complete boycott, no trade relation, real threat regarding currency as China said it will have nothing to do with the dollar and it will have its own currency e-RMB – a digital currency in the future, and has already begun trials in Shenzhen, Suzhou, Chengdu and Xiong’an. There are a number of basic problems between the two countries focused on one objective only and that is “who will be the next world leader,” he said.

“The crisis and emerging conflicts will lead to the third world war or a military confrontation between the US and China. However, the two superpowers will meet to end the war, as all wars end, with agreements.

A new world order governed by the G-2 (US and China) will emerge. The Arab region will witness a renaissance that will herald a global Marshal-like economic plan leading to a global economic recovery and prosperity,” he said.

## TAG-Confucius Institute Held the Second Online HSK Test



On June 28, TAG-Confucius Institute (TAG-CI) successfully held the second online Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK test, home edition) covering HSK levels 1-6. Twenty students took the test.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, TAG-CI has cancelled the offline HSK tests which should have been held in March, May and June. In order to meet the needs of Chinese learners, with the support and help of the Chinese Testing International Co., Ltd. (CTI), TAG-CI held the second online HSK test in June after the first one held on May 27, which the students took at home with remote monitoring from the test center.

In order to ensure the smooth progress of the test, TAG-CI held a training meeting for teachers before the test to study the online HSK test management manual, online test system operating manual, instructions for test takers, etc. to make the teachers have full knowledge of test process, be familiar with online test operating system and pay attention to relevant matters.

The teachers divided their duties and each one was responsible for one level of the test. The teacher and his/her students established a WeChat group or a WhatsApp group to facilitate the guidance.

According to the test requirements, the teacher informed the students of preparing computers that met the test requirements, guided the students to download HSK client, tested network speed, checked cameras, earphones and test environment, guided and assisted the students to download and install ZOOM or DingTalk meeting software for remote monitoring during the test, booked a meeting and sent the meeting ID and Password to CTI.

After everything was ready, the teachers led the students to conduct three mock tests to familiarize them with the operating system and solve various problems at any time. TAG-CI printed out the students' admission tickets, rosters, test room record forms, login passwords, etc. in advance and issued them to the teachers and students at an appropriate time.

One hour before the test, the teacher and students joined the meeting. Each student placed his/her mobile phone at the position one meter left or right behind and adjusted the height and angle to ensure the monitoring effect. The teachers verified the identity of each student and then read the test discipline and requirements. After that, the students logged in the test client, receiving face recognition verification while logging, and waited for the test.

In the process of the test, on the one hand, the teachers monitored the students' answering progress and manually captured the students' status through the invigilator system; on the other hand, the teachers monitored the students and recorded the entire test video through video meeting.

If any student had a network problem, the chief invigilator of TAG-CI would send a screenshot to CTI technical teacher in a timely manner, who quickly solved the problem through remote guidance. In the process of invigilating the test, the teacher filled in the test room record form, including the students' information and test environment verification, the network system situation report, the test room situation feedback and so on.

Just after the test, with the approval of CTI, TAG-CI made up the time for a HSK level 2 student who missed answering some questions due to network problems. After it was finished, the student's mother expressed her thanks to the teacher and CTI technical teachers for their cooperation and help. Other students also sent teachers messages of thanks for their patient guidance and mock tests to ensure the success of the test. TAG-CI teachers reviewed and summarized the test to make preparations for future online tests.

At present, the number of Chinese learners is increasing, people of different ages and Occupations are learning Chinese and they attach great importance to HSK test as well. This time, a 66-year-old examinee took online HSK level 1.

Before the test, he found that his computer didn't meet the test requirements. So he specially bought a new laptop for this test. He participated in the mock test seriously and finally successfully completed the test. He is an employee of a company. Out of love for Chinese, he began his Chinese learning journey. This is his first time to take online HSK test. His rigorous attitude and persistent spirit is admirable.

It's worth mentioning that the technical teachers of CTI were accompanying and serving the global test takers 24 hours on the test day. Their professionalism and high sense of responsibility are powerful guarantee for the smooth implementation of the test. During the pandemic period, online HSK test is convenient for test takers and also ensures the health and safety of test takers and the staff of the test center.

## Sino-Arab relations



Sino-Arab relations have extended historically back to the first Caliphate, with important trade routes, and good diplomatic relations. Following the age of Imperialism, the Sino-Arab relations have been halted for several centuries, until both gained independence in the 19th and 20th century.

Today, modern Sino-Arab relations are evolving into a new era, with the SACF (Sino-Arab cooperation Forum) helping the People's Republic of China (PRC) 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. In 2018, the relations became significantly warmer, with China and the Arab world 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 they are diplomatically represented via the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices.

### History

#### Medieval Era

During the Tang dynasty, when relations with Arabs were first established, the Chinese called the Arabs 大食 (Dàsí or Dasi).

The Caliphate was called «Da Si Guo» (ta shi kuo) 大食國.

Da means great or Big and Shi means Eat or Food. The word is thought to be a transcription of Persian Tāzik or Tāzī, derived from a nisba of the Arab tribe Ṭayyi'.

The modern term for Arab is 阿拉伯 (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 desposed 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 Ferghana. He defeated Alutar and the Arab occupation force at Namangan and reinstated Ikhshid on the throne.

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

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 198 A.D.

A war which was raging between the Arabs and Tibetans from 785-804 benefited the Chinese.

Products were traded by sea routes between China and Arabs. According to Professor Samy S. Swayd Fatimid missionaries made their Dawah in China during the reign of al-Aziz bi-Allah.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Arab\\_relations#Trade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Arab_relations#Trade)

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