



**Talal Abu-Ghazaleh – Confucius Institute**

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Chinese Visa Section



**TAG-Visa**

## **TAG-Confucius & TAG-Visa Newsletter | Issue 48 - May 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 08/06/2020**  
Schedule: Monday to Wednesday from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
- B. Online Threshold Level for Kids : starting 08\06\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.**



**Establishment of ‘Abu-Ghazaleh for Technologies’ Factory at Madaba Industrial Estate**



**AMMAN** – Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global (TAG.Global) resumed work on the establishment of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh for Technologies (TAGTech) factory at Madaba Industrial Estate, after brief suspension last March due to the outbreak of Coronavirus pandemic.

The establishment of TAGTech factory comes as a part of the construction agreement signed between TAGTech, a member of TAG.Global, with Jordan Industrial Estates Co. (JIEC), as well as a fulfillment of TAG.Global’s commitment represented by its Chairman, HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, to serve the nation by helping boost Jordanian technological development under the guidance of His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al-Hussein.

The factory, which will soon be completed will become the first operational technological factory at the Industrial Estate that produces technical products: the first of their kind in the Kingdom and the Arab region. It is expected to positively affect the economic and local development.

The selection of Madaba Industrial Estate to host the factory came after conducting a series of meetings with the concerned officials at the Ministry of Industry, Trade & Supply and JIEC, who offered all required facilities to establish the factory. The factory will be built on a five-donum plot of land that was wholly purchased for the project.



Dr. Abu-Ghazaleh extended his gratitude to HE Minister of Industry, Trade & Supply Dr. Tareq Al-Hamouri for his support to the implementation of the project and the provision of various facilities by the concerned directorates despite the exceptional circumstances the country is experiencing.

It is worth mentioning that the agreement was signed following the establishment of TAG-Tech firm last October with the aim of designing and manufacturing high-tech devices including laptops, tablets and smartphones at competitive and affordable prices for all.



## **TAG-Confucius Institute Successfully Held the First Internet-Based Chinese Proficiency Test**



On May 27, Amman TAG-Confucius Institute (TAG-CI) successfully held the first Internet-based Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK/HSKK test, home edition), which covered the levels of HSK 3-6, HSKK basic and intermediate levels, with 22 students taking the test.

Affected by the pandemic, TAG-CI cancelled HSK/HSKK tests in March and May this year. In order not to affect the students' application for International Chinese Language Teachers (Confucius Institute) scholarships 2020, with the support and guidance of Confucius Institute Headquarters and Chinese Testing International (CTI), TAG-CI held the first Internet-based HSK/HSKK test.

The teachers of TAG-CI made full preparation before the test. They studied the operation instructions and invigilation management manual of Internet-based test, checked the network, tried out the equipment, helped the students download and install the HSK/HSKK client, provided training for students, conducted mock test between the teachers and mock test between teachers and students. WeChat group was established between the teachers and students to communicate at any time conveniently. TAG-CI has done all the work in detail to ensure the smooth progress of the test.

On the day of the test, the teachers came to TAG-CI early in the morning to check the network, test the computers, receive relevant materials, send the login passwords to the students one hour in advance, remotely guide the students to log in, manually capture the students, make up the test for individual student through the invigilation system, fill in the test record form, and the chief invigilator filled in the relevant information on the system, etc.

All the teachers of TAG-CI cooperated closely and successfully completed the Internet-based HSK/HSKK test. The students expressed that Internet-based test provided much convenience for the students and they were very happy to take such test, and they extended thanks to the teachers for their patient guidance and help. Based on the actual needs of the students, TAG-CI timely held Internet-based HSK/HSKK test to serve Chinese learners.

## TAG-Confucius Organizes online Final 19<sup>th</sup> “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students and the 11<sup>th</sup> “Great Wall-Petra Cup” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Jordanian College Students



The final of the 19<sup>th</sup> “Chinese Bridge” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students in Jordan and the 11<sup>th</sup> “Great Wall-Petra Cup” Chinese Proficiency Competition for Jordanian College Students was held online, which was sponsored by Confucius Institute Headquarters and Chinese embassy in Jordan and hosted by TAG-Confucius Institute (TAG-CI). Mamoun Abu Al-Sebaa, Jordanian Director of TAG-CI, Zheng Yan, the second secretary of the cultural office of Chinese embassy in Jordan, Yang Songfang, Chinese Director of TAG-CI, Wang Fang, and Chinese Director of Confucius Institute at Philadelphia University (CIPU) attended the competition. The teachers, students and their parents of Chinese-teaching institutions in Jordan watched the competition online. Ten contestants from TAG-CI, the University of Jordan (UJ) and CIPU entered the final through semi-final competition.

The theme of the competition was “one world, one family”, including keynote speech, questions-answers on Chinese language, national conditions and culture and talent show. The judges were composed of five Chinese teachers in Jordan and two local Chinese teachers.

In the keynote speech, the contestants shared their experience of learning Chinese, the story of studying in China, the friendly exchanges and cooperation between China and Jordan, the touching stories of the joint efforts of China and other countries to prevent the pandemic, China’s social and economic development and its contributions to the world, and the beautiful vision of “one world, one family” with accurate pronunciation and moving content of the speech.

The questions in Q&A session covered Chinese language, culture, history, geography, philosophy, music, painting, sport, traditional Chinese medicine, economics, science and technology, etc. The contestants were able to answer the questions correctly with ease, fully demonstrating their profound knowledge and humanistic quality and leaving a deep impression on the audience and judges.

The talent show pushed the competition to the climax. The contestants made every effort to show the best of themselves. They performed song-singing “Beautiful Black Eyes” while playing the Oud, poetry recitation “A Moonlit Night on the Spring River”, singing and dancing “Back to My Mother’s Home”, Chinese painting “Bamboo”, and flute solo “Wish”, etc. , making the atmosphere very lively.

After fierce competition, Alaa Alahmad from CIPU won the championship, Ershed Alshraya from UJ won the second place, Nada Mahmoud and Rama Jarwan from TAG-CI won the third and fifth places respectively.

The “Chinese Bridge” competition is an important annual event of Chinese learning in Jordan. Affected by COVID-19 this year, the competition was held online. The contestants were still enthusiastic, prepared carefully under the guidance of the teachers, and rehearsed actively. The competition has created a platform for Chinese learners in Jordan to learn from and communicate with each other, helped them show their Chinese level, and enhanced their interest in learning Chinese language and understanding Chinese culture.

## **The-top-flowers-in-Chinese-culture**



China has the world's largest population and its culture is ancient. The area over which this Chinese culture scatters is a vast one and includes most of East Asia. This culture is also extremely diverse with variation between cities, towns, and provinces. Flowers in China have always had an honored position in their culture. They play a major role in the regular day to day life. But it is art and poetry, where flowers have been present the most in Chinese culture. The Chinese people believe that flowers convey positive messages and thus they are recurrent in Chinese literature, food, beverages, and decorations.

### **Here are the top Chinese flowers that play a significant role in their culture:**

#### **Chrysanthemums:**

Chrysanthemums are associated with the famous Chinese poet Tao Yuanming. In one of his works, he referred Chrysanthemums as a symbol of humility. He wrote: "While picking up chrysanthemums beneath the eastern fence, my gaze was leisurely upon the southern mountains". This is one of the most famous Chinese poems that reflects a peaceful and nourishing life which is every common man's dream. In Chinese culture, chrysanthemum also symbolises longevity. As per the ancient Chinese Medicinal Theory, chrysanthemum tea is great medicine for curing internal heat and fever. People in China thus never forget to drink this special tea after having too spicy and cheesy or baked food items. In China, people use dry Chrysanthemum petals to make their pillows and they are good for eyesight.

#### **Chinese Rose:**

History says that the cultivation of roses started in China at least 5000 years ago and then spread elsewhere in the world. Chinese Rose is a member of the genus *Rosa* which is native to Southwest China in Guizhou, Hubei, and Sichuan Provinces. The China Rose Flower buds and flowers are brewed into tea and soup and also used as a kitchen herb. People eat the thin fleshy part surrounding the seeds in its raw form or after cooking. The rose seeds are a good source of vitamin E and they are grounded

To use in foods. Apart from food, in China, these flowers are in profuse use in the perfume and cosmetics industry.



### **Peony:**

It was the great Chinese poet Li Bai who compared his mistress Yang Yuhuan's beauty to peonies. He wrote: "Floating clouds remind me of her clothes, and peonies her face". In most of the New Year images, the fairy children always hold peonies. The peonies bear people's wishes for an auspicious and rich new year. Peonies bloom in the spring season and symbolise fame, prosperity, and wealth.

### **Lotus:**

Lotus, in ancient Chinese culture, was a symbol of a woman's noble and pure personality. The lotus flower (along with its leaves, seeds, and roots) has been in wide use in Chinese medicine and cuisine for more than 1000 years. A lotus is a precious flower in Buddhism which is one of the flourishing religion in China. A lotus grows in muddy water and thus it symbolises the purity of an enlightened mind that can arise even amidst the suffering of samsara (world). The lotus blooms on lunar 8<sup>th</sup> April in Beijing which is the birthday of Lord Buddha and again on lunar 8<sup>th</sup> January which is Lotus Day.

### **Plum Blossom:**

Mao Zedong – the most influential revolutionary of China who named the country "The People's Republic of China" once wrote a poem named "Ode to the Plum Blossom". He described these flowers as: "Fair and beautiful. Not craving for spring for her own, only to tell the coming of the season. When all flowers bloom in full, she smiles among them." The plum blossoms were metaphors to appreciate the great martyrs. In Chinese culture, plum blossom symbolises noble and modest qualities and along with bamboo, chrysanthemum, and orchid, they are known as the "Four Gentlemen".

*<https://www.fnp.com/blog/know-about-the-top-10-flowers-in-chinese-culture>*

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