



TAG-Confucius Newsletter | Issue 99 - August 2024

#### **TAG-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.Global and Confucius Institute in The China 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.

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

A. Threshold Level for Adults: starting 12/8/2024 Schedule: Monday – Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

B. Threshold Level for Kids: starting 10\8\2024 Schedule: Saturday – Tuesday from 3:00 – 4:30 pm

\*All Chinese language teachers are from China specialized in teaching Chinese language for

foreigners and accredited by the Confucius Institute in China.

#### **Mid-Autumn Festival**

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival Mooncake or Festival is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture. It is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar with a full moon at night, corresponding to mid-September to early October of the Gregorian calendar. On this day, the Chinese believe that the moon is at its brightest and fullest size, coinciding with harvest time in the middle of autumn

The Mid-Autumn Festival is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture; its popularity is on par with that of Chinese New Year. The history of the festival dates back over 3,000 years. Similar festivals are celebrated by other cultures in East and Southeast Asia.

During the festival, lanterns



of all size and shapes – which symbolize beacons that light people's path to prosperity and good fortune – are carried and displayed. Mooncakes, a rich pastry typically filled with sweet-bean, egg yolk, meat or lotus-seed paste, are traditionally eaten during this festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is based on the legend of Chang'e, the Moon goddess in Chinese mythology.

#### Etymology

The festival is so-named as it is held around the autumn equinox on the 15th of the 8th lunisolar month in the Chinese calendar. Its name varies among Sinitic languages, with the most common one being Mid-Autumn Festival or simply Mid-Autumn (中秋), as well as its traditional calendar date, either Fifteenth of the Eighth Month or Half of the Eighth Month, which is more regional.

Other regional names include Eighth Month Festival, used in places such as Northeast China, Southern Fujian, and Jianghuai; Festival of Unity (simplified Chinese: 团圆 节; traditional Chinese: 團 圓節; Wugniu: doe2-yoe2ciq7; Nanjingese: tuang2 üän2 zie5), used in Shanghai and Nanjing; and Mooncake Festival (simplified Chinese:

- 节; traditional Chinese: 月餅節; Jyutping: jyut6 beng2 zit3), used in Guangdong and Hong Kong.
- Chuseok (;" 襟弄;" lit." autumn" eve)," Korean" festival" celebrated" on" the" same" day" in" the" Chinese" and" other" • East" Asian" lunisolar" calendars."
- (势竓." Tsukimi" lit."moon" viewing')," Japanese" variant" of "the" Mid-Autumn" Festival" celebrated" on" the" same" day" in" the" Chinese" • lunisolar" calendar.
- Moon" Festival" or" Harvest" Moon" Festival," of" because" the" celebration's" association" with" the" full" moon" on" Meanings

worship" and" viewing.

- Tết" Trung" Thu" (殎海 襟" in" Chữ" Nôm)," in" Vietnam
- Also" known" as" The" Children's" Festival" in" Vietnam." Most" festival" songs" are" sung" by" the" children."
- Lantern" Festival," a" term" sometimes" used" . in" Singapore," Malaysia" and" Indonesia," which" is" not" to" be" confused" with" the" Lantern" Festival" in" China" that" occurs" on" the" 15th" day" of' the" first" month" of the . Chinese" calendar
- However," 'Mid-Autumn" Festival'" is" more" widely" used" by" locals" when" referring" to" the" festival" in" English" and" Traditions 'Zhōngqiū" Jié'" is" used" surrounding when" referring" to" the" are formed festival" in" Chinese.
- or" Bon" Om" Touk," The" Water" and" Moon" Festival" in" Cambodian." The" festival" is" held" each" year" in" November" for" 3" days.

this" night," as" well" as" The festival celebrates three the" traditions" of" Moon" fundamental concepts that are Moon" closely connected:

- Gathering: Such as family friends coming and together, or harvesting crops for the festival. It is said that the Moon is the brightest and roundest on this day which means family reunion. Consequently, this is the main reason why the festival is thought to be important.
- Giving thanks: To give thanks for the harvest, or for harmonious unions through activities like giving mooncakes to each other
- (asking for Praying or material conceptual satisfaction): Praying for things such as babies, a spouse, beauty, longevity, or a good future.

and myths the festival around these concepts, although traditions have changed over time due to changes in technology, science, economy, culture, and religion.

https://en.wikipedia.org/ wiki/Mid-Autumn Festival

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## The Eiffel Tower displays the Olympic rings during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. DJ CLARK/CHINA DAILY

One hundred years after the previous Summer Olympics in France, the world's premier sporting event returned to Paris with great fanfare this year and Chinese companies played a significant role in making them the success they were.

Today, innovative Chinese companies are at the forefront of key Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure. Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant, provided cloud-based broadcasting capabilities, pioneering AI-powered multicamera replay technology to elevate the viewing experience for fans. Many other Chinese companies also made their mark.

Taishan Sports, a leading supplier of sports equipment from Shandong province, provided the judo and wrestling mats, continuing its legacy of serving in seven Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Hebei Zhangkong Barbell Manufacturing supplied the specialized barbells used in the weightlifting events, building on its reputation as a trusted supplier for the Olympics. Chris Tung, president of strategic development at Alibaba Group, presents "Alibaba Wonder Avenue" on the Champs-Elysees in Paris during the Games. [Photo provided to China Daily]

Chris Tung, president of strategic development at Alibaba Group, said: "Our goal is to use technology to innovate the Games. With cloud-based broadcasting, the audience will be able to see more different versions of videos in real time, not only on TV, but also across the short-video platforms and mobile devices they love to watch."

Emphasizing the global significance of the Olympics, he added: "When it happens, it's magical - it captures the attention of people worldwide. Naturally, it forms a powerful platform for us to showcase the innovative applications we've been developing around the world."

Tung underscored the importance of providing an engaging experience for viewers, saying: "There are billions of people who love to watch the Olympics on TV or online. For those not present at the venues, it's important to deliver the Games in a more engaging and exciting way. That's where AI and cloud platforms can elevate the viewing experience by presenting the most exciting moments with enhanced clarity."

At the Paris Olympics, Alibaba introduced its latest multicamera replay service, allowing broadcasters to freeze the action at any moment and rotate around the still image. Tung believes this feature adds a new level of excitement and engagement for viewers. Alibaba's vision extends beyond enhancing the broadcast experience. The company showcased its technological prowess through events like Alibaba Wonder Avenue on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, where it demonstrated the future of shopping with AI-powered solutions.

Throughout the Games, Alibaba welcomed fans to explore how technology is revolutionizing the e-commerce experience. An intelligent shopping assistant, powered by Qwen, Alibaba Cloud's proprietary language model, offered a personalized service to each visitor, highlighting the power of AI through Qwen's multilingual and image-generation capabilities.

According to Tung, Alibaba's success in leveraging the Olympics is largely due to its youthful and talented workforce. In an interview with China Daily at Alibaba's new headquarters in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, before the Olympics, he said: "Our employees are generally young. With over 200,000 employees, the average age is under 35."

Tung said young people are attracted to Alibaba because it offers them the chance to "make a difference" in an environment that is open and where the possibilities are endless. "Many of our innovative initiatives come from young, newly hired employees who bring forward ideas that benefit both our business and the world," he said. "And they actually see these ideas come to life. We have many examples of this."

https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202409/03/ WS66d665f8a3108f29c1fc9c3f.html

#### **Education in China**

Education in China is primarily managed by the state-run public education system, which falls under the Ministry of Education. All citizens must attend school for a minimum of nine years, known as nine-year compulsory education, which is funded by the government.

Compulsory education includes six years of elementary school, typically starting at the age of six and finishing at the age of twelve, followed by three years of middle school and three years of high school.

In 2020, the Ministry of Education reported an increase of new entrants of 34.4 million students entering compulsory education, bringing the total number of students who attend compulsory education to 156 million.

In 1985, the government abolished tax-funded higher education, requiring university applicants to compete for scholarships based on their academic capabilities. In the early 1980s, the government allowed the establishment of the first private institution of higher learning, thus increasing the number of undergraduates and people who hold doctoral degrees from 1995 to 2005.

Chinese investment in research and development has grown by 20 percent per year since 1999, exceeding \$100 billion in 2011. As many as 1.5 million science and engineering students graduated from Chinese universities in 2006. By 2008, China had published 184,080 papers in recognized international journals – a seven-fold increase from 1996. In 2017, China surpassed the U.S. with the highest number of scientific publications. In 2021, there were 3,012 universities and colleges (see List of universities in China) in China, and 147 National Key Universities, which are considered to be part of an elite group Double First Class universities, accounted for approximately 4.6% of all higher education institutions in China.

China has also been a top destination for international students and as of 2013, China was the most popular country in Asia for international students and ranked third overall among countries.

China is now the leading destination globally for Anglophone African students and is host of the second largest international students' population in the world.

There were 17 Chinese universities on lists of the global top 200 behind only the United States and the United Kingdom in terms of the overall representation in the 2023 Aggregate Ranking of Top Universities, a composite ranking system combining three of the world's most influential university rankings.

Shanghai, Beijing, Jiangsu and Zhejiang outperformed all other education systems in the Programme for International Student Assessment. China's educational system has been noted for its emphasis on rote memorization and test preparation. However, PISA spokesman Andreas Schleicher says that China has moved away from learning by rote in recent years.[18] According to Schleicher, Russia performs well in rote-based assessments, but not in PISA, whereas China does well in both rote-based and broader assessments.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\_in\_ China



# TAGTechPRODUCTS





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