

## **Ways of Local Teacher Training in CIUON**

When interviewed by Xinhua News Agency in the European Confucius Institute (CI) conference held in June of 2013 in Italy, Ms Xu Lin, the director-general of Hanban, said that 20% of the teachers in the 3 most famous language and cultural promotion institutes were employed from the countries speaking the language, while 80% were local teachers, and this would be the mode of CI teacher employment. She also emphasized that local teacher training would be the guarantee of the sustainable development of CI.

The CI at the University of Nairobi (CIUON) was co-established by Tianjin Normal University and the University of Nairobi in 2005. Since its foundation, CIUON has been supported and guided by both Hanban and the two universities and has been among the "World Excellent CI" for 6 years. It has gained great achievements in its systemic management, Chinese major construction, teaching quality improvement, local teacher and model student training, social services, club organization and special cultural activities. Here we'd like to share the experience of local teacher training in our institute.

There are mainly three ways of training: preparation through model student training, more recruitment through primary and secondary school Chinese teacher training, professionalization through the international Chinese teaching major settlement.

### **1. Teacher preparation through model student training**

We pay much attention to the training of the talented students and send them to China to get further study or/for MA. The program of model student training has nurtured many excellent students who have been the local teachers of CI, such as Mr. Lukaka who is a teacher of CIUON for

about 3 years, and Susan Wachira, the core teacher of CIKU and others who have been teachers in CIKU.

## 2. Teacher recruitment through the training of the Chinese teachers from primary and secondary schools

The purpose of CIUON is to meet the needs of Chinese learning and cultural exchanges in the country. We tried our best to serve Kenyan primary and secondary schools and promote the teaching of Chinese language in these schools. We held several training classes and got approvals from 16 secondary and 4 primary schools to establish Chinese clubs. We also hold a long-term training program for the teachers from these schools and guide them to hold activities related to Chinese language and culture, and to teach Chinese courses.

## 3. Professionalization through the international Chinese teaching majors

Under the direction of the VCs from our two universities, BA of Chinese study was started in 2009 and in 2013 an agreement of "Co-training the International Chinese Teachers" was signed. Another course in MA in Chinese program was started. Through this program, the courses for Kenyan Teacher Certificate and for the MA program of international Chinese teaching are taught. And students are trained in both UON and Tianjin Normal University. They carry out their China teaching practice in and meanwhile finish the courses of Teacher Certificate in Kenya. This is the first MA program in our CI and teachers trained through this program will have the following advantages:

(i) The experience of studying in both countries helps them understand the culture and language better, which also enables them to have more skills in teaching and a better cross-cultural communication.

(ii) The CI plays an important role in their teaching practice. With the guidance of the teachers from CI, the students who are more accustomed to the local culture will be trained as qualified local Chinese teachers.

(iii) The combination of the courses for teacher Certificate and Chinese learning makes it possible for the students to become qualified teachers and meanwhile meet the professional needs in Kenya.

(iv) With the education background in UON which is the best university in East Africa, the students qualified for Chinese teaching will have more opportunities to be employed by schools at various levels, through which we realize the purpose of combining "learning and employment" together.

Since its establishment about 9 years ago, CIUON has experienced a lot of change in its teaching, from Chinese language training to Chinese teaching at the level of MA and BA programs. During the 9-year period of development, teachers and volunteers who have been sent from China have played a very important role. But nowadays, more and more Kenyans have begun to realize the importance of learning Chinese. When interviewed by Citizen TV on the 12th of April, one of the officers in Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development said that in the near future, Chinese would be one of the selective foreign languages in primary and secondary schools in Kenya. Therefore, it's necessary to train the local Chinese teachers, and this is also the way to guarantee the sustainability of the development of the CIs.