Casting a Vote of Confidence on ISA Chinese Language Education

The current issue devotes its whole page to deal on the three events affecting the Chinese Language education of ISA, all took place in the months of September and October. First is the results and a concise analysis of the HKSE Chinese proficiency test of the ISAs; second, a report on Second World Chinese Education Conference held in Xi’an where ISA Executive Director was one of the 600 delegates; and third, the conferment of the “Chinese Education Model School” upon ISA by the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs of the Chinese State Council. Take for instance the HSK test results, it is viewed as a gauge of the Chinese proficiency levels of the ISAs from Grade 2 to 4th Year. The results will likely influence the course of the ISA Chinese instructions in the future.

The HSK results are especially relevant if one is to take into account the adoption of the ‘expert model’ (chiao-ling ben-fu) as the education foundation, including the center of learning around which listening, speaking and writing revolve which is formed after years of “second-language” learning experience. It is of the phenomenon in the field, and which has gradually gained ground and consciously put into practice by the ISA administration. Notably, this belief runs counter to the prevailing view of ‘listening and speaking take the lead, followed by reading and writing’ in Chinese education.

Admittedly, the current state of Chinese Language learning in ISA, both in structure and content, is anything but complete and comprehensive. After years of hard work, one thing is certain if ISA’s Chinese Language education promises to reach the exit of the tunnel: a great deal of study and contemplation have to be made, and efforts have to be invested.

But after all these years, our unremitting effort had withstand the test of time. We can confidently say, success is nonetheless within our reach.

ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, and the principal of Tong’o Se Academy, Mrs. Margarita Gutierrez (3rd from right), posed with the director of the Cultural Bureau of the Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs, Mr. Lei Zhen-gang (2nd from right) at the ‘Chinese Education Model School’ conferment ceremony.

ISA Received Award with 3 Ed Institutions and 4 Notaries Philanthropic & Educators

The conferment on 46 schools of the title ‘Chinese Education Model Schools’ and the awarding of plaques to 1751 outstanding Chinese language educators, and 189 famous social personalities took place right after the opening ceremony of the 2nd World Chinese Education Conference in Xi’an last 30 October. Mr. Peter M. Chan represented ISA to receive the plaque. Among the 3 Filipino individuals cited, 3 were present to receive the awards, they were Dr. Lucio Tan, Mr. Benito Gaisano, Mr. Emilio Gan, and Mr. Shen Wen. Mrs. Margarita Gutierrez, and Mr. Wu Songbin, respectively represented Tong Se Academy, and Zamoobang Chung Hwa High School.

ISA Executive Director Represents Board at the 2nd World Chinese Education Conference

ISA Executive Director, Mr. Peter M. Chan, flew to Xi’an City, China on 29 October to attend the 2nd World Chinese Education Conference organized by the PROC’s Office of the Overseas Chinese Affairs. With him were the four notable Chinese-Filipinos who were to receive awards for their exemplary contributions to Chinese education outside China. They are Dr. Lucio Tan, Mr. Benito Gaisano, Mr. Emilio Gan, and Mr. Shen Wen.

The 4-day conference formally opened in the morning of 30 October at the Grand Theatre, Sofitel-People’s Hotel. Madam Li Hailing, the director of the Office, delivered an opening speech. Nearly 600 delegates from 37 countries attended the opening ceremony.

The participants adopted thematic reports, group discussions, the general assembly and other forms of communication on the status of the overseas Chinese education, characteristics, problems and how to seize opportunities to promote the great development of Chinese education, such as extensive and in-depth discussion.

The delegates covered the rounds on “Chinese philosophy and culture,” “Chinese learning,” “Chinese language,” “Chinese practice,” “Visiting the major historic spots in Xi’an City, Xi’an City, Xi’an City, Xi’an City,” and “Where to travel in China?”

Plane to Xi’an Stops-over in Xiamen

Lucio Tan Starts Filipino Awards

On 29 October, the plane boarded by the Filipino awardees to the 2nd World Chinese Education Conference had a stopover in Xiamen City. Famous Chinese-Filipino philanthropist Dr. Lucio Tan, one of the awardees, and his wife invited the Filipino group to a lunch at the exclusive business club on the 5th floor of the Xiamen Commercial Bank Centre owned by Dr. Tan. With the help of their personal assistants, the hotel hosts managed to make the guests feel at home by engaging them in a lively conversation on wide range of issues, particularly on Philippine Chinese language education. It was said that at the top of this 30-storey edifice, Dr. Tan once said: “From here, I keep watch of the financial and commercial hub of Xiamen, in full grasp of the business opportunities in the 21st Century.” Indeed, only magnifies the nize of Lucio Tan are privileged to utter such audacious words.