

**Welcome at Rhodes University Chinese Speech and Talent Show**  
**25 April 2014**

It is a great pleasure to welcome to Rhodes University, Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape

- (1) Zhang Yong: Director of Consular Section of the PRC Consulate General in Cape Town
- (2) Li Jun: Consular of PRC Consulate General in Cape Town
- (3) Evance Kalula: Director of CI at University of Cape Town.
- (4) Prof Xie (Shee) Zuoxu: Chinese director of CI at University of Stellenbosch.
- (5) Ms Iris Wu: Director of Confucius Classroom at the Cape Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology.

I wish to also recognise:

- Prof Vermaak, the Director of the Rhodes University Confucius Institute
- Prof Ma Yue the Chinese Director of CI at RU

We value our partnership with the Hanban and China – it is part of our aspiration

- As a cosmopolitan university which has 22% international students from 66 countries around the world, to also be an internationally focused university
- To contribute to developing mutual understanding between the people of South Africa and the People's Republic of China
- To increase and diversify our research and knowledge production to include issues related to China and China-Africa relationships
- To increase the range of academic offerings we provide to our student. Mandarin is a welcome addition, as will be a new Honours programme in Chinese Studies which has just been approved by the University

To understand Chinese aspirations and the trajectory of their economic and social development we need to learn about and appreciate Chinese history, culture and thinking.

The Rhodes University Confucius Institute provides this opportunity and we are very thrilled to be able to have with Hanban support the CI at Rhodes.

You our students are very fortunate to have the opportunity to take Mandarin as an option – both in terms of valuing languages in their own rights and as a way of giving you access to opportunities related to China. You are assured of an outstanding education in the capable hands of prof ma Yue, whom we are very fortunate to have as our Chinese CI Director.

I hope that on the basis of your learning and experience you will encourage other students to take Mandarin – even if you may find it 'tough' or, as you tend to say 'hectic'. Just remember everything of real value tends to be tough and hectic – you have to break out into some sweat to derive real benefits. I also hope some of you will consider the new Chinese Studies Honours programme.

The Hanban is providing very exciting and generous scholarships and fellowships for study in China – I hope some of you will follow in the footsteps of Daniel, which we will see on video later.