



**Signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Confucius
Institute Headquarters and the University of Mauritius**

Friday 04 March 2016 at 10h00

Council and Senate Room

Vice-Chancellor's Speech

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- Dr J C Autrey, CSK, Chancellor, University of Mauritius
 - His Excellency, Mr Li LI, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
 - Mr R P Ramlugu, Acting SCE, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
 - Mrs N D Goorah, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
 - University Colleagues
 - Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning

I am pleased to welcome you all to the signature ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Confucius Institute and the University of Mauritius.

In early February 2015, the University was informed that it was agreed between the Government of the Republic of China and the Government of Mauritius that Mauritius would host a Confucius Institute and that the Confucius Institute would be established at the University of Mauritius.

A team was set at the University of Mauritius to work on the proposal for the setting up of a Confucius Institute at the University of Mauritius. At its 405th (Special) Meeting held in April 2015, the UoM Council approved the setting up of the Confucius Institute at the UoM. The agreement was finalized after consultation with Ministry of Education and the Confucius Institute Headquarters, through the Chinese Embassy.

The Confucius Institute's mission in Mauritius is to enhance intercultural understanding between the two countries. The UoM Confucius Institute shall accomplish this mission through a range of educational and outreach activities. The Institute shall provide the following activities: to teach Chinese language and to provide Chinese language teaching resources, to train instructors in Chinese language, to hold the HSK examinations (Chinese Proficiency test) and tests for the Certification of the Chinese Language Teachers, to provide information and consultative services concerning China's education, culture and so forth and to conduct language and cultural exchange activities.

This initiative is a mean to further consolidate the relations between China and Mauritius in the field of education especially since this endeavour is in line with the University strategic direction of Internationalisation, Community Outreach and Student Experience. A plan for project operation has been worked out and includes the following: to provide various multilevel Chinese

courses for university students, to propose Chinese language classes to other local institutions, to offer quality lifelong for local Chinese language teachers, to hold Chinese-teaching seminars, to hold lectures and international forums of Chinese language and culture, to set international standards for evaluation of Chinese language, to organise various cultural activities, to offer short term training for local communities in deprived areas, to celebrate Chinese Language Day, to organize intercultural exchange programmes and to apply to Hanban for movable Chinese culture Experience vehicles to spread Chinese Culture.

Over recent years, the Confucius Institutes' development has been sharp and they have provided scope for people all over the world to learn about Chinese language and culture. In addition they have become a platform for cultural exchanges between China and the world as well as a bridge reinforcing friendship and cooperation between China and the rest of the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the MoU that will be signed today will benefit our Institutions and we also look forward to strengthening our collaboration with similar initiatives.

Thank you for your attention.

Prof R Mohee, C.S.K

Vice-Chancellor