

Dear Members of SCEN,

I do hope you have enjoyed a good, recuperative break and that you are ready for the demands of the next months. There are plenty of events in which to participate, as you will see below.

May I ask teachers who are the mentors of SCEN Ambassadors to be in touch to tell me about the activities of their Ambassadors, so that I can spread the good news and encourage others?

For Lovers of Chinese Literature: three great opportunities on 21, 22 and 28 April 2015

Liu Zhenyun, Ning Xiaoling and Zhou Jianing

Tuesday, 21 April 2015, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh Campus at Riccarton, Post-Graduate Centre 102 Confucius Institute, 3:15 - 5:15 pm

For this special event, the Scottish Confucius Institute for Business and Communication is pleased to welcome Mr. Liu Zhenyun, whose novel *I Did Not Kill My Husband* (translated by Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Li-chun Lin) gives an intimate and humorous portrait of the local politics of China through an interesting circular narrative.

He will be joined by Mr. Ning Xiaoling, the deputy Editor-in-Chief of People's magazine Pathlight and an excellent young writer Ms. Zhou Jianing, who will discuss the newly rising genres of non-fiction and urban literature in China. For registration:

<http://www.hw.ac.uk/events/a-look-newly-rising-genres-non-fiction-urban-21936.htm>

Wednesday 22 April 2015, Burns Room of The Mitchell Library, University of Glasgow, 7.30 - 9.00 pm

The Confucius Institute at the University of Glasgow is sponsoring the same three famous Chinese Writers as part of the **AYE WRITE! FESTIVAL**.

There will be a book signing after. To book tickets, please go to:

www.ayewrite.com, or call 01413538000

Mr. Liu Zhenyun, a prestigious novelist in China, will be bringing his newly published novel "I DID NOT KILL MY HUSBAND" to AyeWrite. Liu gives an *intimate portrait of the local politics that matter so greatly in China through hilarious details on the petty concerns of officials groveling for promotions.*

With him there will be Mr. Ning Xiaoling, the deputy Editor-in-Chief of People's Literature magazine and an excellent young writer Ms. Zhou Jianing, who will share their opinions on the newly rising non-fiction writing and urban literature in China respectively during the event.

Mr. Liu Zhenyun will give a talk with *Humour* as his topic;

Mr. Ning Xiaoling's topic is *Non-fiction Writing Facing Reality*

Ms. Zhou Jianing's topic is *Urban Literature in China*

Zhang Longxi: Distinguished Lecture

Tuesday 28 April 2015, First Floor Project Room 1.06, 50 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9JY, 5.30 pm

The third distinguished scholar in 2015 Lecture Series organised by the Confucius Institute for Scotland at the University of Edinburgh on China will be Professor Zhang Longxi, currently Chair Professor of Comparative Literature and Translation at the City University of Hong Kong.

Prof Zhang Longxi

ZHANG Longxi is a leading scholar in East-West cross-cultural studies. He holds an MA from Peking University and a Ph.D. from Harvard. He has taught at Harvard and the University of California, Riverside, and is an elected foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, a foreign member of Academia Europaea, a member of the Executive Council of the International Comparative Literature Association, and an Advisory Editor of *New Literary History*.

His talk is entitled *Re-conceptualizing China in our Time: From a Chinese Perspective*

<http://www.confuciusinstitute.ac.uk/announcements/zhang-longxi/>

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 23 April 2015

The Royal Society for Asian Affairs will be holding a very important meeting at the University of Edinburgh, where Mr Humza Yousaf MSP will talk about Scotland's links with Asia. Just email me if you would like to hear more.

Midlothian Confucius Hub Launch at Lasswade High School

We are all cheering at the opening of the Midlothian Confucius Hub at Lasswade High School on Tuesday 28 April 2015. Good luck to Headteacher Alan Williamson, Depute Colin Mitchell, and Friend of Lasswade Rosemary Mitchell. Where better to have a Confucius Hub? Lasswade High School has been a leader in educational links with China for a decade.

Meeting of the SCEN Network, Wednesday 13 May 2015: PLEASE REMEMBER TO BOOK NOW!

The SCEN Network Meeting on **Wednesday 13 May 2015** will take place at South Hall, The Pollock Halls, 18 Holyrood Park Road, University of Edinburgh

- 1.30 pm Arrival: tea, coffee and fruit juice
- 2.00 pm Network Meeting: ending promptly at 4.00 pm

Bookings are flowing in: please reserve your places now, by emailing

judithmcclure12a@aol.com

The Scottish Churches China Group and the Amity Foundation

Those of you who attended the Third SCEN China Youth Summit at Gleneagles will remember SCCG's support of the activities of the inspiring Amity Foundation in China.

Amity's School Rebuilding Programme gives much assistance to schools in poor rural areas.

<http://www.amityfoundation.org/eng/school-building-program-remote-areas>;

SCEN Field Worker Simon Macaulay sits on the SCCG's Management Committee.

Lecture by Dr Jim Scott at Moray House School of Education, 27 May 2015

Dr Jim Scott of the University of Dundee, SCSSA at Moray House and the SCEN Board, will be giving a lecture on this very important research on the Governance of Modern Languages. His data is arresting and will prompt us all to think of the state of Modern Languages, including Mandarin, in Scottish Schools.

SCEN Learning of Chinese Project in East Lothian: Celebration on 9 June 2015

The indefatigable Simon Macaulay, who chaired the National Working Group on Languages which recommended the 1 + 2 Languages Plan, is very appropriately the SCEN lead in the Learning of Chinese project, supported by wonderful volunteers from the outstanding Edinburgh University Students' Association and now Heriot-Watt University, CISS and Bilingualism Matters, working with David Scott from East Lothian Council (I am hoping to work out how to clone him), and some innovative Headteachers and Teachers. There will be a celebration of Chinese Learning in East Lothian Schools at the Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh on 9 June 2015. More details soon!

Did you read this advice on languages from the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, reported in Holyrood for 9 April 2015?

Holyrood 9 April

Studying a foreign language should be compulsory from the year children start school in order for Scottish firms to compete in the international export market, a business group has urged.

Mandarin, Spanish, Portuguese, Hindi, Arabic and Russian have been pinpointed by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC) as "international languages of business" that must be made mandatory in the education curriculum from primary 1 onwards.

It has called on government to implement the measure by 2020 to ensure Scottish businesses have sufficient cultural and language skills to tap into a number of growing economies.

"If we want to be more international, then we need to think more international, beginning in our schools, where international business languages must be taught from primary school right through to the end of secondary schooling and beyond," said SCC director and chief executive, Liz Cameron OBE.

"Over the past two decades, the number of students studying modern languages at Higher or equivalent has fallen by over 20 per cent. This is a damaging trend which needs to be reversed.

“We should look more closely at where economic growth will be attained and that should determine the languages delivered by the supply side, ensuring the curriculum reflects needs of business more.”

I have already decided the title of my next SCEN Update in May 2015: *To boldly go*. Despite the split infinitive, I have always wanted to emulate Captain James T. Kirk. So the SCEN Board will be considering ambitious plans when it meets on 13 May: Mandarin Matrix, a Conference with Principals of Hong Kong Schools, joint *Learning Together* projects with schools in China, SCEN's move West to Dunoon and beyond, and more besides. Just wait!

Dr Judith McClure CBE
Convener of the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN)