

## **The First “Queensland High School Principals’ Chinese Culture Experience” Program Successfully Organised by the Tourism Confucius Institute at Griffith University**

The Tourism Confucius Institute (TCI) at Griffith University organized a “Chinese Culture Experience” program for nine Australian high school principals and educators to visit Beijing, Xuzhou and Shanghai from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016. Members of the delegation were primarily from schools that have cooperative relationships with the TCI, such as schools that have TCI-sponsored Confucius Classrooms.

During the visit to Beijing, the delegation visited magnificent cultural icons including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and other palaces of interest. They stopped by the Confucius Institute Headquarters (Hanban) and learned about various projects, scholarships for international students and the basic development situation of the Confucius Institute and Confucius courses. While at Hanban the delegation expressed its appreciation for the opportunity to visit China and learn more about local Chinese schools, and hope to establish long-term relationships with Chinese schools.

Between Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> the delegation visited schools affiliated with the Chinese University of Mining and Technology (CUMT), the library of CUMT, the museum of CUMT, the First Secondary School of Xuzhou and Xuzhou Technician College. The delegation observed and studied the Chinese education system through attending class, communicating with students and principals and taking part in the class-break exercises.

During the visit to the Xuzhou Technician College the delegation witnessed the unveiling ceremony of the second “Tourism Confucius Institute Chinese Culture Centre” located at the Xuzhou Technician College. Principal John Thornberry from the Pimpama State Secondary College gave a speech, Deputy Principal Christopher Rigden from the Cairns School of Distance Education and the secretary of the Party Committee Liu Tao from Xuzhou Technician College inaugurated the cultural centre, and Business Manager Lisa Bale from the North Coast TAFE discussed future cooperation between the two colleges.

The ten day trip helped all the visitors learn more about the Chinese history and culture. It far exceeded their expectations, and also changed their ways of thinking about China. The members of the delegation hope to engage in further cooperation with the Chinese schools and would like to share their experiences with their education colleagues in Australia.



Visiting the Confucius Institute Headquarters



Students of Primary School Affiliated to China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT)



Chinese music class at the secondary school affiliated to CUMT



Experiencing Chinese food culture at Xuzhou Technician College



Learning Chinese rubbing at the Tourism Confucius Institute Chinese Culture Centre



Visiting the Tourism Confucius Institute Chinese Culture Centre