

The Tourism Confucius Institute's Fifth Chinese Gourmet Festival

The Fifth TCI Chinese Gourmet Festival was successfully held on the Gold Coast from 5-9 August 2019. It was jointly sponsored by the Tourism Confucius Institute of Griffith University, the Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College and the Gold Coast Chinese Club. The event included Sino-Australian culinary vocational education cooperation talks, the Chinese Gourmet Festival Banquet, culinary exchanges in local schools and visits to local Shaanxi cuisine enterprises.

On August 6 education cooperation talks in the field of culinary specialties were held between the Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College and the Queensland Academy of Technology. A clear intention of cooperation was reached between the two parties.



On August 7 the Fifth TCI Chinese Gourmet Festival banquet was held at Coolibah Downs on the Gold Coast. Nearly 200 people from the Gold Coast, Brisbane and Logan attended the event. TCI Director Prof Leong Liew delivered the welcome speech and TCI Volunteer Ms Li Fangfang was the MC for the evening.



Professor Sarah Todd, Vice President (Global) Griffith University delivered a speech during which she affirmed the Confucius Institute's contribution to local schools and communities. Professor Todd remarked, "I'm very lucky to have the Confucius Institute as part of my portfolio at the university. It's one of our strongest community engagement components of the university... it's about sharing language and culture and in the case of this evening, it's about sharing good Chinese food."



Mr. John-Paul Langbroek, Shadow Minister for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Candidature, Sport and Racing, and Multicultural Affairs for the LNP, pointed out in his speech, "I was also privileged to travel to China, to a number of

different provinces to establish and continue many working relationships that we have, and especially in the area of the Confucius institute... I'm certainly happy to be an advocate for the Confucius institute as much as anything."

Four masters from the Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College cooked exquisite Shaanxi specialties for the banquet. In addition to classic Shaanxi delicacies such as Chinese Hamburger with Pork Stuffing and Lamb Kebabs, they also made delicious desserts, including Pumpkin Pie with Sweetened Bean Paste, Steamed Walnut Balls and Fruit Soup with Fermented Glutinous Rice. At the banquet, the masters also demonstrated pulling noodles and knife skills. The exquisite skills amazed everyone.



While the guests were enjoying Shaanxi cuisine, the TCI folk band performed folk songs including "Freedom", "Blue and White Porcelain", "Jin Li Chao", "Spring River Flowers and Moon Night, and "Purple Passion". Miss Nina Persin, first prize winner of the 2018 TCI Chinese Song Contest, performed the Chinese song "The Moon Represents My Heart" for the guests.



A graduation ceremony for police officers on the Gold Coast studying Mandarin with the TCI was also held at the banquet. Professor Sarah Todd awarded the students with graduation certificates.



Senior Police Officer Jason Davie, a Brisbane Police Chinese class student, became an "Internet Celebrity" after the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported his use of Mandarin to communicate with Chinese people while on duty. He humorously spoke in Mandarin and talked about his experiences in learning Chinese with the TCI and while on the beat.

Southern Vintners & Negotiants Pty Ltd. provided high-quality red wine for guests to enjoy at the Gourmet festival. Xi'an Famous Food, Dumpling Mama and the Gold Coast Organic Meat Company held lucky draws at the banquet.



Before the end of the banquet, all the chefs who worked hard in the back kitchen came to the banquet hall to meet the guests and were met with warm applause for their excellent cooking skills. Mr. Wu Hongjin, director of the Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College, delivered a thank-you speech to the guests on behalf of the festival organizers. The Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College presented precious cultural gifts to the TCI. Professor Zhao Congcang, PhD supervisor and famous calligrapher from the Northwest University's Cultural Heritage Institute, dedicated the inscription "中华美食，香飘五洲 (Chinese Cuisine, Fragrant Gone to Five Continents)" to the TCI and in return the TCI issued certificates of gratitude to the masters. The whole banquet was immersed in a joyous and festive atmosphere, and all the guests were intoxicated with the triple enjoyment of taste, sight and hearing.



On August 8 Prof Leong Liew took the masters from the Shaanxi Tourism Culinary Vocational College to Marsden Public High School in Logan City to engage in an exchange of culinary skills with teachers and students. The masters demonstrated the process of making noodles and showed the students how to make traditional Chinese dumplings. More than 50 students majoring in cooking participated. During the activity, the students were in high spirits and showed great interest in Chinese cuisine.



Director of the Marsden Public High School Mr. Andrew Peach and other school leaders attended the event. After the culinary exchange the two schools also held talks on the exchange of culinary students.

On August 9 the chef team and TCI Chinese Director Prof Chaojie Liu visited the Shaanxi cuisine restaurant "Xi'an Famous Food", where they sampled various dishes and held technical exchanges with the resident chefs. During the visit, cooperation issues such as the joint establishment of the "Shaanxi Cuisine Australia Promotion Centre" were discussed.



As the world's only Confucius Institute focusing on tourism, our institute has held a Chinese Gourmet Festival for five consecutive years, inviting culinary masters from different regions in China. This year's Chinese Gourmet Festival not only introduced Shaanxi food to the Australian people, but also promoted Sino-Australian cooking vocational education cooperation and Sino-Australian catering cultural exchange.