

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



CHINESE BRIDGE COMPETITION, CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

ADDRESS BY:

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VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**



The Director of Political Department of the Chinese Embassy in Ghana, Madam

Lou Dan Zhu

Representatives of all Chinese Chambers of Commerce

Representatives and Heads of Chinese Enterprises in Ghana

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Heads of CI teaching sites

Media houses present, Students, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, zhao shang hao.

It is a pleasure to witness the preliminary edition of the 22nd Chinese Bridge competition in Ghana, here at the Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana this morning. I am informed that this is the ninth edition to be organised by the Confucius Institute. The Chinese Bridge Competition is the flagship activity of the Confucius Institute which involves students studying Chinese here at the University of Ghana and from other universities in Ghana as well. Over the years the competition has functioned as a bridge to several students for the realization of their Chinese dream. Students, who have participated in the past, have won top prizes in the final global competition in China. Last year, students at the University of Ghana won the Special Prize and the first prize for the preliminary competition.

I am particularly pleased that after holding the Chinese Bridge Competition online for three consecutive years, due to the social distancing rules under Covid-19 protocols, the Confucius Institute has been able to organize this year's Chinese Bridge Competition in-person.

I must commend the Confucius Institute for the relentless efforts it made to ensure that the Chinese Bridge competition took place even during the difficult times of the pandemic. I believe today's contest will be much more exciting and enjoyable since it is in-person.

As we are all aware, on 5th May, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of global concern. This announcement was made on the precedence of significant reducing risks to human health from COVID-19 infections, which is due to the achievement of greater immunity and improved clinical management. Following this announcement by the WHO, the Ghanaian President, Nana Akufo Ado has also officially announced that all Covid-19 protocols and restrictions in Ghana have been lifted.

It is my expectation that with this new development, the University of Ghana's year abroad programme for students of the Chinese Section will resume fully, and many more students can have the opportunity to visit China not only to improve their proficiency in the Chinese language, but also to learn more about the culture and society, since these are essential for building the bridge between Ghanaians

and Chinese towards peaceful collaborations and relationship building in the world of work and business as Chinese Enterprises continue to increase in Ghana. The study of Chinese is growing in the country. Here at the University of Ghana, efforts have been made to support the study of Chinese. Student enrolment is over a thousand students, for BA Chinese, and efforts are being made by other public universities in the country and we see that more Confucius Institutes are being established.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to express the university's gratitude to the Chinese Embassy for its continuous support to the Confucius Institute, and to the University, especially by continuing to sponsor the Chinese Bridge and other activities of the Institute and also for continuing to implement the Chinese Ambassador's awards for brilliant students of Chinese at the University of Ghana.

I commend all the dignitaries who have made time to serve as judges for this contest.

I would also like to appreciate all the participating universities who have prepared their students to participate in this important Contest.

I salute the hard-working Directors and staff of the Confucius Institute at the University of Ghana for organizing and hosting the preliminary Chinese Bridge for nine consecutive years.

Last but not the least, I congratulate all contestants who have made it to this final stage. I wish you all the best.

Xie xie!

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor, UG

June 8, 2023