



Asia Programme, final report for projects 2015-2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR PUBLICATION

Name of the project

JOINT COURSES ON COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES OF CHINESE AND FINNISH EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONALS ENGAGED IN SINO-FINNISH EDUCATION COOPERATION

Coordinating Institution

UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE

Objectives of the project (as indicated in the project proposal)

The main purpose of the project is to enhance the knowledge of Finnish education system in China and vice versa, and develop the education cooperation between these two countries.

Achieved results and outcomes

We achieved the following results:

1. Successful organized the first and second workshops for Sino-Finnish educational cooperation professionals
2. Coordinated, produced and launched the 'This is Finnish Education' Video Series
3. Co-organized the first Chinese-English Interpretation and Translation Training Program
4. Created a networking platform for more and further cooperative activities between our Finnish and Chinese partners
5. Proposed a set of principles for quality assurance of Sino-Finnish educational cooperation. We named it 'This is Finnish Education' Quality Assurance Guideline.
6. Actively participated in all kinds of Sino-Finnish education cooperative activities and promoted the Sino-Finnish communication and cooperation.

Through all these successful implementation of the Project, we achieved the following outcomes (results based on the impact assessment of workshops):

1. Enhanced the understanding of stakeholders' understanding of Chinese and Finnish education system respectively
2. Enhanced the understanding of stakeholders' understanding of approaches of educational collaboration between Finland and China, including the opportunities and challenges in Chinese-Finnish education, and the possible challenges in Finnish-Chinese educational collaboration, and thought about some possible solutions

3. Most participants were willing to participate in Finnish-Chinese educational collaboration in the future, and motivated their institute/institutions would like to participate in the Finnish-Chinese educational collaboration.
4. Facilitated dialogue between Fin and Chinese stakeholders on education, and provided opportunities for me to communicate with and learn from other Finnish-Chinese educational collaboration professionals.
5. Enhanced competency to participate in Finnish-Chinese educational cooperation

Activities carried out during the project

First, the goal of the Project is realized by designing and organizing a 10 ECTS Capacity development programme for Sino-Finnish education cooperation professionals. The programme is divided into two courses/workshops, one held in Beijing in China, in August 2016, and the other one in Tampere, in Finland in August 2017.

- ❖ The first workshop in Beijing last for five days, including a pre-workshop essay based on literature and articles regarding Chinese and Finnish education systems as well as the cooperation between China and Finland, lectures, workshop and post-workshop group assignment. The first workshop has been launched under the Sino-Finnish Learning Garden framework, and is part of the activities in Sino-Finnish Learning Innovation Institute. The project is coordinated by China Education, Research and Exchange Centre (CEREC) in the University of Tampere. The main collaboration partners include Tampere University of Applied Sciences and the City of Tampere in Finland, and Beijing Normal University (BNU), the National Institute of Education Science (NIES), National Academy of Education Administration (NAEA), Peking University and Beijing University of Technology in China. Other partners include The Embassy of Finland in Beijing (Mika Tirronen) and CIMO office in Shanghai (Lukia Yang) among others.

Thirty-three participants in total from 19 different institutions or organizations including administrators and professionals on higher education, vocational education and primary education both from Finland and China participated the workshop. Likewise the teachers who either held lectures or participated in panel discussions comprised 15 Chinese and Finnish professionals from all levels of education, enhancing the comparative perspective on Sino-Finnish education cooperation.

- ❖ The second course in Tampere last for three days, including a pre-workshop essay based on literature and articles, lectures, workshop, school visits, and also post-workshop assignment. The workshop is coordinated by the Sino-Finnish Education Research Center (SFERC, transformed from CEREC) and its Finnish coordinating university, University of Tampere. The event was co-organized by City of Tampere, Tampere University of Applied Sciences (Tamk), and Tampere Adult Education Center (TAKK).

Around 50 participants, mainly Sino-Finnish educational cooperation professionals in Finland took part into the three days' workshop in Tampere. The three-day Workshop provided

participants some insights of Finnish education system at different level from basic education to higher education. Participants attended the panel discussion and individual discussion on recent educational reforms in Finland and China from a comparative and cooperative perspective. On the Second day the focused moved to the dual education system in Finland. By visiting ProAcademy and Demola, two innovative units, participants learnt about the close cooperation between university and industry in Finland. On the last day, in the morning participants visited the teacher education school in Tampere, participated in classes together with Finnish students and teachers, and thus learnt about teacher education and basic education in Finland. In the afternoon, they visited the Tampere Adult School and learnt about vocational education in Finland. During the three days, school visits combined with panel discussion and lectures, the Workshop tried to provide participants in-depth learning experiences, and thus enhancing the quality of Finnish-Chinese educational cooperation.

Second, in the implementation of the Project, we noticed the lack of systematic and correct information to promote Finnish education in China's media, and we initiated the 'This is Finnish Education' Video Series. "This is Finnish Education" Video Series aims to interpret Finnish education thematically from the perspective of Finnish-Chinese cooperation, and discuss the heated educational topics in both Finland and China. After several months' preparation, video filming and edition, the preface episode of "This is Finnish Education" Video Series was released to the public in China on 9th and 10th October 2017 in the events of Finnish Minister of Education and Culture's visit to Beijing. The Video Series is produced based on abundant filming of classrooms and school life in Finnish education institutions as well as interviews of principals, teachers, students and experts from both China and Finland during the second workshop for Sino-Finnish education cooperation professionals.

Third, co-organized with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association in Tampere (CSSA-Tampere), we also provided practical training opportunities for the Chinese-English Intercultural Interpretation Programme. 11 interpretation trainees practiced their interpretation skills and learnt about Finnish education system. Quality interpretation is of importance for the quality of Sino-Finnish education cooperation. By doing this, we aimed to cultivate future interpretation talents for Sino-Finnish education cooperation, and thus assuring the quality of education.

Fourth, realizing students is also an important group of stakeholders in Sino-Finnish education cooperation, we together with CSSA-Tampere, recruit student volunteers to participate in the Workshop organisation. By doing so, we hopes to engage students in the Sino-Finnish education cooperation as well.

Fifth, based on the experiences generated from the aforementioned activities, as well as our experiences and research outcomes in the past decades, we proposed a set of quality assurance principles for Sino-Finnish education cooperative activities, with an ultimate goal to establish a

common-accepted quality assurance system for the education cooperation between China and Finland.

Sixth, to achieve the goal of the Project and implemented the above activities, we organized the Project consortium regularly to discuss and share ideas among partner institutions from both Finland and China.

Future developments, resulting from the project

For the future development, based on what we have achieved from the implementation of the Project, first, 'This is Finnish Education' Quality Assurance System for Sino-Finnish educational cooperation will be launched and implemented in the Sino-Finnish educational programs.

Second, a Finnish-Chinese forum with the theme on quality assurance will be hosted by one of our Chinese institution partner, National Institute of Education Sciences (NIES), and co-organized by other project partners as well.

Third, a Finnish-Chinese workshop with the theme on 'Finnish education in the eyes of Chinese scholars' will be held in Tampere, to further disseminate the project outcomes as well as facilitating the communication among different stakeholders from both Finland and China.

Fourth, the SFERC will continue producing 'This Finnish Education' Video Series in the future, based on the collected resources from the Project.