

# Case Analysis on International Education Cooperation Taking International Education of College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University as an Example

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## ABSTRACT

College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University meets the strategic demand of the construction of "China-ASEAN Community of Shared Future", and is an important mechanism of talent training for its construction. It not only conforms to the international standard, but also conforms to the development plan of Sichuan Province, and provides more support for Chengdu to build the western foreign communication center and the world cultural city. This paper analyzes the characteristics of international cooperative education of College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University, and explores the international education development ideas from the perspective of building a characteristic curriculum system, continuing to optimize the teaching team, improving students' ability of cross-cultural adaptation, and improving the training evaluation mechanism.

**Keywords:** College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University, international education, school-running characteristics, development ideas

## I. INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative, the advancement of China-ASEAN regional economic integration and the "going-out" strategy allow rapid development and broad prospects of cross-border education between the two. College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University was established on November 19, 2017 [2] under the leadership of Chengdu Municipal Party Committee and Government. Its orientation of "high-end, international and characteristic" guides the implementation of various work. The college consists of three schools and one department, namely, the School of Fine Arts and Design, the School of Film and Television Animation, the School of Music and Dance and the International Department, covering undergraduate and graduate subjects such as visual communication, environmental art, product design, painting, animation, film and television art, music performance and dance. Currently, the college boasts 294 full-time international students from 25 countries, including 218 students from ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia and the Philippines. The scale of international students

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ranks first among similar art colleges and universities in China.

## II. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FEATURES

Closely relying on the excellent platform provided by the Belt and Road Initiative, the support from the national central city, the discipline resources of comprehensive universities and the combined advantages of national art masters, the college strives to promote the coordinated development of art education, art research and creation, and art exchange.

### A. Training objectives

The three-dimensional training mode of "language ability + professional level + cultural heritage + comprehensive quality" was adopted. The concept of "I have what you lack and need" has been upheld, and "counterpart needs" has been emphasized, and talent training programs featuring Chinese and ASEAN characteristics and international perspective have been created according to the talent needs of ASEAN countries. After graduation, students can either go back to home countries to work and become international and versatile talents welcomed by local people, or stay in China to work or start their own businesses, ensuring the accuracy and diversity of their future choices. In addition, the ability of those students to spread and promote China's excellent culture has also been

cultivated, enabling them to understand and identify with China's history, culture and values, thus becoming an important bridge for exchanges and cooperation between China and ASEAN countries.

#### *B. Teaching implementation*

The college has successfully passed the evaluation of professional masters in five directions by the Ministry of Education, and established Steering Committee for International Student Teaching, International Students Academic Degree Assessment Committee, International Student Papers Evaluation Committee and International Students Professional Assessment Committee. An international student training program that embodies the "internationalization of courses, high-end teachers and characteristic teaching" has been initially built, and a representative and leading platform for artistic talent training and cultural and artistic exchange has been fully established. The small-class, personalized and mentoring art talent training model is fully implemented, supplemented by the training of students' professional skills and innovation through the mentoring of famous teachers, the guidance of tutors, master studios, and reward system, making it the only university in China to set up a large-scale class for ASEAN international students. It has signed an educational cooperation agreement with the School of International Education of Nanjing University of the Arts, developed a series of Chinese courses for art majors, and cooperated in compiling Chinese textbooks for art majors. The doctoral joint training agreement with Chiang Mai University of Thailand was signed, and many overseas sister cooperative colleges were contacted to build an exchange platform for teachers and students of the college. At present, on the basis of strengthening the existing disciplines, the college is actively carrying out the application of 3 academic master's degree program and 1 doctoral degree program.

#### *C. Connotation construction*

Based on the actual situation and development of the disciplines and professions, the college has intensified efforts to introduce talents with high professional titles and academic qualifications, including 2 professors and 18 doctors, and gradually optimized the teaching staff structure. Moreover, it has strengthened the leadership of high-end talents in the industry, and specially hired 91 college consultants, academic board members and visiting professors, which has aroused great response in the field of art education in China. The college has employed Mr. Fan Yang, a famous painter, Mr. Huang Hong, a famous performing artist, and Ms. Shen Peiyi, a famous dancer, as the special presidents of the three branches respectively, injecting strong impetus into the professional

development of each branch. Nearly 30 high-end experts from Russia, Germany, Austria, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong were hired. Foreign experts led by Professor Patrick Lechner, an Austrian expert who won the 2019 Chengdu Construction City Reform and Innovation Award that fully embodies the new development concept, serve the international construction of the college with their own advantages, and play a key role in improving the quality of talent cultivation and enhancing the international influence of the college. They have also become important contributors for the practice of Chengdu's integration into the Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of western cultural and creative center and world famous cultural city.

#### *D. Influence enhancement*

The college has held more than 10 large-scale activities for teachers, students and the general public in and out of Sichuan province, with a total number of 45,000 participants, which have been reported and covered by more than 40 mainstream media such as People.cn, china.org.cn, Newssc.org, Scol.com, Tencent and iQIYI. The first Chinese National Vocal Music Tenor Art Forum held in March 2018 covered 18 open art classes, which allowed 11,000 students, teachers and citizens the access to art [3]. In September 2018, "Chinese Theatre in Campus — College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts" enabled nearly 3,000 students, teachers and citizens to appreciate the performances of famous Chinese opera artists and the winners of the Plum Performance Award, the highest award for Chinese drama. Peng Qinghua, secretary of Sichuan Provincial Party Committee, met with main actors [4]. Also present at the meeting were Fan Ruiping, Member of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial Party Committee and Secretary of Chengdu Municipal Party Committee, Gan Lin, Member of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial Party Committee and Minister of Publicity, Luo Qiang, deputy Secretary of Chengdu Municipal Party Committee and Mayor. In December 2019, the "China-Asean Youth Exchange Week" series of activities hosted more than 120 ASEAN students from 10 universities across China. Chen Dehai, Secretary-General of the China-ASEAN Center, announced that the host of the activities would be permanent in Chengdu [5]. In addition, the large-scale activities held by the college, including Shen Peiyi Dance Art Senior Research Class, Fan Yang Chinese painting creation high research class, The first Auto + Creative International Design Week, Chengdu Sino-French International Art Festival, Hundreds of artists in The west Sichuan Plateau sketching activities, The second China-ASEAN Youth Summer Camp, The third Annual Meeting of Chinese Animation Science, The first China-ASEAN Academic Summit on Culture and Art Studies, have been widely praised by colleges, art

groups and the society all over the country, becoming a beautiful and unique feature.

### **III. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT IDEAS**

#### *A. Building a characteristic curriculum system*

Specific and international courses should be customized for the ASEAN international students, and the training scheme should be continuously improved, the curriculum construction should be optimized, and the proportion of theoretical courses and practice should be rationally arranged according to the international cultivation mode of artistic talents. At the same time, the proportion of Chinese courses and professional courses should be optimized, and Chinese tutorial courses related to majors should be added to help international students find internship in China, so as to improve their practical ability and make preparation for better adapting to work demands in the future. The core task is to develop a teaching system that meets the educational needs of China and the talent needs of ASEAN countries, with a more international vision and competitiveness, and make unremitting efforts to put it into practice and transform it continuously.

#### *B. Continuing to optimize the teaching team*

As for the current international education, teachers in colleges and universities have good professional quality, but lack of international vision and limited foreign language proficiency. As a result, English teaching is blocked and students cannot fully understand Chinese, which greatly hampers the overall teaching effect. In addition, teachers generally adopt traditional teaching methods and pay little attention to the particularity of different international students, which also hinders the improvement of international education quality. The college will always provide an excellent faculty team as a strong guarantee for ASEAN students to improve their professional level. In view of this situation, solid work has been carried out in the early stage, and a good start has been made in the construction of teachers' team.

Next, the college will improve the selection requirements for foreign teachers, with professional academic quality as the primary basis, and continuously strengthen the requirements for international vision and foreign language ability. International teaching methods are adopted to flexibly teach students according to their actual conditions, so as to avoid obstacles in communication and course teaching between teachers and students. In addition, there are many professional terms in Chinese textbooks, which will be very difficult for ASEAN students to understand, thus greatly reducing the role of teaching reference. The college

constantly improves the communication in art language. Based on the existing textbooks for English majors, the team, including professional teachers and translators, is organized to compile a set of professional term books in the field of art, highlighting the interestfulness, practicality, communication and times, so that ASEAN students can immerse into the professional learning in the Chinese context quicker and better. A two-pronged approach is employed to achieve a seamless connection between teaching and learning.

#### *C. Improving students' ability of cross-cultural adaptation*

China and ASEAN countries are close in geography, popularity and cultural affinity, but there are still some differences in politics, economy and culture, so ASEAN students have great difficulties in cross-cultural education adaptation. In addition to the differences in concepts, language barriers and single communication, there are problems in the adaptation of natural climate, regional customs and lifestyles.

It has always been the focus of our college to let the students from ASEAN complete the role transformation and integrate into the new environment. In addition to providing considerate services, actively carrying out community activities, implementing scholarship application and insurance purchase, the college will continue to improve the management system and methods for ASEAN international students, and carry out more colorful extra-curricular cultural activities. For example, organizing the friendship between students from both sides, selecting volunteers to receive families on weekends, and holding creative activities, etc., so that students from ASEAN countries can be more familiar with the management mode of Chinese universities and the harmonious family style of Chinese families, and have a sense of security, respect and belonging in their study and life in our university. At the same time, ASEAN students will be organized to conduct folk custom research, enjoy scenic spots and experience folk customs. Chinese talent workshops will be held to enable them to participate in traditional culture, such as folk music, traditional Chinese medicine, martial arts and tea art, and strive to achieve the goal of "improving the soft power of national culture, spreading contemporary Chinese values, and displaying the unique charm of Chinese culture," as emphasized by General Secretary Xi Jinping. [1]

#### *D. Improving the training evaluation mechanism*

In the whole educational link of ASEAN students, objective and comprehensive evaluation mechanism should run through the whole process of cultivation, so as to ensure the quality of cultivation, achieve the goal of cultivation and realize the national will. At present, there are not many mature cases in the evaluation of the cultivation effect of overseas students in ASEAN. After

extensively referring to the educational evaluation methods of foreign students and undergraduate teaching quality evaluation of other universities, the college has preliminarily completed the establishment of the training evaluation mechanism. In the future, the college will further refine and adjust the rules and strengthen the measures of assessment, starting from the source, actively carry out the quality certification of study in China, to provide guarantee for the quality of international students. At the same time, the evaluation criteria for the learning effect of foreign students are further strengthened. Every academic year, comprehensive evaluation will be conducted from professional assessment, language level, scientific research ability, academic potential, practical ability, professional ethics, cultural integration and other aspects, and the evaluation report will be recorded, so as to urge and encourage the growth and success of international students. Of course, such evaluation mechanism is not built mechanically on the level of monitoring the culture results, but silently enhances the quality throughout the whole culture process. In addition, a follow-up survey system will be established for overseas students to learn about their professional performance, skill application, adaptability and salary after graduation, so as to provide timely feedback for better teaching reform and steady improvement of teaching quality.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

In his congratulatory letter delivered during the 9th China-ASEAN Education Exchange Week, Premier Li Keqiang said, "China and ASEAN countries are good neighbors and partners linked by mountains and rivers and close by blood. People-to-people and cultural exchanges, including education, are becoming a new pillar of China-ASEAN relations and showing broad prospects for development." [6] College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University meets the strategic demand of the construction of "China-ASEAN Community of Shared Future", and is an important mechanism of talent training for its construction. It not only conforms to the international standard, but also conforms to the development plan of Sichuan Province, and provides more support for Chengdu to build the western foreign communication center and the world cultural city.

In the foreseeable future, the College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts of Chengdu University will make every effort to build the brand of "studying in Sichuan" facing ASEAN countries. In addition to further implement the teaching reform aimed at optimizing the curriculum, teaching materials, teaching staff structure, training effect, realize the school-teacher-student integration, the college will also continue to enhance hardware investment and software construction, so that ASEAN students can continuously consolidate their cognition

and identity of Chinese culture through study and life, and contribute to the external communication under the embellishment and cultivation of Chinese culture, so as to enhance China's soft power.

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