

# Chinese Language Programme September Newsletter

You are on this mailing list because you are either currently, or were formerly a student in the Chinese Language Programme. By being on this list, you'll receive monthly updates on the United Nations Chinese Language Programme, community events and tips for Chinese language learning. If you'd like to be taken off this mailing list, please send an email to [ho@un.org](mailto:ho@un.org) with the subject line "Remove from CLP newsletter list". No message is necessary.

A pdf version of this newsletter can be downloaded from <http://www.unclp.org/newsletters.html>.

## Program News

### *2008 China Study Programme*

We had a very successful three-week summer study programme at Nanjing University, China. About 40 people from New York, Geneva, Vienna and Bangkok participated in this programme. Outside of intensive studies, participants had opportunities visiting various cities in China. For pictures taken during the programme, please visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/48937028@N00/sets/72157606887062490/>.

### *Pilot Distance Learning Class*

As an addition to our course offerings, we will be piloting an online Chinese class starting next month. This online course differs from others in that it is offered real time. Students can take the class in their offices or homes depending on when the class is held. By using WebEx (provided by our programme) and a webcam, the teacher and the students can see and interact with each other. We'll start with one class as a supplement this term and roll out as regular classes next term.

### *Learn to Sing Chinese Songs*

For people who are interested in listening to and learning to sing Chinese songs, please visit the new feature on our learning website: [http://www.unclp.org/song/chinese\\_song.html](http://www.unclp.org/song/chinese_song.html), where you can see a list of Chinese songs. Each song is accompanied by a sound file, lyrics with pinyin and English translation. Happy singing!

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## China-related Event at the UN

The United Nations University's New York Office is launching a UNU Lecture Series on "Emerging Thinking on Global Issues" - a showcase of intellectuals and experts associated with UNU, who contribute in making it a think-tank for the UN.

Carved by thoughtful minds, delivered in simple language, the lectures which form part of this series will put forward the relevance of diverse views on issues of international importance. The aim is to promote global thinking through specialized lectures delivered by experts and scholars who have had a longstanding association with UNU.

The lecture series will be inaugurated by Dr. Jean-Marc Coicaud, Director - UNU office at the UN. (Dr. Jean-Marc Coicaud, by the way, is a student in our programme. Currently he attends Level 7 Chinese.)

The first lecture of the series: "From Communism to Confucianism: Changing Political Discourses on China's Political Future and its Meaning for the World" will be delivered by Dr. Daniel A. Bell - professor of ethics and political theory at the Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He is an expert on East-Asian politics and philosophy and has published many books. He continues to contribute research articles on China Affairs to Newsweek, Dissent and the Guardian's blog.

The lecture will be on October 1, 2008 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium (DHLA) in the UN Headquarters, New York.

To register for the event, please click  
<http://emergingthinkingonglobalissues.eventbrite.com>

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## Community Events

### *The Last Emperor's Collection: Masterpieces of Painting and Calligraphy from the Liaoning Provincial Museum*

Drawn from a renowned collection and seen for the first time in the United States, this exhibition presents 24 painting and calligraphy works from the former Imperial Collection of the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

September 25-December 14  
China Institute, 125 East 65<sup>th</sup> St, between Lexington and Park Avenues

For more information, please visit: <http://chinainstitute.org>.

### *Landscapes Clear and Radiant: The Art of Wang Hui (1632–1717)*

The exhibition features 27 masterpieces by Wang Hui from the Taipei and Beijing Palace Museums, the Shanghai Museum, and several North American collections, including five

outstanding works from the Metropolitan's permanent collection. These 27 paintings are complemented by a selection of earlier landscapes from the Song (960–1279), Yuan (1279–1368), and Ming (1368–1644) dynasties, mostly drawn from the Museum's holdings, that highlight the sources of Wang Hui's inspiration...

September 25-December 14

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue. New York, New York 10028

Galleries for Chinese Painting and Calligraphy, 2nd floor, north wing

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.metmuseum.org/special/se\\_event.asp?OccurrenceId={F9510149-AA6F-4590-9E86-2D2EEDE08A02}](http://www.metmuseum.org/special/se_event.asp?OccurrenceId={F9510149-AA6F-4590-9E86-2D2EEDE08A02})

### *Art and China's Revolution*

Art and China's Revolution reflects upon one of the most tumultuous and catastrophic periods in recent Chinese history 1935; the three decades following the establishment of the Peoples Republic of China in 1949. During this time, the government led by Mao Zedong sought to modernize China across all aspects of society, a process that included suppressing or destroying much of traditional culture. The government also sought to create a new visual culture to communicate its goals and ideology to the Chinese people. Artists were encouraged to create art that reflected the revolutionary spirit of the time, in Mao's words, to create art for the people.

September 5, 2008–January 11, 2009

Asia Society Museum, 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street), New York, NY

For more information, please visit:

[http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/09/05/arts/20080905-REVO\\_index.html](http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2008/09/05/arts/20080905-REVO_index.html)

### *Korean Restaurant Week*

Korean Restaurant Week starts next Monday. Follow this link for more info:

<http://www.koreanculture.org/tasteofkorea2008/index.html>

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## **New Publications**

### *"Chinese Contemporary Art: 7 Things You Should Know" By Melissa Chiu*

This book offers an accessible guide to understanding Chinese contemporary art: what you need to know about the artists, the art market, and what can legitimately be called a new art movement, perhaps the first great art movement of the 21st century. Short and to the point, it is arranged into seven sections outlining a history of the field. Melissa Chiu,

Vice President of Global Art Programs and Museum Director of Asia Society, is leading authority on Asian contemporary art.

You can purchase the book at <http://www.amazon.com/dp/0978576438/>

*Chinese Through Song By: Hong Zhang, Zuyan Chen and Robert Daly*

Global Academic Publishing  
1-58684-122-X; \$34.95; 2008  
<http://academicpublishing.binghamton.edu>

Chinese Through Song represents an innovative approach in language acquisition: students develop their language proficiency and music appreciation through learning Chinese songs. They expand their vocabularies and improve their pronunciation, voice projection, and language expression—all while learning about Chinese culture in a way that is full of fun and stimulation. This book contains 20 folk, art, and popular songs. It may be used in several ways: as the main textbook for an interdisciplinary, intermediate level course; a supplement to regular Chinese language classes; a resource for extracurricular activities; and a general songbook.

Please view this title on Global Academic Publishing's website:  
<http://academicpublishing.binghamton.edu/itemview1.cgi?isbn=1-58684-122-X>

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## **Study Technology & Tips**

### *Input Chinese characters on your computer*

If you wish to type in Chinese, the easiest and most powerful way is to download the google pinyin input at <http://tools.google.com/pinyin/>. It takes just two minutes to install. You don't need any extra software. Depending on the setting of your computer, you may need to install the East Asian Language Support. See how you can install it at [http://www.unclp.org/writing/install\\_lang\\_pack.html](http://www.unclp.org/writing/install_lang_pack.html).

### *Free Online Pinyin Refinement Tool*

The Pinyin Tutor is an online tool to help Chinese learners improve phonological perception in Chinese and refine the Pinyin spelling skills. It is widely known that Chinese phonological system is not easy for learners. One great difficulty is tone perception. It is also easy to confuse the various initial sounds and some of the vowels are difficult to distinguish. Therefore, the Pinyin tutor is created in attempting to help learners recognize the relevant phonemic categories.

The tutor refines students' phonological perception through a series of dictation tasks. After hearing the sound of a Chinese word, the student types out its Pinyin spelling. One remarkable feature of the Pinyin tutor is that it allows students to directly compare the

target sound and the sound of spelling they have typed. In addition, the tutor also provides instant explicit feedback when errors occur. It is exceedingly difficult for teachers to provide this type of phonetic training, detailed sound input and verbal feedback to students in classroom. As a result, the Pinyin tutor can be a valuable supplementary tool for students to sharpen Chinese listening skills outside classroom.

The Pinyin Tutor is created from a research project supported by the Pittsburgh Science of Learning Centre. At our request, the developers have added all the words in New Practical Chinese Reader 1 to their database specifically for the students in our programme at the U.N. Words in New Practical Chinese Reader II are being uploaded. If you are interested in using the service to improve your pronunciation, please visit <http://www.talkbank.org/pslc/col/PT/UN1/>. You will be asked to create an ID. Please visit <http://www.unclp.org/listening/pinyin.html> for instructions about how to create an ID and use the product.