

# An Online Seminar on the Road of Tang Poetry in Eastern Zhejiang Province

Guyu – known as Grain Rain – is the 6th of 24 solar terms in the Chinese lunar calendar. This year, the UN Chinese Language Day was on this date (April 20th) to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is claimed to have invented Chinese characters. One day before, a cultural exchange between Chinese and American university students took place online, centering around “the Road of Tang Poetry (poetry in the Tang Dynasty) in Eastern Zhejiang”.

Among the participants invited, three representative students were the major force promoting Tang poetry in eastern Zhejiang, an initiative launched by the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Ningbo University (NBU). Under the supervision of Professor Xin Hongjuan, they explored and analyzed cultural and historical materials concerning Tang poetry in eastern Zhejiang. Sixty famed poems that depicted landscapes, local specialties, and folk cultures of Ningbo

were selected for translation from Complete Tang Poems, the largest existing collection of Tang poetry.

During the ninety-minute virtual seminar, over forty students in a Chinese course organized by Kent State University participated in the discussion, sharing thoughts on a wide range of subjects — from poet Li Bai to writer Lu Xun, from Tang poetry in eastern Zhejiang to Hemudu Culture of Ningbo, and from the landscape of Mount Siming to the structure of stone bridges in Jiangnan (areas south of the Yangtze River).

“I used Quiet Night Thoughts written by Li Bai (701-762) as an appetizer and then started the introduction of the Road of Tang Poetry in Eastern Zhejiang with his To the Recluse of Mount Wangwu, Wei Wan, Upon his Return to Mount.” Keynote speaker and postgraduate student of NBU Jiang Mengyuan said that Li Bai, the great poet in the

Tang Dynasty (618-907), gained considerable popularity in the Western world. Following in the footsteps of his idol Xie Lingyun (385-433) – an adventurer in the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589) – Li Bai set foot on eastern Zhejiang four times and composed more than eighty poems when appreciating engrossing scenery including Qiantang River, Mount Kuaiji, Ruoye River, Jinghu Area, Mount Siming, and Tiantai County. The journey depicted in To the Recluse of Mount Wangwu, Wei Wan, Upon his Return to Mount links four cities along the route, Hangzhou, Shaoxing, Ningbo, and Taizhou.

Yu Hui, an associate professor leading the Chinese Cultural Program at Kent State University in the United States, noted, “China’s remarkable response to the pandemic triggers curiosity about its culture among Americans, especially youngsters.” According to Yu Hui, the presentation by the disse-

mination team has sparked off the overseas students’ imagination about China, enabling them to experience the charm of the Chinese language and Tang poetry, as well as the prosperity of Zhejiang and its eastern parts’ local customs.

Introductory information has it that the Road of Tang Poetry in Eastern Zhejiang – as the starting point of the Belt and Road, the Maritime Silk Road, and the Maritime Poetry Road – features openness and inclusiveness that distinguishes it from other poetry routes and this makes the overseas dissemination notably important. “Kent State University is the first stop for the team of NBU for publicizing Tang poetry in Eastern Zhejiang overseas, which will be followed by other similar cross-cultural sessions to help the culture of Tang poetry in eastern Zhejiang go further,” said Xin Hongjuan.

By Wang Dongxiao

## Staff and Students of UNNC Receive Vaccine on Campus

20 April, the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC) organized the first round of Covid-19 vaccination for students, staff and staff families on campus. So far, approximately 4000 students and staff members have been successfully vaccinated with no cases of severe adverse reaction reported.

Peter Morgan, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Business, who had just been vaccinated, also expressed gratitude to the volunteers. “I am impressed by the efficiency of the vaccination process in China. Surprisingly, the staff set up a team of volunteers to help non-Chi-

nese speaking staff, organized a clear physical flow for people, and prepared a room for recuperation. It was all very good,” said Dr Morgan.

Zimeng Zhang, leader of the volunteer team, said that the team grew rapidly as more and more students proactively joined the efforts. Now there are about 70 students in the team to support the vaccination.

The vaccination was popular among students and staff who hope to construct barrier defenses through getting the Chinese vaccine.

By Elena Yang



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