

CONFUCIO INSTITUTE AT UNESP, SAO PAULO, BRAZIL¹

By Durval de Noronha Goyos²

In the capacity of President of the Confucio Institute Friend's Counsel, I would like to register the joy of the Brazilian Entrepreneur Community with today's opening of this first branch on Brazilian soil.

This is because a greater mutual knowledge between the Brazilian and the Chinese people with respect to each other's cultures will represent a stronger foundation for the fostering of even better relations between Brazil and China in the short, medium and long terms.

Brazil and China are the largest developing countries in the southern and northern hemispheres, respectively, as they are strategic partners in politics and trade. The development and refinement of these excellent relations requires, necessarily, an increased share of knowledge.

This is what the Confucio Institute, a Chinese Government's official body, intends to promote in Brazil, with its current partnership with UNESP (Sao Paulo's State University), through the teaching of Mandarin and the cultural interchange between our countries.

The Institute, quite suitably, is named after the great Chinese Philosopher who was born some 2,500 years ago, and who first developed the concept of universal education. Confucio's Philosophy promoted kindness, understanding and tolerance. For over two thousand years such Philosophy represented Chinese customary law and, still today, it has great influence all over the world.

From our part, the Confucio Institute Friend's Counsel, composed of Brazilian and Chinese entrepreneurs, shall seek to follow the development of the academic projects advanced and to contribute to the achievement of its commendable purposes.

Thank you very much.

¹ Basic text of the speech made in the opening ceremony of the Confucio Institute Friend's Counsel at UNESP, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 26 November 2008.

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