



China Initiatives at Michigan State University

Office of China Programs

The Office of International Studies and Programs at Michigan State University established the Office of China Programs in July 2005 to help implement President Lou Anna K. Simon's "China Initiative," part of the university's long-term strategic plan to become the nation's premier land-grant university for the 21st century. Through academic, research, and economic development initiatives and global, national, and local strategic alliances, the office aids the university in expanding its presence and outreach in China.

Currently, the office focuses on the following functions: developing joint education programs; developing joint research programs; facilitating technology transfer/consulting services; assisting the Office of Admissions in recruiting undergraduate students from China; and working with the State of Michigan's China Office to promote economic development for the state.

Joint Education Programs

Turfgrass Management

On March 25, 2003, MSU entered into an agreement with four Chinese universities to develop and implement a program of higher education in turfgrass management. The participating universities are: Sichuan Agricultural University, Northeast Agricultural University, Beijing Forestry University, and Suzhou Polytechnic Institute of Agriculture. This joint education program is designed to let students in China obtain an MSU Bachelor of Science degree in turfgrass management, meeting a growing need in China.

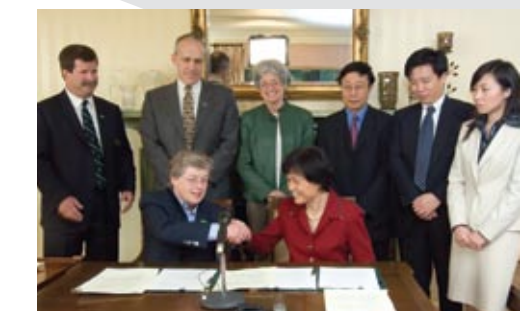
The parties seek to establish long-term strategic relationships for a broad range of cooperative activities, including study abroad, research, and graduate studies.

A total of 21 students who entered the turfgrass program as the first cohort in 2003 arrived in the United States in September 2007. Their agenda includes intensive coursework on the MSU campus followed by a four-month internship. They will graduate in June 2008.

Confucius Institute

In April 2006, an agreement was signed with China's National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language and the China Central Radio and Television University in Beijing to establish the Confucius Institute at MSU, housed in the College of Education.

The institute has moved quickly to develop Chinese language and culture curriculum, including online classes for students of all ages in Michigan and around the nation. Online classes are being offered through the Michigan Virtual High School. Additionally, the institute is training Chinese instructors to teach in Michigan schools, coordinating China exchange programs for Michigan teachers and students, and providing other in-person and online programming for schools and businesses.





Environmental Science and Engineering

Significant progress has been made with Zhejiang University in developing a new joint education program for a master's degree in environmental science and engineering. In June 2007, the MSU colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Social Science, and Engineering signed agreements with the ZJU's School of Environmental and Resource Sciences to launch a master's degree program; the MSU Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering signed a similar agreement with the ZJU School of Biosystem Engineering and Food Science.

In April 2007, an agreement was signed between MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and China Agricultural University's College of Engineering. This agreement will launch a joint education program in biosystems engineering. The program is expected to start in fall 2008.

Joint Research Programs

U.S.-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence

MSU is the home of the U.S.-China Center for Research on Educational Excellence, established in 2004 through a generous grant from the Hong Kong-based Sun Wah Education Foundation. It brings together U.S. and Chinese scholars to research and develop effective models of K-12 education that integrate strengths of both Eastern and Western practices.

Food Safety Research

"The Role of Third Party Certification for Food Safety in China" is a joint research program between MSU and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). In this project, jointly funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, MSU, and CAAS scientists conducted survey research in the Chinese cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, and Qingdao in 2005 to examine the effects of third-party certification on Chinese food policy. A major outcome of the project is the October 2007 International Symposium on Certification and Traceability for Food Safety and Quality in Beijing.

Food Safety Lecture Tour

During a three-week period in April 2006, an MSU-organized faculty delegation traveled to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS), Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences (ZAAS), and Zhejiang University to present lectures on topics involving food safety-related risk assessment. MSU has signed agreements with CAAS, JAAS, and ZAAS, respectively, to establish joint research labs or centers for food safety research.

Technology Transfer & Consultant Services

In May 2007, MSU signed an agreement with China Sport Facility Construction Co. to provide technical consultants for the design and construction of a portable athletic field in the National Stadium for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.



Beginning with a trip in July 2007, MSU turfgrass professors will go to China four times to work with a local construction team to establish, maintain, and install the modular field in the stadium. MSU professors Trey Rogers and Jim Crum helped develop a similar field for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. They are confident that MSU's technological expertise will assure the quality of the portable athletic field for the 2008 Olympics.

MSU China Office Opens in Beijing

On October 10, 2006, MSU Provost Kim Wilcox announced the official opening of the MSU China Office. For the ribbon-cutting ceremony, he was joined by Jonathan Choi, president of the Sun Wah Group; Yang Shu, vice president, of Lanzhou University; and Qu Dongyu, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The ceremony was attended by approximately 100 people and was covered by representatives from the local media. An interview with Wilcox was broadcast that evening by China's CCTV 4.

Sponsoring International Conferences

MSU has been actively engaged in sponsoring and organizing international conferences and forums with Chinese partners, including:

The May 2004 international symposium on Supermarket Development and Agro-Food Production and Supply with the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Agriculture and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

The November 2004 Global Food Safety Forum with the Development Research Center of the Chinese State Council, the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Commerce.

The October 2006 International Forum on "Quality Assurance in Online Education with the China Education Association for International Exchange.

Recruitment of Undergraduate Students in China

MSU joined universities from around the world at the 2006 International Education Expo in Beijing and Shanghai, sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education. As a result of this and other recent recruitment efforts, the number of MSU undergraduate students from China has increased from 94 in fall 2006 to 242 for fall 2007.

Videoconference Links New Chinese Students to East Lansing Campus

On May 22, 2007, the MSU Office of Admissions, the Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS), and the MSU China Office engineered a unique videoconference event in Beijing to welcome newly admitted Chinese students. About 70 students attended the event in Beijing. From the East Lansing campus, MSU Provost Kim Wilcox gave a welcome speech, and staff members from Admissions and OISS, as well as international student representatives, addressed the students' questions and concerns.

