

De Bao Xu's Welcome Speech at TCLT8 Opening Ceremony
Tufts University
6/6/2014

Dear Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, Nancy Bauer,
Dear Director and CEO of Hakka Foundation, Kwei Kuang Hsu,
Dear Director of Confucius Institute, University of Rold Island, Wenchao He,
Distinguished guests, keynote-speakers, workshop conductors, panel presenters, and participants:

Good morning and welcome to TCLT8!

First of all, I would like to thank our hosts at Tufts University for sponsoring and hosting this international conference. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to have this conference here on the beautiful campus. Please join me to express our deep gratitude to Tufts University for sponsoring and hosting this international conference.

I would also like to thank the other sponsors and financial supporters of the conference

The President's Office of Hamilton College
The Dean's Office of Hamilton College
Educational & Scholarly Technology Services, Tufts University
Center for Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Tufts University
Hakka Foundation, and
Confucius Institute, University of Rhode Island

Please join me to express our heartfelt gratitude for their generous support to this international conference.

The organizing committee of TCLT8 is co-chaired by Prof. Mingquan Wang (Tufts) and Prof. Jun Da (MTSU). The organizing committee was established in the spring of 2013. It was tremendous work to organize this combined conference of panel discussions and workshops with presenters and attendees from eight countries and regions in the world. From call for papers, build the website, register online, select papers, organize panels and workshops, edit and publish the proceedings, invite keynote speakers, to detailed logistics of the conference, I know how much they have done, I know how much energy they have put in. Without their collective, collegial, and hard work, there is no today's conference. Thank you the organizing committee, thank you Prof. Wang! Thank you Prof. Da!

We are also indebted to the Review Committee, which is composed of 11 scholars (please see their names in the conference proceedings). Their expertise has helped us select and bring you a strong and diverse program. The editors of the conference proceedings also did a wonderful job. They put together a beautiful volume for us to read at the conference.

There are also many voluntary services and helpers for the conference:

- Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures provide staff assistance.
- Conference and Event Services, Tufts University helped arrange the conference site, dorm, equipment, and space.
- Tufts Technology Services will provide free tech support,
- New England Chinese Language Teachers Association helped publicize the conference,
- Chinese Language Center, the Open University of China provided conference bags and folders.

There are also student helpers and staff assistance from Hamilton College. I deeply appreciate all these voluntary services, helpers, and assistance to the conference.

I would likewise to thank you, all the attendees of TCLT8. Your participation will guarantee the success of this conference. Your journey to Tufts, I hope, will prove to be worthwhile and your participation in the conference will be both stimulating and memorable.

Hamilton College initiated the biennial conference of TCLT in 2000, aiming to bridge the gap between technology and teaching methodology and curriculum as well as to enhance the exchange on technology-based Chinese language teaching and learning. The combination of in-depth panel discussions and hands-on workshops is a hallmark of TCLT conference, which has contributed a great deal to the field of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. Since 2000, over 200 institutions from 19 countries and regions in the world have sent hundreds of professionals to join the TCLT conferences and workshops.

As of May 10th, there were 138 people registered for TCLT8, and today we have 143 people actually showed up. The 143 participants, according to the registration, are from the U.S., Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, France, and Argentina 8 countries and regions.

TCLT8 has accepted 80 papers for 15 panel discussions. It has also invited three keynote speakers, who are (according to the speech sequence):

- Prof. Richard Kern (UC Berkeley)
- Prof. Emeritus Xie, Tianwei (California State University at Long Beach)
- Prof. Hsin, Shih-Chang (National Taiwan Normal University)

The conference is honored to have these three distinguished scholars to join us and give the plenary speeches. Please join me to welcome them!

TCLT8 has also organized six hands-on workshops to be conducted by seven outstanding scholars, who are (in alphabetical order of their last name)

- Prof. Chen, Dongdong, (Seton Hall University)
- Prof. Da, Jun (Middle Tennessee State University)
- Prof. Lin, Chin-His (Michigan State University)

- Prof. Liu, Shijuan (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)
- Ms. Yeh, ChinHuei (Shrewsbury Public Schools)
- Prof. Emeritus Xie, Tianwei (California State University at Long Beach)
- Prof. Phyllis Zhang (George Washington University)

Please welcome them!

Finally, Let us wish the conference TCLT8, same as the previous conferences, a great success!

Thank you!

De Bao Xu
Chair, TCLT Standing Committee
Leonard C. Ferguson Professor and Chair
East Asian Languages and Literatures Department
Hamilton College