The Department of Education has renewed its memorandum of agreement with Angeles University Foundation for the offering of Mandarin courses in 72 public high schools across the Philippines, on February 7, 2016.

Implemented by the Confucius Institute at AUF under DepEd’s Special Program in Foreign Languages (SPFL) starting in 2011, this joint undertaking has trained five batches or 178 local Mandarin teachers from 72 public schools and has benefited thousands of public high school students nationwide. The length of in-service training for teachers is three years which includes intensive summer trainings, mentoring programs and immersion in China.

Through this collaboration, CI-AUF has successfully assisted DepEd in obtaining Chinese volunteer teacher-trainers, researchers and language assistants to train Filipino teachers in the implementation of the Mandarin curriculum. This agreement has also made possible the development of Mandarin instructional resources customized for the Filipino learners and aligned with the objectives of the K-12 program; and has resulted to the on-going completion of Confucius Classrooms at the Tarlac National High School, San Francisco High School in Quezon City and Paoay National High School in Ilocos Norte.

The Confucius Institute at AUF has a new Philippine Director in the person of Dr. Carmela S. Dizon, announced AUF President Dr. Joseph E.L. Angeles.

Dr. Dizon has been serving AUF since 1994 occupying various academic and administrative positions. She is concurrently the Dean of the AUF Graduate School, a position she assumed in 2012.

“Even before I was appointed, I’ve experienced immersion in the Chinese culture and language because my daughter Aniela, is a pioneer graduate of AUF’s Bachelor of Secondary Education major in Chinese Language Teaching (BSE CLT) program. I’ve seen on a first hand basis the impact and importance of learning a foreign language in this age and as new Philippine Director, I believe that I can help in promoting the value of learning Chinese Mandarin because it can add premium to the students’ future career here or abroad,” says Dr. Dizon. “To say that CI-AUF has added color to University life at AUF is an understatement considering the immense opportunities it has extended to students and teachers of selected public high schools nationwide,” she added.

Dr. Dizon expressed optimism that her appointment can contribute to CI-AUF’s growth and development by strengthening AUF’s partnership with the Department of Education; sustaining the support to the professional development of local Mandarin teachers; and by pursuing the other objectives of CI-AUF as prescribed by HANBAN.
The roster of dignitaries was led by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario, Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, FFCCCII Honorary Chairman Chen Yongzai, FFCCCII Chairman Xu Zhongrong, Filipino-Chinese business tycoons and other members of the diplomatic corp.

CI-AUF joins Chinese Embassy Spring Festival

Officials and teachers of the Confucius Institute at AUF participated in the 2016 Spring Festival Reception hosted by the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China to the Philippines on February 2, 2016. CI-AUF successfully staged the Chinese Culture Corner featuring an exhibit on China’s culture and the arts, and awed the guests with their presentation of Chinese traditional performances.
The Department of Education has appointed a new set of local persons for its Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL-Mandarin). The outgoing and incoming team members attended the turn-over meeting held at CI-AUF on May 25, 2016. Present were (l-r) outgoing SPFL-Mandarin coordinator Ms. Marivic Tolitol; CI-AUF Chinese Director Dr. Zhang Shifang; outgoing SFPL head Ms. Ligaya Rose Domingo; CI-AUF Philippine Director Dr. Carmela S. Dixon; new SPFL heads Mildred Zamar and Riza C. Gusano; new SPFL-Mandarin coordinator Ayette Ferriols; CI-AUF Administrative Officer Ms. Maria Teresita T. Perez; and AUF Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Archimedes T. David.

The Fujian Normal University (FNU) in China hosted the one-month training and immersion of 16 local Mandarin teachers at the FNU International College of Chinese Studies (ICCS). The closing ceremony held on May 20, 2016 was graced by FNU-ICCS director Dr. Lin Xinnian and FNU Labor Union Chairman Dr. Xiao Xiangzhong. During the program, Dr. Lin emphasized the need to strengthen the ties that bind Chinese and Philippine cultures through education. He expressed high hopes that similar joint activities can serve as bridge towards strengthening the bilateral relations of the two countries.

The local government of Baguio City led by Mayor Mauricio Domogan invited CI-AUF to participate in the Chinese Lunar New Year festivities of the city on February 9, 2016. CI-AUF’s Chinese teachers graced the parade and staged a gala show featuring Chinese culture and the arts that wowed hundreds of spectators. The streets were packed with eager viewers who wanted to get a glimpse of the colorful festivities and participate in the celebration.
The Department of Education successfully held the 2016 National Festival of Talents in General Santos City from February 22-26, 2016. CI-AUF Chinese teachers and Mandarin students staged the Chinese Culture Exhibition during the event that gathered 5000 participants from all over the Philippines.

The Chinese Mandarin Teachers Association of the Philippines (CMTAP) held its annual meeting and election of new officers during the 5th National Conference on Teaching Chinese Mandarin as a Foreign Language organized by the Confucius Institute at AUF, on January 22, 2016.

The newly elected officers are: President - Roselo L. Benotapa; VP Internal Affairs - Catherine L. Jongco; VP External Affairs - Jennifer T. Erispe; Secretary - Karie Alyza M. Tropeta; Treasurer - Mary Ann M. Calarlas; Auditors - Daisy Carousel P. Cervantes and Marilyn M. Sardido; and Project Coordinator Nenet M. Fernandez.

The new officers were sworn to office by DepEd Special Program for Foreign Languages-Mandarin focal person Ms. Marivic Tolitol who spoke highly of the accomplishments of the CMTAP in the past two years wished the new officers a better year ahead.

A total of 178 local Mandarin teachers from over all the country attended the annual meeting that comprehensively reviewed and summarized the achievements of the past year and discussed the plans for the ensuing year.

The annual summer in-service training for 149 local Mandarin teachers from eight regions jointly organized by CI-AUF and DepEd was successfully completed on May 5, 2016. The training program culminated in the HSK tests undertaken by all the participants. The closing ceremony was highlighted by the participants’ rendition of Chinese songs and dances entitled Good-bye, I Love My Family and The Moon Speaks My Mind.
CI-AUF hosts SPFL Mandarin Conference

The Department of Education and CI-AUF jointly staged the 2016 Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL) Chinese Mandarin Conference at the AUF Sports and Cultural Center on July 4, 2016.

The event was participated in by school principals and local Mandarin teachers and coordinators from partner public high schools nationwide. DepEd’s SPFL focal persons Ms. Mildred B. Zamar and Ms. Riza C. Gusano re-oriented the participants about the objectives of the program while SPFL-Mandarin coordinator Ms. Ayette C. Ferriols reiterated DepEd’s commitments on the implementation of the Mandarin language curriculum.

Chinese Embassy holds film and food fest

CI-AUF teachers and students participated in the Chinese Film and Food Festival organized by the Chinese Embassy on May 30, 2016 at the De La Salle University, Manila.

CI-AUF delegates performed traditional Chinese songs and dances witnessed by some 600 guests led by Chinese Cultural Counselor Pan Feng and other diplomats. A cultural exhibit was likewise staged featuring Chinese knots-making, traditional tea-making and paper cutting arts.