

ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN CHINA

For the 9th World Congress of WFUCA

With Dr. Franklin Valcin from our Academic Department



From July 21 to July 25, 2015, Dr. Franklin Valcin represented Atlantic International University at the 9th World Congress of World Federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (WFUCA) in the capital city of Beijing, in China. According to the very description of our own academic dean, the event was a success from virtually all vantage points. The co-hosts of that congress, the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations (WFUCA) and the Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (CNFUCA) had ensured that nothing be left behind for the overwhelming success of the celebration. It all started, as a matter of fact, with Dr. Valcin's arrival at the Beijing International airport where a big team of event volunteers and Chinese students were waiting to offer a big welcome to the AIU representative. Speaking English correctly, they were quick to identify Dr. Valcin and take him to the exit of the airport. From that point, a very warm and rich cultural experience was going to begin as the

Chinese WFUCA officials opened up their hearts and their culture to the Congress participants. Everyone present enjoyed a taste of all that through the multi-level activities put in place for the occasion.



One of the most important findings from the WFUCA Congress was that our ideals closely coincide with those promoted at the event. We found it amazing to observe the extent that such values match with Chinese culture at large, particularly with regard to the educational philosophy these people have embraced. For instance, a document published by the *Beijing Academy of Educational Sciences* on the issue of educational reform focuses on the critical goal "to take steps to achieve education equity." In this context, no amount of money, nor efforts to build physical schools can yield palpable and sustainable solutions. This is an area where andragogy finds its rationale because it constitutes the only viable policy that makes authentic and quality education accessible to everyone regardless.





The conference was conducted in Chinese along with the sporadic use of other languages such as English, Spanish, and Portuguese, very renowned translators provided simultaneous translation in UNESCO 2 official languages, English and French. Representatives from about forty nations were in attendance, but everyone could easily follow all scheduled activities thanks to this linguistic apparatus put in place for the event. Besides, this occasion was appropriate for participants to mingle with each other to the extent that the convention also turned out to be an excellent intercultural symposium. It reminded Dr. Valcin of Atlantic International University's graduation feasts, which always feature more than one hundred world nations. Everything genuinely unfolded in a gorgeous atmosphere of human conviviality. □

While a significant segment of the congress was dedicated to elections of the Executive Board and Delegates of the various member countries, networking quickly became a center piece of the convention. Right at the venue of the Beijing Friendship Hotel, Dr. Valcin grabbed every opportunity to share insights and ideas with other participants about both the concept of education in general and the achievements of our very AIU. Some of our counterparts were amazed, for instance, at the idea that so many countries are represented in our global student body. As a matter of fact, some colleagues expressed their deep desire to become more acquainted with Atlantic International University and to help spread the ideals of our institution. A new objective that came up out of this is to get our own students somewhat involved in WFUCA. □



School authorities in China are fully aware of the multi-faceted function of education, resulting in their efforts to tackle all these dimensions in their compulsory education policy. This is why music is promoted thoroughly, and all young children practice a form of this art at school. During the WFUCA congress, officials wanted to showcase the overwhelmingly positive outcome of this philosophy in several musical presentations offered in our honor. The first day of the event also coincided with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the foundation of UNESCO, and, for the circumstance, a world class show took place at the Jindia theater. All attendees left the setting with a profound sensation of joy. □

Atlantic International University students with a major in Ethnology, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, or any closely related field may find in this succinct report a potentially interesting topic for a thesis. As one emerging world power, China presents every characteristic of a country embarked on a steady and fast track of sustainable progress. It is a very beautiful place, its people are among the most courteous and the warmest on planet earth, its modern technology is moving upward constantly, the country invests heavily in other critical aspects of human life such as education, science, health, and culture. In other words, it constitutes an excellent modern example to emulate and imitate all together. □

SUMMARY: Broadly speaking, Dr. Valcin's participation in this 9th World Congress of the World Federations of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (WFUCA) was a positive move for several reasons: (1) it opened up another corner of the world to our institution, (2) it provided a good framework for an eventual involvement of our institution and students in this branch of the United Nations Organization, (3) it widened our horizons in terms of the opportunity to network with other professionals in various fields, and most importantly, (4) it exemplifies our stand to act concretely in order to expose AIU to the world and promote human rights through or toward the endogenous progress of every human being in particular. □