

## **Session 1: Hubei, A Land Blessed by Water**

- **Time:** June 28<sup>th</sup>-July at 8pm
- **Event format:** online / CI YouTube Channel
- **Language:** English
- **Speaker:** CHEN Zexuan
- **Host:** Confucius Institute at Unesp
- **Registration:** Please fill out the online form and wait for the transmission link to be sent by email 6 hours before the LIVE

### **Lecture Introduction:**

Beginning with the video “Hubei, a benevolent land as water”, the session connects the Amazon with the Yangtze River by the similarity of river civilization, creates a resonance in the two cultures and attracts their attention on the following story of Hubei and water.

### **Part 1 Water Nurtures the Plain of Hubei**

#### **1. Yangtze River, the Mother River of Hubei**

The world’s third longest river Yangtze River runs over mountains and finally meets with the Han River, with the silt in the water left forming the Plain of Hubei.

#### **2. The Land of One Thousand Lakes**

About one thousand lakes dot around in Hubei as the stars in the galaxy.

- The Dongting Lake and the Name of “Hubei”: “Hubei” means “being at the north of a lake” in Chinese, the “lake” of which refers to the Dongting Lake.
- The East Lake and Mao Zedong: Chairman Mao adored the East Lake so much that he lived and worked in the East Lake Hotel almost every time when he visited Wuhan during the 1970s.

#### **3. The Natural Beauty**

Blessed with gorgeous natural resources, Hubei is home to various wild plants and animals.

- Plants: rape flower, cherry blossom, osmanthus, etc.
- Animals: Yangtze finless porpoise, Chinese sturgeon, golden monkey, etc.

### **Part 2 Water Mellows the Foods of Hubei**

The fertile land of Hubei produces abundant food resources, for which it is depicted as a place “better than the heaven” in a Chinese folk song.

## 1.Lotus

- Lotus as An Ingredient: Lotus is not only a sacred Buddhist flower, but also an ingredient in many Hubei cuisines.
- Lotus Cuisines of Hubei: People eat different parts of lotus varying with the seasons from the lotus sprout, lotus seed to lotus root.

## 2.Fish

- The Top Province in Freshwater Aquaculture: Hubei ranks the first in the output of freshwater fish in China. One out of every seven fishes on Chinese dining table is served by Hubei.
- Fish Cuisines of Hubei: fish loaf, rice noodles in fish taste soup, etc.
- Wuchang fish and Mao Zedong: The most famous fish in Hubei is Wuchang fish, which enjoys a high reputation in the poem of Chairman Mao.

## Part 3 Water benefits the people of Hubei

The Chinese philosopher Confucius once said that benevolent people embrace the composure of mountains, while smart people possess the flexibility of water. The Yangtze River enables the people of Hubei to enjoy great benefits and lead a pleasant life.

### 1.Water Sports

Born and brought up on the banks of the Yangtze River, the people of Hubei are good at water sports from an early age.

- Wuhan Yangtze River Crossing Festival: When Chairman Mao visited Wuhan, he participated in the traditional entertaining event of swimming across the Yangtze River for over 40 times, the last of which was on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1966. Then the date has been proclaimed as Wuhan Yangtze River Crossing Festival in memory of him.
- Six Olympic Diving Champions from Hubei: Hubei is home to six Olympic diving champions, including the Chinese diving queen Fu Mingxia.

### 2.Water Engineering

- Bridge Construction Capability: Wuhan has 11 bridges spanning across the Yangtze River and is hailed as “the City of Bridges”. Hubei bridge construction corps designed and built about 200 extra-large bridges in more than 30 countries around the world.
- Combination of culture and technology in the Three Gorges: The world’s largest Three Gorges Hydroelectric Power Station incorporates itself into the beautiful landscape of the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River, and co-exists in a harmony with the local Tujia people, one of the minority ethnic groups in China.
- South-to-North Water Diversion Project: Proposed by Chairman Mao, it aims at channeling the water from the water-abundant southern China to the drought-stricken northern China. One of the water sources is the Han River, near the Wudang Mountains in Hubei.

### 3.Ecological Conservation

- Ten-Year Fishing Ban on the Yangtze River: The ban came into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, aiming at protecting the rare fishes in the Yangtze River and conserving a healthy ecosystem of Hubei for the future generations.

The session ends with a video shot by the speaker in Wuhan to have a glance at the present Hubei.