

UFMG and China relations: A leap forward

Academic relations involving The People's Republic of China and UFMG have greatly improved in 2019, especially due to a few factors.

First off, UFMG and Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) have given important steps to take their long-time relationship to the next level. UFMG

had the pleasure to welcome to Belo Horizonte two students from HUST who joined 2019 Summer School on Brazilian Studies, while an 8-person delegation from UFMG headed to Wuhan for the 2nd HUST Workshop on Developmental Economics in last December.

Some new possibilities in the realm of Technological and Natural Sciences are also envisaged for the partnership.

A second reason for optimism lies in the agreement to be signed between UFMG and Renmin University of China (RUC) for the improvement of the two parties' research collaboration in fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences. Following up on the visit paid to UFMG by RUC's Deputy Director of Scientific Research, Prof Jinlong Liu, there is an ambitious plan to provide funding for joint research which puts together faculty and students from both institutions and aims to deliver relevant academic outputs on a variety of topics. This scheme should be running at full throttle by mid-2020.

Besides this increased two-way flow of students and the incentivization of high-level research work, a new program on China Studies has just been approved by Hanban headquarters and will be implemented at UFMG during the year 2020, with a view at boosting Brazil-China bilateral cooperation and raising the knowledge about China and Sinology in Brazil. UFMG is one of the few places in the world - and the only one in South America - to benefit from this arrangement.

This is not to mention three important visits paid to UFMG by representatives from ILAS-CASS, Beijing International Studies University and the province of Jiangsu.





UFMG Vice-President Alessandro Moreira (fourth from the right, front roll) and Barbara Orfanó (first from the right, front roll), Director of UFMG Confucius Institute, at the HUST Joint Conference of Confucius Institutes.

2nd International Conference of Humanities

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) hosted, under the auspices of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH), UNESCO, and the Association of Universities of the Montevideo Group (AUGM), the *Second International Conference of Humanities: sustainability, well-being and human rights*, held in Belo Horizonte, from 9th to 11th December, 2019. The event aimed to provide a space for interdisciplinary debate, involving researchers and managers of universities and representatives of the society.

The South American region has been marked by serious problems related to sustainability, the promotion of well-being and the defense and guarantee of human rights, demanding the construction of solutions that articulate these dimensions. Issues related to migratory flows in the region, xenophobia and violation of the human rights of migrants and refugees, intolerant practices and policies in relation to diversity, and the attack on fundamental rights such as health and education are some of these problems common to the countries of the region. In the state of Minas Gerais, two socio-environmental disasters related to mining, which occurred in Mariana in 2015 and Brumadinho in 2019, highlighted the complexity of these problems and have demanded the urgent contribution of the humanities field.

On the other hand, Latin America has developed specific and innovative contributions to the various priorities defined by the World Humanities Conference, held in Liege, Belgium, in 2017, ratified by UNESCO's General Conference in November of that year: on strategies for adapting to environmental changes, on identity and migration issues, on the co-construction of knowledge and the defense of historical knowledge with scientific rigidity and not merely opinion, on the full and considered use of digital resources, etc. This Second Conference gives continuity to

the *South American International Conference: Territorialities and Humanities*, held from 4 to 7 October 2016, at UFMG, which was an important preparatory activity for the World Conference of 2017. The event was also the first Conference in which the UNESCO-UFMG Chair Territorialities and Humanities: the Globalization of Lights, established since September 5, 2019, will act as co-organizer.

*Bilingual Panel on Migration and
Territories - 2nd
International Conference of
Humanities*



UFMG and France: A historic relationship

The French Republic has played a historic role in the internationalization of UFMG. Generations of faculty and students currently related to UFMG have taken their undergraduate/graduate studies in the European country, there being on the other hand an increasing flow of Frenchmen to Belo Horizonte these days. Since the year 1989, UFMG School of Engineering maintains collaborative work and continuous exchanges with French HEIs under the framework of Capes-Cofecub and Brafitec programs. Thirty years on, it's time to celebrate!

Over the last two months, we found two occasions to touch base with colleagues from France and think of the future of this deep and successful relationship. Last month, Vice-President Alessandro Moreira, who also is a Professor of Engineering, and Dean for International Affairs Aziz Saliba, who belongs to UFMG School of Law, welcomed to UFMG Mr Manoel Bernardes, the honorary consul of France in Belo Horizonte, France's educational attaché to Belo Horizonte Mr Philippe Makany, and a representative of Alliance Française. Francophonic members from UFMG community could join this important reunion and share their concerns and expectations.



This month, Vice-President Moreira and Deputy Dean for International Affairs Dawisson Belém Lopes have proposed a set of initiatives to Mr Olivier Giron, the representative from France's embassy in Brasília, in order to improve the state of Brazil-France collaboration. Mr Giron was also accompanied by Mr Philippe Makany and Campus France's Mrs Larissa Novaes.

These receptions to French authorities at UFMG follow up on a mission to France Vice-President Moreira and Deputy Dean Lopes undertook last year. On that trip, they got the chance to reach ESIEE Paris and École des Ponts, two of UFMG's long-time partners, and Université de Lille, also a most promising one.

Featured country: Portugal

President Sandra Almeida and Vice President Alessandro Moreira have recently welcomed to UFMG a distinguished 5-member delegation from Portugal - the president plus three faculty members of University of Lisbon, the largest and best-reputed university in the country, and the Portuguese consul posted to Belo Horizonte. The presidents have agreed on moving to deeper integration between the two HEIs, which may soon lead to the signature of a general double-degree agreement for PhDs who are taking their courses either at UFMG or at University of Lisbon. There certainly is a bright road ahead for this bilateral cooperation.



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ufmggoesglobal@dri.ufmg.br

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[Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais](#) - Office of International Affairs
Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627, 31270901 Belo Horizonte - Tel.: +553134095550