

YANZU言祖

国家教育项目

National Education Project in Finland





YANZU 言祖

高中汉语 / Kiinan kieltä lukioissa

Chinese in Upper Secondary Schools

A Chinese language project initiated in the Autumn of 2011 and funded by the Finnish National Board of Education (OPH, Opetushallitus)

Coordinated by the Vaskivuori Upper Secondary School (city of Vantaa)

Promoting Chinese language in Finnish Upper Secondary Schools

- ”The Yanzu network”: networking and bringing together Finnish upper secondary schools offering (or showing interest towards) Chinese language and culture – including 18 schools as of March 2014
- 3rd year, project started in the Autumn of 2011
- Unifying and standardising Chinese language education, writing Chinese subject syllabus
- Promoting Chinese language and motivating students (activities, competitions)



- Mapping out available teaching material for Chinese (getting new printed material published very difficult → solution is to create more online material? → national online Chinese teaching material databank?)
- Long-term aim: Chinese as a part of the Finnish matriculation examination (ylioppilaskirjoitukset), short-term aim: a language proficiency test for Chinese (developed within the framework of the subject syllabus in Finland; not HSK)
- Cooperation partners: Finnish National Board of Education, Confucius Institute at the University of Helsinki, Chinese Language Teachers Association of Finland, Chinese Embassy in Finland ...



- Sister projects/networks (projects also financed by the National Board of Education) in Finland:

- POP kiinaa (perusopetukseen kiinaa) - Chinese for Basic Education (year-classes 1-9)

- Ippo-hanke - The Ippo Project: Japanese Language Education in Finnish Secondary Schools

- Yanzu online: www.yanzu.fi,
www.facebook.com/yanzukiinankieltalukioissa



What have we been doing so far?

- Organizing 6 seminars (next seminar on May 9th) – for the network schools, teachers, principals etc., also for students of Chinese (future teachers?), also joint seminars with sister projects
- Creating an upper secondary school Chinese education network, 18 schools and (hopefully) growing
- Building connections and networks in Europe (representatives of Yanzu attending seminars & conferences in Sweden and France)
- Writing subject syllabus for B3 Chinese (foreign language starting in upper secondary school, 8 courses) (guidelines)



- Sharing experience and know-how with other projects starting after Yanzu (IPPO, POP Chinese)
- Organizing activities for students:
 - ”Kiinalaisia kiemuroita”: Chinese character competition, Spring 2013 & Spring 2014
 - Chinese culture camp Spring 2014, cancelled due to lack of participants → second try in Autumn 2014?
- Towards the formal qualification of teachers of Chinese: by the initiative of the Yanzu project, a training program for Chinese teachers (Chinese didactics, 10 study credits; roughly 270 hrs) was organized for the first time starting in Autumn 2013



Future challenges

- How to successfully encourage more students to study Chinese (and along with their studies)? (Culture camp didn't work – what would be a better concept?)
- Resources for creating new learning material for Chinese?
- How to further strengthen the status of Chinese education in Finland? (A "rare" language requires collaboration between as many different organizations and projects as possible—Yanzu, POP kiinaa, Chinese Language Teachers Association ...)
- What happens after Yanzu?



Chinese language in Finland

(a general picture in a tiny nutshell / Q&A)

How many students of Chinese are there in the whole country?

- More than one thousand but less than two thousand (approx. 300 in upper secondary schools)

Where can you study Chinese (or sinology) as your major subject in a university?

- University of Helsinki (Department of World Cultures, East Asian Studies),
University of Turku (Centre for East Asian Studies, Master's Degree Programme in Asian Studies) (in UH there are 5-10 new students of Chinese each year)

How many teachers of Chinese language are there in Finland?

- I would estimate there are about 50



How do I teach Chinese?

Music! And music! And then... hey, how about some music?



Okay, it's not *all* about music ...

