



## **THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS CHINA INSTITUTE FOUNDING PAPER**

### **I. Introduction.**

The mission of University of Massachusetts China Institute (UMCI) is to maximize the potential of the University of Massachusetts in responding to the emerging impact of China in the world. UMCI will gather, coordinate and promote existing China-oriented activities. It will encourage and facilitate new initiatives, both at the system level and on the individual UMass campuses, and will support such efforts through outreach, identification of opportunities and development of new resources.

The “UMass Strategy in China”, available on the UMass website, states that

“The road to the economic and social development of Massachusetts runs through the University of Massachusetts. In today’s globally integrated and deeply interdependent world, for the University that means not just educating Massachusetts students, but helping the entire Commonwealth understand and respond to new global realities. The emerging role of China is among these important new realities... Over the past 25 years, China’s economy has experienced remarkable growth. Currently fourth in size, behind only the U.S., Japan, and Germany, China is already one of the dominant economic powers in the world, bringing challenges and opportunities in equal measure. As a long-standing leader in global education, research and problem solving... the University of Massachusetts is again taking the lead in preparing the Commonwealth for these new challenges.”

The China Institute will become a principal instrument for defining, promoting, and expanding the UMass role in China, thereby making the University—and the entire Commonwealth and Massachusetts—more visible and more viable throughout China.

UMCI will not employ a large, formal infrastructure, instead utilizing and leveraging existing resources whenever possible. UMCI will not offer credit bearing or degree granting programs (which, as always, are the province of the faculty on the various campuses), but will endeavor to support and enhance those programs in collaboration

with the campuses. There will be no tenure-track faculty lines in the Institute. Rather, UMCI expects to provide information, research opportunities, coordination, and access for campus-based instructional units and other entities seeking to expand within China or to add a greater “China dimension” to their programs on campus. In this regard, the China Institute seeks to help the UMass campuses do better what they may already be doing well.

In addition to facilitating, supporting and coordinating existing efforts, UMCI will develop and manage new initiatives—such as the University of Massachusetts China Quarterly Report and the Chinese-sponsored, nation-wide, volunteer Chinese language teaching program being established in the U.S. (both described just below)—as well as other contracts, grants and special projects developed with corporate, government, non-profit, or educational partners. China-oriented cooperative arrangements with State and other agencies, such as the Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI) and Massport, for example, will fall naturally within the China Institute’s purview.

The China Institute will have an Advisory Board which is expected to be drawn from the University, State Government, the private sector, and other sources. Within three years of its establishment, UMCI will be evaluated on its success in meeting its goals and objectives as well as its substantive contribution to the mission of the University.

## **II. Initial Activities.**

Initially, the China Institute will coordinate and support the following existing efforts:

### **1. The Confucius Institute.**

In November of 2006, The University of Massachusetts and China's Ministry of Education launched the University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute, a non-profit public institute to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture and support Chinese language education in Massachusetts.

The UMass Confucius Institute is the seventh established in the United States and the first in New England. The institute provides programs and services including teaching the Chinese language, the training of Chinese teachers, curriculum development and cultural events. It also provides learning opportunities for broader, non-university-based, communities within the Commonwealth, a clearinghouse of Chinese language and cultural materials, and a platform for research into Chinese language and culture.

In 2006, U.S. Senators Joseph Lieberman and Lamar Alexander introduced legislation calling for an investment of \$1.3 billion over five years to fund Chinese language instruction in schools with the aim of improving business and cultural relations with China. Provision of Chinese classes in K-12 schools is a growing priority in public education throughout the United States. Nationally, Massachusetts is second only to California in the number of high schools that offer Mandarin Chinese classes. The

UMass Confucius Institute, located at UMass Boston, responds effectively to all of these needs.

## 2. China's Volunteer Program for Chinese Language Teachers.

The rapid emergence of China upon the world stage has produced rising demands for more Chinese language teachers. To address this need, the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), an organization that promotes the Chinese language instruction throughout the world, has built up the Volunteer Program for International Chinese Teachers as a channel for sending Chinese teachers abroad. Hanban began sending volunteer Chinese teachers overseas in 2003 on a trial basis. There are now over 1,500 volunteer teachers in 24 countries, including 172 currently in the United States, a number that is expected to grow. Volunteer teachers in the U.S. are usually expected to remain for up to three years.

In a striking demonstration of its admiration for the UMass Confucius Institute and its broader trust in the UMass leadership, Hanban has now requested that UMass manage the entire Chinese Volunteer Program for Chinese Teachers in the U.S., a task we have accepted. This program will fall under the UMass China Institute aegis.

## 3. The Tsinghua University Partnership.

Tsinghua University, one of the two most esteemed universities in China, is often referred to as the "MIT of China." UMass' formal signed partnership with Tsinghua has significant cultural and political meaning in China and brings UMass instant identity in China as a world-class university. Over 350 Tsinghua graduates are now serving at the highest levels of the central Chinese Government (constituting what some have called, only partly facetiously, the "Tsinghua Dynasty"). The Tsinghua leadership clearly values the UMass partnership very highly. Tsinghua has made a significant, public investment in the UMass relationship and has a strong commitment to ensuring that it is seen as making major contributions to China's development. The Tsinghua Partnership provides multiple, immediate and future benefits for both the University of Massachusetts and the State of Massachusetts as will be seen immediately below.

## 4. The Tsinghua University Academic Bridging Program.

The Tsinghua University Academic Bridging Program provides specialized, focused preparation in Beijing that then becomes a pathway to study at the University of Massachusetts. Currently the program has enrolled 80 Chinese students who are studying at UMass Boston. The program is expected to grow quickly, with a target of 200 such students a year.

## 5. The Massachusetts Technology Base at the Tsinghua Langfang, Hebei Province campus.

Tsinghua (whose main campus is in Beijing) maintains a science park at its campus in Langfang, Hebei Province, to the east of Beijing. Tsinghua is also closely allied with the Provincial Government of Hebei through the “Hebei-Tsinghua Development Institute.” In September, 2006, the University of Massachusetts signed a Letter of Intent with the Hebei-Tsinghua Development Institute which committed the parties, among other conditions, “To facilitate technology transfer by helping each other establish incubators in each respective State, and ...to provide services and necessary support to facilitate entry and operation of companies in each other’s respective region.”

In response, UMass moved quickly to establish a Massachusetts Technology Base (MTB) at the Tsinghua Langfan, Hebei campus, with a formal announcement of its opening in late spring 2007. MTB will serve as an incubator and facilitator for Massachusetts technology, life sciences, medical devices, and renewable energy companies, among others, seeking to do business in Hebei Province. MTB experts will train Tsinghua staff in the support and management of technology transfer—the commercial licensing of university research products. MTB will also help Massachusetts firms understand the local business culture, legal framework and market needs and will provide contacts, networking, informal mediation, and other services.

#### 6. The UMass/Massachusetts Judges Conference multi-year program to support Judicial Reform and further the Rule of Law in China.

Since 1998, the University of Massachusetts has been conducting mock trials and other judicial reform and rule of law programs in China aimed at making the Chinese Judiciary more fair, more responsible, and more transparent. These programs, sponsored by the US Department of State and conducted in partnership with the Massachusetts Judges Conference, the private association of this State’s Judges, have taken nearly three dozen sitting Massachusetts jurists to China and brought a smaller number of Chinese judges to Massachusetts. Intellectual property rights protection, and the enforcement of contracts—two issues of enormous concern to Massachusetts businesses considering conducting business or investing in China—are among the project’s principal areas of focus.

#### 7. Additional China-focused Programs.

The University of Massachusetts China Institute will develop, conduct, or support additional China-focused programs. These may include conferences such as the highly successful U.S. China Business Forum, held at the University of Massachusetts September 18/19, 2006, which was addressed by Guo Gengman, Executive Vice Governor of Hebei Province, and attended by a high-ranking delegation from Hebei, and which addressed opportunities for Massachusetts companies in China while managing the challenges linked to China’s rapid growth. Issues discussed included intellectual property rights protection, strategic partnering, and private equity and debt issues in China. Other programs might include seminars, symposia, or training sessions in the U.S. or in China. In this regard, it is worth noting that the Beijing Management College of Politics and Law, the Party School which trains the highest levels of Beijing City

administrators, has asked the University of Massachusetts to propose various Boston-based training programs for Beijing officials—an opening of great potential significance for the University of Massachusetts in China.

#### 8. The UMass China Quarterly Report.

The UMass China Quarterly Report will publish its inaugural issue in late December, 2007. Each issue of the UMCQR will include a review of developments in China over the previous quarter and their likely impact on Massachusetts; contributions from Tsinghua staff or other experts on the view from the Chinese side; and reports and analysis from additional Massachusetts interests, both public and private. The UMCQR will be an additional forum to share information and coordinate approaches between Chinese and American associates and between State agencies, quasi-public entities, and private industry within Massachusetts.

### **III. Conclusion.**

Given China's rapid and striking emergence on the world stage—a presence and influence that will only continue to grow in the future—to ignore China, indeed not to do everything we can to understand, adjust to, engage, and influence China in every way possible, would be to fail in our mission as a University and in our duty to the State of Massachusetts. The University of Massachusetts China Institute is specifically designed to be responsive to the wide variety of China initiatives—not all of them fully developed or even fully imagined at present—that will benefit the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.