

KIP MISSIONS IN CHINA TO EXPLORE POST EXPO PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By Xi Fang

After the expositions in the KIP Pavilion at Expo 2015 of Milan, Famiano Crucianelli and Xi Fang from KIP International School completed two missions in China, respectively from June 7 to 21 and from September 6 to 12, with the objective of exploring post-expo collaboration possibilities.

In particular, from June 7 to 21, the China Zen Tea Association, following their Chinese art exhibition in the KIP Pavilion, invited the delegation to meet the artists in Yixing, the Chinese city known for its traditional teapot made from the local clay *zisha*. This traditional handicraft form represents the axis of Yixing's development. After the city in the Jiangsu Province, the delegation met in Beijing other artists who participated in the exhibitions in the KIP Pavilion, including Dai Lezhong, the Chinese artist known for his unique gold oil painting as well as a group of artists led by the renowned calligrapher, sculptor and painter Ma Zikai. Possibilities of realizing more Chinese art exhibition in Italy have been discussed.

The mission was intended also as an exploration of possibility for creating in China a pilot project of local sustainable development based on organic agriculture, involving a provincial government, organic farms or entrepreneurs interested to move in the direction of organic agriculture. Thanks to the organization of China Association of Zen Tea, Cittaslow of Gaochun (Nanjing) and Mr. Kang Junqiang, partner of the KIP Pavilion, the delegation met with several agricultural entrepreneurs and visited a large tea plantation in Suzhou, organic farming companies related to Cittaslow Gaochun (Nanjing) and an important farm in the outskirts of Beijing.

As a result, a meeting with the director of the Department of Agriculture of the Autonomous Region of Ningxia and local entrepreneurs has been scheduled for September 29, which will be an opportunity to discuss the possibility of launching a pilot project of organic agriculture in this region of Northwestern China known for its production of *goji* berries, wheat, rice, potatoes, etc.



In Peking University, Famiano Crucianelli, invited by the Center for Softpower studies of the Department of International Studies, has talked about the situation of Europe with students of the University. On June 20, the delegation participated in the Conference organized by the same Center for softpower studies on the promotion of Hake culture-archeological site in Inner Mongolia. The Hake culture, characterized by its high jade elaboration techniques, dates back to over 7000 years ago and probably anticipates the Chinese Civilization by 2000 years.

During the meeting, the delegation presented the KIP School's development approach of local development and cultural heritage and discussed with Peking University about involving Italian local realities and the UNESCO to promote this important archeological discovery, a great potential resource for local development. Moreover, the delegation proposed to vice president of the Department of International Studies about the participation of the Chinese university in the PHD Course on Human Sustainable Development that University of Milan – Bicocca is organizing with several Latin-American Universities and the collaboration of KIP International School.

Thanks to the collaboration of Italian Embassy in Beijing, the delegation had the opportunity to meet the director of MAB (Men and Biosphere) Program of UNESCO in Beijing. The delegation presented the KIP International School and its post Expo initiatives for developing a network of local development experiences. MAB Beijing has demonstrated high interest in collaborating with KIP International School on eventual projects in China. At the end of the mission, the delegation met with the vice director of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the China Center for Contemporary World Studies, after which, Famiano Crucianelli has been invited to participate in the International Conference on 21 Century Maritime Silk Road to be held on September 7 and 8 in Xiamen, China.

Following the invitation of the China Center for Contemporary World Studies, from September 6 to 12, the delegation returned to China to participate in the International Conference *Building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Advancing International Industrial Cooperation*. Representatives from governments of different countries, universities and rectors, economists, experts of international politics and other scholars have talked about economical, political, financial and cultural aspects related to the building and the promotion of the Maritime Silk Road today. Famiano Crucianelli has moderated the Panel "Creating sustainable and shared development opportunities" and talked about the importance and strategies of sustainable and shared development in such a context.

The conference has been an opportunity to further discussions on sustainable development, promote and reinforce a think-tank collaboration between the KIP International School and a prestigious Chinese study center.

