The 2nd quarter, 2012 for CEREC has been an intensive time period of communication and exchange between CEREC and Chinese educational practitioners. The frequent visits of Chinese partners to CEREC and the other way around have further proved the importance of CEREC’s role in promoting the educational exchange between Finland and China.

In this quarter’s Newsletter, CEREC presents to you:

- CEREC’s presentation in Sino-Finnland PISA Seminar in Shanghai has inspired people in cooperation scenarios and models;
- The 1st Finnish academic monograph in the field of education research was translated and published in Chinese.
- Visits of the delegation from the Central China Normal University and Hubei Provincial People’s Congress to CEREC has broadened CEREC’s future cooperation prospects to China’s provincial level;
- Guest lecturers giving lectures in the University of Tampere as part of the China lecture series has enriched CEREC’s lecture series and people’s knowledge;
- Chinese administrators and school principals are taking Finnish experience into their own practice and appreciate Finnish practices.
- Delegation of the University of Tampere to the Forum on Education Innovation hosted by Beijing Normal University was appreciated.

**Sino-Finnland PISA Seminar in Shanghai**

**During 31st May - 2nd June 2012,** Mrs. Cuihong Jin-Muranen, the Project Coordinator of CEREC, attended the Sino-Finnland PISA Seminar in Shanghai themed with PISA Results: Experience and Challenges in Basic Education. It attracted around 100 participants from Shanghai, Hong Kong, Macau and Finland. Mr. Tapio Kosunen, the State Secretary of Finland, led a delegation of university rectors, including Prof. Kaija Holli, the Rector of the University of Tampere, and representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland attended the Seminar.

Ms. Cuihong Jin-Muranen Presenting at Sino-Finnland PISA Seminar in Shanghai

The President of Shanghai Normal University, also as the chairperson of the seminar, Mr. Zhang Mingxuan, the Vice-President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Mr. Kit-Tai Hau have brought...
to the seminar not only their professional insights and experiences, but also personal humors and charms, which inspired many participants.

Mrs. Jin-Muranen’s presentation titled *Scenarios for China and Finland Cooperation in School Education: How We Can Benefit from Each Other* was a quite different perspective from the other presenters’. Although it has been recognized that there are extraordinary aspects of school education both in China and Finland and two countries can learn from each other and improve their weak points, not very many successful practices have been carried out and could be used as a model. Mrs. Jin-Muranen’s study aimed to understand what can be learnt and what cannot by two countries, how cooperation can be beneficial for both sides, and most importantly what kind of cooperation scenarios could be applicable in practice. Mrs. Jin-Muranen’s presentation has made practitioners in education to think what would be the most suitable and efficient cooperation way for their unit or institution to improve their own regional PISA performance.

First Finnish Academic Monograph in Education Published in Chinese

In March 2012, Mr. Jussi Kivistö’s book *Agency Theory as a Framework for the Government-University Relationship* was published in Chinese. This is the 1st Finnish academic monograph in the field of education research translated and published in Chinese. Mr. Jussi Kivistö is an adjunct professor of Higher Education Group, School of Management, University of Tampere.

The translators Prof. Nian Xiao and Prof. Ming Fan are from CEREC’s close partner, the Institution of Higher Education, the Beijing University of Technology.

The President of Beijing Normal University, Prof. Zhong Binglin and the Director of CEREC, Prof. Seppo Hölttä respectively wrote the prefaces for this book.

The publish of this book is a milestone of the academic cooperation between the Higher Education Group, University of Tampere and the Institution of Higher Education, Beijing University of Technology. It is another concrete and tangible cooperative outcome after the success of two Sino-Finland Higher Education Forums and Forum book publishing in both Chinese and English.
Visit of Hubei Provincial People’s Congress Delegation to Finland

During 6th-8th Jun, 2012, a delegation from Hubei Provincial People’s Congress led by Prof. Zhou Hongyu, representative of the National People’s Congress, China; Professor of Central China Normal University, Hubei, China visited Finland.

On 6th, CEREC arranged the delegation meeting Education Counselors Ms. Erja Heikkinen, Ms. Birgitta Vuorinen and Ms. Tiina Vihma-Purovaara from the Ministry of Education, Finland. The meeting has opened another opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between Finland and China’s middle sized cities and to accelerate the internationalization pace of both nations.

And on 8th, this delegation was invited to the University of Tampere. The Dean of School of Management, Prof. Markku Sotarauta, Director of CEREC, Prof. Seppo Hölttä, Research Coordinator of CEREC, Dr. Yuzhuo Cai and Director of International Education, Ms. Kaisa Kurki were receiving the delegation.

Prof. Zhou expressed his appreciation of Finnish education system, especially the higher education management, compulsory education management and teacher training system, and also his willingness to collaborate with University of Tampere and CEREC in three fields: teacher training; higher education policy research and regional innovation. He introduced the current situation in Chinese educational reform and the strength of his university, Central China Normal University. He also expressed that the two nations have their own comparative advantages in education and should learn from each other. Prof. Zhou appreciated the unique role that CEREC has played in the bilateral education exchange at the state and provincial level, and encouraged CEREC to play a more active role in promoting exchanges and friendship between Finland and China, especially to the middle sized Chinese cities on provincial level.

Guest Lecturers from China Enriched CEREC’s “China Education Lecture Series”

On 5th June 2012, CEREC guest lecturer, Ms. Ran Zhang, Assistant Professor in Graduate School of Education, Peking University gave a lecture with the theme
of Media, Litigation, and Regional Discrimination in College Admission in China, which triggered hot discussion and received high appreciations from the audiences.

Ms. Zhang analyzed how media could influence litigation on regional discrimination under typical context of higher education management system in China. She elaborated how is college admission operated in China and adopted a typical case in regional discrimination which also was deemed as the first case concerning regional discrimination of college entrance examination and challenged the quota based admission system in China. Audiences commented that the lecture was really interesting and inspiring, and provided a new perspective to look into and compare with higher education management system in China.

On 8th June 2012, CERC guest lecturer, Professor Hongyu Zhou, Director of Changjiang Educational Institute, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei delivered a lecture themed with Reflections on Recent Chinese Higher Education Reform. Prof. Zhou is also a Member of National People’s Congress.

Prof. Zhou introduced the key issues and tough problems in China’s educational reform and development in the next 10 years. Major issues discussed were the equal access/rights of the urban-dwelling children of migrant workers, the difficulties of the popularization of pre-primary education and the fever of school-choosing. Towards these problems Prof. Zhou shared both the actions took by the central governments and his own thoughts. Audiences appreciated that the lecture gave timely information of the status-quo of China’s educational reform from the perspective of the governmental level.

Beijing Normal University’s International Forum on Innovation in Education

During 16th - 17th June 2012, the International Forum on Innovation in Education: Universities and the Training of
Creative Talents was held in Beijing Normal University. As the close partner of the University of Tampere, a strong group consisting of two professors and one doctoral student was invited to the Forum.

Prof. Markku Sotarauta, the Dean of the School of Management, the well-known expert in regional innovation could not participate in the forum, but gave a lecture on 27th June at Beijing Normal University.

Prof. Seppo Hölttä, the Director of CEREC gave a speech on “Interaction between government policies, institutional strategies and academic work in promoting innovations in higher education” and a lecture on “Basic dynamics of a higher education system—concepts, theories and practice”.

Mr. Dong Li, Doctoral Student of Higher Education Group, University of Tampere, based on his research field and interest also shared topics “University ranking and quality assessment” and “Trends of leadership studies in Higher Education”.

Finnish Educational Reform Experience is Appreciated by Chinese Government and Schools

On 13th June 2012, Director of CEREC, Prof. Seppo Hölttä visited the Beijing No. 35 High School under the recommendation of Mr. Zong Gang, the previous Educational Representative of Chinese Embassy to Finland.

Principal Mr. Zhu Jianmin was trained in the University of Tampere on Finnish Education System in autumn 2011. He introduced his school and ongoing educational reform and stated that the educational reform in Beijing City and in his school was inspired by Finnish educational system and they appreciate very much the Finnish experience. Beijing No. 35 High School is piloting joint-schooling with the China Academy of Science.

CONTACT
Ms. Cuihong Jin-Muranen
Project Coordinator of CEREC,
Gsm. +358 40 190 1264
Email: cuihong.jin-muranen@uta.fi