



## Professional Development Event May 31<sup>st</sup> 2008



The Chinese Language Teachers' Association of SA's term two 2008 professional development workshop was held at the Education Development Centre at Hindmarsh. Thirty seven teachers and student teachers from government and private schools participated in this event, which was chaired by CLTASA secretary, Don Bull, of Highgate Primary School.

CLTASA President, Jenny Jin, welcomed participants and introduced Associate Professor Sheng Lin of Shandong University who is a visiting scholar at the Confucius Institute, and Yaojun (Greg) Zheng, from Murray Bridge High School.

In the first workshop, Professor Sheng introduced the concept that the Chinese language is the language of measure words, which are a key difference between the Chinese and English languages and pose a particular difficulty for students of Chinese as a second language. She described the historical development of measure words in Chinese grammar, and used many examples to demonstrate the contexts in which the various measure words are used. Her presentation increased the knowledge of the teachers present and helped them to enrich their proficiency in Chinese language.



The second presenter was Jenny Jin from St Aloysius College who presented a cultural teaching module based on the film, "Blind Mountain", a 2007 film directed by Li Yang that is set in the context of several major social issues facing modern China, and showed that feudal attitudes to women persist, particularly in rural areas. Ms. Jin not only briefly introduced the film in both the Chinese and English languages, but also provided an analysis and samples of worksheets for use in the classroom. This session provided a good resource for background teachers and students.



The final presenter was Yaojun (Greg) Zheng, from Murray Bridge High School, who kindly shared his online Chinese resource collection, which was very handy for all participants and gave a very practical and useful demonstration of how to make good use of the wealth of potential teaching resources for Chinese language and culture that are accessible through the internet. The well-categorised resources that Mr. Zheng shared with everyone will surely save a lot of exploratory time for Chinese teachers. His kindness was really appreciated by every participant.



All three workshops were very well received, and the feedback from the evaluations was very positive. It is pleasing that members have been willing to share their expertise and experiences by making contributions to the two PD events that have been conducted so far this year, and we look forward to more members sharing their knowledge at future workshops.