

Address of Pr. Salim Daccache s.j., Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut during the Confucius Institute Dinner organized in the occasion of the Chinese New Year of the Rat.

February 12, 2020. L'Atelier Restaurant.

Mr. Ambassador Wang Keijian, we are honored to have you with us at the annual dinner organized by the Confucius Institute in our University in the occasion of the Chinese New Year of the Rat.

The Rat is the first animal of the Chinese zodiac. It is described as ambitious, quick to learn and passionate; it is said it gets along well with the Monkey and the Dragon, but very badly with the Horse. According to the astrology of your country, people born under the sign of the Rat are curious, intelligent, hardworking and epicurean but are also endowed with a strong character and may be very nervous. May this new year under the sign of the Rat be filled with adventure and passion and be a year to get into new projects and make decisions.

Mr Ambassador, Confucius Institute is doing very well in accomplishing its teaching mission but also as a real and entrepreneurial ambassador of the Chinese culture. It is a duty for me to thank the teachers coming from our partner, Shen Yang University, and the Director of the Institute and President of the Board, Dr Hokayem. We want the Confucius Institute to contribute more and more in the promotion of the relations between China and Lebanon. I know that you are working every day in order to consolidate these relations. The new music Lebanese Conservatory venue will be a good witness of this beautiful collaboration and of the support of China to Lebanon.

Let me conclude by saying that our University, and I'm sure all the Lebanese people, stand in solidarity with China in its fight against the coronavirus disease and share the grief and suffering of the families affected by this disease. We are sure that the health campaign implemented by the Chinese authorities will put an end to this disaster.

Happy New Year of Rat

Long Life to China and Lebanon