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Travels with Lew: a successful meeting for IACLE members in China

Fifty educators and industry members enjoyed a warm welcome at our China Members' Meeting in Tianjin last month as IACLE Director of Educational Development Dr Lewis Williams reports



Dr Lewis Williams (IACLE)



Tour of the Tianjin Vocational Institute's Training centre

The two-day Tianjin meeting (20th to 21st June) was a great success and the feedback given was very positive. The Tianjin Vocational Institute president opened the meeting and gave a brief introductory address to the assembled group of IACLE members and industry partners.

Newer members were asked to make a presentation to the group on a topic nominated by our China National Coordinator in Tianjin, Wang Haiying, and colleagues. The audience rated all presentations according to various criteria. Our coordinator in Shanghai, Qu Xiaomei, gave a great lecture on orthokeratology which captured the audience's imagination. Maybe they have been reading the literature on ortho-K and myopia control, especially that emanating from Hong Kong University and Professor Pauline Cho's group.

Three companies - Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care - sponsored banquets and a river cruise. The cruise was a fitting end to a successful programme and almost all took the opportunity to visit an older part of Tianjin before embarking. Despite seeing some 20 swimmers in the river in the late afternoon, no IACLE member was brave enough to join them!

The journey to and from our hotel to the Institute was pleasant and gave everyone a taste of various aspects of the Tianjin landscape, as well as adding to the levels of friendship and interaction among delegates. The presence of Byoung-Sun Chu (our Korea National Co-ordinator) as an observer helped all round and gave him some valuable insights to take home. I would also single out Dr Richard Wang from CooperVision for special mention. We spent some time discussing the finer points of toric soft lens fitting, problem-solving and software to decipher toric lens mislocation.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the considerable efforts of Ciuying and Haiying, firstly for making this meeting happen and, secondly, for the success it undoubtedly was. I'm sure that both are extremely relieved that it is now over and they can resume their normal lives!

Personally, it was another great China meeting and builds on my great experience in Shanghai in 2010. Thanks to all involved.



After the group photograph (pictured) every delegate was given presentation version in true Chinese fashion - rolled in a neat red, cloth-covered presentation box.