

Opening of the Italian Embassy School of Beijing

On Monday September 7th, 2015, the Italian Embassy School of Beijing started. Established together with Reggio Children, the School (www.scuolapechino.com) has a kindergarten and a primary class.

The kick-off party of the School was held on Sunday September 6th, 2015, with the presence of the Ambassador of Italy to the P.R.C., Ettore Francesco Sequi, the Chairman of the China-Italy Chamber of Commerce, Franco Cutrupia, Chinese authorities and the Italian community living in China. Greetings were addressed by the Mayor of Reggio Emilia, Luca Vecchi, and the President of Reggio Children, Carla Rinaldi.

The Italian Embassy School of Beijing is the first one not only in China but also in the Far East. The project was backstopped by the Embassy, coordinated by Mariassunta Peci, funded by an Italian businessman living in China and supported by the China-Italy Chamber of Commerce. The School follows the Reggio Children Approach.

The School starts with a kindergarten and a primary class, primary classes are expected to growth year by year. The School is open to children of both Italian families and of diplomatic officials dwelling in China. The School is bilingual (Italian and English), with a strong attention to Chinese culture.

The School aims at providing children of Italian families living in China with a chance to attend an Italian School. Additionally, tuition fees are moderate if compared to other international schools in China, a Country where international schools are amongst the most expensive in the world.

With the opening of the Italian Embassy School of Beijing, Italy eventually fills into an infrastructural gap with other G7 Countries, all having their international schools in China. Such a vacuum has been downsizing the Italian economic presence in China due to the most frequent turnover of Italian expats living in China.

Furthermore, an Italian Embassy School will guarantee an educational option for the growing number of mixed couples in China, that asked the Embassy for an Italian School to provide their children with a cultural and ethical background rooted in Italy and Europe.

The renowned educational system originated in Italy, such as the Reggio Children Approach and Montessori ones, has granted the School a huge reputation, resulting in many enrollment requests also from Chinese families (unfortunately, not allowed by local laws) who learned about the project of the first Reggio Children School in China.

Projects for the opening of an Italian Embassy School similarly started in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong.