



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OACAC REGIONAL INSTITUTE, SHANGHAI, CHINA August 17 – 18, 2015

The Overseas Association for College Admissions Counseling (OACAC) will hold its first-ever Regional Institute, hosted by the YK Pao School in Shanghai, on August 17-18. This Regional Institute is the first of its kind, designed exclusively for OACAC members to network, learn about admissions practices for Chinese students, and attend panels about the state of international admissions. By focusing on Asia, members will gain a broader understanding of the admissions practices in a region that is sending an increasing number of students abroad.

This conference will also help participants cultivate the tools to best advise international students in their transition to higher education. According to the President of OACAC, Joe Giacalone, "China is a popular discussion topic in higher education; it is imperative that we have a focused, thoughtful, and honest conversation specific to this region so we may better serve the students we advise."

The OACAC Regional Institute will consist of various panels and sessions; topics will include the state of international education, the holistic admissions process, ethics in Asia, standardized testing, and recruitment in China. Panels will be chaired by esteemed faculty, including:

- Panetha Ott, **Brown University**
- Peter Hauet, **College Counselor Emeritus**
- Hamilton Gregg, **Harrow International School & HGIEC**
- Kevin Hostetler, **University of California, Los Angeles**
- David Zutautas, **University of Toronto**
- Percy Jiang, **Beijing National Day School**

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The Regional Institute will bring together over 200 OACAC members from sixteen countries; enrollment is at capacity for this inaugural members-only event. Fifty percent of the participants work in high schools in China and directly advise students applying to universities in other countries; this presents a special opportunity for these schools who may not have access to extensive counseling support to be engaged on admission and advising topics at an international level. Included in the institute is a college fair where university admissions representatives from fifty-eight unique institutions located in thirteen countries will be on hand to connect with school counselors. In addition, representatives from other organizations such as the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the College Board, and IELTS will be in attendance to share their knowledge and experience as panelists.

It is fitting to hold this new OACAC initiative at the bilingual, boarding, not-for-profit YK Pao School in the Songjiang District, where its unique approach integrates Chinese and international education with a focus on whole-person education and personal development. Dr. Paul Wood, Executive Principal of YK Pao School, states, “Events like this OACAC Regional Institute are great opportunities for high schools and universities to become more familiar with each other’s philosophies and goals. They also help everyone develop a shared awareness of the various application processes around the world and how students can best pursue those applications.”

The Overseas Association for College Admissions Counseling (OACAC) is the world’s premiere organization for professionals engaged in international college counseling and admissions. Its 2,400+ members represent 106 countries and over 1,300 unique institutions and organizations. OACAC is a non-profit organization, and is an affiliate of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

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