



Opening of the Italian Embassy School of Beijing

On Monday September 7th, 2015, the Italian Embassy School of Beijing opened its doors. It was established jointly with Reggio Children. The School (www.scuolapechino.com) has a mixed age class (pre-school and kindergarten) and a primary class (1st grade).

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 Italian school not only in China, but also in the Far East. The project was endorsed 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.

At this time, the school only has 2 classes but it is expected to grow next year with the addition of a 2nd grade. The School accepts both children of Italian families and of diplomatic officials residing in China. The School is bi-lingual (Italian and English), with a strong focus on Chinese culture.

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

Thanks to the opening of the Italian Embassy School of Beijing, Italy is finally able to fill an infrastructural gap with other G7 countries: they all have their own international schools in China. Such a vacuum has hindered the Italian economic presence in China due to the high turnover rate of Italian expats in China.

Additionally, an Italian Embassy School offers an educational option for the growing number of mixed couples in China: they have been asking the Embassy for an Italian

School to provide their children with a cultural and ethical background rooted in Italy and Europe.

Due to the renown of two educational approaches that both originated in Italy, the Reggio Approach or the Montessori system, the school has seen an immense level of interest from prospective parents and in enrollment

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

Italian Embassy School of Beijing

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