# Live from China : A University with a Difference

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IN one of my previous write-ups in Star Campus, I mentioned that there are more than 2000 Universities in China. Many are very big universities, each of which may have 20-70 thousand students. Then there are small ones having about 5000 students. One such University, University of Nottingham in Ningbo invited me to give a Seminar to the students and professors of their Business School. I found this University interesting, high quality and different among others in China. It was a great experience presenting Bangladesh, BRAC, Grameen, ASA, Microfinance, Development and Social Entrepreneurship. The presentation was well attended and was very well managed. The most interesting part was the discussion session we had after about an hour's presentation including a video on BRAC. The discussion went on for about an hour. Both students and professors asked me many intelligent and inquisitive questions and made some very meaningful and valuable comments. I thought this was a great two-track learning experience. I was impressed by the level of the discussion we had. There was tremendous interest from the participants about our country, Microfinance and our development experiences. It was really very stimulating. I felt honoured that I could represent Bangladesh and the development community before the audience. They were also very interested to know about my work in China and how I would contribute to the poverty alleviation in China through the institution where I worked, i.e. International Poverty Reduction Centre in China (www.iprcc.org). My comments were well received and well understood.

At the end of the Seminar, to my surprise, the student leaders of an International Students Network, SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) gave me an appointment letter as the Advisor- member of their Business Advisory Board. I was deeply touched. Before the Seminar I met them in a separate meeting when I explained about our achievements in Bangladesh and the potential future of the country. They specially wanted to know about our Microfinance endeavours.

Since I was so impressed with the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC), I thought of writing about this University for the readers of Star Campus.

The UNNC is the first Sino-Foreign University in China approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The University of Nottingham, UK, runs the academic and management affairs of the University in cooperation with the Zhejiang Wanli Education Group. Professors and Teachers are recruited by the University of Nottingham, UK and most of them are Europeans having rich international experiences. The Wanli Education Group headed by Ms. Xu Yafen, is the first state (Zhejiang) owned but independently operated organization in China. It is at the cutting edge of educational reform. Since its establishment in 1993 the Group has invested huge amounts in creating an educational system ranging from kindergartens to Universities. UNNC is one of their prime institutions.

The UNNC has a very global mission statement : "Academic Excellence in the Service of Global Citizenship". This means that The University of Nottingham Ningbo, China has committed itself to developing subjects that combine internationally ranked teaching and research excellence with Chinese needs for internationalisation and globalisation. This allows Chinese and foreign students to enjoy a world-class international education without the major expense of studying in the West. All undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Ningbo are conducted entirely in English with the same teaching and evaluation standards as at Nottingham UK. The University has the Centre for English Language Education (CELE) dedicated to teaching English for Academic Purposes. Students having a 6.5 score in IELTS can directly get admission in the main course. Students having 5.5 will have to attend a special English language program before entering the main course.