

Autumn 2021 / Issue 8

**Organized by:** Office of International Exchange & Cooperation, Beijing Normal University

**Co-organized by:** News Center, Beijing Normal University

# Newsletter

Autumn 2021 / Issue 8

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# Newsletter





### Dear readers,

Would you please take few minutes to scan the QR code and finish the Questionnaire of BNU's Newsletter as follows? Your feedback is highly necessary for the development of BNU Newsletter. We extremely appreciate your friendly advice and support.



(For English)

A Letter to Readers



(For Chinese)

Editorial Team of BNU Newsletter October, 2021



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**BNU and NAOC Signed the Agreement between Beijing Normal University** and the National Astronomical **Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences on the Joint Establishment** of the Institute of Astronomy and **Astrophysics** 

Article source: Department of Astronomy | Release date: 2021-07-16

n the afternoon of July 13th, a signing ceremony was held at Beijing Normal University (BNU) for the Agreement between Beijing Normal University and the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences on the Joint Establishment of the Institute

of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IAA). It featured the following attendees: BNU's Party Secretary Cheng Jianping, BNU's President Dong Qi, Academician Chang Jin who also serves as Director of the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of



Sciences (NAOC), Academician Wu Xiangping, NAOC's Deputy Director Liu Jifeng, Ou Yun, Secretary of the NAOC's Disciplinary Committee, Tu Qingyun, a member of BNU's Standing Committee of the Party Committee and Vice President, as well as heads of relevant departments of BNU and the NAOC and some delegates from the faculty of the Department of Astronomy at BNU, and was presided over by Dong Qi. After the signing ceremony, BNU and the NAOC held a symposium on cooperation and lesson sharing presided over by Cheng Jianping.

making the IAA a role model for cooperation between universities and research institutions as well as the integrated development of science and education, jointly making greater contributions to national astronomical endeavors and technological innovation.

BNU will fully support the cooperation with the NAOC, formulate innovative mechanisms and models for the development of the IAA, focus on cultivating outstanding astronomers, and produce great astronomical findings.



Cheng Jianping pointed out, that at the critical stage when the school is dedicating vigorous efforts to building a comprehensive, research-oriented world-class normal university with Chinese characteristics, BNU and the NAOC jointly established the IAA. It is a milestone for the development of BNU's fundamental sciences, which is important for national development strategies and major research tasks through the integration of science and education based on cooperation between world-class universities with firstclass academic disciplines and national research institutions. He hoped that both sides can fully leverage their respective strengths to launch extensive cooperation in scientific research, talent training, platform exploration, the establishment and disciplined construction based on the IAA, formulate innovative systems and mechanisms and evaluation methods for research findings,





in discipline construction,

Chang Jin stated: BNU's discipline of astronomy is a mainstay in the field of astronomy in China which has provided a large number of outstanding astronomers for the NAOC and the national astronomical endeavors, and both sides maintain close cooperation in scientific research and talent training. He believed that the joint establishment of the IAA further deepened the cooperation between the BNU and the NAOC, which was

conducive to fully leveraging their respective strengths to promote the cultivation of outstanding astronomers, the launch of high-level scientific research projects, and the development of the discipline of astronomy. He also said: The NAOC will fully support the development of the IAA, strengthen bilateral cooperation

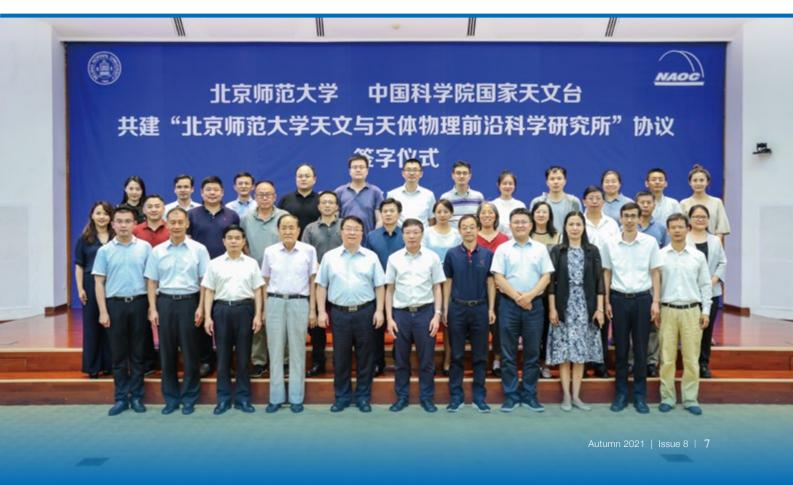
exploration and establishment of scientific research platforms, declaration of major scientific research projects, problem-solving for major scientific research tasks, and high-level talent training based on it, advance the formulation of innovative cooperation mechanisms and development models, and make joint contributions to the development of national astronomical endeavors.

Tu Qingyun and Liu Jifeng signed the Agreement between Beijing Normal University and the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese Academy of Sciences on the Joint Establishment of the Institute of



Astronomy and Astrophysics.

At the symposium, Academician Wu Xiangping introduced the development history and future trend of China's astronomy and said: Against the backdrop where the rapid development of China's astronomy industry urges the cultivation of high-level astronomers, the joint establishment of the IAA is important



for scientific research, talent training and discipline construction in the field of astronomy. Professor Liu Jifeng, Ou Yun, Tu Qingyun and He Xiangtao, heads of the Department of Astronomy, and representatives of teachers discussed and shared views on the development of astronomy, the construction of the discipline of astronomy, the development plan of the IAA, and the innovation of systems and mechanisms.



# **BNU Held a Seminar on International Communication**

Article source: Party Committee/President's Office | Release date: 2021-06-09



n June 8<sup>th</sup>, Beijing Normal University (BNU) held a seminar on international communication to further learn the guiding principle of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition during the 30th collective learning session of the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China and discuss how to improve international communication. It was attended by BNU's Party Secretary Cheng Jianping, BNU's Vice President Zhou Zuoyu, more than 10 experts, scholars, and heads of relevant functional departments.

Cheng Jianping led every attendee



to earnestly learn the guiding principle of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition during the 30<sup>th</sup> collective learning session of the Central Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China. He said that General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition elaborated on the direction and tasks of international

communication and is important for strengthening and improving international communication in the new situation. As a calling card of China's national image, BNU must thoroughly learn and understand Xi Jinping's important exposition, fully leverage its strengths in humanities and social sciences and as a comprehensive university

with multiple disciplines and strive to improve its international communication. Revolving around how to enhance international communication, Cheng Jianping proposed an approach based on three points. The first point deals with platform building. It is urged to accelerate cooperation with the International Confucian Association, and build a high-end platform that caters to China's international communication. The second point concerns discipline construction. It is urged to fully leverage the massive opportunity which is the establishment of new humanities and social sciences, focus on major needs integrate and upgrade the existing discipline system, deepen the integration of multiple disciplines and explore and ascertain new research orientations for each discipline; the third point is about building a new management system. It is urged to shape inclusive and dynamic systems and mechanisms and create a pilot area for the innovation and development of humanities and social sciences at BNU.

In this seminar chaired by Zhou Zuoyu, an array of experts and scholars including Huang Huilin, Kang Zhen, Wang Xuesong, Wu Xiangdong, Zhang Hongzhong, Hu Biliang, Zhang Qi, Yu Dan, Song Shanping and Liu Baocun discussed and shared ideas on the implementation of the guiding principle of General Secretary











and proposed suggestions and



Jinping's important exposition recommendations on how to help











universities and colleges improve international communication based on relevant efforts.

# The Unveiling Ceremony for the **Confucius Institute at the University** of Macerata (UniMC) Was Held in Italy

Article source: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-06-29

n July 20th, the unveiling ceremony for the Confucius Institute at the University of Macerata (UniMC), Italy was held in Macerata, Italy. It featured more than 100 attendees including guests from China and Italy, local citizens, and media reporters.

Sun Chengyong, Minister-Counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Italy, and Francesco Verducci, Vice-Chairman of the Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism and Member of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony and jointly unveiled the Confucius Institute. Afterwards, when distinguished guests visited the new building of the Confucius Institute, they spoke highly of newly built teaching and research facilities including classrooms, meeting rooms, libraries, and living facilities including dormitories and canteen. The speech session featured the speeches of Sun Chengyong,

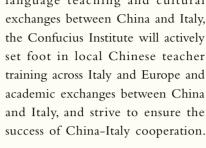


Francesco Verducci, Adornato (UniMC's President) and Lacchè (President of the Confucius Institute); and videos from Zhao Lingshan, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of Chinese International Education Foundation (CIEF), and Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), who congratulated on the formal operation of the Confucius Institute at the UniMC, and expressed the expectation for extensive cooperation between the CIEF. BNU. and the UniMC.

Sun Chengyong, Minister-Counselor

of the Chinese Embassy in Italy and Francesco Verducci, Vice-Chairman of the Department of Education, Cultural Heritage and Tourism and Member of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, jointly unveiled the Confucius Institute.

The Confucius Institute at the UniMC was jointly established in 2011 by BNU and the UniMC. Since its establishment, it has actively engaged in Chinese language teaching, Chinese teacher training, as well as academic and cultural exchanges with other entities, and it has gradually developed based on the agreement reached between China and Italy in 2015. This unveiling ceremony marked the formal operation of this 10-year-old institute, which ushered in a new stage of its development. In the future, in addition to better promoting Chinese





# **Zhou Zuoyu Attended the Conference of** the International Governing Board of **BRICS Network University (IGB)**

Article source: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-07-01

n June 29th, Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), was invited to attend the video conference of the International Governing Board of BRICS Network University (IGB) and speak on behalf of China. It was hosted by India, which held the rotating presidency of BRICS in 2021 and attended by Wang Yi, Director of the Division of International Organizations,

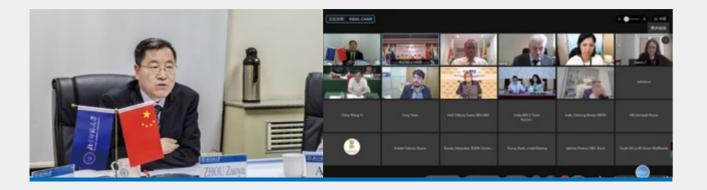
International Department, Ministry of Education of China (DIO), Guan Xin, Deputy Director of the DIO, Liu Wenkai, President of the North China University of Water Resources and Electric Power, as well as senior officials of the Ministry of Education and universities from Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa.

On behalf of China, Zhou Zuoyu

language teaching and cultural

It is worth mentioning that this ceremony was held when the COVID-19 pandemic still plagued the world, so it is evident that China and Italy attached considerable importance to the Confucius Institute and harbored eager expectations for further cooperation.

proposed amendments to the Declaration of the International Governing Board of BRICS Network University (Draft) (IGB Declaration). He stated: Faced with many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to mutual exchanges, higher institutions of BRICS countries should fully leverage technological means to devise innovative ways of cooperation, and actively explore and



launch online mutual learning such as cloud-based cooperation. Zhou Zuoyu also proposed amendments to the terms for improving the alliance's conference mechanism for working groups in prioritized areas and dual degree programs under joint training. His proposals were highly recognized by Amit Khare, Chairman of the conference and Secretary of the Ministry of Education of India, as well as representatives of other countries, and the amended Declaration was recognized by all attendees and passed unanimously.

Representatives from member countries briefed on their recent progress in efforts under the framework of the alliance and Liu Wenkai spoke on behalf of China. He stated: Although the world was plagued by severe challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic in the past year, Chinese universities still benefited from cooperation within the framework of the alliance. He also mentioned that BNU forged ahead when faced difficulties and played an effective role in cooperation in scientific research, student exchanges, and think tank construction. Representatives of BRICS countries stated: In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, they will unite as one,

strengthen cooperation in higher education, and create a role model mechanism for mutual learning between higher institutions.

India, which sponsored the conference and held the rotating presidency of the BRICS, stated that it would submit the conclusions of the conferences at the 8th Meeting of BRICS Education Ministers to be held on July 6.

Wu Yujun, Director of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation (OIEC), Ai Xin, Secretary of the Party Committee of the School of Foreign Languages and Literature and Deputy Director of the OIEC, Wang Lei, Deputy Dean of the School of Government and Director of the BRICS Cooperation Center, Cai Hongbo, Deputy Dean of the BNU Business School, Professor Wu Zhongke of the School of Artificial Intelligence and relevant staffers of the OIEC attended the meeting.

Established at the 7th BRICS Summit in July 2015, BRICS Network University involved 55 universities of BRICS countries, including 11 Chinese universities based on selection and recommendation by each member country's Ministry of Education. As a member, BNU engages in cooperation across four disciplines including BRICS research, economics, computer technology, and information security, as well as ecology and climate change. Since its establishment, BRICS Network University has been committed to pooling the strengths of high-level institutions across BRICS countries. launching joint research and high-end talent training, putting various cooperative projects into extensive practice, as well as continuously promoting cultural exchanges and advancing common development of culture and education among five BRICS countries.



# **BNU Master of Public Administration** (MPA Education Project) Has Passed NASPAA international certification

Article source: School of Government | Release date: 2021-08-12

n August 11th, NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration) officially announced the international certification results of the Master of Public Administration Program in 2021. The master's degree in Public Administration (MPA education project) of the School of Government of BNU has passed the highest-level certification of seven-year inspection exemption (2021-2028) at one time, becoming the only Chinese University project that has passed the certification this year. So far, six universities in China have passed NASPAA



international certification,

including Tsinghua University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, University of International Business and Economics, and Zhejiang University.

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NASPAA currently has more than 300 college members in 15 countries and it is the



most authoritative certification organization in the field of international public management education. NASPAA certification is the most internationally influential qualification evaluation system, and it focuses on whether the MPA education project is based on a clear training mission, in terms of project objectives, project governance, teacher









team construction, student management, and service, and so on, to ensure the delivery of excellent talents with public value, public management knowledge and ability to the public sector. NASPAA certification not only provides an international standard for continuous improvement for domestic public management training units but also provides an international reference for the needs of public management talents from all walks of life.

The School of Government at BNU has officially started the application for NASPAA international certification in 2017 and established a group working on MPA Education Center. In December 2018, the School of Government officially became a member of NASPAA; From June 2019 to December 2020, the MPA education program of the School of Government passed the qualification examination and self-assessment stage; In March 2021, Professor Jack Meek, former chairman of NASPAA, led the investigation team to conduct a three-day online field investigation. After several rounds of discussion, the feedback report was formed and submitted

to NASPAA Certification Review Committee for consideration; In July 2021, the certification review committee decided that the MPA education project of the School of Government passed the NASPAA certification and granted a seven-year certification exemption period.

As the undertaker of the first batch of MPA education projects in China, the School of Government of Beijing Normal University has been forging ahead and has become an influential public management talent training base in China.

# Wang Shoujun Hosted the Second "Belt and Road" International Communication Symposium

Article source: Belt and Road School | Release date: 2021-06-16

n the morning of June 12, to the guiding principle of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important exposition on strengthening international communication on May 31, Wang Shoujun, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU) and Dean of the Belt and Road School, hosted the second "Belt and Road" International Communication Symposium of the Belt and Road School for in-depth discussions on how to cooperate with countries along the Belt and Road line based on requirements of BNU's Party Secretary Cheng Jianping at the BNU's Seminar on International Communication.

Wang Shoujun stated that General Secretary Xi Jinping is a foresighted leader who elaborated on the importance of strengthening international communication, clearly



set forth basic tasks and focus, and clarified what we shall work towards. While the Belt and Road Initiative has become a critical part of China's efforts in international communication in the new era, the United States and other Western countries are trying their utmost to subvert it and distort and smear its intention. Therefore, BNU must put enhanced efforts in learning and research and improve theoretical innovation and international communication based on China's actual needs.

The focus of this symposium is to explore how to promote the common development of China and the world, especially the development of China's global trade, through joint construction along the Belt and Road line, as well as how to minimize the harmful impact of the trade war launched by the United States on



China and "Belt and Road" countries. Hu Biliang, Executive Dean of the Belt and Road School, Distinguished Professor Pan Qingzhong, Research Fellow Wan Zhe, experts and scholars from relevant departments and relevant research institutions in cooperation with the Belt and Road School, young teachers and some students attended the seminar and shared their opinions.

Everyone said that events like the "Belt and Road" Seminar on International Communication were conducive to better grasping the guiding principle of Xi Jinping's important exposition on strengthening international communication, facilitating discussions on major issues related to Belt and Road Initiative, promoting theoretical research on the Belt and Road Initiative and improving BNU's and even China's international communication level.

# **BNU Organized Teachers to Attend the Oxford Teaching and Learning Program**

Article source: Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development (Center for Faculty Development) | Release date: 2021-07-15

n July, the Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development (Center for Faculty Development, CFD), Beijing Normal University held the first lessons sharing session of 2021 for the Overseas Teaching and Academic Exchange Program for Key Teachers (OTAEPKT). As joint initiators of this program, the CFD and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation (OIEC) organized 14 teachers from the Faculty of Education, the School of History, the College of Chemistry, the Chinese Language & Culture College, the Department of Physics, the School of Journalism and Communication, and the College for Criminal Law Science, the School of Government and the China Academy of Social Management/School of Sociology to participate in the Oxford Teaching and Learning Program, an online program for teacher development.

Offered by the Oxford Prospects and Global Development Institute, the training program mainly dealt with active teaching, sustainable learning, teaching evaluation, teacher development, new technology application, and student employment and included 12 classes. Involved teachers took the class through ZOOM from late March to mid-May and completed the course. The lesson sharing session involved teachers shared what they learned and what they thought about an array of topics including undergraduate mentorship, innovative education practices in the post-pandemic era, characteristics of the higher education system, information education, blended teaching, ABC teaching design, instructional technology, evidence-based teaching, exploratory teaching, effective methods for teaching and learning, how to promote sustainable learning based on defensive thinking and how to set the boundary between teachers and students, as well as reflected on and discussed their teaching practices. Many teachers from the School of Life Sciences, the School



of Environment, and the library also took an active part in lesson sharing and discussion and expressed their views on relevant topics.

Teachers stated: Oxford's online teacher training courses are a multiencompassing and pragmatic guide for current teaching practices of colleges and universities. In the future, we must dig into education and teaching issues based on classroom teaching, rely on cutting-edge teaching concepts and technology, timely reflect on and summarize lessons learned in teaching practice, shape a more forward-looking teaching and learning approach, and promote professional self-development and the all-round development of students.

The OTAEPKT was established by the CFD in 2016 for teachers to discuss education and teaching issues with their outstanding foreign counterparts, support them to attend teaching and research activities in high-level overseas universities or international teaching and academic conferences, and help them improve teaching and academic research abilities. It is strongly supported by BNU's Yu Pennian Fund for Educational Development.





# **BNU Women's Basketball Team Won** the 23<sup>rd</sup> CUBA Final Championship

Article source: College of P.E. and Sports | Release date: 2021-06-22

he Chinese University Basketball Association (CUBA) women's final was a fierce battle between Beijing Normal University and Tsinghua University at Mount Phoenix Stadium in Chengdu on June 13. Finally, BNU women's basketball team won the 23<sup>rd</sup> CUBA women's national championship with 87:34 over Tsinghua.

In the first quarter of the game, BNU women's team made a small climax of 6:0 at the very beginning. However, Tsinghua women's team bit the score with three-pointers, which made the battle very intense. At the critical moment, Zhang Jingyi made a timely shot and hit a three-pointer to open up the score advantage.

In the second quarter, Liu Yutong scored continuously with her strong



basketball dominance, and Gu Yitong caused Tsinghua's fouls by constantly breaking through and controlling the pace of the game. At the end of the half, BNU led the opponent by 6 points.

In the third quarter, BNU was under pressure from Tsinghua and the score was down. At the critical moment, head coach Li Sunnan called a timeout to set up the tactics



and encourage the players. Subsequently, the BNU team implemented the guidance of Li Sunnan and gradually recovered the score.

In the final quarter, Li Shuangfei opened the game with her superb individual ability and scored continuously to help BNU overtake the opponent. Although Tsinghua tried to catch up with the score by shooting from outside, it was not effective under the tight defense of BNU players. After that, BNU players kept scoring with their tacit cooperation and extended their lead.

In the end, BNU defeated Tsinghua with 87:74 and defended the CUBA women's national championship for 3 consecutive years and the 9<sup>th</sup> time! Head coach Li Sunnan won the Best Coach and Zhang Jingyi won the Most Valuable Player (MVP)!









# BNU's Post-graduate Students Specializing in Applied Psychology from the Department of Psychology Won an Array of Prizes at the China-US Young Maker Competition 2021 (Beijing Session)

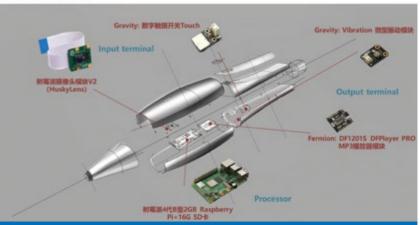
Article source: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-07-13

n July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Beijing session of the China-US Young Maker Competition 2021 themed around "Creating the Future Together" and sponsored by the Ministry of Education was held online. It involved 85 teams (400 makers) from 24 universities including Tsinghua University, Peking University, and Beijing Jiaotong University. Seven teams formed by post-graduate students specializing in user experience from the Department of Psychology of Beijing Normal University (BNU) in partnership with Purdue University won two grand prizes, two first prizes, and three-second prizes. Among them, two grand prize winners recognized for "MORE THAN a CANE" (Smart Cane Applicable

in Multiple Scenarios) and "TwinkOO" (a product designed for autistic children" will participate in the national finals on behalf of Beijing.

In this competition, the Department of Psychology

Exploded Drawing



of BNU dispatched a total of 10 teams specializing in user experience, of which seven earned spots among the top 20 with prizes. After carefully observing and interviewing the visually impaired, the team "Busy but Not Blind" found

# BNUNewsroom



# 2021 印度 新新加盟 中美青年创客大赛 北京赛区



# BNU-MSU Development Center for Russian Teacher Development Held the "Liyun Cup" & "Inheritance Cup"

Article source: School of Foreign Languages and Literatures | Release date: 2021-06-22

that it was most difficult for them to cross the road and order food in the restaurant. Therefore, it designed a detachable and retractable smart cane based on Vision API, an AI-based tool for image recognition, and document analysis and recognition technology. The team "Wahaha" designed a product for autistic children to interact with their parents based on observations of them and interviews with their teachers and parents. This product facilitates interaction between children and their parents with a music therapy based on recognition of their movements and AI-based deduction; the team "Surrounder" designed a migraine relief instrument by collecting EEG, blood oxygen, and heart rate

signals and analyzing symptoms of migraine headaches; the team "aha" collected EEG signals and designed a learning aid media for children based on field independence and field dependence in cognitive style. These two teams both won first prizes.

The two teams that won grand prizes will participate in the national finals on behalf of Beijing at the end of August and compete with the USA's makers on behalf of Beijing's young makers.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Education, the China-US Young Maker Competition is a crucial part of the mechanism for China-US communication in humanities and social sciences. As one of the competitions between

has been held for 6 consecutive years. The BNU China-US Exchange Center for Young Makers is one of the 18 centers in the first batch for China-US exchange between young makers approved by the Ministry of Education, and BNU is the only normal university approved to establish such centers. With the support of the university, the Department of Psychology has been training innovative and entrepreneurial talents under the guiding principle of "integrating undergraduate and post-graduate education and providing customized training for different groups" since 2013 and has played an effective role in the cultivation of specialized post-graduate students.

Chinese and U.S. universities, it

n June 19<sup>th</sup>, the BNU-MSU Development Center for Russian Teacher Development (DCRTD) held the Ceremony for the Second Anniversary of the DCRTD & "Liyun Cup" Teaching Skill Competition for Secondary School Russian Teachers and "Inheritance Cup" Sino-Russian Singing Competition for Secondary School Students in cooperation with the BNU Russian Studies Center and under the support of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation. BNU's Vice-President Zhou Zuoyu and MSU's Vice-Rector Tatyana Kortava were invited to deliver speeches, and Andrey Denisov, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of China sent a congratulatory letter.

2021 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of



the Communist Party of China and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.* To implement the fundamental task of moral education, encourage secondary school Russian teachers to actively update their teaching concepts and improve their teaching ability; inspire secondary school students to have great ideals and cultivate noble virtues; further deepen cultural exchanges and mutual learning between China and Russia, and consolidate longterm friendship between Chinese and Russian people, the DCRTD, the BNU Russian Studies Center and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation launched the first "Liyun Cup" & "Inheritance Cup" in May 2021. This competition was well received by secondary school teachers and students at home and abroad. 167 application forms from more than 50 secondary schools across China and Russia were received, and more than 600 teachers and students participated in it.

In his speech, Zhou Zuoyu extended sincere greetings and best wishes to organizers as well recognized a series of activities carried out to strengthen Sino-Russian cooperation and facilitate Sino-Russian establishment of the DCRTD. He stated that BNU currently enabled prosperous development of Russian studies in China by establishing two centers (the DCRTD and the BNU Russian Studies Center), launching a journal (Russian Literature and Art), and developing a union (Association of Sino-Russian Educational Universities:). He

also hoped that the DCRTD would dedicate stronger efforts to cultivating talents for Sino-Russian exchanges and upgrading the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Russia.

In her speech, Kortava affirmed various activities organized by the DCRTD since its establishment and paid tribute to Professor Liu Juan for her massive efforts. She emphasized that this year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, and the great success of this event is undoubtedly a tribute to it. In 2022, BNU will celebrate its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and Kortava possible teaching and research activities for the two universities to celebrate this event and the future orientation of the DCRTD.

Liu Juan, Chinese Director of the DCRTD and Director of



the BNU Russian Studies Center, read out the congratulatory letter from Ambassador Denisov who acclaimed that the "Liyun Cup" Teacher Skill Competition and "Inheritance Cup" Singing Competition is another vivid chapter of bilateral cooperation between China and Russia in education. Russian studies in China are a history of success written by more than 1,600 Russian teachers in elementary and secondary school teachers and college teachers. Ambassador Denisov extended his gratitude to the organizers for their consistent dedication to the highlevel development of the Russian language in China, as well as sincere greetings and blessings to the participants of this competition.

There were 43 winning teams and individuals from 25 secondary schools in this competition. After the list of winners was announced, representatives of teachers and students from Jinan Foreign Language School and Changchun Foreign Language School made their speeches, which impressed the guests and other contestants attending the ceremony. In the presentation of the winners of the Teaching Skills Competition, Xu Yanyu and Zou Ning, both teachers from Jinan Foreign Language School, and Yu Houchun, a teacher from Chongqing Experimental Foreign Language School delivered



speeches and shared their lessons learned from teaching practices and teaching skills. The ceremony culminated with an online concert, and the audience was deeply moved by classic Chinese and Russian songs including *Midnight in the Moscow, Hawthorn Tree*, and *The Cloud of Hometown* sung by Chinese and Russian secondary school students.

Chinese and Russian directors of the DCRTD made their respective closing speeches. Professor Liu Juan expressed his heartfelt gratitude to members of the DCRTD and all the contestants in this competition. She said: At the key juncture of the 100<sup>th</sup> of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, it is important to hold the "Liyun All participants in these two competitions have made positive contributions to deepening Sino-Russian cooperation in the humanities. Russian Director Валерий Владимирович Частны stated: All teachers of the "Liyun Cup" have showcased outstanding professional skills and teaching abilities, and a variety of activities held after the establishment of the DCRTD have undoubtedly strengthened the friendship between Russian teachers in China and Russia. In the future, the DCRTD



Link: https://m.haiwain



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will organize more beneficial activities to continuously boost Sino-Russian cooperation in education. Feng Yafei, Director of the Office of Russian Language Teaching of Heilongjiang Teacher Development College, stated: Secondary school teachers and students have many lessons learned and ideas inspired in this competition. During the competition, teachers shared lessons learned in teaching with each other, acquired new teaching skills, and consolidated their teaching abilities. I hope that, in the future, the DCRTD can hold more activities that are beneficial to the development of Russian language teaching in China and promote further cultural exchanges between BNU and MSU.

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# The Council of the Confucius Institute at the UoM Held a Video Conference

Article source: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-06-21

n June 17th, Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the University of Manchester (UoM) jointly held a video conference for the Council of the Confucius Institute at the UoM. Attendees included BNU's Vice President Zhou Zuoyu, UoM's Vice President Keith Brown, Alessandro Schiesaro, Dean of the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures (UoM), Richard Cotton, Director of the Global Development Department (UoM), Deljana Iossifova, UK Director of the Confucius Institute, Karen Wang, UK Deputy Director of the Confucius Institute, Wang Xuesong, Secretary of the Party Committee of Chinese Language & Culture College (BNU), Zhang Hui, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute, and Xiao Kai, Director of the Management Center of the Confucius Institute.

Zhou Zuoyu introduced the concepts and principles of BNU's "Strategic Plan for Global Development," reviewed the achievements made by the Confucius Institute at the UoM in Chinese language teaching, textbook development, and cultural dissemination since its establishment. He stated: BNU will continue to leverage its superior resources to support projects of the Confucius Institute at the UoM and ensure its continuous and stable operation. Keith Brown expressed his gratitude to BNU the signing of a new cooperation agreement, the Confucius Institute's financial accounts for 2020 and financial budget for 2021, as well as the future development of the Confucius Institute and extensive cooperation in other fields such as joint research and training programs.



for its support to the Confucius Institute at the UoM. He affirmed the crucial role of the Confucius Institute in building a platform for BNU-UoM cooperation and promoting cooperation in discipline construction and teacher and student exchanges between the two universities and indicated that the UoM will fully support the development of the Confucius Institute and work to upgrade bilateral cooperation.

The two universities also discussed

Since the joint establishment of the Confucius Institute in 2006, BNU and the UoM have established a close partnership. With the joint efforts of both sides, the Confucius Institute has burgeoned and become a strong connection that maintains all-around cooperation and plays a crucial role in promoting cooperation in scientific research and teacher and student exchanges between the two universities. In 2016, the Confucius Institute at the UoM was awarded the title of "Role Model Confucius Institute."

# The First Lecture on General Knowledge about China Was Held at Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Author: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation (Office of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs) | Release date: 2021-06-15

n the morning of June 10th, the live event "Online Training on General Knowledge about China for Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Students—First Lecture on General Knowledge about China" sponsored by the Office of Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs, the Ministry of Education and It was also watched by more than 8,000 teachers and students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan online.

Based on historical documents and rigorous textual research, Wang Binglin analyzed three key issues in a simple way: how to understand the learning of the history of the



organized by the National Academy of Education Administration was held at Beijing Normal University (BNU). It featured the lecture on Party history learning entitled "Sharpening Wisdom and Empowering ourselves by Learning the History of the Party" by Wang Binglin, Director of the Research Center for the Social Science Development of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, and was attended by representatives of students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan. Party, how to understand historical transitions of the Party, and how to summarize lessons learned by the Party over the years. During the Q & A session, students took an active part in raising questions, and Wang Binglin answered each of them including "how to establish a correct view of the history of the Party," "how to learn history for the benefit of practice" and "how to criticize historical nihilism." He also recommended the following books:

On the History of the Communist Party of China, Excerpts from the Expositions of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin, and Hu Jintao on the History of the Communist Party of China, and A Brief History of the Communist Party of China.

This online training aims to guide

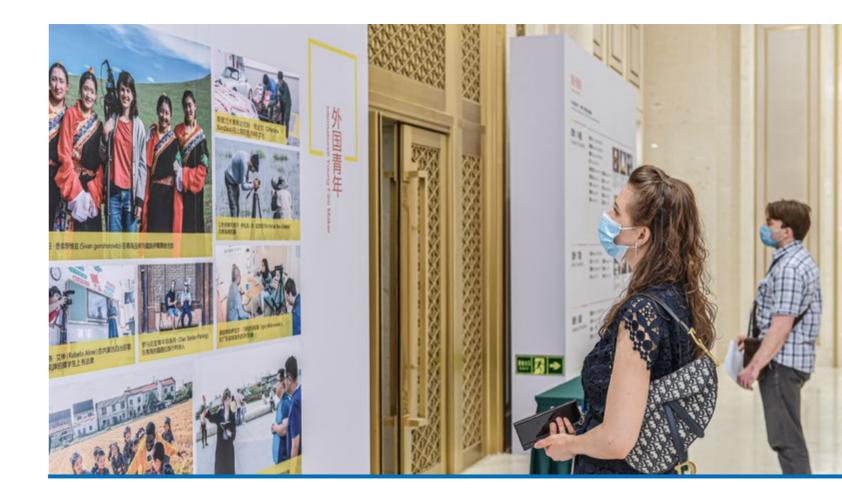
students from Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan to establish an accurate understanding of history, ethnicity, country, and culture, strengthen allegiance and attachment to the country as well cultural and national identity, and identify, support, and advocate "one country, two systems" and the reunification of the Chinese nation. The training combines synchronous and asynchronous training and lectures on general knowledge about China are one of the key sessions.

# The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Program "Visiting China: Making Videos about China" for Foreign Young People Was Held in Beijing

Article source: Academy for International Communication of Chinese Culture | Release date: 2021-05-18

n the morning of May 17<sup>th</sup>, the photo exhibition for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the program "Visiting China: Making Videos about China" for foreign young people was unveiled in the Press Conference Hall of the State Council Information Office. Sponsored by Beijing Normal University, it will last two weeks. "Visiting China" is a cultural exchange program for young people organized by Beijing Normal University (BNU) in cooperation with dozens of countries and universities. Its purpose is to increase foreign young people's understanding of China by involving them to create short documentaries about Chinese culture. It has been ten years since "Visiting China" was launched in 2011. 725 foreign young people from 77 universities across 83 countries have traveled all over China, visiting 26 provinces (municipalities or autonomous regions), completed 712 short films which present both versatile natural and cultural scenes of China, and experienced different cultures and universal feelings all human share. These works were exhibited in 28 countries across five continents and won more than 120 international





awards. "Visiting China" is a unique contribution to promoting mutual understanding between Chinese and foreign people and mutual learning among different civilizations, and this exhibition reflected its developments and achievements in promoting cultural communication, solidifying friendship between countries, and documentary creation in the past ten years, which were well received by attending reporters from mainstream media across the globe.

The exhibition was divided into four major parts: Time, Place, Human and Interpersonal Bonds, respectively showing an overview of pluralistic annual themes over the years, the talents of young people from multiple cultures, versatile experiences, and multi-dimensional emotional and cultural communication. When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out, "Visiting China" was not suspended but added three new items: "Watching Chinese Movies" and "Remote Visit" for foreign young people and "On-site Visit" for foreign young people in China. New media were flexibly used for film creation, and 103 excellent films were completed. "Visiting China" not only enhanced foreign young people's understanding of China, but also helped them develop friendship and mutual support with their Chinese counterparts in the process of close cooperation from preparation to research, and to filming and editing,

and enabled communication among young people from various countries. Moreover, after getting involved in "Visiting China," many foreign young people chose to study and work in China or learn Chinese in local schools. They wrote their stories about China in a variety of ways.

In the past ten years, "Visiting China" has helped young people develop a friendship with each other, enhance their emotional connections, expanded their horizons, incubated creative talents, and promoted cultural exchanges. It is a massive success, but it continues to forge ahead. In 2020, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the "Visiting China," a photo exhibition was held at BNU and received universal acclaim



and much spotlight in global academic circles. Holding it again in the Press Conference Hall of the State Council Information Office represented a great affirmation of "Visiting China" in the past ten years and its purpose was to further expand the program's influence among media across various countries, promote further cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries, enable continuous innovation and ensure greater success for the program.



# Zhou Zuoyu Attended the ANSO Online Open Conference & Third Science Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative (Session 4: Fundamental Science & Higher Education) on Technological Innovation and Delivered a Speech

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science and Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-06-17

rom May 27 to 28, the ANSO Online Open Conference & Third Science Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative (Session 4: Fundamental Science & Higher Education) on Technological Innovation was held. Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), was invited to attend the conference and deliver a keynote speech entitled "Emphasizing Fundamental Science, Improving Educational Level, and Catering to Innovation and Development."

Zhou Zuoyu proposed: Discussions should be based on the essence of knowledge. He explained the relationships between fundamental science and applied science, natural science and humanities, research fellows and technology entrepreneurs, and emphasized that basic disciplines and fundamental science is crucial to social, national, and global development. Under the circumstances where China pays greater attention to fundamental scientific research, BNU fully leverages its strengths in education sciences, natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities and actively explores talent training and international cooperation in scientific research. In the process of advancing such talent training programs as the "Top-notch Student Training Program for Basic Disciplines," "Foundational Disciplines Reform Plan," and public funding for normal school students, BNU had some lessons learned and made active contributions to building China's reserve of innovative talents in fundamental science. In the future, it will further establish a widely shared teaching support system, further explore models for fundamental research and efficient faculty management

in colleges and universities while promote international cooperation in fundamental disciplines with a more open-minded attitude. In the interactive session, Zhou Zuoyu specially introduced effective explorations of the Smart Learning Institute of BNU and the China-US Exchange Center for Young Makers in putting fundamental research findings into action. He emphasized that industrial needs should be taken into account in research and research should be integrated into teaching.

This conference featured the following attendees: Ferenc Hudecz, Vice President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and former President of Roland University, Yuan Yaxiang, President of the Chinese Mathematical Society and Academician of the Academy of Mathematics and



ANSO Online Open Conference &

The Third International Science Forum on the Belt and Road Initiative

# Session 4 **Fundamental Science & Higher Education**

Systems Science, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor Balázs Gulyás, President's Chair of Translational Neuroscience at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and former Chairman of the Biomedical Research Council (Singapore) , Sir George Radda, Emeritus Professor of Molecular Cardiology at the University of Oxford, Professor Csaba Pléh, Co-Chair for Methodology of Science Education at the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, Professor Alejandro Jofré, Provost at the University of Chile, Professor Anwar-ul-Hassan Gilani, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Haripur, former Chairman of the Pakistan Science and Technology Commission, and a member of the Pakistan Council for Science and Technology, and Bao Yungang, a

research fellow and Deputy Director of the Institute of Computing Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. It was cochaired by Professor Mohammad Qasim Jan, Vice President at ANSO and former President of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and Cao Jinghua, Executive Director of the Secretariat at ANSO.

ANSO was co-sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Sciences, UNESCO, among other organizations. Formally established in November 2018, it involves an array of universities and scientific research institutions from countries along the "Belt and Road" line, including BNU.



# **BNU and W&M Held a Video Conference** for the Signing of the Memorandum of **Cooperation and Negotiation**

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science and Office of International Exchange & Cooperation | Release date: 2021-05-27

n May 25<sup>th</sup>, Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the College of William & Mary (W&M) held a video conference for the signing of the memorandum of cooperation and negotiation. It featured the following attendees: BNU's Vice President Zhou Zuoyu, Steven Hansen, W&M's Vice Provost for Academic and International Affairs, Teresa Longo, W&M's Executive Director of the Reves Center for International Studies. Mike Hill, W&M's Director of Chinese Studies, Francis Tanglau Argus, W&M's Director of the Global Studies, Liu Ying, Director of W&M's program in Chinese Studies, Emily Wilcox, W&M's Professor of Chinese Studies, Miao Xingwei, the Dean of the School of Foreign Languages and Literature of BNU, Xiao Kai, Director of the Management Center of the Confucius Institute, and Wang Deliang, former Chinese Director of W&M's Confucius Institute.

Zhou Zuoyu delivered a welcome speech on behalf of the BNU and reviewed the cooperation between the two sides in student exchanges and the development

of Chinese language programs. His speech was followed by the speech of Stephen Hansen, who expressed satisfaction with existing cooperation between the two universities, and once again thanked BNU for receiving W&M's Chinese students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both sides highly affirmed the completed summer and winter students exchange programs and discussed how to further operate them together with explore new areas of cooperation. They also stated that they would actively promote the implementation of the dual-degree program on international Chinese language education and W & M's cooperation with the School of Foreign Languages and Literature of BNU in journal publication to promote further academic internationalization of both sides. In addition, W & M also introduced a series of activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of



its enrollment of the first Asian student (Chinese student). Zhou Zuoyu highly affirmed that W & M attaches considerable importance to Chinese students and stated that the long history of cultural exchanges will facilitate friendly cooperation between BNU and W & M in the future.

Zhou Zuoyu and Stephen Hansen signed the framework cooperation agreement on behalf of W & M.

W & M is one of the "public ivies" in the United States and was ranked 40th in the U.S. News 2020 rankings of America's best colleges. In 2012, W & M and BNU jointly established the Confucius Institute.

# **BNU Held Conferral of Degrees** for **2020 Graduates**

Article source: Department of Student Affairs | Release date: 2021-07-14

n the morning of July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Conferral of Degrees for the 2020 Graduates was held at Qiu Jiduan Sports Centre. University leaders jointly awarded degrees to more than 1,700 graduates of the class 2020.

Last year, most graduates were unable to return to BNU and participate in the conferral ceremony due to the pandemic. In the online commencement last year, students from different places expressed their deep affection for their Alma Mater. Chairman of the University Council Cheng Jianping and President Dong Qi sent sincere wishes to the graduates through videos, urging the students to "move forward, live up to the youth, and strive to grow into a new generation for the national rejuvenation." They invited everyone to return to BNU in the future, and once again wear a Graduation Gown, take graduate photos and participate in the conferral of degrees.

This year, BNU decided to make up the conferral for the 2020 graduates. Those who are unable to participate can return to BNU







# **BNU Held Commencement** Ceremony 2021

Article source: Department of Student Affairs | Release date: 2021-07-13

ne ceremony together. It was held in









Dong Qi congratulated the and expressed his gratitude to all he faculty members and parents he graduates of the Class of 2021 fe choices in their own hands; and always keep the initiative of o grow and succeed in overcoming ifficulties and setbacks; to be brave he society and future.



2017 of College of Life Sciences, on how to become an excellent ducation in his hometown and o be a good teacher in the place



raduate students of 2018 of the aculty of Psychology, shared er experience of serving ociety with her knowledge of

during the Covid-19 pandemic,



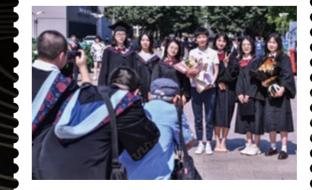
loing their duty, and to strive to be

tudents singing the university song eaders and members of the degree valuation committee attended the



Happy Graduation





(a) 北京师范大学未来航当 総名
北京県市大学2021届毕业生
Name 输发站 北京师范大 ALIE 登机口 Gate MHZ BNU





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# 2021 Global Smart Education Conference

## [Background]

urrently, as emerging technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, 5G, VR/AR/MR, and the Internet of Things, integrate with other technologies unprecedentedly, human society approaches a threshold of a new round of transformation. In this situation, smart society, as a more advanced social pattern in comparison with the agricultural society, industrial society, and information society, may arrive soon. This trend will fundamentally transform the way we live, work, and learn. Humanmachine collaboration, crossindustry integration, as well as cocreation and sharing, may become a new series of characteristics embedded in people's life.

The social transformation of the intelligence era generates new demands on future education. In response to these demands, major countries and international organizations all over the world are exploring new paths and approaches to accelerate the



process of talent cultivation to adapt to the intelligence age. The United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2016) has put forward the idea of "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education to promote lifelong learning opportunities (LLO) for all (SDG4)". In 2019, UNESCO launched the Futures of Education Initiative. The plural form of "Futures" emphasizes multiple dimensions to the future and appeals to reimagine how education and knowledge can shape the future of humanity in a context of complexity, uncertainty, and precarity. In 2019 and 2020, to better overcome the challenges of the intelligence age, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China jointly organized two International Conferences on Artificial Intelligence and Education, discussing the future development of global education. It released the first international consensus on AI and Education, the Beijing Consensus, which provided useful suggestions for promoting the innovative integration of technologies and education as well as the implementation of SDG4.

The mission of education is to enlighten people's cultivating innovative talents and supplying the country's economic and social development with talent support and intellectual guarantee. In face of the new situation, a series of strategies and policies have been proposed by the Chinese government, including China's Education Modernization 2035 plan, the New Generation Artificial Intelligence Development Plan, the AI Innovation Action Plan for Institutions of Higher Education, Education Informatization 2.0 Action Plan, which emphasize the importance of developing Smart Education. In addition, the 14th

Five-Year Plan (2021-25) for Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 also stresses the need to build a high-quality educational system and further points out that Smart Education should be specifically employed in the application scenarios of the digital economy, which clarified the direction for educational innovation in the future. As a highend form of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education, Smart Education is committed to setting up smart learning environments, exploring new models of teaching, and building a modern educational system. As of 2021, the Ministry of Education of China has selected 20 regions as Smart Education Pilot Zones, expecting to expedite the exploration of a new model, new method, and new path to transform education through intelligent technologies.

Beijing Normal University (BNU) is a comprehensive and researchintensive university that leads the way in the theoretical innovation and practical exploration of Smart

Education. From 2016 to 2020, Beijing Normal University, together with international organizations and universities has held five Smart Education Conferences consecutively and released a series of smart-education-related reports. In 2020, BNU and its international partners also launched a Joint Project on Rethinking and Redesigning National Smart Education Strategy, generating enormous influences in the field of Smart Education globally. Especially during the pandemic, Smart Learning Institute (SLI) and National Engineering Laboratory for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology (CITlab) have been seeking educational solutions under special circumstances. Specifically, they worked with UNESCO, finalizing and publishing a series of handbooks which comprise Handbook on Facilitating Flexible Learning During Educational Disruption: The Chinese Experience in Maintaining Undisrupted Learning in COVID-19 Outbreak, Ensuring Effective Distance Learning under COVID-19 School Closures: Guidance for Teachers as well as AI and Education: Guidance for Policy-makers. A variety of learning strategies and practical experience adopted in China have been collected in these handbooks, which provided institutions with feasible recommendations in minimalizing disruption and ensuring continuity of course delivery during the pandemic. Furthermore, they also elaborated challenges in applying Artificial Intelligence to achieve SDG4 and supplied policymakers with practical advice to the formulation of regulations.

Technology empowers education, and education adds value to economic and social development in return. Smart Education, as an important part of the smart

society, should be based on the current situation while also provides support for the new era. It means that education should be human-oriented and pay attention to cultivation, rather than simply the materials and teaching process. With a focus on identifying the promise of the future of education, Beijing Normal University, with the approval from the Ministry of Education, collaborated with international organizations and other higher education institutions to organize the 2021 Global Smart Education Conference on 18-20 August this year. The aims of the conference lie in three areas: 1) To further understand the latest achievements and development trends in

Smart Education, facilitating the innovative integration of intelligent technologies and education. 2) To gather global resources and strength in Smart Education to provide recommendations for narrowing long-standing equity gaps and promoting personalized growth for all. 3) To set up international platforms for educational research, exchange, and cooperation and contribute to the establishment of a community with a shared future for mankind. With the theme of Smart Learning and Futures of Education, the conference invited policymakers, experts, scholars, researchers, teachers and students, business representatives, and media to attend the conference and contribute to the development of Smart Education.

### [Four Themes]

- Intelligent Technologies Promoting Educational Equity and Balance
- Intelligent Technologies Shaping Futures of Education
- Coordinated Development of Global Smart Education Strategy
- The New Normal of "Internet + Education" in the Post-Pandemic Era

## [ Nine Forums ]

- AI and Futures of Education
- Smart Education and Digital Resources
- The New Ecology of Regional Smart Education
- AI and Social Governance
- Big Data in Education and Learning Analytics
- Open Educational Practices and Teachers' Capacity Building
- Smart Village and Ecological Civilization
- Smart Education Empowered by 5G Technology
- High-Level Dialogue on New Normal and Sustainable Development for Education

# [148 Guests]





# [148 Guests]







Jiayi Hu







Bin Wang

Li Xiong





Jiatao Huang



Haijun Zeng



Wei Zhou



Baoping Li

**Jing Liang** Partner of Squirr

E



Xiaoru Wu President of iFLY

Jing Liu



Gang Liu



Yunbo Cao





Mingjie Lv



Wen Li

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Venwei Xu







# [Scene of the Event]

The social transformation of the intelligence era generates new demands on future education. In response to these demands, countries and international organizations are exploring new paths to adapt to the intelligence age. With a focus on identifying the promise of futures of education, Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the UNESCO Institute for

Education (UNESCO IITE), extensively supported by higher education institutions and distinguished field experts, held the 2021 Global Smart Education **Conference** on 18 – 20 August 2021. Themed around the future of smart learning and education, this conference discussed the impact of smart technology on the future of

Information Technologies in education, how to promote equality and balanced development of balanced development with smart technology, strategic coordination and sustainable development of smart education across the globe, and the new normality "Internet + education" during the COVID-19 pandemic and explored the future development of global education from an international perspective.



### **Opening Remarks**

At the opening session of the first day's conference, Dr. Stefania Giannini made the opening remarks from the view of the effective and equitable usage of technologies, which has taken center stage in education policy debates.



From the perspective of UNESCO, the design and usage of Intelligence, to be adopted by the UNESCO General

> – Dr. Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education

### Joint Project on Smart Education

UNESCO IITE with Beijing Normal University (BNU), the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), and Higher School of Economics (HSE) collaboratively launched the joint project at the Conference.

The project "Rethinking and Redesigning National Smart Education Strategy" (SmartEDU) aims to explore the solution of infusing technology into education.

On August 18th, 2021, the first day of the 2021 Global Smart

# [ Collection of Speeches ]

## Advocating "People-oriented Technology" and Promoting **Sustainable Educational Development**

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shared future for mankind. Qin Changwei, Secretary-General of the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, stated that China would actively promote the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, become more deeply involved in global educational governance, dedicate meticulous efforts to building multilateral platforms for international educational collaboration, and contribute to advancing educational development in the AI era.

Education Conference, Professor Ronghuai Huang, Dean of Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, introduced the ongoing process of this joint project from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals from United Nations and education at the post-COVID-19 era.

China is the world's largest education provider and ranks in the upper-middlerange across the globe in terms of educational development. Sharing lessons learned in educational reform and development and contributing Chinese wisdom and solutions to the globe is not only the expectation of the international community but also the responsibility of China as a major country that aims to promote the building of a community with a

## **Improving Smart Education and Leading the Future of Educational Development**



Faced with new situations and problems, the Chinese government has released a series of policy documents to actively develop smart education, highlight education system, and support and lead the modernization of education with information technology and

artificial intelligence. Professor Dong Qi, President of Beijing Normal University, stated that intelligent technology had brought us into a new era. The integration of artificial intelligence and the Internet with education will reshape the future of education. He added: BNU is willing to cooperate more extensively with the global scientific and educational communities to promote equality and balanced development in education and advance allround development and individualized growth of people, as such that high-quality education can benefit more people and contribute to the common well-being of mankind.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education of China initiated the project "Demonstration Zone for Smart Education," with 18 regions across the country have been approved to launch it. This move aims to enhance the integration of smart technology and education and spawn in-depth and systemic changes in education. Lei Chaozi, Director of the Department of Science, Technology, and Informatization of the Ministry of Education, emphasized that the essence of smart education is to educate and guide students to "have ambitious goals, acquire noble virtues, become eminent persons and assume great responsibilities" and enable them to assume the crucial task of national revitalization. He stated: Smart education should continuously transform and upgrade through exploration and practices. Therefore, it is necessary to promote the construction of new educational infrastructures in networks, platforms, resources, campus life, application, and security, create an environment that strongly supports educational innovation and high-quality educational development, provides more flexible and individualized services, improve education governance capabilities in the AI era, and enhance the overall development of smart education.

## Promoting the Synergy of Technology and Education and Alleviating the Burden of Students



students; how to promote technological progress and support and lead sustainable development with high-quality education and innovative talents are two core issues of this conference. Attending experts proposed their views from different perspectives.

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Zhao Qinping, an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, stated: As one of the supporting technologies of smart education, virtual reality has made the teaching environment more intelligent and the teaching process more visualized, as well as spawned new teaching and learning models. Experimental teaching based on virtual simulation has become a typical teaching model supported by intelligent technology. As the ultimate approach to education, the integration of VR, AI, and 5G will have a transformational impact on future education. He hoped that people can create a new field for future education by promoting the construction of VR infrastructures, developing a digital twin network, and supporting the in-depth application of VR.

Technology. Ministry of Education

Smart education is present-focused, futureoriented, and supports the development of the new era. It pays attention to both "things" and "people", and both "teaching" and "education." How to empower educators with technology, reduce the burden on students, and improve the learning ability of

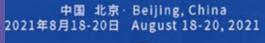


Wushour Silamu, an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, attended the Forum on Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Education and delivered a report entitled "Smart Education Governance and New Models." He believed that in the future, smart education will be improved from two aspects: Intelligently providing

teaching content and creating AI courses to improve the reserve of teachers based on the accumulation of scenario data and research findings acquired with high-quality teaching methods, as well as image recognition, speech recognition, and adaptive technology; understanding the individual needs of each student, and enabling personalized learning based on intelligent technologies (e.g., knowledge graphs), global big data of students and correlation analysis models, and data on students' basic information and behaviors.



Academician Wang Yaonan of the Chinese Academy of Engineering elaborated application cases, new needs of society, and the next development of AI around the topic "AI's Innovative Empowerment of Social Applications" at the Forum Governance" held on August 19. He believed that the developments of artificial intelligence can be divided into three categories: data, computing power, and hardware. With the support of these three elements, artificial intelligence will become a lot more useful, play an important role in various fields, promote the development of smart education and create a better future for education.





Sun Maosong, a foreign member of the European Academy of Sciences and Professor of Tsinghua University, believed that artificial intelligence oriented towards online education and teaching should nationwide online space, and explore and

construct machine learning algorithms based on educational big data and large-scale knowledge graphs for curriculum to thoroughly establish correlations between courses and between courses, digital literature libraries, and digital book libraries, provide technological support for cross-language education, construct VR, AR, and virtual laboratories, and build smart teaching assistants and the AI ethics for teaching based on what is mentioned above.



informatization as well as a new move to update educational concepts, reform educational models, and promote educational innovation and development to promote "Internet + education," we should focus the following six efforts: constructing an online educational space, leveraging the value of educational data, exploring new models for practices integrating online and offline education, regularizing new forms of online education, promoting reform of education systems and mechanisms, and updating educational and teaching concepts.

Normal University

Professor Chen Li, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, mainly elaborated on the connotation of "Internet + Education" and required efforts to promote its innovation. She stated: The Internet has become the third space for education and teaching, and "Internet + education" is the starting point for educational reforms brought about by



Cooperation and Development (OECD)

As the initiator of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has been committed to improving

believed that the COVID-19 pandemic had brought digital technology from the margin to the center in the field of education. Technology not only diversifies teaching methods, but also empowers students with more skills. Intelligent data, assisting robots, blockchain, and some other technologies have great potential in intelligent diagnosis, personalized learning, and intelligent get the hang of learning strategies can technology play an effective role," Schleicher said.



Asha S. Kanwar, Chairman, and CEO of the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) proposed that smart education should engaging, efficient, effective, and ethical. Smart education must enable high-quality teaching and learning as well as ensure that students can benefit from and apply what

they have learned, earn their living, and deal with the uncertainty of the future.

# [Ten Outcomes]



# 10 Guidance on Providing Open and Distance Learning

### -----Personal Data

and Privacy Protection

in Online Learning



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Guidance on

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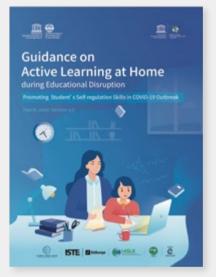
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Guidance on **Open Educational Practices** 

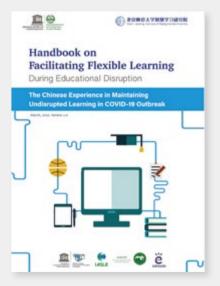




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# Zhang Tingfang and Ciwang Junmei: **The Story of Great Love**

Article source: Guangming Daily | Release date: 2021-08-05

he train was galloping at the edge of the sky. After it crossed over the Tanggula Mountains, the altitude gradually decreased, and a vast area of grassland came into view—it arrived in Tibet!

In September 2020, at the invitation of National Treasure, a TV program aired on CCTV, Zhang Tingfang returned to Tibet at the age of 74. The familiar scenery outside the window—which she hadn't seen for years—reminded her of many things that happened in the past and made tears well up in her eyes.

More than 40 years ago, Zhang

Tingfang and Ciwang Junmei came to Tibet and prepared for the establishment of Tibet University against all kinds of difficulties. He was the first president, and she once served as the vice president. However, now it has been almost six years since he passed away.

In the car, someone asked Zhang Tingfang: "Why do you travel so far to Tibet?" She answered immediately, "It is because of love!"

### "As long as we stand together, there is no difficulty that we cannot overcome."

What kind of love is it that makes Zhang Tingfang so attached to Tibet? On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the peaceful liberation of Tibet, I walked into

### her apartment in Beijing.

The woman I saw had white hair and bright eyes. When she talked about Ciwang Junmei, she was full of affection, "At our college years, my husband was tall and able to speak fluent Mandarin, sing, dance, and play dulcimer and erhu."

### A flood of memories came to her mind.

In 1965, Zhang Tingfang, a girl from Beijing, and Ciwang Junmei, a Tibetan lad, were both admitted to Beijing Normal University. She was in the Chinese Department, while he was in the Education Department. In the school publicity team, they often rehearsed together for a performance at factories and villages, chatted about hobbies, life, and ideals, and look forward to the future. These two young people were like-minded and gradually fell for each other.

Sweet life came to a sudden stop when they graduated. Since Ciwang Junmei, who was the first Tibetan undergraduate enrolled at Beijing Normal University, wanted to go home as a teacher, Zhang Tingfang was in a dilemma: go to Tibet or stay in Beijing? She loved Ciwang Junmei and wanted to go to Tibet, "If he doesn't return to Tibet because of me, his Tibetan fluency will decline."

But there were thousands of miles between Beijing and Lhasa, and it took more than ten days to travel between these two places. Worse still, her mother was sick all yearround, and her younger brother was still a child. If she was gone, who would take care of the whole family? At the crossroads of life, Zhang Tingfang hesitated. She decided to have a heart-to-heart with her father.

Her father had been a Party member for many years and supported her to go to Tibet, where she was most needed, for the pursuit of her ideals. To this end, he also talked with other family members and won their agreements.

In December 1971, Zhang Tingfang and Ciwang Junmei held a wedding in a classroom of Beijing Normal University. Amid the wedding bliss, they waited for the employment plan for graduates while planning their upcoming trip to Tibet.

However, the result was unexpected——Tibet was not a destination in the plan!

What to do next? Tibet needed them more than any other place and was most suitable for Ciwang Junmei. So, they applied that they wanted to go to Tibet.

Their wishes come true. In the summer of 1972, they finally got on the train to Tibet." I don't know what is waiting for me, but as long as the two of us stand together, there will be no difficulties that we cannot overcome." Zhang Tingfang was never subdued.

"During these sleepless nights on the train to the west / I have listened, watched and thought for a long time /I can't, I can't hold back the tears in my eyes / How can I, how can I soothe my beating heart!" In the 1960s, The Window of the Train to the West, a poem by the famous poet He Jingzhi, inspired array after array of aspiring young people to go to Northwest China. It again served as their companion in the journey to Tibet.

They first took the train to Xining, and then took a car along the Qinghai-Tibet Highway to the west. After half a month, they finally arrived in Lhasa.

The Potala Palace was very close! The driver pulled over the car and asked them to come down and wash their faces. Zhang Tingfang walked out of the car and was immediately overwhelmed by what she saw: blue sky, green trees, white sheep, lush grass, snow-capped mountains standing silently in the distance, and rushing streams—Tibet was so beautiful!

## "We have become closely bound to this university and the land where it stands."

Them when they first arrived in Tibet. It is a small residence filled with books where Zhang Tingfang and her husband often sat around a small desk for reading. There was no hustle and bustle but only the sweetness of romance between two people in love.

"The environment was quiet, but our hearts throbbed and churned." Zhang Tingfang smiled and said to the reporter.

They were assigned to the Tibet Normal School: Zhang Tingfang was in the faculty of the Chinese language, and her husband was in the faculty of the Tibetan language. Conditions in teaching facilities were extremely shabby. The classrooms and dormitories were all tin-roofed, low-lying, and dark. Worse still, there was no electricity at night, and candles were not available. Although she could adapt to the poor living conditions, she found communication a big program.

Zhang Tingfang was discouraged in her first class. This is because her students stared at her without any response. What happened? Was I a bad teacher? She quickly asked for help from the faculty leader. After he asked the students and went back to the office, he laughed: "Zhang, do you know what the students say about you? This girl has a nice voice like a CCTV broadcaster, but we don't understand anything she said." Zhang Tingfang stood rigidly, and her face froze.

Ciwang Junmei encouraged her to sometimes explain what she taught to students in Tibetan and annotated each item in the new vocabulary list prepared by his wife in Tibetan. In class, only by using drawings and gestures could she make students roughly understand what she taught. Later to facilitate learning for students, she and her husband compiled a set of "Chinese" textbooks in Chinese, Pinvin, and Tibetan. It was very popular among teachers and students and spread to areas outside Lhasa.

In the company of her lover, she got much fun these days. After becoming pregnant, she wanted fruit badly. This overwhelmed Ciwang Junmei. He searched all over the street but couldn't even find a single fruit stand. One day, he ran back happily with sweat all over his face and said: "Tingfang, I have bought fruit for you." What she found was three green apples the size of walnuts, which tasted bitter and astringent. This made her speechless.

In 1983, the CPC Central Committee decided to establish Tibet University based on the school where Zhang Tingfang and her husband worked. Ciwang Junmei was appointed as the deputy head of the preparatory team and the office director. This was the first comprehensive university on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and preparation tasks were extremely arduous.

These included writing instructions and reports along with conducting research and fund raising getting Ciwang Junmei fully engaged. The two had no time to see each other during the day, so they left notes to each other, like "I have something to do, so don't wait for me" and "I put the meal in the pot, and heat it at noon before eating"... In less than a year, he lost more than 20 catties and his cheekbones protruded like two small hills.

On July 20, 1985, Tibet University was formally established, which ushered in a new chapter for higher education in Tibet. Ciwang Junmei was appointed as the first President, and Zhang Tingfang served as Deputy Director of the Department of Chinese Language.

A look back on her days at Tibet University touched Zhang Tingfang deeply. She said, "We have gone through the establishment, exploration, and development of Tibet University. After spending half a lifetime there, we have become closely bound to it and the land where it stands.

### "My lover is my life companion, and Tibet has completed my life."

Zhang Tingfang and Ciwang Junmei always wanted to travel somewhere when they were free, like visiting Hutongs in Beijing or their counterparts supporting Tibet... However, array after array of tasks kept them engaged.

In 1992, Ciwang Junmei was appointed as Director of the Tibet Institute for Nationalities in Xianyang. This made them separated for six years. In 1998, Ciwang Junmei was transferred back to Tibet and served as the Director of the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences, and Zhang Tingfang was appointed as Vice President of Tibet University. In 2006, they both retired. However, before they could take a respite, Ciwang Junmei was involved in another major task-China launched the protection and study of the Sanskrit palmleaf manuscripts in Tibet, and he was appointed as Director of the Office of the Leading Group for the Protection of Palm-leaf Manuscripts in Tibet Autonomous Region.

Ciwang Junmei was fully engrossed in this task. He led a research team of seven members to visit temples and ruins in 41 counties across Tibet without missing a single palm leaf or even a fragment. In 6 years and 7 months, they compiled more than 1,000 Sanskrit palmleaf manuscripts (60,000 leaves) in Tibet and developed eight findings.

In the autumn of 2013, when Ciwang Junmei completed the task of palm-leaf manuscript protection and study, he and his wife finally had free time!

However, fate played a cruel trick on them-at the beginning of 2014, Ciwang Junmei was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away less than eight months later.

"Ciwang Junmei was born for great undertakings. As an intellectual serving the public, he was always concerned about his work and accomplished his tasks perfectly in every position." Having said this, Zhang Tingfang turned her head away with tears streaming down her face.

"I made a very correct decision at that time. I chose Ciwana and Tibet. My lover is my life companion and Tibet has completed my life." At the end of the interview, Zhang Tingfang took out a magazine and pointed to the corner of a page where there was a poem seeming to tell the love story between them----

ff The touching wine song sung by the girl attracted the attention the bright moon / People raised silver cups filled with aromatic highland longings, love... /The beat of life was pulsing in the countryside surrounded by snowcapped mountains.

The article was originally published on page 1 of Guangming Daily on August 5, 2021 Link:

https://epaper.gmw.cn/gmrb/html/2021-08/05/nw.D110000gmrb\_20210805\_1-01.htm

# Jiang Yuan: Putting All Her Heart into Education and Ecological Conservation

Article source: A Tribute to Perfect Teachers Beijing Normal University | 2021-08-18

iang Yuan is a professor of the Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University, and Director of the Key Laboratory of Chinese Medicine Resources Conservation of Beijing. She currently serves as Vice Chairman of the China Society of Natural Resources and Standing Director of the Ecological Society of China. She has offered the following undergraduate courses: *Plant Geography, Urban Ecology, Plant and Vegetation Resources and Principles of Ecology; and the following graduate courses: Natural Resource Ecology and Advanced Biogeography.* 

To carry out in-situ studies of biogeography and resource ecology, glean first-hand observational data, and help students grasp theories and methodology of ecological research on alpine vegetation, Jiang Yuan traveled all over mountains in Eastern China and the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. She is extremely familiar with vegetation diversity and species composition and distribution of plant communities in mountainous regions (e.g., Mount Taibai, Mount Wutai, Mount Xiaowutai, Luya Mountain, Helan Mountain, Qilian Mountain, the Tianshan Mountains, and the Kunlun Mountains), and often works in mountainous areas at an altitude of more than 3000 m.

After graduating with a doctorate, liang Yuan joined the Faculty of Geographical Science of BNU as a teacher. Since then, she has supervised 37 undergraduates, 25 postgraduates, and 30 doctoral students. In recent years, Jiang Yuan has undertaken an average of more than 90 hours of undergraduate and graduate teaching tasks each year. Over the years, she has published more than 200 papers in key



purnals and international SCI journals as the first or corresponding author, more than 10 monographs (textbooks), acquired two national patents as the irst inventor and presided over the compilation and publication of one national standard. For more than 0 years, she has dedicated herself to alpine vegetation studies and teaching and contributed to talent training and regetation studies.

# "It has always been my goal to provide students with the most comprehensive training on scientific research."

Although scientific research is the cause of all mankind, and I achieved some success abroad, I still hoped to dedicate what I learned to the development of biogeography in China, so I chose to return to China. **JJ**  After obtaining a doctorate in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1996, Jiang Yuan gave up the offer of foreign institutions and returned to China to boost the development of the education industry and scientific research endeavors.

Over more than 30 years in teaching, it has always been her goal to provide students with the most comprehensive training on scientific research. While serving as Deputy Director of the Institute of Resource Science (the erstwhile School of Resources), Jiang Yuan was in charge of postgraduate programs, and established a postgraduate curriculum system in natural resources under the support of the leadership of the institute; when he served as Dean of the erstwhile School of Resources, to ensure students have all-around academic training, Jiang Yuan fully led the establishment of the curriculum system for the undergraduate program of resource and environmental sciences and promoted the shaping of the undergraduate mentorship system and the integration of undergraduate and graduate training. Through the continuous efforts of teachers and students and various leadership arouns of the ensurbile School of Resources, the system of the discipline of natural resources has been continuously improved. This has enabled students specialized in geography to extend exploration into natural resources, and thus exerted a positive influence across the country. Moreover, such a system has been established in a host of Chinese colleges and universities. Jiang Yuan also won the first prize in the category of "Construction of the Innovative Talent System for the Discipline of Natural Resources & Practice" in the 2013 Teaching Achievement Awards for Higher Institutions in Beijing and the second prize in the category of "Exploration of Undergraduate Training Models for Researchoriented Talents in the Discipline of Resource Science & Practice" in the 2018 Teaching Achievement Awards for Higher Institutions in Beijing.

To provide a standard training system for students in the discipline of geography in China, Jiang Yuan also invested a lot of time and effort

# "As a mentor, I should combine teaching with research and supervise the whole process of training for postgraduate students."

Over the years, Jiang Yuan has undertaken the major national research task "Water Pollution Control and Governance" and other research projects including "A Study of the First- and Second-level Aquatic Ecosystems in Key River Basins," "A Study of the Third- and Fourth-level Aquatic Ecosystems in Key River Basins," and "Integration Land Use Optimization and Spatial Control Technology in Functional Areas." Moreover, he also undertook the key project "Growth of Coniferous Forests in Northern China and Their Response to Hydrothermal Conditions" of the National Natural Science Foundation of China and six general research projects on alpine and subalpine vegetation supported in the development of teaching materials. Under the leadership of Professor Wu Jihua from the School of Geography and Remote Sensing, she engaged in major revision tasks for *Plant Geography (Fourth Edition)*: Not only did she propose the revision plan and outline, but she also she completed the revision of the four chapters of this book. The revised edition was awarded the title of "Excellent Textbook for Higher Education in Beijing" and won the favor of many teachers and students. By the first half of 2020, 92,695 copies were published, and the book was selected as an undergraduate textbook or reference book for teaching by more than 30 Chinese colleaes and universities.

In 2019, this textbook was selected into the list of national excellent books in Geography (textbooks for general higher education) by the Geographical Society of China. In 2020, *Plant Geography (Fifth Edition)* was published after revision.

by the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

As the project leader, Jiang Yuan often led the research team to collect data, build observation bases, and launch field experiments across the country. To glean first-hand data, she often worked in mountainous areas at an altitude of more than 3000 m.

**ff** I need to keep taking students to carry out field research as it is the most important part of biogeography research. As a mentor, I have the responsibility to guide them. **JJ** 

During the research, Jiang Yuan and her team members even used their holidavs and weekends o seek commonalities and reakthroughs from previous esearch through literature eview, consultation, and ield trips and by combining nowledge in geography with that n ecology. "For example, the onghua River Basin in Northeast China and the Dongjiang River Basin in Guangdong are eographically located in very ifferent areas and ecology. Therefore, in environmental overnance and conservation of aquatic ecosystems, it is nappropriate to adopt uniform neasures and standards. Instead, ifferentiated plans are required. What I want to contribute to China's ecology is to support and promote the health assessment and conservation of aquatic cosystems in China's major iver basins based on the team's indings and develop a regional hanagement plan."

iang Yuan has led the research eam to many river basins across he country. Since 2008, Jiang Yuan has hosted and completed oning and health assessment f aquatic ecosystems across ight key river basins of China, ncluding the Dongjiang River Basin, the Heihe River Basin, and he Songhua River Basin. The lan was adopted by the Ministry f Ecology and Environment and ome local governments, thus roviding solid and effective echnological support for cological and environmental onservation in China.

### "What makes me happy and proud is the success of my students."

"In my opinion, Ms. Jiang is a teacher as well as and a friend, and I have beer her students for ten years. She cares much about my life as well as everyone's mentality," said Liu Qi, a student of Jiang Yuan. "She is very conscientious and studious when she is involved in a project." In almost every project report, after the students searched for materials or wrote the first draft, Jiang Yuan had to make several revisions or personally write the report. Every sentence and word in the book were scrutinized repeatedly. "I remember that during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan period, it took Ms. Jiang nearly two weeks to clinch the definition and usage of some academic terms." Although she just made some minor revisions, this act reflected she was setting a good example for her students. She taught students to have a rigorous, honest and inquisitive attitude towards scientific research and only in this way could they achieve success in the future.

In daily life, Jiang Yuan cared about the growth of students, and provided longterm living allowances for those in need; in training, she taught students following their aptitude and never gave up on those with weak aptitude. She made its research laboratory and group meetings accessible to undergraduate students and created favorable experimental and internship conditions for them; she also tried her best to solve problems for postgraduate students and created a culture advocating mutual benefit and assistance. To broaden students' horizons, Jiang Yuan made full use of project funds to provide opportunities for international exchange for them. In the past three years, three doctoral students have received funding for overseas study, and nearly ten doctoral students have gone abroad for academic exchanges. "Teaching is sacred. What makes me happy and proud is the success of my students, and what makes me feel most accomplished is that they are recognized and accepted by society."

The knowledge I have should be applied to serve society." Jiang Yuan is enthusiastic about social services: She used the Key Laboratory of Beijing to provide guidance on scientific research for secondary school students in the Rapid Growth Program of Beijing and offered lectures on biodiversity conservation and some other topics for the science research class of the Children's Palace of Beijing. In recent rears, she has served as the deputy editor-in-chief of the History of the



Discipline of Resources in China and the leader of the *expert group for* the preparation of the Report on the Development of Resource Science 2016-2017. During this process, she analyzed and summarized the development of resource geography and the establishment and development of the talent training system in this area.

She declined the offer of foreign institutions for her love for her country and contributed to developing geographical and ecological sciences in China after graduation; persisted in academic exploration and innovation over the years; dedicated ongoing efforts to personally guiding students and living up to the sacredness of teaching. The gold medal for perfect teachers is an affirmation of Jiang Yuan's past efforts and represents a new starting point. When the COVID-19 pandemic is alleviated, Jiang Yuan will embark on a new journey in scientific research and continue to forge ahead for the development of geographical and ecological sciences in China.

# **International Journal of Geoheritage** and Parks (English Edition) Was Included in GEOBASE

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | Release date: 2021-08-20

nternational Journal of Geoheritage and Parks (English Edition), a journal sponsored by the Faculty of Geographical Science of Beijing Normal University and published by Beijing Normal University Publishing Group was officially included in GEOBASE.

GEOBASE is the world's largest database in Earth sciences that covers all its subjects and indexes research literature in these subjects. Subject coverage includes Earth sciences, ecology, geology, human and physical geography, environmental science,

marine science, geomechanics, alternative energy, pollution, waste management, and nature conservation. For details, please visit the following link:

https://www.elsevier.com/ solutions/engineering-village/ content/geobase

The inclusion of the International Journal of Geoheritage and Parks (English Edition) (IJGP) in GEOBASE represents the recognition from another large international database for it after its inclusion into Scopus in November 2020. This also marked the further increase of its intellectual influence.

Since its launch, IJGP has consistently adopted a rigorous peer-review process intending to timely publish high-level research findings. Its coverage mainly includes research papers, literature reviews, and review articles on geoheritage and parks. An international editorial board and a team of reviewers and authors have been gradually developed to constantly improve the quality of papers and enhance IJGP's international influence in the academic circle.

### Overview

IJGP is a peer-reviewed, open-access, and English language journal. Launched in 2013 and sponsored by Beijing Normal University, it is a journal of the Commission on Geoheritage/Geoparks (COG) of the International Geographical Union with a widespread reputation in geosciences. It is also distributed in 167 countries and regions across the globe and is included in the national libraries and major universities of these countries and regions. As a quarterly journal, IJGP

publishes four issues a year.

At present, IJGP has been included in DOAJ, Scopus, GEOBASE, and CNKI Scholar. All readers can gain open access to papers and articles published on ScienceDirect.

### IJGP's Homepage:

http://www.keaipublishing.com/en/journals/international-journal-of-geoheritage-and-parks/

### Subject and Content

IJGP publishes original research findings in geoheritage/geoparkrelated conservation and management, planning, policymaking, education, tourism, interpretation, economy, museology, natural resilience, and sustainable development. Geoheritage/geoparks include geological parks, national parks, nature reserves, marine heritage, world

heritage sites, and other essential global heritage recognized for their geological and/or geographic value.

IJGP pays attention to natural and social science issues in these areas and publishes papers that study the basic theories and methodology related to geoheritage/geoparks and explore methods for conservation and

### Management Committee and Consultants

Members of the management committee of IGJP include Liu Changming, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhou Chenghu, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Song Changqing, Professor of Beijing Normal University, Tang Xiaoping, a research fellow of the Planning,

Investigation and Design Institute of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Li Junsheng, a research fellow of the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, Wang Min, Professor of Beijing Normal University, and Jiang Yu, President of the Periodicals Agency, Beijing Normal University Publishing Group.

### **Editorial Board**

Associate Professor Wei Dongying from the Faculty of Geographical Sciences, BNU and Benjamin van Wyk de Vries from the University of Claremont Auvergne, France serves

as editors-in-chief, Professor Subhash Anand from the University of Delhi, India, Professor Kyung Sik WOO from Kangwon National University, South Korea, Professor Wang Guangyu from sustainable development of them based on conceptual and empirical research. It is committed to promoting different and diverse views, theories, and practices, advancing academic research, encouraging interdisciplinary and cross-national research, and encouraging different views and diverse understandings of geoheritage/geoparks.

IGJP's consultants include Fu Bojie, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Zhang Hongtao, a Professor of the China University of Geosciences (Beijing), and Mike Meadows, Professor of the International Geographical Union. Major decisions on IGJP are made by the management committee and consultants.

UBC, Canada and Professor Yang Rui of Tsinghua University served as deputy editors-in-chief. The editorial board also includes 24 experts and scholars from 13 countries and regions.

### Activities

*IGJP* holds the International Symposium of National Park and Natural Heritage Protection every year to establish platforms for academic discussions and exchanges and cooperation between China and foreign countries. Attended by an annual average of more than 200 people. Academic lectures and some other activities are also held on an irregular basis.

### Submission Requirements

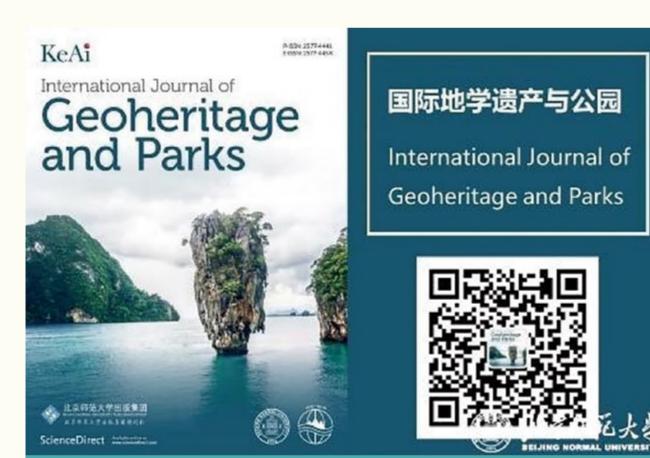
### **Contact Info**

**Subject:** Research on the geoheritage/geopark-related conservation and management, planning, policymaking, education, tourism, interpretation, economy, museology, natural resilience, and sustainable development.

**Article Types:** Research Papers, Literature Reviews, and Review Articles (including book reviews).

Language and Word Limit: English Language 5000-8000 words Submission Link: https://www.editorialmanager.com/ijgeop/default.aspx

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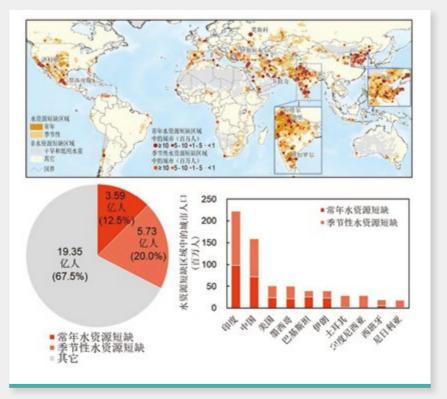
# The Rapid Increase of Urban Population in Areas with Water Shortages Will Hinder Us from Achieving the UN SDGs

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Sciences | Release date: 2021-08-04

y assessing the current status and trend of global urban water shortage and potential solutions, Professor He Chunyang from the Faculty of Geographical Sciences, Beijing Normal University (BNU), et al. found that the rapid increase of urban population in areas with water shortage will hinder us from achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Their findings were published in Nature Communications at 10 am on August 3, UK time (5 pm on August 3, Beijing time).

The shortage of urban water resources is closely related to the 6th goal "clean water and sanitation" and the 11th goal "sustainable cities and communities" of the UN SDGs. A comprehensive assessment of urban water shortage across the globe and potential solutions are crucial to promote the achievement of the UN SDFs. However, the scenario framework for climate change used in existing assessments is also too outdated, leading to great uncertainty in the assessment results. Moreover, existing studies have not fully assessed the feasibility of existing

solutions to urban water shortage, and there is a lack of policy support for sustainable management of urban water resources. In response to these problems, Professor He Chunyang et al. quantified the changes in an urban population in areas facing water scarcity from 2016 to 2050 under different scenarios based on the latest scenario framework for socio-economic development and



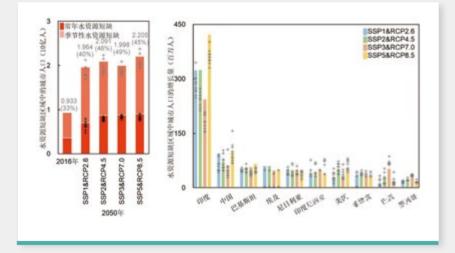
climate change adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and assessed the feasibility of seven solutions to water shortage in major cities, including green development, inter-basin water diversion, groundwater exploitation, seawater desalination, reservoir construction, domestic virtual water trade, and international water diversion and virtual water trade. This study found that in 2016, 930 million urban residents (32.5 percent of the global total) lived in areas facing water scarcity. Among 526 cities with a population of more than 1 million, 193 (36.7 percent) are located in areas facing water scarcity. Nine megacities with a population of more than 10 million (30.0 percent of the global total) are located in areas facing water scarcity (Figure 1).

"Currently, India's and China's urban population in areas facing water scarcity is much higher than that of other countries. India has the largest urban population living in such areas — 220 million and 23.7 percent of the global total. China's urban population living in such areas is 160 million, accounting for 17.2 percent of the global total." He Chunyang said.

This study has shown that the urban population in such areas is increasing rapidly. In 2050, the urban population living in such areas will increase to 1.69-2.37 billion across the globe, an increase of 0.8-1.5 times the present. Across the globe, there will be 292 large cities and 19 megacities in areas facing water scarcity under at least one scenario, accounting for 55.5 percent and 63.3 percent of the global total respectively. The increase in urban population and water consumption is the main factor leading to the aggravation of urban water shortage, with a contribution rate of 80.4 percent-91.4 percent. Climate change will cause regional changes in water scarcity and thus affect urban water shortages across the globe by affecting the total amount and spatial distribution of water resources. Its contribution rate ranges from -9.0 percent to 18.4 percent.

"In the future, Indian's urban population growth in areas facing water scarcity will be much higher than that in other countries. India's urban population living in such areas will increase to 380-640 million people, an increase of 0.7-1.9 times than the present," said Liu Zhifeng, a co-author of this paper and an associate professor of BNU. change. The remaining ones need inter-basin water diversion, groundwater extraction, seawater desalination, reservoir construction, domestic virtual water trade or international water diversion, and virtual water trade. However, restricted by socio-economic and natural conditions, 16 large cities in India and Pakistan (e.g., New Delhi and Lahore) find it difficult to solve water shortages with the above-mentioned methods.

"These solutions to water scarcity also have certain socio-economic costs and negative effects on the

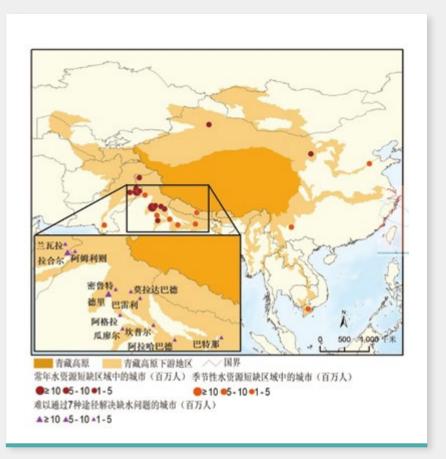


This study also found that nearly 95 percent of large cities across the globe can solve the problem of urban water shortage with at least one measure. Less than a quarter of them can solve the problem of water shortage through green development that improves water use efficiency, reduces population growth, and alleviates climate ecological environment when they are implemented. Therefore, they need to be scientifically adjusted and coordinated. Urban water scarcity will be a severe challenge to achieving the UN SDGs," said Dr. Li Jingwei from Shanghai Normal University, who is a co-author of the paper.

"There is a long way to go to

comprehensively solve global urban water scarcity. To achieve the UN SDGs, it is urgent to scientifically manage population growth and urbanization in areas facing water scarcity, save water, and mitigate the impact of climate change and make a comprehensive assessment of different measures for mitigation of urban water shortage at different scales," said Professor Brett A. Bryan of Deakin University, Australia, who is also a co-author of the paper.

"The Qinghai-Tibet Plateau will play an increasingly crucial role in the security and sustainable development of urban water resources." Liu Zhifeng further stated: In the future, there will be 23 large cities with a population of more than one million in its surrounding areas and middle and lower reaches facing a shortage of water resources under at least one scenario, accounting for 7.9 percent of the global total. Even if seven measures (e.g., green development, inter-basin water diversion, groundwater extraction, seawater desalination, reservoir construction, domestic virtual water trade, and international water conversion and virtual water trade) are all put into action, 12 major cities (e.g., Delhi, Lahore and Meer, ut) still cannot solve their water shortage and are likely to face a comprehensive water shortage crisis. The 16 large cities which



are most likely to face a water shortage crisis across the globe are located around the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and its middle and lower reaches (Figure 3)."

This study was mainly funded by the fourth task "The Ecological Barrier and the Optimization System" (No.: 2019QZKK0405) in the Second All-around Scientific Expedition into the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and a general project of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Project No.: 41871185&41971270).

In recent years, Professor He Chunyang's team has explored the sustainability of city landscape at different scales based on a concept in geoscience- coupled human-Earth systems, with the approach of "integrating multiple data, models, and scales" and by a series of means including field observation, remote sensing, and model simulation. He has made positive progress in processprocessing, impact analysis, and adjust inability evaluation for the urban landscape. Moreover, his research findings have been published in mainstream academic journals such as Nature Communications, Earth's Future, and Environmental Research Letter.

# Academic

# The Research Team of Professor Wu Liming and Professor Chen Ling from the College of Chemistry, Beijing Normal University Published Important Research Findings

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A s the key components of all solid state lasers, nonlinear optics (NLO) crystals have a wide range of applications in the fields from precision manufacturing, to information processing, and medical treatment. High-performance visible and UV NLO crystals require a high coefficient of the second harmonic generation (SHG), a large bandgap (Eg), high birefringence ( $\Delta$ n), and physical and chemical stability. To ensure a large bandgap, visible and UV NLO crystals are usually ionic compounds. Since the SHG and  $\Delta$ n of most NLO materials are mainly contributed by anions, Chen Chuangtian proposed the anionic group theory for NLO materials. Under this guidance, scientists designed and synthesized a large

 SHG inert
 SHG:  $1.4 \times \text{KDP}$  

 Image: Ima

Recently, the research team of Professor Wu Liming and Professor Chen Ling of the College of Chemistry proposed a strategy for cation coordination to improve the nonlinear and linear optical properties of materials. They introduced the neutral ligand NH3 to coordinate Ag+, driving the transition of the structure of Ag2SO4 from the centrosymmetric space group Fddd to the noncentrosymmetric tetragonal structure P21c. This turns the system from nonlinear optically inactive to active. Moreover, compared

number of NLOs with superb

performance, such as KBe2BO3F2

(KBBF),  $\beta$ -BaB2O4 (BBO),

LiB3O5 (LBO) which have been

put into application. Therefore,

the design of NLO materials at

present mainly focuses on anions,

and the structural modification of

cations and the regulation of NLO-

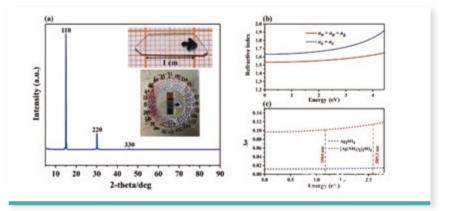
related performance have long been

overlooked.

@ 1064 nm), [Ag(NH3)2]2SO4 shows a significant increase in birefringence ( $\Delta nexp = 0.08$ @589.3 nm, calculated value  $\Delta ncal. = 0.102 (a) 1064 nm$ ). Theoretical studies have proved that the high birefringence of [Ag(NH3)2]2SO4 is mainly derived from the cationic substructure after coordination. Since the two ligands of [Ag(NH3)2]+ shape an angle along the c-axis (N-Ag-N), this makes the cationic substructure produce a dipole with a moment of 0.12D along the c-axis, and the dipole's moment on plane ab is zero. Moreover, since the dipole can interact with electromagnetic waves generated by oscillations in incident light, the motion of the electromagnetic wave is retarded in the c-axis, resulting in high birefringence and optical anisotropy. In addition, [Ag(NH3)2]2SO4 shows high phase-matched SHG intensity( $1.4 \times \text{KDP}$  @1064 nm).

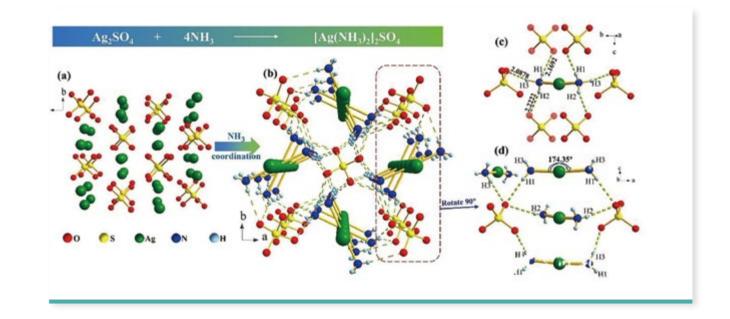
A DFT calculation shows that the

with Ag2SO4 ( $\Delta$ ncal = 0.012



SHG response of [Ag(NH3)2]2SO4 is contributed by both the cation [Ag(NH3)2]+ and the anion SO42-. The above findings indicate that cations in this material have a major contribution to NLO-related properties. Therefore, the modification strategy for cation coordination proposed in this report will inspire a new approach to design NLO materials and improve their performance.

The paper for this research project was recently accepted by the German journal, Angewandte Chemie International Edition



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The College of Chemistry, Beijing Normal University is the only entity involved in this research project, and the corresponding authors are Professors Wu Liming and Professor Chen Ling. This research was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Fund of Beijing Normal University for High-level Talents, the College of Chemistry of BNU, the Key Laboratory of Beijng and the Natural Science Foundation of Beijing.





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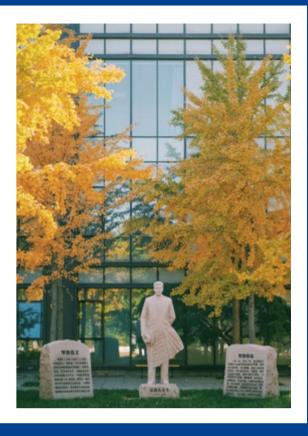


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