

Autumn 2024/ Issue 20

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

Co-organized by: News Center, Beijing Normal University

Newsletter Autumn 2024/ Issue 20

Organized by: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation, Beijing Normal University **Co-organized by:** News Center, Beijing Normal University

Editorial Board

Advisor: CHEN Xing, Vice President of BNU

Chair: WU Yujun, Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Vice-Chair:

DAI Shujun, Deputy Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation LIU Tao, Deputy Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation LIU Min, Deputy Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation LI Zhongshan, Deputy Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation

Editorial Team

Chief Editor: DAI Shujun, Deputy Director of Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Co-Chief Editor: SUN Weiwei, Deputy Director of News Centre Deputy Chief Editor: GUO Yimeng, Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Copy Editor: XIE Tunan, News Centre

Translator

TRANSN (BEIJING) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CO., LTD.

Proofreading

Douglas Marks

Designer & Composition

DENG Yuehua, School of Design, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai XU Wei, School of Design, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai ZHENG Xiaohong, School of Design, Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai

Beijing Normal University Newsletter is a publication for alumni and friends of BNU. It is produced by the Office of International Exchange & Cooperation (OIEC). Please feel free to contact us and send us suggestions or ideas so that we can improve this publication.

Contact Us

Address: Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Beijing Normal University, 100875 Beijing, P.R. China
Phone: (+86) 10-5880-7170
Fax: (+86) 10-5880-0823
Email: bnunewsletter@bnu.edu.cn

Newsletter Online

The Newsletter can be read online at: https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/newsletters/index.htm The views expressed in this publication are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of International Exchange & Cooperation or Beijing Normal University.

Contents

BNU Newsroom

- 01 Advancing the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Mac Field Research in Guangdong to Promote the Construction of the
- 02 Implementing an Excellence in Research Strategy and Building a Summary Meeting on Research Discussions
- 03 Mutual learning promoted at 2024 Global English Education Chi
- 04 Film Today and Me Premieres at the Third China-Brazil Film Fes
- 05 The Finals of the Higher Education Track of the 7th Global Comp

Special Events

- 01 Yu Jihong Attends the China-Africa-UNESCO Dialogue on Coop Delivers a Keynote Speech
- 02 2024 China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum Held in Bei
- 03 2024 Global Smart Education Conference

Global Visit

- 01 Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia Leads Delegation to V
- 02 Vice President of Cardiff University Visits Beijing Normal University
- 03 Associate Vice President of The University of Arizona Visits Bei

Flagship Program

- 01 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Beijing Normal University Chinese Studies and Chinese Language Teaching
- 02 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Beijing Normal University & Symposium on International Chinese Education
- 03 10th Anniversary of BNU's Developing Countries Master's Pr Road School Held
- 04 Summer Program

Awards

- 01 BNU Maker Team Wins Third Prize in the 2024 China-U.S. Young
- 02 BNU Aerobics Team Wins Gold and Silver at the FISU World Un
- 03 BNU Life Sciences Professors Lead Chinese Team to First Place at the 35th International Biology Olympiad



	5
cao Greater Bay Area: Cheng Jianping and Yu Jihong Conduct	
e Zhuhai Campus	5
Research Innovation System: Beijing Normal University Holds	
	7
ina Assembly	11
stival, Celebrating the 40th Teachers' Day	13
petition on Design for Future Education Successfully field	15
	18
	10
peration for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection and	10
iing	10
Jung	24
	35
/isit Beijing Normal University	35
ersity	36
ijing Normal University	37
	38
y - Dartmouth College Chinese Program & Symposium on	
	38
y-Princeton University Summer Chinese Language Program	
	41
rogram and 2024 Graduation Celebration of the Belt and	
	44
	48
	52
Maker Competition Finals	52
niversity Cheerleading Championship	53
at the 35 th International Biology Olympiad	56

5

Contents

Ca	impus	57
01	Opening of Beijing Normal University 2024 "Global Campus" International Cultural Festival and the Fourth "BNU Students	
	Global Education Festival"	57
02	Design Exhibition in Singapore Anticipates Deeper Exchanges at Campus	60
Pe	ople	61
01	BNU's "Zhiyuan Program" Graduates Head to Frontline Teaching Positions in Poverty-Alleviated Counties, Featured on CCTV's	
	"Focus Report"	61
Ac	ademic	64
01	[Seminar] Launch Event for BNU's Classical Chinese Large Language Model "AI Taiyan 2.0" Held	64
02	[Seminar] Beijing Normal University's College of Life Sciences Supports China's World Natural Heritage Nominations	68
03	[Achievement] National Standard Led by Professor Liu Kai from the School of National Security and Emergency Management	
	Approved for Release	72
04	[Achievement] Team from the International Scientific Center for Complex Systems Publishes Findings on Structural Transitions	
	in Spatial Network Systems in Nature Communications	73
05	[Achievement] Laboratory Astrophysics Research Team Unveils Mechanism of High-Energy Particle Production in Celestial Bodies	75
06	[Seminar] BNU Hosts the First International Conference on Cognitive and Psychological Assessment and Enhancement	77
07	[Achievement] Research Team Led by Professors Wu Liming and Chen Ling Publishes Key Findings in Angewandte Chemie	
	International Edition on the Role of Hydrogen Bonds in Thermal Nonlinear Optical Switching of 4-Hydroxypyridine Methyl Sulfonate	e 80
08	[Achievement] Research Team Led by Professor Xiao Cunde Publishes Key Findings in Nature Communications on the Causes	5
	of Frequent Wildfires in Eastern Siberia	82
09	[Award] Professor Zhang Xiaohui of Beijing Normal University Participates in Project Awarded First Prize in 2023 National	1
	Science and Technology Progress Awards	84
10	[Seminar] 2024 "The Beauty of Chinese Characters" Series of Cultural Exchange Activities Held in Vienna	85
-		

Advancing the Development of the **Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area: Cheng Jianping and Yu Jihong Conduct Field Research** in Guangdong to Promote the **Construction of the Zhuhai Campus**

Article source: Office of the Party Committee/President's Office, Office of the Zhuhai Campus Leadership Team Release date: 2024-07-08

• o further deepen collaboration between the province and the university, accelerate the construction of the Zhuhai campus, and actively support the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, from June 28 to July 3, Cheng Jianping, Party Secretary of Beijing Normal University (BNU), and President Yu Jihong led a delegation to conduct field research in Guangdong. They were accompanied by Wang Shoujun, Executive Vice President and Director of the Zhuhai Campus Administrative Committee, as well

as Vice Presidents Wang Ming and Chen Xing.

On July 1, Cheng Jianping and Yu Jihong held a meeting with Huang Kunning, Secretary of the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee, in Guangzhou. The meeting was attended by provincial leaders Chen Jianwen and Wang Xi, along with officials from Zhuhai. Both sides engaged in in-depth discussions on strengthening collaboration in education, technology, and talent development. They expressed a shared desire to further improve cooperation



BNUNewsroom

mechanisms, expand collaborative initiatives, and establish new platforms to serve the region's development and optimize the university's educational framework. In Zhuhai, Cheng Jianping and Yu Jihong met with Chen Yong, Secretary of the Zhuhai Municipal Party Committee, for extensive discussions on the signing of a new round of municipal-university cooperation agreements, the joint establishment of the National Teacher Education Institute, and the Zhuhai Joint Innovation Center. During their visit to Zhuhai, they also visited Gree Electric Appliances, Inc., where they discussed the establishment of collaborative institutions and the pursuit of joint scientific research projects. Cheng Jianping and Wang Ming were also invited to attend a thematic meeting on educational large-scale models organized by the Zhuhai Municipal Government.

Cheng Jianping attended the launch ceremony of the "Zhiyuan Program" for graduates and engaged in discussions with representatives from education departments of seven provinces (autonomous regions) as well as graduate representatives of the program. He emphasized that to better support the balanced development of high-quality education in central and western China, the university has been advancing the "Teacher Strengthening Project" in recent years. The "Zhiyuan Program" is a significant measure by BNU to explore and promote the "Provincial-Origin, County-Destination" training model for normal university students. The university

will work closely with local education authorities to ensure comprehensive support for graduates' professional development. He also encouraged the graduates to heed the important spirit of President Xi Jinping's letters, to act as role models, and to fulfill their mission of "cultivating in the educational field and contributing to national strength" by serving where the country needs them most, thus supporting the improvement of the educational ecosystem in central and western China.



Yu Jihong listened to the report on the progress of the Zhuhai Campus development and fully acknowledged the achievements made in recent years. She emphasized the need to uphold the university's unique educational strengths, continually enhance the teacher training system, and support the development of teacher education with world-class

research and faculty. Addressing national strategic needs and international academic frontiers, she called for a coordinated strategy for research focus, attracting top-tier talent and teams to achieve breakthroughs in major platforms, projects, and outcomes. Yu also stressed the role of the Zhuhai Campus as a "pilot zone" for institutional reform,

emphasizing the complementary and mutually reinforcing relationship between the northern and southern campuses. She advocated for a shift from the model of "one core driving two wings" to "two wings integrating into one core", advancing the university's development towards a world-class institution with Chinese characteristics.





During their time in Zhuhai, Cheng Jianping, Yu Jihong, and other university leaders conducted in-depth research at several institutions, including the College of Education for the Future, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, the School of Future Design, the Frontier Institute for Environment and Ecology, Leyu College, Huitong College,

Hongwen College, the Phoenix Flower Psychological Service Center, and the Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College (UIC). They received briefings on the overall spatial layout, research work, and integrated science and engineering platforms, and conducted on-site inspections of

Implementing an Excellence in **Research Strategy and Building a Research Innovation System: Beijing Normal University Holds Summary Meeting on Research Discussions**

Article source: Scientific Research Institute | Release date: 2024-06-14

n the morning of June 12, Beijing Normal University (BNU) convened a summary meeting on the campus-wide research discussions, aimed at thoroughly implementing the strategic directives of the Party and the State on research, and following the comprehensive plan established at the university's 14th Party Congress for building a highlevel research innovation system. The meeting comprehensively reviewed and construction projects including the comprehensive science and engineering complex, kindergarten and children's museum, and Phase III of the Jingshi Home (Expert Apartments). Relevant officials from the Party Committee/ President's Office and the Office of the Zhuhai Campus Leadership Team also participated in these activities.

summarized the outcomes of the past year's discussions, jointly planned the direction and key initiatives for future research reforms, and deeply advanced the strategy of excellence in research. The goal was to comprehensively enhance the university's research innovation capacity and accelerate the establishment of a robust research innovation framework.

Xu Qingsen, Director of the Department of Social Sciences at the Ministry of Education, attended the meeting and delivered a keynote report. The event was attended by Cheng Jianping, Party Secretary of BNU; President Yu Jihong; Vice Presidents Zhou Zuoyu, Kang Zhen, and Chen Xing. Over 330 participants, including all members of the university's Academic Committee, Party and administrative leaders responsible for research across various schools and departments, academic committee chairs, heads of functional departments and educational support units, as well as faculty and student representatives from both the Beijing and Zhuhai campuses, took part in the meeting. The summary meeting was presided over by President Yu Jihong, with the main venue located at the Beijing campus and a satellite venue set up at the Zhuhai campus.

Xu Qingsen delivered a keynote report titled "Promoting High-Quality Development of Philosophy and Social Sciences in the New Era for Universities". He emphasized that since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has placed significant emphasis on the development of philosophy and social



sciences, introducing a series of new ideas, concepts, and viewpoints, which have formed his critical discourse on the subject. This discourse serves as a fundamental guide for the high-quality development of philosophy and social sciences. Xu Qingsen highlighted the need for university philosophy and social sciences to focus on "five key aspects", which include understanding the importance, fundamental attributes, core tasks, development strategies, and contemporary mission of philosophy and social sciences. This aligns with the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important discourse on the subject. He also underscored the importance of grasping "three urgent needs", encouraging a deep understanding of the new circumstances and challenges

faced by university philosophy and social sciences, and advocating for the ability to identify, adapt, and actively pursue change. Furthermore, he called for adherence to "three principles":



Xu Qingsen, Director of the Department of Social Sciences at the Ministry of Education, delivered the keynote report.

prioritizing theoretical innovation, fostering methodological innovation, and promoting reform and innovation, all of which aim to advance high-quality development of philosophy and social sciences in the new era of China.

Cheng Jianping, Party Secretary of Beijing Normal University (BNU), highlighted that the initiative of the comprehensive research discussions represents a strategic deployment by the university's Party Committee in response to the new developmental phase of BNU. Over the past year, faculty and students across the university have engaged in problem-focused, extensive research, and in-depth discussions, yielding substantial results. Cheng Jianping outlined three key requirements for the university's research work in its new stage: 1. Promote the Spirit of Scientists: Address the motivation and direction of researchers by fostering a culture that honors scientific integrity and dedication. 2. Enhance Research Organization Models: While maintaining the foundation of free

(洪圻门) 林海区位 小1 4.年6月

exploration, place greater emphasis

Cheng Jianping, Party Secretary of Beijing Normal University, Delivered a Speech

on structured research to adapt to the demands of the new era, thus tackling challenges in research development models. 3. Deepen Institutional Reforms: Drive research innovation by reforming systems and mechanisms to overcome obstacles in research development. Cheng Jianping stressed that the entire university must have firm confidence in the reform process. The outcomes of the research discussions should be reflected in institutional support, resource allocation, and research organization. The strategic direction for implementing the university's excellence in research strategy must be clearly defined, leveraging advanced scientific productivity to guide high-quality development at BNU. This will contribute to the broader goal of advancing Chinese-style modernization.

since the initiation of the comprehensive research discussions, the university community has actively engaged in a variety of discussion and exchange activities, centered around the critical issues facing research development. These activities have led to the development of policies and measures aimed at fostering the intrinsic motivation of faculty and students, as well as enhancing research innovation capabilities. Yu Jihong emphasized that the university must resolutely implement the strategic directives on education, technology, and talent as outlined by the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, as well as the objectives set out by the university's 14th

Yu Jihong, President of BNU, noted that Party Congress regarding the

reestablishment of disciplinary and research strengths. The focus should be on seizing new opportunities and addressing emerging challenges in research reform and development. BNU will leverage its distinctive advantage in teacher education by following a cycle of "discussion-summarizationreform-innovation" to continually transform the outcomes of the research discussions into actionable policies. This will involve comprehensive optimization of the research layout, innovation in research organization models, and the implementation of the excellence in research strategy. The goal is to support the university's reform and development with high-quality research, thereby opening up new avenues for building a world-class university with Chinese characteristics.



University, Delivered a Speech

Kang Zhen, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), delivered a comprehensive review of the university's research discussions, focusing on the directives from the Party, the State, and the university regarding research work. He provided an in-depth analysis of the existing strengths and main challenges

in BNU's research. Through broad consensus building across the university, he clearly outlined the need to continuously improve a coordinated, large-scale research system. Kang proposed the implementation of a "1+N+M" strategy for excellence in research: one guiding opinion on excellence in research, N reform and innovation initiatives for research management, and M collaborative support measures from relevant departments, providing strong assurance for the effective execution of the university's research excellence strategy.



Kang Zhen, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, Delivered a Speech

During the meeting, leaders from six key thematic research groups presented their findings. Yu Gang, Director of the Frontier Institute for Environment and Ecology; Luo Liang, Dean of the Faculty of Psychology; Shen Zhenyao, Dean of the School of Environment; Zhu Xudong, Dean of the Faculty of Education; Mao Lanqun, Dean of the School of Chemistry; and Huang Hua, Dean of the School of Artificial Intelligence, each gave speeches. They introduced the activities of their respective groups, analyzed the main issues they focused on, and aligned their policy recommendations with the research excellence strategy tasks outlined in the report of the university's 14th Party Congress, aiming to promote highquality development of BNU's research.

On the afternoon of June 12, Kang Zhen presided over a special seminar on the "Guiding Opinion on Implementing the Excellence in Research Strategy at Beijing Normal University", bringing together over 60 participants, including leaders of various thematic research groups, representatives of Party and administrative leaders from different faculties and departments, officials from functional and educational support units, and representatives from the Zhuhai campus. The seminar facilitated indepth discussions on how to effectively implement the university's excellence in research strategy.

The participants focused on the new tasks and requirements facing research reform and development at BNU, closely linking these discussions to the university's current research activities. They engaged in thorough exchanges on how to drive the implementation and refinement of the research excellence strategy.

For this comprehensive research discussion, BNU established a leadership group, an expert advisory group, thematic working groups, departmental and faculty working groups, and a secretariat. Over the past year, the entire university has concentrated on its strategic goals, adopting a problemsolving approach, and enhancing overall coordination. Across the university, 262 activities were conducted, including thematic seminars, academic presentations, panel discussions, and research studies. These efforts clarified the key directions and policy measures for implementing the university's research excellence strategy, as well as the mid- and long-term research development priorities of each faculty and discipline. The implementation of the research excellence strategy will lay a solid foundation for accelerating the construction of a comprehensive research innovation system, enhancing the university's research innovation capabilities, and advancing the highquality development of BNU's research endeavors.



Mutual learning promoted at 2024 Global English Education China Assembly

Article source: China Daily | Release date: 2024-07-30

he 2024 Global English Education China Assembly, themed "Cultural Exchange and Mutual Learning: Promoting High-Quality Global Foreign Language Education in the AI Era", opened in Zhuhai, Guangdong province, on July 26.

The conference was jointly organized by China Daily, Beijing Normal University, and Shanghai International Studies University, with input from 21st Century English Education and the City University of Macau, and academic guidance from the China Association for Comparative Studies of English and Chinese, the National Association of Foreign Language Education, the Chinese Society of Education, and the International Research Foundation for English Language Education, ETS China and the British Council.

The aim of the assembly is to promote communication and cooperation between China and the world in the field of English language education, providing a high-level, international, and professional platform for learning and exchange for Chinese and foreign English language educators. It seeks to develop a strong



educational nation through international educational cooperation and to foster

Wang Hao, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily; Zhou Li, deputy director-general of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges at the Ministry of Education; Chao Guiming, a member of the Standing Committee of the Zhuhai Municipal Party Committee and vice-mayor; Wei Wei, deputy secretary of the CPC Beijing Normal University Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus Committee; Zhang Jing, vice-president of Shanghai

educational nation through international educational cooperation and to foster mutual learning among civilizations through cultural exchange. International Studies University; Liu Jun, president of City University of Macau; and Alex Popovski-Golubovikj, chairman of the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language, all attended the opening ceremony. Zeng Qingkai, editor-in-chief of 21st Century English Education Media, hosted the ceremony.

Wang Hao emphasized the importance of this year's assembly and explained that it was a joint effort by China Daily and others in implementing the spirit of the 20th CPC Central Committee's third plenary session, expanding educational openness and promoting global educational development and innovation. He reviewed the seven-year journey of the assembly and said he wanted to bring together more language, education and cultural organizations and scholars from all over the world to make greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind; promote balanced and high-quality development of compulsory education to strive for educational equity; and provide a platform for young scholars to better utilize their talents in China's modernization and international cultural exchanges.

In her speech, Zhou Li stated that the technological revolution and industrial transformation are accelerating, and knowledge innovation is advancing rapidly, bringing new opportunities and challenges to education. She proposed three forms of action: first, deepen global cooperation to build a global digital education community; second, cultivate a high-level foreign language teacher workforce; third, uphold openness and inclusiveness to promote mutual learning among civilizations through language education.

Zhou added that she hopes China's foreign language education will adapt to the educational transformation trends of the digital age, explore new models for cultivating high-end, versatile talents and help China better engage with the world while enabling the world to better understand China.

Wei Wei said foreign language education should align with the strategic development and communication goals of the nation, actively adapting and responding to the rapid development of artificial intelligence to continuously improve talent cultivation. Beijing Normal University actively leads innovation in foreign language and education theories, achieving significant results in curriculum and textbook development.

Wei Wei added that BNU will further strengthen cooperation with China Daily to tell China's educational stories to the world, enhance the dissemination and influence of Chinese civilization and contribute to building a shared community for humanity.

Also at the opening ceremony, China Daily and BNU officially launched their strategic cooperation agreement on international communication. The two parties will work closely together on areas such as international communication, multimedia platform development and talent cultivation, striving to create a more internationally influential communication platform and contributing to the development of international communication and education. The partnership aims to leverage both institutions' strengths to enhance BNU's internationalization and attract versatile international professionals. This strategic cooperation marks a new chapter in the collaboration between a leading media outlet and a top educational institution, underscoring the importance of international education and cultural exchange.

In all, the assembly featured 8 keynote speeches and 35 parallel sessions, covering topics such as AI-empowered foreign language education, sessions for highly-cited scholars, and Sino-British cultural and educational discussion. Over three days, experts, scholars and English teachers from more than 20 countries and regions engaged in in-depth discussions on 16 subtopics, including the integration of foreign language education with international communication, and language assessment and testing.

Established in 2018, the Global English Education China Assembly has pioneered the rapid development of English language education in China and the promotion of Sino-English education exchanges. The assembly will continue to deepen and build consensus regarding Sino-English education exchange and cooperation, contributing to the modernization of China's education.

https://studychina.chinadaily.com.cn/s/202407/30/WS66a87b48498ed2d7b7eb45a8/mutual-learningpromoted-at-2024-global-english-education-china-assembly.html

Film Today and Me Premieres at the Third China-Brazil Film Festival, Celebrating the 40th Teachers' Day

Article source: School of Arts and Humanities | Release date: 2024-09-10

he Third China-Brazil Film Festival opened on the evening of August 26 (local time) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A total of 14 films from China and Brazil, with seven from each country, will be screened from August 27 to 30. Among them, the film Today and Me, which was co-written, produced, and supervised by Professor Liang Zhenhua of the School of Arts and Humanities at Beijing Normal University (BNU), and supervised by BNU faculty members Mo Yan and Yu Hua, was showcased as a representative work. Directed by Zhao Xiaoxi and Zhao Xiaoou, and with screenplay contributions from BNU alumna Hu Yating, the

film was produced in celebration of the 120th anniversary of BNU

and released on Teachers' Day. It

garnered the prestigious Blue Parrot Award at the festival.

Two years after its initial release, Today and Me made a return that aligned with the theme of Teachers' Day, which celebrates "Promoting the Spirit





of Educators and Accelerating the Development of a Strong Education System". The film highlights the outstanding achievements in building a high-quality and professional teaching workforce in the new era and pays a heartfelt tribute to the 40th Teachers' Day by showcasing the enduring spirit of integrity, confidence, and strength that BNU educators have displayed throughout its century-long history. Chinese films at this year's festival included well-received works such as Chang'an 30,000 Miles, Learn from Dad, Sunflower Squadron, and Today and Me. Brazilian entries such as Our Dream and Winning in Ten Seconds have also been featured in numerous international film festivals. All these films received the Blue Parrot Award from the festival's organizing committee, and the creators engaged in extensive exchanges during the event.



In his speech at the opening ceremony, Wang Weiyu, Deputy Consul General of China in Rio de Janeiro, stated that in the wave of globalization, films increasingly serve as vital cultural bridges. They not only allow audiences to enjoy the stories but also inspire interest and respect for other cultures, promoting a broader appreciation of global cultural diversity. The participation of many outstanding films from both China and Brazil in this festival provided a valuable platform for further understanding and closer connections between the people of the two nations.



remain relatively limited, and film festivals present an excellent opportunity for cultural interaction. He expressed hope that both countries would continue to expand cultural exchange programs in the future.

Since its release, Today and Me has garnered widespread attention, winning the "Best Film" award at the 12th Beijing International Internet Film Festival and being nominated for the 2023 Golden Puffer Honorary Selection for Annual Online Films. The film connects three stories from different eras-"University", "Teachings", and "Youth"-to depict the profound symphony of interactions between people and the concept of "today" across 120 years. The phrase "No Regrets for Today" is a message from Liang Qichao and a shared vow made by generations of people at Beijing Normal University. While retracing the origins of Teacher's Day and gradually unfolding a century-long, eventful history of education in China, the film reflects on and commemorates the glorious past of Beijing Normal University. It also raises public awareness and appreciation for the significance of Teacher's Day.

O CONSULADO Aos novos e IDADE PARA LEIROS QUE ECRETÁRIA PELA BRASIL. GLOBAL, FAZENDO

CENTIVANDO O TE XI D



Brazilian director and filmmaker João Amorim remarked that China and Brazil are significant players in today's world and are both BRICS nations with impressive achievements in science, technology, and trade cooperation. However, he noted that cultural exchanges between the two peoples



Reflecting on the past, focusing on the present, and looking toward the future, Today and Me serves as a sincere tribute to the 40th Teachers' Day while also playing a crucial role in the history of cultural exchange between China and Brazil.

The Finals of the Higher Education Track of the 7th Global Competition on Design for Future Education Successfully Held

Article source: Smart Learning Institute | Release date: 2024-08-07

rom July 26 to 28, 2024 (UTC+8), the Finals of the Higher Education Track in the 7th Global Competition on Design for Future Education were successfully held at the Changping Campus of Beijing Normal University (BNU). This event was co-organized by BNU and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE), in collaboration with various domestic and international organizations, universities, and notable enterprises. The event gathered teachers, students, and industry professionals from around the world to explore future-oriented educational solutions for a better educational opportunity for mankind. Over three days, the Finals featured 25 teams from more than 30 colleges and universities, with over 110 contestants competing intensely over a demanding 48-hour period through both online and offline formats. Nearly 80 participants, including award-winning teams from





Posters of the seven competition topics

the Maldives and Central and Eastern Europe (Croatia) of the Regional Selection Contest, as well as teams from India, South Korea and other countries, experienced the competition atmosphere on-site.

During the Finals, the competition topics were framed around the UNESCO initiative "Reimagining our futures

BNUNewsroom

together: a new social contract for education," including seven themes: Inclusive Learning Space Design, Learning Environment Design Without Time and Space Limitations, Educational Resource Design for Coexistence with the Earth, Teaching Model Design with Multi-stakeholder Participation, Marginalized Cultural Heritage Design Empowered by Digital Technology, Quality Educational Resource Design for Rural Areas, and Intercultural Communication and Understanding Activity Design.

Under the guidance of the mentors, the finalists targeted core problems, set project topics, and completed new project designs based on the competition topics within 48 hours. A total of 18 teams stood out with their creative solutions and presentations, advancing to the final roadshow. During this







stage, within the allotted time, each team showcased their educational project design proposals to the panel of experts through well-crafted presentations, including PPTs, video presentations, scenario performances, etc.

The panel of expert judges rated the projects in terms of







problem awareness, innovation spirit, science and education integration, application prospects, and presentation and expression. Ultimately, they awarded the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards for the Higher Education Track, as well as the Excellent Design Award, Excellent Creativity Award, Excellent Technology Innovation Award and Excellent Practice Award.

The Competition encouraged participants to leverage AIGC

to address educational challenges, thereby enhancing humanmachine collaboration capabilities for the future. During the Finals, several AIGC training sessions and lectures were held, receiving a warm response from participants.

The competition organizing committee also invited tech enterprises to deploy AIGC interactive experience spaces and related AIGC products for the participants, providing substantial support for efficiently completing their creative solutions.

Amid the intense competition, participants also engaged in fun activities such as AI Debates, VR Games, Who's the Spy, Pictionary, Pitch Pot, Just Dance, and Summer Handmade, experiencing cultural exchanges and creating colorful competition memories.







At the award ceremony, the Higher Education Track awarded one Gold Award, two Silver Awards, three Bronze Awards, three Excellent Design Awards, three Excellent Creativity Awards, three Excellent Technology Innovation Awards, three Excellent Practice Awards, and seven Finalist Awards.



This year's event was specially supported by Beijing Design Society and the Beijing Design Week Organizing Committee. The event is hosted by Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University and the National Engineering Research Center of Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology. The competition is graced with partners like the Department of Educational Psychology at East China Normal University, Zagreb University of Applied Sciences in Croatia, Maldives Polytechnic, and Fuzhou Software Technology Vocational College, etc., supported by sponsors including NetDragon, Rotime Engineering and Technology, Alibaba Cloud, and Hifly.

Though the Finals have concluded, the journey of educational innovation is endless. The power of education lies in continuous exploration and breakthroughs. We are looking forward to meeting more educational innovators in next year's competition, jointly embarking on a new journey of educational innovation, and embracing the limitless possibilities of future education.



Yu Jihong Attends the China-Africa-UNESCO Dialogue on Cooperation for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection and Delivers a Keynote Speech

Article source: | Release date:2024-09-13

n September 6, the China-Africa-UNESCO Dialogue on Cooperation for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection (hereinafter referred to as the "Dialogue") commenced in Beijing. The event brought together government officials from China and African countries, leaders from universities and vocational institutions, experts, scholars, and representatives from international organizations.

President Yu Jihong of Beijing Normal University was invited to attend the conference and delivered a speech titled "Collaboratively Enhancing Teacher Capacity for Improving the Quality of Basic Education" during the thematic discussion session. Yu Jihong emphasized that achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring a more prosperous future for all of humanity requires the support of high-quality education and a wellqualified teaching workforce. She highlighted that Beijing Normal University (BNU) has always upheld its mission of "Strengthening the



Nation Through Education, and Strengthening Education Through Teachers". To this end, BNU has been committed to building a system for cultivating top-notch and innovative educators, launching the "Teacher Strengthening Project", actively implementing educational digitization demonstration projects, and advancing the "Internet + Education" reform and innovation action plan. These efforts aim to cultivate outstanding teachers and promote high-quality development in basic education. BNU has also been proactive in advancing and supporting the development of the Global University Social Responsibility Community, especially by fostering educational development in Africa through initiatives such as talent

cultivation, research cooperation, and cultural exchange. President Yu Jihong stated that BNU will continue to work alongside colleagues from Africa and the global education community to contribute to building a high-level China-Africa community of shared destiny and promoting the development of the "Global South".

During the outcomes announcement session, the "China-Africa Teacher Education Center", an initiative proposed by BNU, was recognized as a significant achievement of the Dialogue. Yu Jihong unveiled the plaque for the Center.

The China-Africa-UNESCO Dialogue on Cooperation for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection was cohosted by the Chinese government and UNESCO. Under the theme of "Joint Efforts to Promote Education Development and Cultural Heritage Protection in Africa", the event facilitated the sharing of experiences and exploration of collaboration opportunities between China, UNESCO, and African countries in the areas of education and cultural heritage preservation.



2024 China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum Held in Beijing

Article source: Institute of Education and Social Development, Beijing Normal University | Release date: 2024-09-10

n September 5, the "2024 China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum" was held in Beijing. The opening ceremony featured addresses from Chen Jie, Vice Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, Director of the National Commission of China for UNESCO, and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering; Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education; Kang Zhen, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU); Sophia Asipala, Head of Education at the African Union's Department of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation; and Lin Yigang, Vice President of Zhejiang Normal University. The forum was also attended by François Havyarimana, Minister of National Education and Scientific Research of Burundi; Yahya Ould Mohamed El Waghf,



Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Mauritania; and Ahmed Elmouna, Senior Advisor to the Mauritanian Minister, who delivered keynote speeches. The opening ceremony and keynote addresses by African education ministers were chaired by Chen Xing, Vice President of BNU.

During the opening ceremony, Chen Jie highlighted that since its inception in 2022, the China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum has served as a vital platform for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in the field of teacher education from China and African countries. The forum fosters knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, experience exchange, and cooperationbuilding, enabling participants to explore solutions to the challenges of advancing the Education 2030 Agenda in the realm of teacher education. He emphasized that this collaboration significantly contributes to promoting China-Africa cooperation in teacher education and achieving the Sustainable



Development Goals (SDGs). Chen Jie proposed three initiatives to enhance collaboration in teacher education and training: strengthening policy dialogue between China, Africa, and UNESCO to better align needs; leveraging digital transformation to empower teacher education; and expanding channels for cooperation to diversify partnership models



Stefania Giannini stressed the importance of providing quality education to marginalized groups, including those neglected due to gender, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, economic status, or geographical location in remote rural areas. She called for everyone, regardless of background, has equal access to education, laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable societies.



Kang Zhen noted that Beijing Normal

University, a century-old institution, is distinguished by its focus on teacher education, educational sciences, and foundational disciplines in the arts and sciences. The university remains committed to cultivating outstanding educators and driving social progress. BNU places high importance on internationalization, particularly in fostering exchanges and cooperation with African nations. Kang remarked that Africa is regarded as a beacon of hope for the "Global South", with China also being a natural member of this collective. He expressed a shared destiny, emphasizing the need for the Global South to move forward together with openness and inclusiveness. BNU, he affirmed, is willing to work alongside partners to be a key force in promoting educational development and advancing China-Africa educational cooperation to new heights.

Sophia Asipala underscored that teachers are the cornerstone of

ducational transformation, and heir professional growth directly mpacts student learning quality and uture development. She emphasized he importance of providing omprehensive support, continuous professional training, and adequate esources to teachers to ensure they an meet the challenges of a new ra as they shape future generations. Empowering educators not only mproves teaching quality but also costers sustainable development within the entire education system, eading to long-term progress and ransformation in global education.



Lin Yigang, Vice President of Zhejiang Normal University, expressed hope that the forum would serve as a powerful driver for China-Africa friendship and cooperation, enabling both sides to move forward hand in hand. He emphasized the importance of deepening educational cooperation, enhancing the foresight of China-Africa educational research, driving national modernization through educational modernization, and boosting the cluster effect of educational partnerships to build a higher-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

During the keynote speech session,



François Havyarimana called on international partners to support not only basic education but also the development of secondary and higher education, stressing the need for balanced development across all educational stages. He thanked the Chinese government and UNESCO for their support in teacher training and educational resources, highlighting the crucial role of such cooperation in improving educational quality in Burundi and ensuring equitable education for all.



Ahmed Elmouna pointed out the significant disparities in educationa resource support mechanisms betweer the Global South and the North especially in teacher training and the teaching environment. To address these imbalances, he advocated for increased educational investment, policy implementation, and South-South cooperation within the Global South. He praised China's successful experience in education reform and development and called for strengthened cooperation between China and other Global South countries to jointly promote educational system transformation and growth. Drawing an analogy, he likened the nations of the Global South to stars, envisioning a "galaxy" formed by their cooperation and development, driving balanced and enhanced education throughout the Global South.

The forum also featured three roundtable discussions. Roundtable Discussion 1: "Pursuing Equitable and Quality Education for All" The first roundtable, centered on the theme of "Pursuing Equitable and Quality Education for All", was attended by Lü Lijie, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Northeast Normal University; Mamadou Drame, Vice Dean of the Higher Institute of Education in Senegal; Chen Shuangye, Executive Deputy Director of the Faculty of Education at East China Normal University; Mark Borack Fonteh, Director of the Higher Teacherss Training College at the University of Bamenda, Cameroon; and Yang



Chen Xing Presides Over the Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speeches by African Education Ministers

of Education at Guangxi Normal University. The participants engaged in discussions on how to achieve equitable and inclusive education globally. They analyzed the economic and social challenges encountered by China and African countries in their educational development, particularly the difficulties faced by marginalized groups. Drawing on their respective experiences, they shared specific strategies and best practices for addressing these challenges and called for increased educational cooperation among nations to enhance global education equity and quality. This roundtable was moderated by Zhao Yuqi, Executive Director of the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education.

Roundtable Discussion 2: "STEM Education: Promoting STEM Practices Through New Technologies" The second roundtable focused on "STEM Education: Promoting STEM Practices Through New Technologies". It featured in-depth discussions led by Bian Cui, Associate Professor at the Institute of International and Comparative Education, Shanghai Normal University; Rabelsyva Andre Harinaina, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar; Huang Xiao, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Zhejiang Normal University; Jennifer Wanjira, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Nairobi, Kenya; and Zheng Xudong, Professor at the Faculty of Artificial Intelligence in Education, Central China Normal University. The discussion explored how to promote STEM education in Africa and other developing countries, especially through the application of information and communication technology (ICT) to overcome resource constraints and improve educational quality. Participants shared their national experiences in promoting STEM education, including the use of digital technologies to facilitate the sharing of educational resources and ways to foster students' innovative thinking and problem-solving skills through STEM education. The session was moderated by Temesgen Engida, Program Manager at the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa.

Roundtable Discussion 3: "Teacher Education: Policies and Practices for Building a High-Quality Teaching Workforce" The third roundtable, themed "Teacher Education: Policies and Practices for Building a High-Quality Teaching Workforce", was attended by Wang Hong, Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Education at South China Normal University; Bolanle Akeredolu-Ale, Vice President of the Pan African University; Li Qiong, Executive Deputy Director of the Center for Teacher Education Research at Beijing Normal University; and Alice Kuyayama, Chair of the Centre for Teacher Education and Curriculum Development at the University of Zimbabwe. The participants not only discussed the standards and characteristics of quality teachers but also proposed specific measures to strengthen China-Africa cooperation in teacher education, such as establishing China-Africa teacher training programs, sharing high-quality educational resources, and enhancing teacher capacity-building initiatives. They unanimously agreed that teachers are central to educational quality and that nations should strengthen the training and support of teachers, particularly in rural and remote areas where challenges are more pronounced. Through policy support and international collaboration, the professional development of the teaching workforce should be further promoted to meet the diverse needs of students. This roundtable was moderated by Liao Wei, Deputy Director of the Institute of Teacher Education at Beijing Normal University.

The keynote sessions of the forum, themed "Pursuing Equitable and Quality Education to Promote Global South Development", were chaired by Teng Jun, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University (BNU).



Quentin Wodon, Director of the UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, delivered a presentation titled "Advancing Educational Outcomes in Africa: Reflections on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and Insights from Drafting a New Strategy". He provided an overview of the current implementation status and revision plans for CESA, noting that the existing strategy faces challenges related to its numerous goals, as well as issues with implementation and monitoring. The future focus, he emphasized, would be on streamlining areas of action and concentrating on key issues, such as teacher development and educational equity, to create a more effective and actionable framework that can drive continuous improvement in Africa's education systems.



Juliet Sutherland, Professor of International Education at the University of Nottingham and UNESCO Chair in International Education and Development, delivered a speech on "The Role of Strategic Partnerships in Promoting 'Equitable and Quality Education for Global South Development'." She highlighted the importance of establishing strategic partnerships, noting that cooperation should go beyond supporting development agendas to fostering inclusive development in the Global South through equitable and reciprocal partnerships. She emphasized



that international cooperation must avoid colonialist tendencies and called for nations to advance education and social progress through equitable collaboration and resource sharing.

Zhu Xudong, Dean of the Faculty of Education at BNU, gave a keynote address titled "Promoting Global Development Education: Perspectives from China's Modernization". He discussed the concept and background of global development education, noting that China's modernization faces dual challenges: the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and unprecedented global changes. Drawing on President Xi Jinping's proposals, including the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, he analyzed the importance of global development education. Zhu elaborated on the concept by addressing five areas: global governance, economy, culture, security, and sustainable development. He emphasized that advancing education in these areas not only helps address global challenges but also promotes China-Africa cooperation and North-



South cooperation olid theoretical for practical direction for levelopment.

The 2024 China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum was organized by Beijing Normal University and co-hosted by the BNU Faculty of Education, UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education, Zhejiang Normal University Faculty of Education, and the BNU Institute of Chinese Education and Policy Development, with support from the Secretariat of the National Commission of China for UNESCO. The forum was recognized as a significant side event of the "China-Africa-UNESCO Dialogue on Cooperation for Education and Cultural Heritage Protection". Under the theme "Pursuing Equitable and Quality Education to Promote Global South Development", the forum focused on key issues such as

on, providing a foundation and for global shared

universal education, STEM education, and teacher education. The event gathered deans from educational institutes of nine African countries and representatives or deans from eight Chinese normal universities, along with researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and international organization staff, to discuss global educational development. The forum attracted over 100 inperson participants.

Among the African deans attending the forum were two alumni of Beijing Normal University: Joel Jonathan Kayombo, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Education Foundations, Management, and Lifelong Learning at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Rabelsyva Andre Harinaina, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Both returned to their alma mater to participate in the event, sharing their experiences and insights to contribute positively to the pursuit of equitable and quality education.

Since its inception, the China-Africa Education Institute Deans Forum has invited nearly 40 deans from educational institutes across various countries, expanding its influence and fostering greater participation from African university educational leaders. Through China-Africa educational research and cooperation, the forum continues to address educational challenges and solutions, advancing sustainable development together.

2024 Global Smart Education Conference

Enhancing International Understanding of Smart Education and Deepening Global Educational Digital Transformation! The 2024 Global Smart Education Conference Held in Beijing

Article source: National Engineering Research Center for Internet Education, Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-08-21

n August 18 (Beijing Time), the "2024 Global Smart Education Conference" was held at Beijing Normal University (BNU). With the theme of "Educational Transformation and International Understanding", the conference brought together experts, scholars, and frontline educators from the education, technology, and business sectors, both domestically and internationally. Attendees explored the ways in which digital transformation is reshaping education, focusing on global digital strategy planning, pathways for educational digitalization, and emerging challenges, and solutions. They

also shared new theories, technologies, perspectives, and achievements in smart education. The conference welcomed over 400 guests from around the world, with more than 1,500 in-person participants.

Wang Jiayi, Vice Minister of Education

Collaborative Strategic Planning for Forward-Thinking Policies Driving the Sustainable Development of Smart Education



of China, attended the conference and delivered an address. He emphasized the Chinese government's strong focus on the critical role of digitalization in driving educational transformation. For three consecutive years. China has implemented the National Education Digitalization Strategy Action, adhering to principles of integration, intelligence, and internationalization, and prioritizing practical applications. The government has been actively developing the National Smart Education Platform to support the modernization of education. Wang Jiayi highlighted that we have now entered an era of intelligence. particularly as the rapid development of generative artificial intelligence in the past two years has shown the enormous potential of AI to transform production, lifestyle, and education. Humanity is on the brink of a new era of humanmachine collaboration. He proposed three initiatives: 1. Strengthen Policy **Dialogue and Jointly Promote Smart** Education China is willing to work with governments and international organizations to establish platforms for policy dialogue and exchange, facilitating in-depth discussions on new concepts, experiences, and strategies in smart education, as well as on policy issues such as planning, standards, data governance, and ethical security. Together, they can explore feasible pathways, scientific approaches, and effective policies for the development of smart education. 2. Enhance Resource Sharing to **Promote Fairer and More Inclusive**



Education To ensure that the benefits of educational digitalization reach all learners, it is essential to promote the flow and convergence of quality educational resources globally. 3. **Strengthen Capacity Building to Create** a New Vision for Smart Education Education in the intelligent era cannot succeed without the crucial role of teachers. It is necessary to respect the agency of teachers in a human-machine collaborative model, empowering them with technology and making technology a tool to enhance their capabilities, all while focusing on the holistic development of students.

Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University, stated that artificial intelligence is a major driving force behind the new wave of technological and industrial transformation, reshaping production, lifestyle, and even the very nature of human existence. With the support and guidance of the Ministry of Education, BNU has been exploring new practices to harness AI for educational innovation. The university has implemented a demonstration project for educational digitalization, carried out the "Internet+



Education" reform and innovation action plan, and launched the "Teacher Strengthening Project" to support underdeveloped regions in central and western China. Additionally, BNU has undertaken the role of Secretariat for the Global Alliance for Digital Education, actively promoting the sharing and interconnectivity of digital educational resources. She made several recommendations: Uphold the Principle of Student-Centered Education: Education should aim for the comprehensive and free development of individuals, cultivating competencies that prepare students for the intelligent era. Adopt a Problem-Oriented Approach: Address practical challenges, iterate application models, and drive innovation in educational scenarios. Embrace Innovation While Upholding Core Values: Promote the reconfiguration of teachers' skills and competencies for the intelligent era. Yu Jihong expressed her hope for continued dialogue and practical cooperation with educators around the world, working together to drive global educational transformation and contribute to a brighter future for humanity.

Enhancing International Understanding Driving Educational Transformation Through the Digital Revolution

UNESCO has advocated for the establishment of a new "social contract", aiming to harness the benefits of digital technology to highlight education as a global public good. Educational transformation requires mobilizing global efforts to build international consensus, with the objective of constructing a shared future for humanity and achieving the goal of "ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all". This calls for enhanced exchange and cooperation worldwide. With numerous UNESCO members joining the conference this year, she expressed her hope that the event would foster cooperation and innovation to achieve the common goals of peace, equity, and sustainable development.

Maryam Mariya, Minister of Higher Education, Human Resources, and Skills Development of the Maldives, highlighted that the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and education will profoundly impact teaching and societal development. Justin Valentin, Minister of Education of Seychelles, shared insights on the country's exploration and challenges in the field of smart education. He emphasized Seychelles' commitment to integrating technology into educational management and classroom practices, supporting remote and open learning through inter-departmental collaboration to enhance educational accessibility. He expressed his desire for increased collaboration and support to collectively realize the vision of quality education.



Stefania Giannini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, participated in the conference via video message and delivered an address. She emphasized the importance of educational transformation and international understanding, noting that UNESCO has played a pioneering role in advancing digital education applications and addressing socioeconomic impacts.



Despite geographical challenges such as the dispersion of islands, the Maldives is actively embracing the future of education by implementing plans and expanding online learning platforms to promote educational inclusivity and innovation. These efforts aim to transform each island into a learning hub, facilitating global educational cooperation and sharing.



Lucas Dawa Dekena, Minister of Education of Papua New Guinea, stressed the importance of smart education in bridging the technological divide and promoting educational equity and inclusiveness. Papua New Guinea is enhancing education quality by developing digital infrastructure, updating curricula, and expanding remote education and STEM education.



BO ChanKoulika, De State for Education,

KILO Vivian ASHERI, Secretary of State for Basic Education, Cameroon, discussed the country's achievements and challenges in educational digitalization and transformation. She stated that Cameroon will adopt multiple strategies to prioritize the

development of digital capabilities

and promote educational reform to

meet the demands of a digital society.

adaptability, collaboration, critical thinking, and digital skills is essential. She expressed Cambodia's eagerness to establish partnerships with global counterparts to advance the development of smart education.

Adnan Husić, Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, pointed out that



for Basic Education, Cameroon

BO ChanKoulika, Deputy Secretary of State for Education, Youth, and Sports, Cambodia, emphasized that education systems must adapt to rapid technological and social changes. Developing students'



Ministry of Civil Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina

the application of digital technology in education can enhance quality and equity, helping students develop essential skills. He called for efforts to bridge the digital divide, strengthen digital infrastructure, and continue investing in partnerships to



address ongoing challenges. He envisions building a resilient, future-oriented education system.

Mohamed Ould Amar, Director-General of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), participated in the high-level dialogue through an authorized representative. He stated that ALECSO places high importance on digital transformation, striving to integrate digital tools into classrooms to promote knowledge acquisition and instructional innovation. He mentioned the integration of various AI technologies into educational systems and highlighted ALECSO's collaboration with the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University



to publish numerous books, effectively promoting the fusion of education and technology. He also suggested enhancing cooperation between Arab nations and China in scientific research and cultural exchange.

Advancing Integration of Science, Technology, and Education to Enhance Talent Development Supporting Innovation in Smart Education Practices

The integration of science, technology, and education serves as a driving engine for reshaping the talent development system. The ongoing upgrade of intelligent technology ecosystems supports students' adaptive growth, aids the professional development of teachers, and sustains and guides innovative practices in smart education.

Zhao Qinping, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, delivered a keynote report titled "Innovating VR 2.0, Developing Internet 3.0, and Deeply Supporting Digital Development in Education". He emphasized that continuous advancements in the education sector not only drive the application of technology but also inspire ongoing innovation and iteration, particularly in meeting the core need for the integration of virtual and physical spaces. To address this need, he proposed advancing beyond the capabilities of Virtual Reality 1.0 to enter the era of VR 2.0, characterized by the "6I" features: Immersion, Interaction, Imagination, Intelligentize, Interconnection, and Iteration. Achieving this requires breakthroughs in internet, augmented reality (AR), and extended reality (XR) technologies, as well as ongoing technological innovation and system development. He called for collaboration between technology experts and educators to drive this technological advancement, thereby providing robust support for the digital transformation of education.



Amal El Fallah Seghrouchni, Executive Chair of the International Artificial Intelligence Center in Morocco, presented a keynote report titled "Trustworthy AI in Education: Opportunities and Challenges". She highlighted the immense potential of artificial intelligence in the education



sector, while also addressing challenges related to trust, governance, ethics, and social acceptance. She emphasized the need to find a balance between innovation and regulation to ensure that AI technology can realize its full potential in education while promoting sustainable development.

Yang Zongkai, President of Wuhan University of Technology, delivered an online keynote report titled "Exploring New Frontiers in Digital Intelligence Education: Shaping a New Ecosystem in Higher Education". He stated that educational transformation in the age of artificial intelligence has gained widespread consensus, yet there remains a need to balance continuity and change during digital transformation. While the fundamental mission of moral education remains unchanged, it is essential to drive the shift from traditional industrial-era education models to digital-intelligence education models. According to him,



reshaping higher education involves key elements such as educational environments, teacher competencies, instructional methods, resource supply, and evaluation systems. Wuhan University of Technology has implemented a new talent development program, the "5·30 Plan", which encompasses five new elements: new standards, new dynamics, new models, new systems, and new cultures, with 30 specific initiatives.

Marc Prensky, American Speaker, Author, and Consultant, delivered a



keynote report titled "Millennials 3.0: A Low-Stress Life Guide for Everyone". He introduced seven core traits of the "Millennials 3.0", including making a positive impact in the real world, the pursuit of truth, the "L.E.G.O". (Love, Empathy, Gratitude, Optimism) and "T.R.I.C.K". (Reflective Thinking, Insight, Creativity, Curiosity) principles, adaptability, self-education, global citizenship, and becoming "Symbiotic Human Hybrids".

Lester Huang, Director of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Chair of the Institute of Philanthropy, and Chair of the Council of City University of Hong Kong, attended the conference and delivered remarks. He expressed the Hong Kong Jockey Club's strong support for promoting global education and technological transformation. Through close collaboration with educators and schools in Hong Kong, the Club has developed high-quality educational resources and implemented the

Lester Huang, Direct Kong Jockey Club, Club of Philanthropy, and C

"AI for the Future" initiative, with a particular focus on addressing special educational needs. By leveraging technology, they aim to empower students with learning disabilities, ensuring that every student has access to high-quality educational services. He expressed hope for combining Asian practices and insights with the global philanthropic ecosystem to foster international academic exchanges and talent development, creating best practices collectively.

Gan Changfu, Deputy Director of pilot projects.



the Qinghai Provincial Department of Education, delivered a report titled "Deepening the Comprehensive Application Pilot of the National Smart Education Platform for Primary and Secondary Schools to Support High-Quality Development of Basic Education in Qinghai". He emphasized that Qinghai's development urgently requires the involvement of new types of digital



d intelligent productivity. In race

and intelligent productivity. In recent years, Qinghai Province has actively promoted the application of the National Smart Education Platform for Primary and Secondary Schools through strategic advancement, quality implementation, high-level planning, and efficient support. Looking ahead, the province plans to establish a national digital education pilot zone, promote comprehensive application pilots, enhance teachers' digital application skills, and solidify the development of digital education pilot projects.

Publication of Groundbreaking Research Marking the Inaugural Year of Smart Education

During the opening ceremony and plenary session, Professor Huang Ronghuai, Co-Dean of the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (BNU), and Zhan Tao, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, jointly released the research report "International Understanding of Smart Education in the Context of Digital Transformation" on behalf of the Global Smart Education Network (GSENet). Zhan Tao noted that GSENet, established two years ago, has brought together 50 members from around the world and will remain open to all, inviting everyone to work towards a vision of sustainable development and a better future. Huang Ronghuai explained that the research team conducted extensive surveys of educators, policymakers, and scholars from various regions across the globe, analyzed digital education policies from 48 countries, and assessed the contributions of smart education to improving educational quality. The team also engaged over 10 countries in discussions on the inclusiveness and equity of smart education and conducted ongoing case studies on related topics. The release of this seminal report by GSENet is expected to foster a shared international understanding of smart education and marks a significant milestone in what is being hailed as the inaugural year of smart education.



Huang Ronghuai elaborated on five core conclusions from the report: 1. Smart education is emerging as a shared strategic vision across nations to address key challenges of the AI era and achieve the goal of quality education. 2. The expressive features of smart education (learning, assessment, infrastructure, sustainability, and equity) and its constructive elements (students, teachers, digital technologies, policies, and partnerships) illustrate an ideal blueprint for high-quality education. 3. Global digital education policies should prioritize the continued development of digital infrastructure and the cultivation of digital human resources, aiming to create a highquality, inclusive, and sustainable digital education ecosystem. 4. Based on the global smart education dataset, sustainable education reform plans, effective cross-sector and cross-domain collaboration, ubiquitous learning environments, and a commitment to

inclusiveness significantly impact the overall quality of education. 5. Greater emphasis should be placed on access to digital technologies outside of school, digital leadership training for schools, the development of adaptive learning resources, and forward-thinking reform strategies to achieve the Education 2030 goals.



During the conference, several other significant achievements were also unveiled, including "The Intelligent Transformation of Educational Resources: The Most Beautiful 'Photosynthesis' of Education Resource Granules", "Practice of a Multi-Modal Integrated Adolescent Mental Health Tiered Intervention System", "Guidelines for the Smart Classroom Detection Platform & Comprehensive Teaching Environment Construction with Large Models", and "National-Level New Area Smart Education Development Research Report".

The opening ceremony of the conference was chaired by Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, while the plenary session on "Digital Transformation and Educational Change" was moderated by Asha S. Kanwar, Chair of the Board of the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education and Vice Dean of the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University.



The three-day conference featured 16 thematic forums and 11 specialized events. On August 19-20, forums were held on topics such as "Digital Transformation in Basic Education

and Future School Reform". "Smart Campuses and Intelligent Educational Equipment", "AI-Driven Innovation in Comprehensive Student Assessment", "Digitizing Education for Regional Development", "Development and Application of Digital Textbooks", "Smart Education in Early Childhood", "High-Quality Development in Higher Education through AI", "Artificial Intelligence and Future Teachers", "Smart Villages and Rural Education Transformation", "Integration of Science, Technology, and Education with Industry-Education Collaboration", "Promoting Lifelong Learning through Digital Teaching", and "Innovation in Smart Education Research and Practice", which also served as the closing session. In parallel, a series of activities were held, including closed-door meetings on "Women's Leadership in the AI Era", "China-Africa-Small Island States Smart Education Cooperation", the Global Smart Education Network (GSENet) member meeting, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education Board meeting, a regional leadership roundtable on educational technology industry development, the Alliance for Intelligent Learning Environment Construction and Application Demonstration, the "Future Education Innovation Student Forum", the "Smart Learning and Future Education Design Student Forum", the final of the 7th Global Future Education Design Competition

(K-12 Track), a vocational education workshop for Southeast Asian countries, and the "Smart Education Exhibition", which showcased the latest smart education products and services in the industry.

The conference was co-hosted by Beijing Normal University (BNU) and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, and was jointly organized by BNU's Smart Learning Institute, Faculty of Education, Faculty of Psychology, Institute of Chinese Education and Social Development, and the National Engineering Research Center for Internet Intelligent Education Technologies and Applications.

The event received support from partners including the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), the Commonwealth of Learning, the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). It was also sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust and companies such as NetDragon Websoft, iFLYTEK, Jingshi Ruidao, Guoxin Culture, Unisplendour Smart Education, Onion Academy, Hailiang Technology, Tencent Education, Jinshajiang Technology, Yiqi Education Technology, OUR SCHOOL, and Pearson.

BNU Leadership Meets with International Guests During the 2024 Global Smart Education Conference

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-08-26



On the afternoon of August 18, Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), met with Lucas Dawa Dekena, Minister of Education of Papua New Guinea, and Janko Samardžić, Assistant Minister for Higher Education of the



On the morning of August 20, Zhou Zuoyu also met with Kilo Vivian Asheri, Secretary of State for Basic Education of Cameroon; Randa Ahmad Hafez Shaheen, First Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education of Egypt; Susil Premajayantha,



Zhou Zuoyu Meets with Kilo Vivian Asheri, Secretary of State for Basic Education of Cameroon



n August 20, the three-day 2024 Global Smart Education Conference concluded in Beijing. During the event, Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), along with Vice Presidents Zhou Zuoyu and Chen Xing, attended the conference. Throughout the event, BNU leadership held individual meetings with several international guests to discuss and advance bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

On the morning of August 18, Yu Jihong met with Maryam Mariya, Minister of Higher Education, Labor, and Skills Development of the Maldives; Justin Valentin, Minister of Education of Seychelles; and Lester Huang, Director of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, Chair of the Board of the Institute of Philanthropy, and Chair of the Council of City University of Hong Kong. The meeting was also attended by Zhou Zuoyu and other representatives.



Yu Jihong Meets with Maryam Mariya, Minister of Higher Education, Labor, and Skills Development of the Maldives



Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development of Serbia. The meetings were attended by representatives from the Smart Learning Institute and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.



Minister of Education of Sri Lanka; and Bo Chankoulika, Deputy Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of Cambodia. The meetings were attended by officials from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.







of BNU, met with Pan Weixian, Vice President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; Dmitry Mazarchuk,



Chen Xing Meets with Pan Weixian. Vice President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong



Chen Xing Meets with Dmitry Mazarchuk. Vice President of the University of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus



Chen Xing Meets with Adam Bridgeman, Vice President of the University of Sydney



Chen Xing Meets with Margarita Caballero, Vice President of the University of Havana

the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation (Office for Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan Affairs) were

nopes to deepen cooperation with BNU in areas such as enhancing digital literacy for teachers, promoting faculty

Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia Leads Delegation to Visit Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-06-26

n the morning of June 20, Wong Kah Woh, Deputy Minister of Education of Malaysia, led a delegation to visit Beijing Normal University (BNU). President Yu Jihong met with the guests at the main building, and Vice President Zhou Zuoyu presided over the meeting.

Yu Jihong extended a warm welcome to Wong Kah Woh and his delegation, and provided an overview of BNU's development and its ongoing exchanges and collaborations with the Malaysian education sector. She emphasized that cultural exchange and educational cooperation are vital bridges that connect the hearts of the peoples of China and Malaysia. Under the guidance of diplomatic strategies set by the leaders of both nations, BNU aims to leverage the significant opportunity of the 50th anniversary of China-Malaysia diplomatic relations, also designated as the "China-Malaysia Year of Friendship". By capitalizing on its "one core, two wings"



Global Visit



educational structure, the university plans to focus on key areas such as talent cultivation, research collaboration, and publishing and communication, striving to create a model of international cooperation. BNU is committed to contributing to the advancement of high-quality global education and the development of a China-Malaysia community with a shared future.

Wong Kah Woh expressed his gratitude to BNU for its efforts in advancing educational cooperation between the two countries. He provided an overview of the achievements in Malaysian education and the status of student exchanges between China and Malaysia. Wong



expressed his hope that BNU would continue to deepen its collaborations with Malaysian educational institutions at all levels, making further contributions to talent cultivation and cultural exchange between the two nations.

The meeting was attended by key figures including the Director General of the Education Resources and Technology Division of the Ministry of Education of Malaysia, the Education Counselor from the Malaysian Embassy in China, the Chief Executive Officer of City Bookstore under the Ministry of Education of Malaysia, and the President of Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM). Representatives from BNU, including officials from the BNU Publishing Group, the Faculty of Artificial Intelligence, the Institute of Vocational and Adult Education of the Faculty of Education, and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, also participated and engaged in discussions.

Vice President of Cardiff University **Visits Beijing Normal University**

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-07-14

n July 9, a delegation led by Rudolf Allemann, Vice President of Cardiff University, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU) on behalf of Wendy Larner, President of Cardiff University. The delegation was welcomed at the Beijing campus by Yu Jihong, President of BNU, and Wang Ming, Vice President of BNU.

hold discussions with the Cardiff University delegation at the Zhuhai campus. Both parties conducted a progress meeting on the establishment of a joint college, engaging in in-depth consultations on related matters.

The Cardiff delegation also visited various institutes at



Yu Jihong expressed her warm welcome to the Cardiff University delegation, stating that BNU values its partnership with Cardiff University, which has yielded positive results over the years. She highlighted that the two institutions are strategic partners with a solid foundation of mutual recognition and trust, shared strategic goals, and a successful history of collaboration. These factors have created favorable conditions for exploring joint educational initiatives at BNU's Zhuhai campus. Yu Jihong expressed her hope to further deepen this collaboration, expand into new areas, and expedite the establishment of a joint college.

Rudolf Allemann expressed his sincere gratitude for the warm reception from BNU. He noted that this visit was a direct follow-up to the successful visit of President Wendy Larner and was aimed at advancing the collaborative agreements reached during high-level exchanges between the two universities. He also expressed great anticipation for the new chapter of cooperation to be initiated at the Zhuhai campus.

On July 10, Wang Ming led a BNU working group to

the Zhuhai campus, including the Frontier Institute for Environment and Ecology, the School of Future Design, the Institute of Artificial Intelligence and Future Networks, and the Department of Data Science and Big Data Technology at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, holding discussions with the heads of these units.

The meetings were attended by representatives from BNU's Department of Development Planning, Academic Affairs Office (Graduate School), Human Resources Department, Finance Department, Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, Office of the Zhuhai Campus Leadership Team, and the Zhuhai Campus Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.





Associate Vice President of The University of Arizona Visits **Beijing Normal University**

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-09-09

n September 5, Charles Wang, Associate Vice President of The University of Arizona, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Chen Xing, Vice President of BNU, met with the guest at the main building, accompanied by officials from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

Chen Xing extended a warm welcome to Charles Wang and provided an overview of BNU's international exchanges, disciplinary development, and the progress of its "one core, two wings" educational framework. He highlighted the close relationship between BNU and The University of Arizona, noting that since the signing of a university-level framework cooperation agreement in 2019, the two institutions have collaborated in several fields, including sports, environmental, and water science. Chen expressed his hope for further strengthening faculty and student exchanges, academic collaboration, and exploration of cooperative projects in related academic fields.

Charles Wang expressed his gratitude for the warm reception at BNU and remarked that he felt a sense of familiarity returning to the university. He shared insights into The University of



Arizona's development of overseas "micro-campuses" and expressed his desire to deepen exchanges with BNU, explore joint educational programs, and elevate the partnership between the two universities to new heights.

Founded in 1885, The University of Arizona is a public research university and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), recognized as a "Public Ivy". The university has over 40,000 undergraduate students, more than 10,000 graduate students, and a faculty of over 3,000, including three Nobel laureates. It is renowned for its programs in geology, geophysics, geography, library and information systems, environmental science, and astronomy, which are considered world-class.

40th Anniversary Celebration of the Beijing Normal University -**Dartmouth College Chinese Program** & Symposium on Chinese Studies and **Chinese Language Teaching**

Article Source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, School of Chinese Language and Culture Release date: 2024-07-29

n July 27, the 40th Anniversarv Celebration of the Beijing Normal University (BNU) -Dartmouth College Chinese Program (referred to as "Dartmouth Program") and Symposium on Chinese Studies and Chinese Language Teaching was held at Beijing Normal University. The event was attended by Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of BNU,

who delivered an opening address. Representatives from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, Academic Affairs Office, School of Chinese Language and Culture, School of Journalism and Communication, School of Foreign Languages and Literature, Institute of Chinese Culture, College of Arts and Humanities, and School of History,

along with experts, scholars, and alumni of the "Dartmouth Program" from both domestic and international universities, gathered at the event.

In his address, Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome and sincere gratitude to all guests, commending the accomplishments of the "Dartmouth Program". He emphasized that the



北京师范大学 · 美国达慕思大学 中文项目四十周年庆典

The Dartmouth- Beijing Chinese Program: Celebrating 40 Years of Collaboration Between Beijing Normal University & Dartmouth College

北京师范大学 Beijing Normal University 2024年7月27日 July 27, 2024

program, established at the dawn of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, represents a historically significant endeavor in higher education exchanges between the two countries. Over the past 40 years, the program has cultivated a large group of American youth who understand and appreciate China, serving as a bridge of friendship between the two peoples and facilitating communication between the two governments. Zhou noted that the establishment and success of the program reflect the foresight and close collaboration between the two



universities and the dedicated efforts of generations of faculty and students. He expressed his hope that the "Dartmouth Program" would continue to thrive through joint efforts, expanding into new areas and accelerating the establishment of joint educational ventures. Zhou reaffirmed BNU's commitment to welcoming more American teachers and students to the university and sending more BNU faculty and students to institutions such as Dartmouth College, contributing actively to enhanced understanding and collaboration between Chinese and American youth.

Mathew Delmont, Provost of Dartmouth College, extended heartfelt congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the "Dartmouth Program". He highlighted

that as one of the first academic exchange initiatives between Chinese and American universities following the establishment of diplomatic relations, the program has been a testament to the enduring friendship between the two nations. Mathew praised the achievements of the program, acknowledging the diligence of the students and the dedication of the educators involved. He reiterated Dartmouth College's commitment to strengthening its partnership with BNU, fostering cultural and educational exchanges between the





Li Huayuan, the founding professor of the "Dartmouth Program" and Emeritus Professor at Dartmouth College, delivered a speech reflecting on the program's extraordinary journey and its special significance for cooperation between the two institutions and nations. She emphasized that over the past 40 years, BNU and Dartmouth have adhered to principles of mutual trust and cooperation, achieving significant success. She attributed the program's success to the deep interest of American students in Chinese language and culture, the dedicated efforts of teachers, and the shared vision of both universities. Drawing on the Confucian phrase "at forty, one gains clarity", she expressed the hope that the two universities would continue to overcome challenges



with resolve and advance toward their common goals.

Shino Pichette, Associate Director of the Guarini Institute at Dartmouth College; Feng Liping, Dean of the School of Chinese Language and Culture at BNU; Edward Miller, Chair of the Department of Asian Societies, Cultures, and Languages at Dartmouth College; and other representatives, including Professor Zhang Hesheng from BNU's School of Chinese Language and Culture, student representative Lin Lin, and Yan Lei, U.S. Program Director of the "Dartmouth Program", delivered congratulatory speeches, expressing their hope for a brighter future of collaboration, with aspirations to forge a new chapter in promoting educational





and cultural exchanges between China and the United States.

During the symposium, scholars from Dartmouth College, the University of Notre Dame, and BNU engaged in thematic discussions. Professors Gil Raz, Lu Yi, and Mark Williams from Dartmouth. Associate Professor Liu Jincheng from Notre Dame, and Professors Zhu Zhiping and Qi Hua from BNU delivered presentations on topics related to Chinese studies and international Chinese language education. Prior to the celebration and symposium, Zhou Zuoyu met with the Dartmouth delegation, where they discussed the development of the "Dartmouth Program", student exchanges, and research collaboration.

The BNU-Dartmouth Chinese Program was established in 1982, specifically designed for Dartmouth students to study Chinese language and culture in China. It was one of the first cooperative projects between Chinese and American universities after the normalization of diplomatic relations. Every summer, Dartmouth students come to BNU for two months of intensive language study and cultural immersion, while BNU sends a faculty member to Dartmouth to teach and reside in the "Chinese Language House" on campus, providing an immersive learning environment. Over the past 40 years,

nearly 1,000 students have completed the program, many of whom have become influential figures in American politics, business, and academia. More than 20 BNU faculty members have taught at Dartmouth, playing a crucial role in fostering educational cooperation between China and the United States. The program, distinguished by its early establishment, long-standing duration, and remarkable results, has become a model for university exchanges between the two nations.





30th Anniversary Celebration of the **Beijing Normal University-Princeton** University Summer Chinese Language **Program & Symposium on International Chinese Education**

Article Source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release Date: 2024-07-16

n July 14, the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Beijing Normal University-Princeton University Summer Chinese Language Program (Princeton in Beijing, or "PiB") and Symposium on International Chinese Education was held at Beijing Normal University (BNU). The event was attended by Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of BNU, who delivered an opening address. Representatives from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, faculty and student



representatives from the School of Chinese Language and Culture, experts and scholars from universities in China and abroad, and alumni and former







心周车次

n: Celebrating 30 Years of Collaboration Between Beijing Normal University and Princeton University

北京师范大学 Beijing Normal University

teachers of the "PiB" program from around the world gathered at the event. Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome and sincere gratitude to all

the guests, praising the achievements of the "PiB" program. He noted that over the past 30 years, the program has nurtured a large number of outstanding students and Chinese language teachers, achieving remarkable results. The program has served as a bridge of friendship between the peoples of China and the United States, facilitating communication between the two governments. He highlighted that the development of "PiB" embodies the courage, wisdom, dedication, and perseverance of generations of "PiB participants" and is a testament to the sincere understanding and communication between both institutions, reflecting the desire for cooperation and



exchange between the peoples of China and the United States. Zhou expressed his hope that the program will continue to innovate, cultivate more talent, and make new contributions to promoting cultural exchange between China and the U.S.

Zhou Zhiping, the founding professor of the "PiB" program and a professor at Princeton University, gave a heartfelt reflection on the program's extraordinary journey over the past 30 years, summarizing its success and development. He expressed his gratitude to both BNU and Princeton University for their long-term support of the program and extended sincere thanks to all the students, teachers, and supporters who have contributed to its success. Zhou emphasized that the 30th anniversary celebration is not only a moment to reflect on past achievements but also a new starting point for future endeavors. He expressed his best wishes for the program to reach even greater heights in the next 30 years.

Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu, Senior Associate Dean of the



Office of International Programs at Princeton University; Wang Jing, U.S. Director of the "PiB" Program; Feng Liping, Dean of the School of Chinese Language and Culture at BNU; Professor Chen Fu of the School of Chinese Language and Culture at BNU; Liang Xia, a representative of the "PiB" teachers; and Blazejewski Matt (Bai Mingkai), a "PiB" alumni representative, also delivered speeches during the event.

A symposium was held concurrently, bringing together experts and scholars from Chinese and American universities. The symposium was chaired by Wang Xuesong, Secretary of the Party Committee of the School of Chinese Language and Culture at BNU. Professors Bai Jianhua from Kenyon College, Li Kai from Oberlin College, Dr. Liu Jincheng from the University of Notre Dame, Zhao Yang from Peking University, Chen Mo from Renmin University of China, Zhu Yong from Beijing Foreign Studies University, Qu Zheng, Academic Director of the CET Shanghai Program, Zhang Hesheng and Qi Hua from BNU all delivered presentations on topics



related to international Chinese education.

The "Princeton in Beijing" (PiB) program is a collaborative intensive summer Chinese language training initiative between Beijing Normal University and Princeton University. Established in 1993, it was the first "immersive" summer Chinese program jointly run by Chinese and American universities, setting a precedent for such collaborations. Each summer, the program enrolls students from renowned



universities in the United States and around the world to participate in a two-month intensive language immersion program at BNU. Since its inception, the program has trained over 4,500 students and more than 1,800 Chinese language teachers. Renowned for its unique teaching methods and exceptional outcomes, the program has gained a stellar reputation in the field of international Chinese language education and stands as a model of cooperation between Chinese and American universities.

10th Anniversary of BNU's Developing Countries Master's Program and 2024 Graduation Celebration of the Belt and Road School Held

Article source: Belt and Road School | Release date: 2024-07-01

n June 25, the 10th Anniversary of the Developing Countries Master's Program and the 2024 Graduation Celebration of the Belt and Road School were held in both Beijing and Zhuhai. under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), fostering global cultural exchanges and contributing to the high-quality development of the BRI. He encouraged the graduates to be active participants in fostering

of the Developing Countries Master's Program. He highlighted that over the past decade, the school has trained a large number of application-oriented talents with international perspectives who are friendly towards China,



Wang Shoujun, Executive Vice President of Beijing Normal University (BNU) and Dean of the Belt and Road School, warmly engaged with the 2024 graduates of the school and extended congratulations on the decade-long achievements of the Developing Countries Master's Program. He noted that over the past ten years, BNU has nurtured a significant number of outstanding international talents collaboration and shared growth between their respective countries and China, and expressed his hopes for even greater success and progress for the school over the next decade.

Sun Zhonghe, President of the Academy for International Business Officials (AIBO) of the Ministry of Commerce, also extended his congratulations on the 10th anniversary

significantly enhancing the capacity for independent development in the recipient countries. The program has solidified China's reputation for international training, earned widespread acclaim, and made an important contribution to supporting China's distinctive diplomacy, promoting high-quality BRI collaboration, and building a community with a shared future for humanity.



Djoomart Otorbaev, Former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic (leftmost); Grzegorz W. Kolodko, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Poland (rightmost); Zlatko Lagumdzija, Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (second from left); Boris Tadić, Former President of Serbia (second from right); Enrique Garcia, Former President of the Development Bank of Latin America (third from left); Carsten Herrmann-Pillath, Lifetime Professor at the University of Erfurt, Germany (third from right)

Several distinguished figures sent their well wishes, including Djoomart Otorbaev, Former Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic and Honorary Chairman of the Belt and Road School Alumni Association; Grzegorz W. Kolodko, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Poland; Zlatko Lagumdzija, Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Boris Tadić, Former President of Serbia; Enrique Garcia, Former President of the Development Bank of Latin America; Carsten Herrmann-Pillath, Lifetime Professor at the University of Erfurt, Germany; and Professor Pan Qingzhong, Executive Dean of the Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University, as well as many distinguished alumni from around the world. They congratulated the school on its achievements over the past ten years and conveyed their best wishes to the 2024 graduates.





They emphasized that the Belt and Road School has long been dedicated to cultivating future leaders from developing countries. The experience of studying at BNU equips international students with insights into China's development and a deeper understanding of the role that China and the Belt and Road Initiative play in the modern world, which is of great significance to the development of related countries. They encouraged the graduates to face new challenges together, strive to promote the highquality development of the BRI, and advance the common development of developing countries and the world, ultimately leading the world towards a more prosperous, equitable, and brighter future.

During the graduation ceremony, Liu Qian, Vice Dean of the Belt and Road School, extended her heartfelt congratulations to the 2024 graduates. She emphasized that the ten-year experience of nurturing talent from developing countries is a valuable asset for the Belt and Road School and serves as a foundation for building a global alumni network under the Belt and Road Initiative. Liu encouraged the graduates to uphold the school's mission of cultivating future leaders from developing countries and expressed her hope that they would meet again on the international stage. Pompeo Della Posta, a faculty representative, fondly recalled the wonderful time shared with

the students and once again shared the school's motto, "For a Better World", encouraging graduates to take on responsibilities that foster understanding, build trust, and promote development among different nations. Chen Biwei, a new faculty representative, expressed his admiration and high expectations for the graduates, encouraging them to make full use of the knowledge and skills gained in China to bring positive change to the world as leaders.

Outstanding graduates Mabel Ambiyo Omurambi from Kenya and Romana Akhter from Bangladesh expressed their sincere gratitude to the university for providing valuable resources and opportunities, as well as to the school for its excellent curriculum and dedicated teachers. They called on their fellow graduates to contribute the knowledge and experiences gained in China to the development of their home countries. Ramadhani Mashaka Shabani from Tanzania and Carew Emmanuel Lenox Elton from Sierra Leone, who serve as alumni ambassadors, affirmed in their speeches that they will actively



(From left) Liu Qian, Vice Dean of the Belt and Road School; Pompeo Della Posta, Faculty Representative; Zhang Kunling, Secretary of the Party Branch of the Belt and Road School; Zhang Mengyu, Director of the Foreign Affairs Office; Zhan Mowen, Assistant to the Dean; Chen Biwei, New Faculty Representative

take on leadership responsibilities to promote the construction of a global alumni network for the Belt and Road School. They pledged to create more

(From left) Outstanding Graduate Representative - Mabel Ambiyo Omurambi from Kenya; Alumni Ambassador - Ramadhani Mashaka Shabani from Tanzania; Outstanding Graduate Representative - Romana Akhter from Bangladesh; Alumni Ambassador - Carew Emmanuel Lenox Elton from Sierra Leone

development opportunities for alumni, maintain strong ties with the school, university, and China, and work together to address issues such as poverty alleviation and economic development, striving towards global prosperity.

Romana Akhter, a resident of Zhuhai, was awarded the "Belt and Road" Hatoyama Friendship Foundation Bravery Award for her courageous act of saving a child from drowning, exemplifying her selfless spirit and admirable moral integrity. The celebration also included awards for outstanding students, excellent theses, and special contributions, recognizing their exceptional achievements in academics and social practice, and encouraging them to continue striving for excellence in their future endeavors. The event further highlighted the presence of alumni ambassadors from various countries, marking the continued expansion of the school's global alumni network. The celebration concluded on a high note with a performance of "We'll be the Stars" by the 2024 graduates.

Faculty members of the Belt and Road School joined 66 graduates from 27 countries to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Developing Countries Master's Program and the successful graduation of the Class of 2024. The event was co-hosted by Zhang Kunling, Secretary of the Party Branch of the Belt and Road School, and Zhan Mowen, Assistant to the Dean. Since 2014, the Belt and Road

School (Emerging Markets Institute) at Beijing Normal University has been organizing the Developing Countries Master's Program, under the auspices of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Education, for ten consecutive years. This program aims to cultivate high-level economic management talents and future leaders from developing countries, equipping them with solid knowledge in economics, management, and policy analysis, and the ability to connect theory with development practices. To date, the program has trained 392 outstanding participants from 71 developing countries worldwide. The Belt and Road School has produced 574 exceptional graduates from 90 countries. More than 50% of the graduates are now serving in government institutions in their respective countries, including offices of the President, Cabinet, Senate, Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs, and Commerce. Over 20% are employed in leading companies



Graduation Photos of the Belt and Road School in Zhuhai and Beiji

and enterprises. These graduates are playing increasingly significant roles in the socio-economic development of their home countries and have become key drivers in promoting political, economic, and trade cooperation and development between their countries and China, forming the talent base for highquality Belt and Road cooperation.

Standing at a new starting point, the Belt and Road School remains committed to providing highquality educational resources and growth platforms for international students. The school will continue to nurture exceptional talents with a deep understanding of China, a global perspective, and professional competence, contributing to the highquality advancement of the Belt and Road Initiative. It aims to offer wisdom and strength in building a community with a shared future for humanity, and to write a new chapter in the school's development.

Summer Program



From June 26 to 30, the School of Foreign Languages and Literature at Beijing Normal University (BNU) hosted the "ESL Global Summer School" to foster deeper integration of language learning and cultural exchange. The event was attended by 30 participants from the United States, France, and China.



On August 23, the Dartmouth College Chinese Summer Program (referred to as "Dartmouth Program"), which ran for 70 days, held its closing ceremony.



The 2024 Summer Chinese Program co-organized by Beijing Normal University Ind Tokyo Gakugei University successfully concluded on August 16. From August 11 to 21, Beijing Normal University and the Quebec Confucius Institute jointly organized a summer camp themed "Chinese Characters + Gymnastics". The camp created a vibrant cultural exchange experience, using language and sports as bridges. Engaging Chinese lessons, immersive cultural experiences, and dynamic athletic activities together formed a colorful tapestry of the "Chinese Characters + Gymnastics" camp.



"Continuing Traditional Friendship, Embarking on a New Journey" – 2024 BNU "Training Program for Local Vietnamese Teachers in China" Held in August





The University of Waterloo Chinese Bridge Summer Camp was successfully completed at the School of Chinese Language and Culture at BNU from August 11 to 24. Sixteen students from the University of Waterloo participated in the twoweek Chinese language immersion program.



The Princeton in Beijing (PiB) Summer Chinese Program held its closing ceremony on the afternoon of August 16, marking the successful end of the program.



On August 20, the first advanced workshop on "Chinese School. This workshop has been approved as a key project Characters, Chinese Language, Sinology, and Social Development under BNU's "Jingshi Summer School" and has also been from the Perspective of New Forms of Human Civilization" was officially launched as part of the Jingshi Global Summer Education and Cooperation under the Ministry of Education.

included as a priority project by the Center for Language

From July 8 to August 2, the School of Chinese Language and Culture and Phoenix College jointly hosted a summer Chinese language training program at BNU's Zhuhai campus. Twenty-seven students from Rangsit University and Rajabhat University in Thailand participated, engaging in a month-long program focused on language learning and cultural exchange.





From July 17 to 25, international students from BNU embarked on a study tour across Urumqi, Shihezi, Karamay, and Altay, gaining insights into China's multi-ethnic culture and modernization. The tour offered a comprehensive learning experience on the history, technology, economy, culture, and natural environment of Xinjiang.

From July 15 to 26, the 2024 International Summer School on Climate Change and Systemic Risk Prevention was hosted at BNU's Zhuhai campus. Organized by BNU and co-hosted by the Academy of Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management (Ministry of Emergency Management and Ministry of Education), the Faculty of Geographical Science, the Key Laboratory for Environmental Change and Natural Disaster Education, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the Zhuhai Campus, and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, the program gathered participants to discuss critical issues on climate change and risk prevention.





On July 10, the Fifth International Youth Program on Chinese Culture and the Ninth Jingshi Philosophy of BNU. Co-hosted by the International Confucian Association and BNU, and organized by the BNU Philosophy, and the Institute of Chinese Culture, the program welcomed over 40 young scholars from 29 countries and regions, including the United States,



From June 23 to July 6, the BNU-Manchester Global Summer School took place at the School of Chinese Language and Culture, featuring 10 participants from the Confucius Institute at the University of Manchester who engaged in intensive language and cultural activities.



From July 5 to 15, the 2024 Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) Summer Camp, co-hosted by the Center for Language Education and Cooperation of the Ministry of Education and the British Council, was held in Beijing and organized by BNU. A total of 103 students and teachers from Mountbatten School, Petersfield School, Queen Mary's Grammar School, 11-day cultural immersion program in Beijing.





BNU Maker Team Wins Third Prize in the 2024 China-U.S. Young Maker Competition Finals

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-08-16

he 2024 "Co-create the Future" China-U.S. Young Maker Competition Finals and a series of associated events were held from August 9 to 12 at the China Millennium Monument. The event, hosted by the Ministry of Education and co-organized by the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange, Tsinghua University, Beijing Gehua Cultural Development Group, Intel Corporation, and the China University Science and Technology Parks Alliance, brought together over 400 young innovators from universities in China and the United States, including Beijing Normal University (BNU), Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Harvard University, to showcase their talents.

The BNU maker team, "Thinking Meow", delivered an outstanding performance in the competition. Their project, "Smart Kite - A Gesture-Based Interactive Product for Hand-





Eve Coordination Training for the Elderly Based on the SAID Principle", received unanimous praise from both experts and the audience. Following a successful presentation and defense, the team ultimately secured the third prize in the finals. Utilizing motion capture technology based on intelligent sensors and Intel's Lingxi development board for data analysis, the team designed and developed a game for training handeye coordination among the elderly, along with an accompanying ability assessment platform. Through a simple kite-flying game, elderly users can engage in hand-eve coordination exercises. The training data is uploaded in real time to the assessment platform for analysis, generating visual evaluation charts. Based on the elderly participants' physical conditions and rehabilitation needs, personalized training plans can be formulated.

BNU is one of the 18 "China-U.S.Young Maker Exchange Centers" designated by the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges of the Ministry of Education. The center leverages the university's strengths in disciplines such as psychology, pooling resources from multiple fields and engaging with various societal sectors. It focuses on two core objectives: "more effective commercialization of innovation" and "closer China-U.S. maker exchanges", fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders from universities, research institutes, and enterprises in China and the U.S. The center is also a key platform for BNU's exchanges and cooperation with the United States. The China-U.S. Young Maker Competition has been held for 11 years, with maker teams organized by BNU consistently achieving excellent results, showcasing the university's strong innovative capabilities.

BNU Aerobics Team Wins Gold and Silver at the FISU World University Cheerleading Championship

Article Source: School of Physical Education and Sports | Release date: 2024-08-07

rom August 1 to August 5, the 2nd FISU World University Cheerleading Championship, organized by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and hosted by University of Split, Croatia, was held in Split, Croatia. Nearly a thousand athletes from 13 countries, including China, the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, as well as a team from Taiwan, China, participated in the event.

The Chinese University Cheerleading Delegation was composed of eight universities: Beijing Normal University (BNU), Beijing Sport University, Guangzhou Sport University, Hebei Sport University, Hubei University of Economics, Guangxi University, Huaihua University, and Xihua University. The delegation included 102 athletes and 18 accompanying officials. Representing the Chinese university cheerleading team, BNU sent a group led by Professor Wang Qi, Vice Dean of the School of Physical Education and Sports, who served as the deputy head of the delegation, along with Coach Zhang Zhuo, who also acted as the foreign affairs secretary, and 17 athletes to participate in this global competition.



On July 30, An Yufeng, Vice Chairman of the China School Sports Federation and Chairman of the Aerobics and Rhythmic Gymnastics Division; Li Ning, Executive Secretary General; and Huang Yu, Permanent Deputy Secretary General of the Aerobics and Rhythmic Gymnastics Division of the China School Sports Federation, saw off the delegation at Peking University. They provided instructions and advice on ideological education, discipline, and safety, laying a solid foundation for the team's success in the competition.

Upon the team's arrival on July 31, Fan Xingyu, Deputy Director of the Competition Department of the China School Sports Federation; Wang Da, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee at Hubei University of Economics; and Wang Zhihui, Vice President of Hebei Sport University, addressed the delegation leaders, coaches, and athletes on anti-doping regulations, discipline, and safety requirements during the competition. Meanwhile, the coaching team delivered detailed reports on precompetition preparations, opponent analysis, and anticipated goals.



During the competition, the Chinese delegation competed in a total of seven events, including Team Hip-Hop Cheerleading, Team Pom Cheerleading, Team Jazz Cheerleading, All-Girl Cheerleading, Co-Ed Cheerleading, Duo Hip-Hop Cheerleading, and Duo Pom Cheerleading.

In the Team Hip-Hop Cheerleading event, the • • • Chinese team showcased a variety of stylistic elements, using powerful and captivating movements to elevate the atmosphere to a fever pitch. Despite trailing behind strong European

Awards

teams in the preliminary and semifinal rounds, the team made a determined comeback, working together as a cohesive unit. Ultimately, they overturned the competition in the finals, securing the gold medal.



the judges to make timely adjustments. Their sportsmanship and excellence.



In the Team Pom Cheerleading event, the perseverance gradually narrowed the gap with Chinese team faced scoring discrepancies the Australian team, displaying remarkable between domestic and international standards. style and skill on the world stage. Their hard-They trained relentlessly before and after the fought efforts not only earned them a silver competition, incorporating feedback from medal but also provided a thrilling showcase of





their exceptional expressiveness and dynamic secured another silver medal for the team.

For the Team Jazz Cheerleading event, the body language, synchronized to powerful and Chinese athletes captivated the audience with evocative music. Their impressive performance



54 | Autumn 2024 | Issue 20



In the All-Girl Cheerleading and Co-Ed less familiar with, they remained steadfast under Cheerleading events, the Chinese team faced pressure, executing each skill with passion and numerous challenges but pressed forward with precision. Their perseverance led to two more determination. Competing in events they were silver medals for the Chinese delegation.



combination of strength and speed through complex routines, varied skills, and coordinated movements. Sun Chuang, a 2022 student from the School of Physical Education and Sports at BNU, had no prior experience in dance cheerleading and competed at the world level for



the first time. Within just one month of intensive training, he refined his skills, pushed his boundaries, and embraced the challenges of an unfamiliar field. Competing against

teamwork. The Chinese delegation faced challenges head-on, sweating and striving forward. After intense competition in the preliminary, semifinal, and final rounds, the Chinese delegation earned a total of one gold, five silver medals, and a fourth-place finish. This marked the best performance by a Chinese university cheerleading team in a global competition, achieving the first-ever gold medal for dance cheerleading in the FISU World University Championships.

BNU Life Sciences Professors Lead Chinese Team to First Place at the 35th International Biology Olympiad

Article source: School of Life Sciences | Release date: 2024-07-18

rom July 7 to 14, the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) was held in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Chinese team, composed of four students, achieved an outstanding result with all members winning gold medals, securing 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 7th places, marking the best performance in nearly a decade.

The IBO is a prestigious international biology competition for high school students, co-hosted by multiple countries. This year's event brought together 305 participants from 81 countries and regions. The competition comprised four intensive experimental exams (covering Molecular Biology, Animal Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry, and Bioinformatics) and theoretical assessments. A total of 30 gold medals, 60 silver medals, and 90 bronze medals were awarded. Among the Chinese participants, Wang Peiyu from Hengshui High School Experimental School in Hebei Province secured 1st place; Li Pengbo from the Affiliated High School of Renmin University of China in Beijing took 2nd place; Yu Simuo from Xi'an Gaoxin No.1 High School in Shaanxi Province earned 5th place; and Shui Guoxuan from Chongqing Bashu Secondary School



in Chongqing claimed 7th place.

The National Committee for the Chinese High School Biology Competition, under the supervision of the China Association for Science and Technology and composed of the Chinese Society of Zoology and the Chinese Society of Botany, organized the selection of the four students to represent China. The coaching team consisted of Professor Zhang Li, Professor Dong Lu, and Professor Zhang Yi from the School of Life Sciences at Beijing Normal University (BNU), along with Professor Fan Liumin and Professor Tong Xiangjun from Peking University. Professor Zhang Li served as the head coach of the Chinese delegation.

The coaching team was responsible for accurately translating the theoretical and

experimental test questions, sealing the examination papers, and participating in discussions with the coaches from other teams to finalize the evaluation standards for the exam questions and answers. Given the extensive range of specialized fields within biology, the Chinese coaching team worked tirelessly for three consecutive days and nights to ensure precise and timely translations, laying the groundwork for the outstanding achievements of the Chinese team. Additionally, the competition facilitated discussions among team leaders on cultivating scientific literacy in youth and training for competition students. Experts from institutions including BNU's School of Life Sciences provided significant support in the selection and training of the Chinese participants prior to the competition.

Opening of Beijing Normal University 2024 "Global Campus" International Cultural Festival and the Fourth "BNU Students Global Education Festival"

Article source:BNU Official Website | Release date:2024-05-3

n May 25, the Beijing Normal University 2024 "Global Campus" International Cultural Festival and the fourth "BNU Students Global Education Festival" were held in Beijing Square.

The theme of the "Campus Party" of the International Cultural Festival was opened with a grand ceremony. Students from all over the world



and Chinese students presented wonderful performances of dance, instrumental music and martial arts



1

for the audience, showing their national characteristics and cultural customs.

Autumn 2024 | Issue 20 | 57

More than 30 national cultural booths exhibited traditional costumes, exquisite handicrafts and traditional food of various ethnic groups, demonstrating the bright civilization and cultural customs of various ethnic groups.



Campus



During the opening ceremony, there was also a special booth set up for students overseas exchange, explaining in detail the existing overseas exchange programs of our university, the Global Competency Summer Training Camp and the Overseas Study Camp. The students participated enthusiastically.













The mountains and rivers are exotic, but the wind and the moon are the same. The collision of diverse cultures brought us a cultural feast and lit the fire of friendship in our hearts. Traveling with the world, we climb together to a better future!



The food street and the booths of various countries prepared a wealth of food for everyone. All kinds of specialty snacks were fragrant and mouth-watering so that students could taste all the global food without leaving the school.









Design Exhibition in Singapore Anticipates Deeper Exchanges at Campus

Article source: China Daily | Release date: 2024-06-20

nnovative Horizons: A Showcase of Design Excellence presents a diverse array of cutting-edge works spanning service design, digital media, product design, and more, crafted by both educators and students from the School of Future Design at Beijing Normal University and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts, Singapore.



the two esteemed institutions

solidified their collaboration through

a memorandum of understanding,

paving the way for enhanced academic

Held at the China Cultural Centre in Singapore until Thursday, this exhibition delves into the realm of design research and exploration, offering insights into how design can meet the evolving needs of cultural products and education in the future. Before the exhibition's opening,



https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202406/12/WS66690ecaa31082fc043cc140_1.html

BNU's "Zhiyuan Program" Graduates Head to Frontline Teaching Positions in Poverty-Alleviated Counties, Featured on CCTV's "Focus Report"

Article source: BNU Wechat | Release date: 2024-07-30

n July 21, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China released the "Decision on Further Deepening Reform and Advancing Chinese Modernization", which emphasized the need to improve policies that prioritize employment, establish mechanisms to promote high-quality and adequate employment, and address structural employment challenges. The decision also highlighted the importance of supporting key groups, including university graduates, to secure employment. According to statistics, the number of university graduates in China will reach 11.79 million in 2024, an increase of 210,000 compared to last year. With the number of graduates rising annually, how can



In late June, in a classroom at Yuexi High School, located in the Yi Autonomous Prefecture of Liangshan, Sichuan

People



they be guided to find suitable career paths and achieve high-quality employment?

Province, Wang Jia, a 2024 graduate, was delivering an engaging trial lesson to a class of second-year high school students. From discussing the textbook to sharing ideas about aspirations, she left a lasting impression on the students within just 40 minutes.

Wang Jia, originally from Luzhou, Sichuan, graduated this year from the College of Education for the Future/Leyu College at Beijing Normal University Zhuhai Campus with a major in Chinese Language and Literature. Four years ago, she applied for the "Zhiyuan Program", an initiative launched by



BNU in 2020 with the support of the Ministry of Education The program recruited undergraduate students specializing in teaching with a focus on direct employment in the 52 poverty-stricken counties that were yet to be lifted out of poverty at that time. Now, four years later, the first batch of "Zhiyuan Program" students has graduated.

Reflecting on her journey, Wang Jia shared, "The most important thing is the perspective on employment. Many people may not understand our choice. Even my family had doubts—wondering why I would return to the mountains



after working so hard to leave. They questioned the purpose of leaving if it meant coming back. But for me the purpose of going out was to learn and bring back knowledge to help my hometown overcome poverty. It's not just about escaping poverty but also about empowering others to do the same."

Yang Faguang, a young man from Yunnan, was also among

the first batch of graduates from the "Zhiyuan Program". After graduating, he chose to return to his hometown to make a difference.

Yang Faguang expressed his aspirations, "My first goal is to establish myself on the teaching platform—spending a year to find my footing, three years to excel, and five years to master my craft. I aim to develop my own teaching style and apply the educational concepts I've learned to my teaching practice. I hope to earn the recognition and affection of my students."

This year, there are 137 graduates from the "Zhiyuan Program" who, like Wang Jia and Yang Faguang, have set off across he country to begin their careers on the frontline of pasic education.

Han Jian, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of BNU Zhuhai Campus: In the context of students' employment choices, we launched a special survey under the "Zhiyuan Program", actively engaging with various provinces, cities, and counties to establish connections. Through a twoway selection process, we provide students with quality employment opportunities and choices. We offer financial ncentives to every student who chooses to work in former impoverished counties and assign post-employment mentors to ensure they can settle into their roles and teach effectively, alleviating any concerns. By forming teams to work in these counties, students not only enhance local teaching resources and contribute to the balanced development of educational quality, but they also find positions that align with their personal aspirations, allowing them to realize their values.

On July 15, the National Bureau of Statistics reported on the employment situation for the first half of the year, stating that the national economy had generally maintained stability, with comprehensive policies to stabilize and promote employment continuing to show effect. The surveyed urban unemployment rate remained steady. However, the task of stabilizing employment still faces challenges, necessitating



a continued emphasis on employment-first policies and enhanced mechanisms to promote employment for key groups such as university graduates. In June 2024, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Finance jointly issued a notification detailing 11 policy measures aimed at promoting employment and entrepreneurship among university graduates and other young people. One significant measure encourages grassroots employment, implementing the "Three Supports and One Assistance" program, which focuses on supporting education, agriculture, and healthcare, as well as aiding rural revitalization. It also coordinates the implementation of other grassroots service projects.

n recent years, various national ministries have introduced

o encourage university graduates to seek employment at the grassroots level, including programs like "Three Supports and One Assistance", the Special Post Program for Teachers, he Western Program, the University Graduate Village Official Program, and the Civil Service Selection Program. These initiatives not only guide students to develop he correct perspectives on



career and employment but have also expanded numerous employment opportunities.

Gou Renmin, Deputy Director of the Department of College Students' Affairs (Graduate Employment Service Department) of the Ministry of Education: Our statistics show that in the past five years, the number of university graduates employed at the county level or below has steadily increased, now exceeding one million annually. This is a substantial figure. By fostering new perspectives on career choices, we aim to broaden the horizons for employment, encouraging graduates to embrace the idea that vast opportunities await those who are willing to contribute to the places where the country needs them the most. This is crucial for the nation's development.

University graduates are a precious talent resource for the Party and the country, representing a driving force for Chinese modernization. Effectively managing the employment of university graduates is vital for public wellbeing, economic development, and the nation's future. It is hoped that employers will fully utilize and maximize all available employment support policies to absorb more university graduates into their workforce. We also wish all graduates the best in finding suitable jobs, achieving personal goals, and realizing their self-worth.

[Seminar] Launch Event for BNU's **Classical Chinese Large Language** Model "Al Taiyan 2.0" Held

Article Source: School of Arts and Humanities | Release date: 2024-08-29

n August 27, the launch event for "AI Taiyan 2.0", a large language model for Classical Chinese developed by Beijing Normal University (BNU), along with a seminar on "Pathways and Methods for Building the Discipline of Applied Linguistics in the Digital Age", was held in Beijing. "AI Taiyan" is a core achievement of the National Language Commission's major project titled "Key Technologies for the Intelligent Processing of Classical Chinese Texts", led by Professor Wang Lijun, Dean of the School of Chinese Language and Literature at BNU. The model is specifically designed to enhance the understanding of Classical Chinese texts. The event was attended by Liu Peijun, Director of the Department of Language and Information Management of the Ministry of Education; Wang Shoujun, Executive Vice President of BNU; Du Xiaoqin, Chair of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Peking University; and Hua Xuecheng, Chair of the Academic



Committee of the Chinese Characters and Language Research and Social Application Laboratory at BNU, among other leaders and experts who delivered speeches. Professor Wang Lijun provided an overview of the project, and over thirty experts and scholars from the fields of linguistics and artificial intelligence, along with more than ten sinologists from countries such as Russia, Spain, Ireland, Germany, South Korea, and the United Kingdom, attended the

event. Zhou Yunlei, Secretary of the Party Committee of the School of Chinese Language and Literature at BNU, presided over the launch, while Professor Liu Li from BNU's School of Chinese Language and Literature delivered the closing remarks.

As a crucial carrier of China's rich cultural heritage, the digital organization and intelligent study of ancient texts are essential tasks in the strategic effort to promote traditional culture. The project team, led by Professor Wang Lijun, has leveraged cutting-edge artificial intelligence technologies to address practical challenges in the collation and research of ancient texts, resulting in the significant achievement of the "AI Taiyan" Classical Chinese large language model.

In his remarks, Liu Peijun noted that BNU has long utilized its strengths in disciplines, talent, culture,





and technology to focus on global development frontiers, align with national strategic needs, and deepen multi-party collaborative innovation. The university has made outstanding achievements in areas critical to the standardization, informatization, and globalization of Chinese language and culture. It has also been entrusted by the Ministry of Education and the National Language Commission to host a key research base-the "Center for the Collation and Standardization of Chinese Characters". The center has played a vital role in advancing the nation's language and character initiatives. The research team from

providing robust linguistic intelligence support for the promotion of standard Chinese, the preservation and promotion of China's rich linguistic heritage, and the global sharing of Chinese linguistic civilization with distinctive national characteristics.

Wang Shoujun emphasized that artificial intelligence brings unprecedented opportunities and challenges to the humanities. Beijing Normal University is committed to deeply exploring the essence of traditional culture, preserving national spirit, and actively adapting to the developmental needs of the digital age. The advanced

of ancient text collation and research,



technological achievement, "AI Taiyan", will significantly enhance the efficiency and accuracy of ancient text collation, which is of great importance for the preservation and promotion of China's rich cultural heritage. Additionally, to explore new pathways for building interdisciplinary humanities, BNU's School of Chinese Language and Literature recently established the Institute of Applied Linguistics and



initiated a dual bachelor's degree program in "Chinese Language and Literature (Applied Linguistics) + Artificial Intelligence" in collaboration with other university departments. These initiatives aim to make meaningful contributions to cultural preservation and innovative development.

Du Xiaoqin remarked that Beijing Normal University has made significant breakthroughs in Chinese language processing and the digitization of ancient texts, making positive contributions to the preservation and advancement of the Chinese language



Language and Culture University and Chair of the Academic Committee of the Chinese Characters and Language Research and Social Application Laboratory, Delivers a Speech

discipline. With a long-standing tradition and a rich history of distinguished scholars, BNU has leveraged its profound academic foundation to achieve important results in interdisciplinary fields, such as language information processing. In recent years, advances in AI capabilities for interpreting classical texts have greatly propelled the development of traditional disciplines in the modern era. Du expressed hope that this innovative achievement would further foster the growth and progress of the Chinese language and literature field.

Hua Xuecheng stated that the official launch of the "AI Taiyan 2.0" Classical Chinese Large Language Model by Beijing Normal University signifies a modernization and scientific transformation of the Chinese language and philology discipline. BNU's philology program boasts a deep historical foundation, consistently upholding the traditional roots of the study of Chinese characters and language. Known for its highlevel academic achievements, the program has also actively responded to



contemporary demands by promoting the innovation and preservation of linguistic studies. In doing so, BNU exemplifies its commitment to the integration of humanities and academia on the path to a modernized China with distinct characteristics.

At the seminar, Wang Lijun, the project leader, introduced the development process and key features of the "AI Taiyan" model. He explained that the model was built from scratch to address the unique challenges of "low-

tasks in classical Chinese information processing. It is a specialized large language model designed specifically for understanding Classical Chinese texts. Through meticulous model design, data processing, base training, and fine-tuning, the model achieves effective performance with just 1.8 billion parameters. It excels in interpreting classical texts, supporting various complex tasks such as semantic annotation, Classical-to-modern Chinese translation, sentence parsing and punctuation, and allusion analysis, and it accommodates both traditional and simplified Chinese inputs. Moreover, the model has shown great potential for applications in assisting ancient text collation, compiling dictionaries, and conducting language research. To honor the legacy of Zhang Taiyan, a master of modern Chinese studies, and uphold the Zhang-Huang School's mission of promoting China's

resource" and "knowledge-rich"





rich cultural heritage, the model has been named "AI Taiyan".

The "AI Taiyan" 1.0 version entered the internal testing phase in November 2023, with over 4,000 users from various fields, including academic research, primary education, and publishing, participating in the testing. These users provided valuable feedback, which the research team used to continuously iterate and optimize the model, leading to the release of version 2.0. The updated model aims to better support tasks related to ancient text collation, Classical Chinese teaching, and information processing. Users can now access the public version of "AI Taiyan 2.0" via the link provided. After entering classical texts for analysis, the model can interpret the texts based on user-selected tasks (without requiring specific prompts), including explaining the meanings

of difficult characters and cultural references, translating Classical Chinese to modern Chinese, high-precision punctuation, and identifying allusions.

The release of the "AI Taiyan" Classical Chinese large language model and related research marks a new phase of intelligent development in ancient text collation and research in China. Looking



forward, Beijing Normal University will continue to advance the integration of industry, academia, research, and application, accelerating the training of interdisciplinary talent. Through these efforts, the university aims to contribute more intellectual strength to the preservation and development of China's rich cultural heritage and the building of a strong socialist cultural nation.

[Seminar] Beijing Normal University's College of Life Sciences Supports China's World Natural Heritage Nominations

Article source: School of Life Sciences | Release date: 2024-08-20

Recently, at the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee held in New Delhi, India, three new sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List: "China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Phase II)", "Badain Jaran Desert – Sand Dunes and Lakes", and "Beijing Central Axis – A Masterpiece of the Ideal City Order in China". These achievements represent

a significant milestone not only for China's efforts in world heritage conservation but also for global ecological protection. The College of Life Sciences at Beijing Normal University provided technical support for the nomination of "China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Phase II)", contributing significantly to the development of world natural heritage sites in China.



Overview of the Yellow-Bohai Sea Heritage

Since 1985, when China joined the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the country has successfully inscribed 59 sites on the World Heritage List, including 15 natural heritage sites and 4 mixed natural and cultural heritage sites. During this year's heritage committee session, five nominated areas — Chongming Dongtan in Shanghai, the Yellow River Estuary in Dongying, Shandong, Nanbao Wetland in Cangzhou, Hebei, Snake Island-Laotieshan in Dalian, Liaoning, and Yalu River Estuary in Dandong, Liaoning — were added as extensions to the World Heritage List. With this, the "China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries" have become a series of heritage sites spanning across Jiangsu, Shandong, Hebei, Liaoning,



The 46th World Heritage Committee Session Deliberates on China's Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Photo provided by the Chinese delegation)

Participation and Contribution of Beijing Normal University's College of Life Sciences

In July 2019, at the 43rd World Heritage Committee Session held in Azerbaijan, two migratory bird habitats from "China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Phase I)" were conditionally inscribed on the World Heritage List. During the session, the Chinese government committed to bring more important migratory bird habitats under the protection of the World Heritage system. To fulfill this promise, in September 2019, the National Forestry and



and Shanghai, from the Yalu River Estuary to the Yangtze River Estuary. The heritage site lies within the world's largest intertidal wetland system and serves as a critical habitat for migratory birds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. This flyway stretches from Siberia-Alaska through East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, extending all the way to Oceania, traversing 22 countries. It is recognized as the most diverse flyway globally, with the highest proportion of endangered bird species, providing essential breeding, stopover, and wintering grounds for tens of millions of waterbirds. The Yellow (Bohai) Sea migratory bird sanctuaries serve as the most important mid-route stopover site on this flyway, making it an outstanding example of a shared natural heritage.

Grassland Administration launched the application process for Phase II of the Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries World Heritage nomination. They invited Professor Zhang Zhengwang from the College of Life Sciences at Beijing Normal University and Professor Lei Guangchun from Beijing Forestry University to lead the technical team, providing technical support to relevant provinces and cities in China for the World Heritage application.



Professor Zhang Zhengwang assembled a robust technical team, with key members including Engineer Lei Weipan, Associate Professor Chen De, and Dr. Liu Yu from Beijing Normal University; Professor Xiao Shizhen and Associate Professor Xiao Hua from Guizhou Normal University; Dr. Wen Cheng from Beijing Jinglang Eco-Tech Co., Ltd.; and Professor Zhang Mingxiang and Dr. Zhou Jian from Beijing Forestry University. This team was responsible for overseeing the World Heritage application work in Hebei and Shandong provinces.

From 2019 to 2024, throughout the five-year application process, Professor Zhang and his team overcame numerous challenges, including those posed by the pandemic, conducting extensive field surveys and producing detailed reports. In 2021, following confirmation from the National Forestry and Grassland Administration and expert reviews, the final list of candidate sites for China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Phase II) was confirmed. Subsequently, with strong support from relevant provinces and cities, the technical team conducted multiple field surveys, gathering and organizing extensive technical data. They completed the World Heritage nomination dossier and nine supporting documents, including a management plan. After multiple rounds of revisions and refinements, these materials passed the UNESCO preliminary review and were officially submitted to the World Heritage Centre in January 2022. In May 2023, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) sent two experts to conduct an on-site evaluation of the China Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Phase II) nomination. The

technical team developed a detailed inspection plan and provided on-site explanations during this evaluation. In July 2024, Professor Zhang Zhengwang and other experts from the technical team traveled to New Delhi, India, to participate in the 46th World Heritage Committee Session, providing technical support to the Chinese delegation. The Office of International Exchange and Cooperation at Beijing Normal University offered significant support for Professor Zhang's attendance at the session in India.



Professor Zhang Zhengwang's technical team providing explanations during the IUCN experts' on-site evaluation in May 2023 (Photo by Lei Weipan)

Research Foundation and Technological Support

The research team led by Professor Zhang Zhengwang from the College of Life Sciences at Beijing Normal University has been conducting wetland and waterbird research in the Bohai Bay region for nearly 30 years, accumulating a wealth of scientific data and research findings, including studies on wetland changes, bird population dynamics, vegetation succession, and baseline data on benthic fauna. This extensive research has provided a solid scientific foundation for China's successful nomination of the Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries as a World Heritage site.

Over the past two decades, Professor Zhang's team made significant discoveries, including the first identification of the wintering grounds of the endangered Relict Gull in Bohai Bay, and the most important migration stopover site for the globally endangered Oriental Stork in Tianjin. They also reported a new subspecies (the bohaii subspecies) of the long-distance migratory bird, the Black-tailed Godwit. In the

Future Outlook

The Chinese government has placed great importance on the protection of World Heritage sites. Since the turn of the 21st century, China has continued to achieve new successes in World Heritage nomination and conservation. In August 2024, President Xi Jinping issued new directives on the enhancement of the protection, transmission, and utilization of cultural and natural heritage. He emphasized that the successful inclusion of Chinese World Heritage sites is significant for building a model of Chinese modernization characterized by harmony between material and spiritual civilization and coexistence between humanity and nature, adding vibrant color to the "garden of world civilizations". He further stated that this success should serve as an opportunity to strengthen the holistic and systematic protection of cultural and natural heritage, enhancing the capacity and level of field of migratory bird conservation, the team has conducted surveys on the current status of coastal wetland birds and habitats across China and, in collaboration with institutions like the Chinese Academy of Sciences, published the "Strategic Research on the Conservation and Management of Coastal Wetlands in China" report. This report proposed urgent protective measures for 11 key coastal wetlands in China, leading to the successful designation of the Luannan Wetland in Hebei Province as a provincial-level wetland park. The research team has achieved significant, influential results in the fields of avian migration ecology, foraging ecology, reproductive ecology, and conservation biology, with related papers published in leading journals such as Science, Global Change Biology, Journal of Animal Ecology, iScience, and Ibis. These outcomes not only provided essential scientific support for the Phase II nomination of the Yellow (Bohai) Sea Migratory Bird Sanctuaries but also contributed valuable theoretical foundations for the global conservation of wetlands and migratory birds.

heritage conservation to breathe new life and vitality into these treasures in the new era. World Heritage represents a shared asset of humanity, and strengthening scientific research contributes to the comprehensive protection of these sites, which are of outstanding universal value. Looking ahead, as the global focus on sustainable development and ecological conservation intensifies, the College of Life Sciences at Beijing Normal University will continue to leverage its academic strengths in ecology. Using the Key Laboratory for Biodiversity Science and Ecological Engineering of the Ministry of Education as a research platform, the college will collaborate with domestic and international partners to advance high-level scientific research, making new contributions to the effective conservation and sustainable development of World Heritage sites.

Academic

[Achievement] National Standard Led by Professor Liu Kai from the School of National Security and Emergency **Management Approved for Release**

Article Source: China Institute of Education and Social Development | Release Date: 2024-08-19

he national standard "GB/ T 44011.1-2024 Technical Specifications for Comprehensive Risk Assessment of Natural Disasters - Part 1: Buildings", jointly drafted by Beijing Normal University in collaboration with China Academy of Building Research, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Tsinghua University, and China National Institute of Standardization, was officially issued by the State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardization Administration of China) on April 25, 2024, and will come into effect on November 1, 2024. Professor Liu Kai from the School of National Security and Emergency Management served as the lead drafter of this standard.

China is one of the countries most severely affected by natural disasters, characterized by diverse types, wide distribution, high frequency, and significant losses. To advance the modernization of China's natural disaster prevention and mitigation system and capabilities, it is essential to shift focus from post-disaster relief to pre-disaster prevention, and from addressing single-type disasters to comprehensive disaster reduction. Objectively assessing the comprehensive risk level of natural disasters is a critical prerequisite for mitigating disaster risks.

From 2020 to 2022, the State Council conducted the first nationwide comprehensive risk survey of natural disasters, establishing a technical standard system for natural disaster risk assessment, zoning, and prevention planning in China. The comprehensive risk assessment of buildings is a key task within this system. The safety of buildings is directly related to the safety of lives and property, and scientifically assessing the natural disaster risks faced by buildings is essential for mitigating safety risks from the source.

This standard is the first to propose a unified, clear framework and technical requirements for the process and methodology of comprehensive risk assessment for buildings in China. It defines the technical procedures for risk assessment, specifying the standard's scope, terminology, definitions, general principles, core assessment content, assessment process, and basic assessment units. It also describes data preparation and assessment methods and provides guidelines for the preparation of assessment reports. During the first nationwide comprehensive risk survey of natural disasters led by the State Council. Professor Liu Kai spearheaded the assessment of natural disaster risks for over 600 million buildings

GB 中华人民共和国国家标准 GB/T 44011.1-202

RS 13,200 CCS A 90

自然灾害综合风险评估技术规范 第1部分:房屋建筑

2024-04-25 发布 2024-11-01 实施 国家市场监督管理总局 发布

across the country based on this standard, providing scientific evidence for all levels of government to develop disaster risk prevention measures.

The formulation and implementation of this standard enhance the scientific rigor and standardization of the comprehensive risk assessment of natural disasters for buildings in China. It provides essential support for devising regional natural disaster risk mitigation plans and the rational allocation of disaster reduction resources. Professor Wang Ming, Professor Yang Saini, and doctoral students Wang Qianzhi and Zhou Huazhen from the School of National Security and Emergency Management also contributed to the drafting of this standard.

[Achievement] Team from the International **Scientific Center for Complex Systems Publishes Findings on Structural Transitions in Spatial Network Systems in Nature Communications**

tructural and functional transitions Cross critical thresholds is a significant topic of interest in systems science. Recently, the research group led by Professor Di Zengru from the Normal University, conducted an inphase transition and critical phenomena revealed that even minor external

Close connections between units are fundamental to the functionality of

nature communications

Article

Received: 22 November 2023 Accepted: 5 July 2024 Published online: 12 July 2024 Check for updates

complex systems, and the k-core structure is a crucial concept for describing network connectivity. A k-core is a subgraph in which each node is connected subgraph. This feature ensures that each node maintains a minimum number of connections, which is vital for the stability, resilience, and overall efficiency of realworld systems such as transportation networks, communication infrastructures, social systems, and biological systems. The

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-50273-5

9

Nucleation phenomena and extreme vulnerability of spatial k-core systems

Leyang Xue @^{12.3}, Shengling Gao^{3,4}, Lazaros K. Gallos @⁵⊙, Orr Levy @^{6,7}, Bnaya Gross @³, Zengru Di @¹²⊙ & Shlomo Havlin @³⊙

K-core percolation is a fundamental dynamical process in complex networks with applications that span numerous real-world systems. Earlier studies focus

Screenshot of the paper's cover page

understanding the extent to which network cores can withstand random disruptions, identifying the critical threshold for core existence within the network, and investigating the critical behavior around for exploring structural transitions in network systems.

Many real-world network systems, such as neural networks in the brain, power grids, and communication networks, are embedded in spatial structures. The

percolation and phase transitions associated with node failures in spatially and critical behavior, characterized by first-order. second-order. or mixedthe group identified a novel metastable leading to cascading failures and the to nucleation phenomena in many

Further theoretical research identified that the critical variable determining connections between neighboring nodes. mechanism of cascading failures in spatial the unique properties of the metastable

propagation. When the damage at the bottom is smaller than the critical size, it entire system over time.

These findings indicate that spatially embedded networks, such as those found

The research results were accepted and published by Nature Communications spatial k-core systems". Beijing Normal



in critical infrastructure, may be more vulnerable than previously understood, theoretical significance in statistical physics

including Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Doctoral student Xue Leyang from the International Scientific Center for Complex Lazaros Gallos from Rutgers University, Professor Shlomo Havlin from Bar-Ilan University, and Professor Di Zengru from Beijing Normal University.

Paper link:https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-50273-5

Research Team Unveils Mechanism of High-Energy Particle Production in Celestial Bodies

Article source: School of Physics and Astronomy | Release date: 2024-07-14

he research team at the Institute for Frontier Science in Astronomy and Astrophysics of Beijing Normal University has made significant progress in the field of laboratory astrophysics. Utilizing the high-power laser facility "Shenguang-II" in Shanghai, the team successfully demonstrated the process of electron stochastic acceleration in turbulent plasmas within a laboratory setting for the first time, revealing the mechanism of high-energy particle production in celestial bodies (Figure 1). The research findings were published on July 13, 2024, in Nature Communications under the title "Electron stochastic acceleration in laboratory-produced kinetic turbulent plasmas". Dr. Yuan Dawei, a joint appointment associate researcher at the Institute, is the first

The origin of high-energy particles in celestial bodies has long puzzled astrophysicists and remains one of the 125 major scientific questions identified by Science. Mechanisms

author of the paper.



such as magnetic reconnection acceleration, shock wave acceleration, and stochastic acceleration have been proposed to explain the production of high-energy particles in various astrophysical environments. Leveraging the capabilities of high-power lasers to simulate these high-energy processes up close, the laboratory astrophysics research team at the institute previously achieved breakthroughs in turbulent magnetic reconnection acceleration of

[Achievement] Laboratory Astrophysics

electrons (Nat. Phys. 19, 263 (2023)). Recently, they made further significant advancements in turbulent stochastic acceleration. Dr. Yuan Dawei and colleagues utilized eight beams from the "Shenguang-II" laser to interact with a dual-plane target, producing a supersonic convective plasma. The velocity anisotropy led to rapid growth of Weibel instability, entering a nonlinear phase and inducing the formation of a large-scale turbulent



a. Experimental Layout b. Optical diagnostics of kinetic turbulence induced by nonlinear Weibel instability c. Energy spectra comparison of thermal electrons in a single-beam flow and non-thermal electrons in a dual-beam flow d. Theoretical simulation of electron stochastic acceleration trajectories e. Energy gain per collision for electrons

plasma structure ($\sim 1 \times 2 \times 2 \text{ mm}^3$). Fourier spectral analysis showed that the power spectrum of this turbulent structure closely matched a typical kinetic turbulence spectrum ($k^{-2.9}$). Additionally, non-thermal electron power-law spectra, isotropic across different angles, were measured. Simulations revealed that high-energy electrons primarily gained energy from repeated "collisions" with magnetic islands within the turbulent plasma, a process known as turbulent stochastic acceleration (Figure 2). This has significant implications for understanding particle acceleration

and high-energy radiation in complex astrophysical environments. Furthermore, experiments combined with theoretical analysis found that the acceleration efficiency of turbulent stochastic acceleration is proportional to the plasma Alfvén velocity to the first power, rather than the square of the magnetic island velocity, challenging existing stochastic acceleration theoretical models.

The study was a collaborative effort involving research teams from the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Beijing Normal University, Peking University, the Institute of Physics of CAS, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Institute of Applied Physics and Computational Mathematics in Beijing, Fudan University, and the Shanghai Institute of Optics and Fine Mechanics. The project received funding and support from the CAS Youth Interdisciplinary Team, the Key R&D Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the CAS Strategic Priority Research Program, and the CAS Youth Innovation Promotion Association.

[Seminar] BNU Hosts the First International **Conference on Cognitive and Psychological Assessment and Enhancement**

Article source: School of Psychology | Release date: 2024-07-12

rom July 6 to 7, the First International Conference on Cognitive and Psychological Assessment and Enhancement (ICCPAE) was held at the Changping campus of Beijing Normal University (BNU), hosted by BNU and jointly organized by the School of Psychology at BNU, the Cambridge University Psychometrics Centre, and Microsoft Research Asia.

The conference, themed "Psychology Leading Scientific Assessment, Intelligent Technology Guiding Talent Development", brought together experts and scholars from China, the UK, the US, Germany, and other countries and regions. Through keynote speeches, thematic discussions, and roundtable sessions, participants explored the latest advancements in the field of psychological assessment and cognitive enhancement. The conference aimed to share cutting-edge technologies at the intersection of artificial intelligence and psychology, providing practical



guidance for advancing the application of psychological services and striving to foster a new future where innovative technologies drive talent assessment, cultivation, and development.

On the morning of July 6, the opening ceremony of the First International Conference on Cognitive and Psychological Assessment and Enhancement (ICCPAE) was held. The ceremony was attended by BNU Vice President Chen Xing, President

of the Chinese Psychological Society Su Yanjie, and the founding dean of BNU's School of Psychology, former director of the Psychometrics Professional Committee of the Chinese Psychological Society, Che Hongsheng, who each delivered speeches. The event was hosted by Qiao Zhihong, Party Secretary of the School of Psychology at BNU.

In his address, Chen Xing highlighted that AI technology can refine and personalize the identification and analysis of individual differences, enhance mental health management, and revolutionize talent selection and training models, promoting adaptive and personalized education. With the support of AI, psychological assessments can become more objective and consistent, enabling real-time monitoring of individuals' behaviors and psychological states, thereby improving the accuracy of diagnosis and intervention. He also cited the use of simultaneous interpretation equipment at the venue as an example, expressing his anticipation for breakthrough discoveries brought by artificial intelligence in the fields of cognitive and psychological assessment.



Su Yanjie praised the deep integration of AI and psychology, underscoring the critical role of cognitive and psychological assessment in talent selection, skill development, and psychological rehabilitation. She emphasized the importance of cognitive enhancement technologies for individual mental health



and holistic social development, acknowledged BNU's leadership in training applied psychology professionals and called for a deeper integration of AI with psychology to inject new vitality into the field.

Che Hongsheng, in a video address, expressed his concern and expectations for the development of the field of psychological measurement and



cognition. He affirmed the importance of the conference, especially in promoting the interdisciplinary use of advanced theories and technologies. Che mentioned the challenges and opportunities in the field, such as the need for early diagnostic tools for Alzheimer's disease, and urged the adoption of technologies like AI, virtual reality, and big data to advance psychological measurement tools. He emphasized that the goal of this conference is to combine new theories and technologies with psychological measurement to drive progress in Chinese psychological assessment and contribute to global efforts in this field.



Qiao Zhihong, on behalf of the organizers and co-organizers, extended a warm welcome and sincere thanks to the participants. He elaborated on the significance of the conference, expressing his hope to engage in meaningful discussions on the latest research and practical applications in cognitive and psychological assessment and enhancement. Additionally, he thanked the conference staff and wished the event a smooth success.

Following the opening ceremony, the main presentation sessions commenced. The two-day conference featured one main forum and six sub-forums, covering 44 presentations and two roundtable discussions. Topics included the innovative application of AI, brain



imaging and cognition, mental health, visual cognition, free drawing, and creativity in psychological measurement. The closing ceremony took place on the afternoon of July 7. The conference attracted scholars from



Sub-forum themes encompassed brain imaging and cognitive assessment, mental health and emotional assessment, creativity assessment, AI, large models and psychological measurement, talent assessment and selection, as well as test data mining and analysis.





various fields, university students, institutional representatives, and corporate guests, with over 800 participants registered. Attendees joined the academic discussions live from the main venue at the Changping campus, as well as remote broadcast sites at the Changping and Haidian campuses.

This conference provided a platform for global experts and scholars to exchange ideas, fostering academic research and collaboration. It showcased new achievements in the integration of AI and psychology, introduced recent developments in the field of cognitive and psychological assessment, and illustrated the dynamic growth of this interdisciplinary fusion. Through comprehensive, multidimensional, and in-depth sharing and discussion, the conference contributed to advancing the development of cognitive and psychological assessment and enhancement, promoting the broad application of psychology, and supporting global societal progress.

[Achievement] Research Team Led by **Professors Wu Liming and Chen Ling Publishes Key Findings in Angewandte Chemie International Edition on the Role of Hydrogen Bonds in Thermal Nonlinear Optical Switching of 4-Hydroxypyridine Methyl Sulfonate**

Article source: School of Chemistry | Release date: 2024-07-12

hermal nonlinear optical (NLO) switching materials are those that undergo a phase transition between non-centrosymmetric and centrosymmetric structures when subjected to thermal stimuli, leading to a switch between "on" and "off" states of the second harmonic generation (SHG) response. The switching temperature is determined by the phase transition temperature (Tc). However, the SHG effect in the currently reported thermal NLO switching compounds remains relatively low, directly affecting the signal-to-noise ratio, clarity, accuracy, and reliability of the devices.

In their previous work, Professors Wu Liming and Chen Ling from the School of Chemistry at Beijing Normal University (BNU) identified two main types of phase transitions involving hydrogen-bonded interactions in NLO switching materials. One type involves the



order-to-disorder structural transition of functional units. For instance, they designed and synthesized a series of [Ag(NH3)2]2SxSe1-xO4 thermal NLO switching materials using the principle of continuous solid solutions, achieving a linearly adjustable Tc (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed. 2023, 62, e202301404). The other type involves the breaking and rearrangement of hydrogen bonds, leading to the rotation or

displacement of functional units. By utilizing the similarity in radius between K+ and NH4+ without a hydrogen-bonding environment, they synthesized a series of Kx(NH4)2xPO3F (x = 0-0.3) materials. Increasing the K+ content allowed for a controlled weakening of the hydrogen-bond network, thus enabling regulation of the excitation temperature of solid-state nonlinear switching materials and achieving the

widest temperature adjustment range reported to date (120 degrees) (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2020, 142, 6423-6431).

Building upon this research, they recently discovered a thermal NLO switching compound, 4-hydroxypyridine methyl sulfonate (4HPMS, (C5H6NO)+(CH3SO3)-). This compound exhibited an SHG effect of 3.3 × KDP, marking the highest value observed in thermal NLO switching materials. Additionally, 4HPMS demonstrated a high on-off contrast and a high laser damage threshold $(2.5 \times \text{KDP})$. The crystal structure of 4HPMS undergoes partial hydrogen bond cleavage at 73 °C, causing the rotation of the (C5H6NO)+ cations and (CH3SO3)- anion groups, leading to a phase transition from the Pna21 room temperature phase to the P21/ c high-temperature phase. Interestingly, there is a thermal hysteresis of 50 °C during the phase transition from the high-temperature to the lowtemperature phase. Furthermore, the team successfully studied the birefringence of 4HPMS crystals using polarized microscopy and oil immersion methods ($\Delta n(ZEISS) =$ 0.216 vs. Δn (calculated) = 0.202 at 546 nm; Δn (oil immersion) = 0.210 vs. Δn (calculated) = 0.198 at 589.3 nm). Density functional theory calculations revealed that the (C5H6NO)+ cation serves as both a structural unit and a functional element, acting as the



primary source of the SHG effect and optical anisotropy. Additionally, the room temperature phase of 4HPMS exhibited mechanochromism and aggregation-enhanced emission fluorescence properties.

The study, titled "Remarkable Second Harmonic Generation Response in (C5H6NO)+(CH3SO3)-: Unraveling the Role of Hydrogen Bond in Thermal Driven Nonlinear Optical Switch", was recently published in Angewandte Chemie International Edition (DOI: 10.1002/ anie.202408551). The School of Chemistry and the Zhuhai Advanced Materials Research Center at Beijing Normal University are the primary institutions for this work. Professors Wu Liming and Chen Ling from the School of Chemistry at BNU, along with Professor Zhou Zhengyang from the Shanghai Institute of Ceramics, Chinese Academy of Sciences,

served as corresponding authors. The first author is Zhang Zipeng, a doctoral student from the 2022 cohort in the School of Chemistry. Special thanks to Professor Zhou Zhengyang for his contribution to the determination of the hightemperature phase structure, Professor Wang Zujian from the Fujian Institute of Research on the Structure of Matter, Chinese Academy of Sciences, for assistance with the Zeiss method to determine the birefringence of the room temperature phase, and Professor Lin Zheshuai from the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, for providing the CASTEP theoretical calculation method. The study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the BNU High-level Talent Recruitment Fund, the School of Chemistry, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and key laboratories in Beijing.

[Achievement] Research Team Led by Professor Xiao Cunde Publishes Key Findings in Nature Communications on the Causes of Frequent Wildfires in Eastern Siberia

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | Release date: 2024-07-05

he frequent occurrence of summer wildfires in Eastern Siberia has significant implications for global human activity and ecosystem changes. These wildfires emit greenhouse gases and aerosols, affecting local soil moisture, damaging vegetation, and disrupting forest cover, while also impacting global weather and climate patterns. Therefore, understanding the causes of these frequent wildfires in Eastern Siberia holds considerable scientific importance. Over the past two decades, there has been a marked increase in the frequency, intensity, and area of summer wildfires in the region. However, the mechanisms driving this trend, particularly the roles of external forcing and internal variability, remain unclear.

From Figure 1, it is evident that the increasing trend of wildfires in Eastern Siberia during 2004–2021 appears to be closely associated with the rapid summer sea ice decline in the Russian Arctic, with a high degree of correlation. The primary reason is that the rapid reduction of summer sea ice in the Russian Arctic has led to a significant increase in surface temperatures and stronger anticyclonic circulation in Eastern Siberia, resulting in a clear warming trend has been linked to an increase in Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD), which is a key factor influencing wildfire activity. The rising trend of VPD explains the increase in wildfires in Eastern Siberia. The study found that approximately 21% of the increase in VPD can be attributed to internal atmospheric variability associated



the anomaly of Russian Arctic Sea Ice Concentration (SIC) from 1979 to 2021, as well as the linear trends of FWI and SIC during 1979–2003 and 2004–2021, are presented.

with Siberian Blocking (SB) events, while 79% is driven by the rapid decline in summer sea ice in the Russian Arctic.

Furthermore, the study proposes a new mechanism by which the rapid decline of Russian Arctic sea ice affects Siberian blocking and subsequently enhances wildfires in Eastern Siberia (as illustrated in Figure 3). The reduction in Arctic sea ice can intensify high-latitude warming, leading to a smaller



from 1979 to 2021, along with the linear trends of SAT during blocked and non-blocked summers, and the linear trends of SAT during 1979–2003 and 2004–2021, are shown.

meridional potential vorticity gradient. This change fosters the development of more prolonged, larger-scale, slower-moving, and more persistent Siberian blocking events. These events, in turn, lead to more sustained, widespread, and intense heat waves in high-latitude regions, causing an increase in the frequency, duration, and extent of wildfires in Eastern Siberia. The combined effects of rapid sea ice loss and changes in Siberian blocking contribute to the rapid rise in wildfires in this high-latitude region.

On June 26, 2024, the research titled "Rapid Summer Russian Arctic Sea-Ice Loss Enhances the Risk of Recent Eastern Siberian Wildfires" was published online in Nature Communications. The first author of the paper is Dr. Luo Binhe, a postdoctoral researcher at the State Key Laboratory of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology at Beijing Normal University. The corresponding authors are Professor Xiao Cunde from the same laboratory and Dr. Luo Dehai, a researcher at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese

> Paper link: Luo, B., Luo, D., Dai, A., C, Xiao., et al. Rapid summer Russian Arctic sea-ice loss enhances the risk of recent Eastern Siberian wildfires. Nature Commun., 15, 5399 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-49677-0



Academy of Sciences. The study also involved contributions from Professor Dai Aiguo from the University at Albany, State University of New York; Professor Ian Simmonds from the University of Melbourne; Professor Edward Hanna from the University of Lincoln; Professor James Overland from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); as well as researchers Duan Wansuo, Liu Yimin, and Xu Xiyan from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences; and other scholars from institutions including Tsinghua University, Fudan University, and the Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences. The research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grants 42150204 and 42288101), the National Key Research and Development Program (2023YFF0805100), the Talent Introduction Program of Beijing Normal University (12807-312232101), the China Postdoctoral Innovation Talent Support Program (BX20230045), the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (Grant 2023M730279), and the Australian Research Council (Grant DP160101997).

Academic

[Award] Professor Zhang Xiaohui of Beijing Normal University Participates in Project Awarded First Prize in 2023 National Science and Technology Progress Awards

Article source: School of Psychology | Release date: 2024-06-27

n June 24, the National Science and Technology Conference, the National Science and Technology Awards Ceremony, and the Academician Conference of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering were held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, where the list of winning projects for the National Science and Technology Awards was announced. The project titled "Breakthrough in Peripheral-Central Pathway Repair for Restoring Limb Motor Function: Major Technological and Theoretical Innovations", in which Professor Zhang Xiaohui from the Faculty of Psychology / State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning at Beijing Normal University participated, was honored with the First Prize in the National Science and Technology Progress



Awards. Professor Zhang's team was responsible for the experimental research on the mechanisms of brain function remodeling within the project.

2023年度国家科学技术进步奖获奖项目目 录(通用项目)

	一等奖							
序号	编号	项目名称	主要亮成人	主要完成单位	提名者			
13	J-253-1-01	创建外周-中枢通路 修复肢体运动障碍的 重大技术突破及理论 创新	除文东,顾玉东,张定国, 冯俊達光,邱彦群,	复旦大学附属华山医院,上海市静安区中心 医院,上海交通大学,北京师范大学,华东 师范大学,复且大学	上海市			

[Seminar] 2024 "The Beauty of Chinese Characters" Series of Cultural Exchange Activities Held in Vienna

Article Source: Institute for Cultural Innovation and Communication | Release Date: 2024-06-26

2024 marks the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Austria. From June 20 to 22, the 2024 "The Beauty of Chinese Characters" cultural exchange series was held in Vienna.

On June 21, local time, the cultural seminar "Upholding the Principle of Centrality: The Beauty of Chinese Characters" was held at Vienna City Hall. Distinguished cultural scholar, Professor Yu Dan from Beijing Normal University, and Director of the Institute for Cultural Innovation and Communication, delivered a keynote speech titled "The Native Land of the Chinese Language", where she explored the cultural concepts behind the symmetry of Chinese characters and the central axis of Beijing with Austrian scholars, officials, and the general public. The series of events was organized by Beijing Normal University and co-hosted by the Institute for Cultural Innovation and Communication of Beijing Normal University and the European Times, with special support from the Beijing Jingqi Central Axis Protection Public Welfare Foundation.





The seminar was part of the 2024 themed series "Upholding the Principle of Centrality" under the "Beauty of Chinese Characters" initiative. This initiative, launched by Beijing Normal University in 2015, has become a leading brand in the cultural promotion of Chinese characters, featuring global events such as the "Beauty of Chinese Characters" Global Youth Design Competition. It has held international exhibitions in various locations, including the United States, France, Austria, Japan, Romania, Hong Kong, and Macau.

From the 2017 theme "Life Springs from the Heart" to the 2018 theme "Harmony at Home Brings Prosperity", the "Beauty of Chinese Characters" Global Youth Design Competition has attracted young designers from countries such as China, the United States, South Korea, France, and Malaysia, receiving nearly 4,000 entries ranging from visual communication design, product design, and spatial design to fashion design. The series of activities aims to inspire the international community to engage with, understand, and appreciate Chinese characters. The unique cultural





connotations and aesthetic appeal of Chinese character forms provide an innovative medium for promoting Chinese culture and fostering international exchanges.

In her speech, Yu Dan connected the spatial layout of Beijing's central axis, representative historical architecture, and the symmetrical and balanced structure of Chinese characters to illustrate the traditional Chinese concept of harmony. Upholding the Principle of Centrality, maintaining harmony, and adhering to balance reflect the philosophical foundation and spiritual order of the Chinese people. She explained themes such as "The Principles of Agriculture", "Harmony at Home Brings Prosperity", and "Life Springs from the Heart", revealing the cultural threads embedded within Chinese characters, and inspiring the audience to discover the intrinsic beauty of these symbols. Concluding her speech, Yu Dan reviewed the origins of the "Beauty of Chinese Characters" Global Youth Design Competition and the achievements of its international exhibitions, emphasizing that this global cultural project offers an effective avenue for promoting Chinese culture and facilitating international exchanges.

Additionally, a digital media art short film, driven by AIGC (Artificial Intelligence-Generated Content) technology, was showcased at the event. This film was a result of interdisciplinary collaboration between the Institute for Cultural Innovation and Communication, the School of Arts and Media, and the Faculty of Literature at Beijing Normal University. By integrating AIGC technology with the art of Chinese characters, the film explored the theme of "Upholding the Principle of Centrality", delving into the philosophical notions of balance and harmony in Chinese culture. The use of AIGC allowed artists to transcend



Speech by Yang Wenxu, Minister-Counsellor at the Chines Embassy in Austria

The event also featured speeches from Ernst Woller, President of the Vienna State Parliament, and Yang Wenxu, Minister-Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Austria.

On June 20, Yu Dan delivered a special lecture titled "Understanding Chinese Wisdom" at the Chinese Embassy in



Austria, with Ambassador Qi Mei presiding over the event.

During the lecture, Yu Dan explored the dialogue and integration between Chinese and Western cultures from three perspectives.

She emphasized that understanding the distinctive ways of thinking between the East and the West is fundamental to crosscultural communication and mutual respect. Civilizational exchanges require identifying the unique expressions and structures of Chinese culture across time and space, fostering mutual appreciation and complementing each other's strengths within a community of shared human values, thus enhancing China's discourse on the global stage.



On June 22, Yu Dan and her delegation participated in a symposium with the European-Chinese Cultural, Educational, and Scientific Association on "The Practice and Experience of International Urban Image Promotion". The meeting was attended by Professor Dr. Georg Zanger, Executive Chairman of the Association, Zhang Hongge, Secretary-General of the Association, and Vijay Upadhyaya, conductor of the Austrian National Orchestra and Vice President of the Austria-China Business Association.



In the discussion, Yu Dan emphasized the significance of enhancing the international promotion capabilities of cities and city clusters, particularly in the context of high-quality urban development. As the capitals of Austria and China, Vienna and Beijing not only share a rich history and culture but also bear a shared responsibility in building international communication capacities. Amid China's rapid economic growth, global opportunities for cooperation continue to expand. Yu Dan noted that culture requires both in-depth research and innovative dissemination to imbue it with new value. While European and Chinese arts have different origins, exploring their comparisons and integration in contemporary times can stimulate new



cultural synergies, a topic worthy of deep reflection and practice. Looking forward, experts and scholars from both institutions will continue their close exchanges, further exploring the potential and direction of international urban image promotion.

The "Beauty of Chinese Characters" series of cultural exchange activities garnered attention and participation from scholars and cultural enthusiasts in Austria and received significant support from the local government and the Chinese Embassy in Austria. As a vital carrier of Chinese culture, the unique aesthetic appeal and profound philosophical connotations of Chinese characters are being increasingly recognized and appreciated by international friends. More exhibitions showcasing works from the "Beauty of Chinese Characters" will be held at the European Times Vienna Chinese Cultural Center.







Photo from:BNU Weibo Photo by:@ 小满也爱吃橙子 @ 是酆垒啊 @ 流年亦梦 dream @ 小绿不是鸭嘴兽



Photo from: BNU Weibo Photo by: @ 是酆垒啊 @ 出尘 Raven @k3h2 @ 三水 mml



Photo from: BNU Wechat Photo by: 洪陈方洁 李晨舟 李欣



Photo from: BNU Weibo Photo by: @tsg @ 小绿不是鸭嘴兽

琰 路欣 孙艳芳 肖逸轩 赵紫杉



Office of International Exchange & Cooperation Beijing Normal University

Address: No.19, Xinjiekouwai St, Haidian District, Beijing, 100875, P.R.China Phone: (+86) 10-5880-7170 Fax: (+86) 10-5880-0823 Email: bnunewsletter@bnu.edu.cn

Copyright © 2024 Beijing Normal University. All rights reserved.