

Beijing Normal University



Newsletter

Winter 2024 / Issue 21

Organized by:

Office of International Exchange & Cooperation, Beijing Normal University

Co-organized by:

News Center, Beijing Normal University

Newsletter

Winter 2024 / Issue 21

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

ZHENG Xiaohong

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	5
01 President Xi Jinping's Reply Sparks Enthusiastic Responses! The China-Brazil Friendship in the "Looking China Youth Film Project"!	5
02 Cheng Jianping Delivered a Special Report on Building a Strong Nation in Education at the Chinese Embassy in Japan	8
03 Beijing Normal University and UNESCO Jointly Promote Digital Education for Girls in Africa	10
04 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Professor Hartmut Michel, Awarded Honorary Professorship by Beijing Normal University	11
05 Beijing Normal University Student Art Troupe Visits the U.S. for Cultural Exchange and Performance Tour	13
Seminars & Conference	15
01 The 30 th Anniversary Series of the UNESCO International Centre for Rural Education Research and Training Held	15
02 Beijing Normal University Delegates Invited to Global Alliance on Science of Learning for Education Annual Meeting in Paris	20
03 The 15 th Annual Conference of the Institute of International Communication of Chinese Culture and the International Academic Conference on "Cultural China and the Future of the World"	22
04 Students from the Belt and Road Institute of Beijing Normal University Participate in the 2024 China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum and Deliver Keynote Speeches	26
05 Beijing Normal University Hosts the 2024 Beijing-Hong Kong Basic Education Forum	27
06 The 5 th Global Teacher Education Summit Held at Beijing Normal University	31
07 2024 International Symposium on University Social Responsibility Held at Beijing Normal University	38
Global Visit (Excerpt)	42
01 Cheng Jianping Leads Delegation to South Korea and Japan	42
02 Yu Jihong Leads Delegation to Germany and France	44
03 Professor Christian Amatore, Recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award and Member of the French Academy of Sciences, Visits Beijing Normal University	48
04 Saint-Gobain Group Delegation Visits Beijing Normal University	50
05 National Day Education Delegation from Hong Kong and Macau Visits Beijing Normal University	51
06 Malaysian Education Delegation Visits Beijing Normal University	52
Awards	54
01 BNU Students and Faculty Achieve Second Place Overall at the 24 th International Intercollegiate Environmental Public Speaking Competition	54
02 International Competition! Two BNU Teams Strike Gold Again!	55
03 BNU International Student Wins Award at the 2024 "Charm of Chinese Characters" International Storytelling Competition	58

Contents

Campus	60
01 "Experiencing China, Exploring the Greater Bay Area": Beijing Campus International Students Embark on Study Tour to Zhuhai	60
02 China-France University Students Engage in Football and Cultural Exchange at BNU	64
03 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Universities Basketball Friendship Tournament Held at BNU Zhuhai Campus	66
People	69
01 Documentary A New Era, A New Journey Marks 50 Years of China-Brazil Diplomatic Ties: Professor Fu Yongshuo of Beijing Normal University Discusses Joint Efforts on Climate Change	69
Academic	71
01 Professor Ren Haiyun's Team Unveils a Novel Mechanism of Cell Wall Component Sorting and Transport in Pollen Germination in PNAS	71
02 Professor Zuo Xinian and International Team Publish in Nature Neuroscience: Mechanism of Cortical Attention Network Maturation in Brain and Cognitive Development of Children and Adolescents	72
03 Chinese Research Team Successfully Constructs a Complex Sensory Nervous System In Vitro	74
04 Professors Ma Tianxing and Liang Ying's Team Unveils the Modulation of Superconducting Pairing Symmetry by Charge Stripe Periodicity	75
05 BNU Professor Liu Min Awarded the French "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques"	77

President Xi Jinping's Reply Sparks Enthusiastic Responses! The China-Brazil Friendship in the "Looking China Youth Film Project"!

Article source:BNU Wechat | Release date:2024-11-14

Recently, President Xi Jinping replied to a letter from friendly figures from various sectors in Brazil, encouraging them to continue contributing to the cause of China-Brazil friendship.

Xi Jinping expressed his pleasure in seeing the enduring friendship between China and Brazil, with the torch of their mutual ties being passed down to future generations. Over the past 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have stood side by side, sharing both joys and sorrows, and have become close friends across mountains and seas. China is willing to continue enriching the content and meaning of the friendship with Brazil, making China-Brazil relations a model for unity, collaboration, common development, and mutual benefits among major developing nations, and making greater contributions to the cause of world peace and progress. He also warmly welcomed more Brazilian friends to visit China, experience firsthand the rich diversity of China's modernization, and hoped that people from all sectors of both countries would play an active role in promoting the continuous development of China-Brazil relations, making their friendship flow as endlessly as the Yangtze River and the Amazon.

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Brazil. Coinciding with the G20 Summit to be held in Brazil from November 18 to 19, 21 participants from the "Looking China Youth



Film Project" at the University of São Paulo sent a collective letter to President Xi Jinping, expressing their enthusiastic anticipation for his upcoming visit to Brazil. In their letter, they mentioned that each student participating in the "Looking China" program had gained profound cultural experiences, witnessed China's development, made lasting friendships with Chinese people, and spread their understanding and recognition of China through short films. They believe that President Xi's visit to Brazil will be another great handshake between two great nations, and will undoubtedly bring a significant impact to the world once again.

The "Looking China Youth Film Project", now in its 14th edition, is a flagship project of international communication at Beijing Normal University. Leveraging its academic strengths, it focuses on practical communication and explores an effective path for the exchange and mutual learning of civilizations.

The China-Brazil Friendship in the "Looking China Youth Film Project"



President Xi Jinping's Reply to Brazilian Friends Sparks Enthusiastic Responses

"An Important Milestone in the History of Friendly Relations Between the Two Countries"

"I am glad to see that the cause of friendship between China and Brazil is being passed down, with future generations carrying the torch", President Xi Jinping pointed out in his reply letter.

In their letter to President Xi, students from the University of São Paulo shared their special experiences of witnessing China's development firsthand and recording and spreading the stories of China.

In July this year, the 2024 "Looking China Youth Film Project" exhibition ceremony was held at Beijing Normal University. Youth creators from over 30 countries produced nearly a hundred documentaries, with six carefully selected for screening. Among these was the film *"Spring Is Never Late, Reunions Await"*, made by Pedro Nishi, a student from São Paulo University.

In 2016, Nishi traveled to Xinjiang, China, to shoot a short film about an 8-year-old girl of the Sibe ethnic group named Mudan. This June, he returned to Xinjiang and reunited with the now 16-year-old Mudan, capturing her growth,



her family's changes, and China's development. The film beautifully portrays the emotional and cultural connection between the peoples of Brazil and China. Nishi said this experience deepened his understanding of China.

In recent years, more than 20 students from São Paulo University have participated in the "Looking China" program, following in Nishi's footsteps to immerse themselves in Chinese culture, experience Chinese life, and make lasting Chinese friends.

"Welcome more Brazilian friends to come to China, walk around, and see for yourselves the diverse aspects of China's modernization", President Xi Jinping encouraged in his reply.

"President Xi's reply has inspired me to continue pursuing peace and friendship," said Pedro Sabino, a student from São Paulo University who co-signed the letter. "I am willing to

make further contributions to enhancing understanding and recognition between our two countries."

"I will open my arms with all my warmth to welcome Chinese guests to Brazil! This is exactly how our Chinese friends have welcomed us," said Laura Léoferi Barzoto, another co-signer from São Paulo University.

"Inspiring Me to Contribute More to the Mutual Understanding and Friendship Between the Peoples of China and Brazil"

In his reply, President Xi Jinping pointed out that China is willing to continue enriching the friendship between the two countries, making China-Brazil relations a model for unity, collaboration, common development, and mutual benefit among major developing nations, and contributing further to the cause of peace and progress for humanity.

"The letter from President Xi Jinping has reinforced my belief that my work in cinema is meaningful. I have always used the art of film to present an authentic image of China to the Brazilian people. His reply will inspire me to contribute even more to enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Brazil," said Pedro Sabino, a student from the Film Department of the School of Communication and Arts at the University of São Paulo.

The faculty and students of the University of São Paulo's "Looking China" alumni association were deeply inspired upon receiving President Xi's reply. In their letter, they expressed anticipation for his upcoming visit and also hoped to continue deepening cultural and academic exchanges between the two countries through the efforts of the alumni association. In recent years, many faculty and students from the university

have had the opportunity to connect with China through the "Looking China" program. They were invited to China to shoot documentary shorts, traveling to various provinces such as Xinjiang, Fujian, Chongqing, Liaoning, Shandong, and Inner Mongolia, where they used their cinematic works to showcase China's rich cultural heritage and achievements in social development.

"I often share my experiences and insights from China with my friends," said Laura Léoferi Barzoto, a student from the "Looking China" alumni association. She participated in the "Looking China" program in Rizhao, Shandong in 2019. "I believe President Xi's visit will further deepen the friendship between our two peoples."

Raíssa Anjos, another student from the University of São Paulo who co-signed the letter, said, "The 'Looking China' program allowed me to experience China's unique charm. I firmly believe that cultural exchanges can strengthen mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples, providing a solid foundation for the development of bilateral relations. I hope more Brazilians will visit China and make more Chinese friends!"

Cheng Jianping Delivered a Special Report on Building a Strong Nation in Education at the Chinese Embassy in Japan

Article source: BNU Website | Release date: 2024-11-20

On November 8, Cheng Jianping, Party Secretary of Beijing Normal University, visited the Chinese Embassy in Japan during his trip. Wu Jianghao, the Chinese Ambassador to Japan, met with the delegation.

Cheng Jianping introduced the purpose of his visit to Japan and the achievements, and exchanged views with Wu Jianghao on how to leverage Beijing Normal University's academic strengths to serve national development. Wu Jianghao first provided an overview of China-Japan exchange relations, then gained a deeper understanding of Beijing Normal University's exchanges and cooperation with Japan. He expressed that the Chinese Embassy in Japan would fully support the university's educational exchanges with Japan and work together to elevate China-Japan educational cooperation to a new level.

During his visit to the embassy, Cheng Jianping delivered a special report titled Grasping Five Major Relationships and Making Steady Progress Toward Building a Strong Education Nation



Wu Jianghao met with Cheng Jianping and his delegation

by 2035. The report was attended by Shi Yong, Minister-Counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Japan, Du Kewei, Minister-Counselor for Education, and staff from various embassy departments. The report was chaired by Du Kewei.

Cheng Jianping, drawing on the important speech delivered by President Xi Jinping at the National Education Conference and the spirit of the Outline of the Education Power Construction Plan (2024-2035), shared his insights. He discussed the five major relationships: supporting national strategies and meeting people's needs, knowledge learning and comprehensive development, talent cultivation and societal needs, regulation and vitality, and keeping roots in China while drawing on international experience. Using

vivid examples, especially the concrete practices of Beijing Normal University's "Project to strengthen teaching force," Cheng elaborated on the connotations of building a strong nation in education and the pathways to achieving it. Cheng emphasized the importance of deeply understanding the requirements of Chinese modernization for constructing a Chinese-characterized education system, vigorously improving the quality of the population, making forward-looking educational plans, stimulating educational reform and innovation, and actively advancing international educational cooperation.

After the special report, Cheng Jianping engaged in an in-depth exchange and discussion with the audience on current hot topics in

the field of education. Embassy staff commented that the content of the report was rich and insightful, providing important inspiration for a deeper understanding of and grasping the strategy for building a strong nation in education, as well as for actively advancing international educational exchanges and cooperation.

To build a strong nation, one must first strengthen education. To strengthen education, one must first strengthen teachers. Beijing Normal University has firmly kept in mind President Xi Jinping's instructions and has taken on the dual mission of leading higher education and supporting foundational education. The university has been actively cultivating "Four Good" teachers. In recent years, the university has focused on addressing the shortage of teaching staff in the underdeveloped central and western regions of China. With the approach of



The site of the report session

"training a group, sending a group, and enhancing a group," it has implemented the "Project to strengthen teaching force," which covers teacher training, recruitment, support, post-service development, as well as quality diagnosis and ecological optimization of county-level education. This initiative serves rural revitalization and promotes the balanced

and high-quality development of education. Through powerful reforms and innovations, Beijing Normal University is accelerating the construction of a world-class university with Chinese characteristics, driving the development of a strong nation in education through high-quality growth.

Beijing Normal University and UNESCO Jointly Promote Digital Education for Girls in Africa

Article source: BNU Website | Release date: 2024-10-29

On October 16, 2024, the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education award ceremony was held in Paris, France. Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University, was invited to attend the event. During the "Outlook: Strengthening Digital Skills for African



Yu Jihong delivered a speech

Girls" session, she delivered a speech and announced the cooperation project of Beijing Normal University and UNESCO with the theme of "Closing the Digital Divide: Ensuring Gender-Transformative Digital Skills Education for Women and Girls." This project aims to enhance digital education for girls in Ghana and Tanzania by supporting professional development for teachers, organizing digital education activities for girls, and strengthening educational exchanges between China and Africa.

Zhou Zuoyu from Beijing Normal University participated in a roundtable discussion and shared BNU's innovative initiatives aimed at increasing female participation in

the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

On October 17, the UNESCO working group participated in a project cooperation discussion meeting. They engaged in in-depth discussions with officials from UNESCO headquarters, relevant countries, and representatives from the Ministries of Education of Ghana and Tanzania to clarify the project's implementation plan.

Beijing Normal University has established a long-term partnership with UNESCO to jointly promote global



Yu Jihong signed the cooperation agreement on behalf of Beijing Normal University

educational development. In recent years, the two parties have organized a series of influential international conferences and educational training cooperation projects focused on digital education, girls' education, and teacher education. These initiatives have significantly enhanced the collaboration between Beijing Normal University and UNESCO.

Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Professor Hartmut Michel, Awarded Honorary Professorship by Beijing Normal University

Article source: BNU Website | Release date: 2024-10-10

On the morning of September 29, Nobel Prize-winning chemist and world-renowned biochemist, Professor Hartmut Michel, visited Beijing Normal University and delivered an academic lecture. Professor Michel is a member of several prestigious scientific academies, including the German Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of the United Kingdom, the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, as well as a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences,



of his contributions to science. The university's president, Yu Jihong, met with Professor Michel and attended the associated events.

great importance on international collaboration in research and academic exchange. The participation of Professor Michel, she noted, would bring new



and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. During the visit, Beijing Normal University awarded Professor Michel the title of "Honorary Professor" in recognition

Yu Jihong warmly welcomed Professor Michel and praised his outstanding contributions to the field of biochemistry. She emphasized that Beijing Normal University places

energy and open a new chapter in the communication and cooperation between China and Germany, particularly in the areas of talent development and academic research.

Following this, Yu Jihong presented Professor Michel with the certificate awarding him the title of "Honorary Professor." Professor Michel expressed his gratitude for the honor bestowed upon him by Beijing Normal



University and looked forward to further collaboration with the university, aiming to contribute to research that benefits humanity.

After the ceremony, Professor Michel inaugurated the first session of the "BNU Master Lecture Series" with a lecture titled "The Challenges in Biomedicine and Agriculture." He delivered an insightful presentation on key research areas in biomedicine, particularly focusing on the human genome and the identification of genes that encode proteins and their functions. Professor Michel also explained the profound impact of genome sequencing on personalized medicine, genetic disease prevention, and medicine development. He

emphasized the necessity of fully understanding human cellular processes, highlighting the critical role of proteomics in human health and disease. Additionally, Professor Michel explored the limitations of photosynthesis, the core process driving global food production, and discussed the potential of genetic engineering to improve photosynthetic efficiency and increase crop yields. He further reflected on the far-reaching implications of these advancements for addressing global food security and mitigating climate change. At last, Professor Michel called for the development of interdisciplinary research approaches to enhance human health and agricultural sustainability. The lecture concluded with an engaging discussion between Professor Michel and the attendees, covering



topics such as improving crop resistance to antibiotics and how structural biology can support agricultural development.

The event was jointly organized by the College of Life Sciences and the College of Chemistry at Beijing Normal University. It was attended by Dou Fei, Dean of the College of Life Sciences; Mao Lanqun, Dean of the College of Chemistry; Wu Yujun, Director of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation; and more than 200 faculty and student representatives. The event was moderated by Dou Fei.

After the event, Professor Michel and his delegation visited the School of Arts and Communication, where they enjoyed a series of impressive performances by the students.

Beijing Normal University Student Art Troupe Visits the U.S. for Cultural Exchange and Performance Tour

Article Source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, Beijing Normal University Committee of Communist Youth League of China | Release date: 2024-10-25

To implement the consensus reached during the meeting between the Chinese and U.S. heads of state in San Francisco, and to embody the vision of showcasing China's youth cultural confidence, promoting mutual learning between Chinese and American cultures, and enhancing China-U.S. people-to-people exchanges, a 22-member student art troupe from Beijing Normal University visited the United States. From September 14 to September 28, they visited universities and high schools in Miami, Boston, and Hanover for a 15-day cultural exchange and performance tour. The troupe held 7 performances and 5 art workshops, receiving enthusiastic responses from the schools and local communities they visited.

The tour, themed "Ancient Echoes, New Voices, Harmony



Special Performances at Brandeis University



Special Performances at William Turner High School



Special Performances at Brown University



Special Performances at Tufts University

Across the World", featured performances at Florida Atlantic University, Brandeis University, Tufts University, Brown University, Dartmouth College, William Turner High School, and Newton North High School. The performances included Chinese traditional instrumental ensembles, Chinese folk dances, classical Chinese dance, Peking opera, calligraphy, traditional Chinese clothing displays, and Chinese martial arts, such as kung fu. The troupe's superb performances and high artistic standards left a deep impression on the local audiences, receiving widespread praise.

Additionally, the troupe conducted workshops on Peking opera face-painting, calligraphy, lacquer fans, ethnic instruments, dragon and lion dance, Tai Chi fan, and martial



Dance

Hanfu (Traditional Chinese Clothing)

Peking Opera

arts in art classrooms and during interactive visits at Dartmouth College, Newton South High School, and other schools. These activities greatly stimulated the participants' interest and enthusiasm. Nearly 4,000 American teachers, students, and local residents took part in the performances and exchange activities. Through the open and inclusive artistic platform created by this tour, the people of China and the U.S. had ample opportunities to communicate and interact, gaining an intimate understanding of the unique charm of China's outstanding traditional culture.



Martial Arts & Tai Chi Fan

Traditional Chinese Music

performance was truly amazing, and we were so happy to witness such high-level Chinese cultural arts in person. The specialized art workshops sparked my interest and passion for learning about Chinese culture. I look forward to more exchange events like this in the future."

Professor Samuel Thomas, Dean of Academic Affairs at the School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, commented, "Art plays a crucial role in connecting us all. This tour has transcended the limitations of language, and together, we have experienced the charm of Chinese traditional culture."

Foreign students who attended the performances remarked, "The

Since 2009, Beijing Normal University has sent its student art troupe abroad multiple times for performance tours. These overseas tours have become an important channel for student exchange and the international dissemination of Chinese culture. During this visit, through a variety of colorful performances and youth exchange activities, the troupe not only showcased the charm of Chinese art and the vitality of Beijing



Lion Dance

Normal University students, but also promoted cultural exchanges between China and other countries. The event provided American audiences with an opportunity to engage with and better understand Chinese language and cultural arts. It helped build a cultural bridge based on mutual understanding, inclusiveness, appreciation, and respect, injecting new energy and momentum into China-U.S. cultural exchanges and cooperation.



Lacquer Fan Making at Newton South High School

American Audience Enjoying the Performances

The 30th Anniversary Series of the UNESCO International Centre for Rural Education Research and Training Held

Article Source: China Education and Social Development Research Institute | Release date: 2024-12-19

From December 8 to 10, a series of events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the UNESCO International Centre for Rural Education Research and Training (referred to as the "Rural Education Centre"), established at Beijing Normal University, was held. The celebration, held on the afternoon of December 8, was attended by Huang Xiaowei, Secretary of the Party Group and Vice President of the All-China Women's Federation, Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University, Liu Limin, President of the China Education Association for International Exchange and former Vice Minister of Education, Ge Siying, Deputy Secretary-General of the China National Commission for UNESCO, and Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office for East Asia. They all delivered speeches at the event. The celebration was hosted by Zhou Zuoyu, Director of the Rural Education Centre and former Vice President of Beijing Normal University.



Huang Xiaowei shared detailed data and vivid case studies to highlight China's achievements in educating girls and women and the efforts of the All-China Women's Federation in promoting education for rural women and girls. She expressed her willingness to work with all parties to promote girls' and women's education towards a more equitable, inclusive, and high-quality direction, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and to contribute to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Yu Jihong emphasized that the Rural Education Centre has made significant contributions to universal education and the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable



Development". She stated that the comprehensive implementation of the rural revitalization strategy in the new era depends on the power of education, science and technology, and talent. Beijing Normal University will continue to promote the full implementation of the "Teacher Strengthening Project" and "Excellent Teacher Program", supporting rural revitalization and the balanced development of quality education, and will continue to support the work of the Rural Education Centre.

Liu Limin highlighted the long-standing close cooperation between the China Education Association for International Exchange and the Rural Education Centre. He spoke about the active



coordination of high-quality educational resources both domestically and internationally, and the joint hosting of events like the Southeast Asia Vocational and Technical Education Principals' Workshop, which injects new vitality into regional educational development. Looking to the future, he hopes for deepened cooperation and further collaboration in international education and rural education, contributing more wisdom and strength to the development of global rural education.

Ge Siying expressed the hope that the Rural Education Centre would further leverage its unique advantages based in China, continue to explore and summarize new models and pathways for rural education in China,



and strengthen cooperation with international organizations, domestic and foreign universities, and research institutions to form a collective force for change, accelerating global efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Shahbaz Khan pointed out that with the continuous development of technology, rural education faces both new opportunities and challenges. He hopes that the Rural Education Centre will continue to lead research and practice in these cutting-edge topics, promoting the development of digital education, smart education, and green education. He emphasized his belief that the close cooperation between Beijing Normal University and the Rural Education Centre will bring



more innovation and breakthroughs to global education.

During the celebration, the Rural Education Centre also reported its major achievements over the past 30 years and its strategic development plans for the future. The centre released a series of English reports completed in 2024 and appointed strategic advisors, academic advisors, and consultants. The event also received congratulatory videos from senior officials of various countries, global partners, including the African Union, the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization, the UN agencies in China, UNESCO, and other relevant institutions, as well as experts collaborating with the centre.

2024 Council Meeting

On the morning of December 8, the Rural Education Centre held its 2024 Council Meeting. Attendees included Yu Jihong, Shahbaz Khan,

Qin Changwei, Secretary-General of the China National Commission for UNESCO, Michael Omolewa, President of the 32nd session of the

UNESCO General Conference and former Nigerian Ambassador to UNESCO, Manzoor Ahmed, Honorary Professor at BRAC

University in Bangladesh, and other members of the council. The meeting was chaired by Qin Changwei.

During the meeting, the 2024 work report of the Rural Education Centre was reviewed and highly praised for its achievements. The council also examined and approved the Centre's 2025 annual plan and budget, and in principle, endorsed proposals for the establishment of project bases for the Centre. The council meeting laid a solid foundation for the Centre's further development in 2025, helping to outline a blueprint for deepening its growth, enhancing the quality of



its projects, achieving higher levels of development, increasing its international influence, and expanding global partnerships. Representatives from the China National Commission for

UNESCO, the International Exchange and Cooperation Office of Beijing Normal University, and the Rural Education Centre's working team also attended the meeting.

2024 International Seminar on "Education Promoting Rural Sustainable Development from an Ecological Civilization Perspective"

The 2024 International Seminar on "Education Promoting Rural Sustainable Development from an Ecological Civilization Perspective" was held from December 9 to 10. The seminar was co-hosted by the Rural Education Centre, the China Roots Rural Education and Development Promotion Association, and the UNESCO East Asia Regional Office. It was jointly organized by the Institute of Education and Social Development, Beijing Normal University, and the Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, with guidance and support from Beijing Normal University, the



China National Commission for UNESCO, and China Educational Television. The forum attracted around 120 attendees on-site and had over

4,000 viewers watching the live stream.

The seminar aimed to explore how culture can empower rural sustainable

development. During the event, representatives from international organizations, universities, enterprises, and social organizations, as well as practitioners from the fields of education, rural development, cultural exchange, and communication, attended the meeting. These participants came from countries including Ethiopia, Jordan, Nigeria, the Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, and the United States. Additionally, a youth forum was held to encourage young people to actively participate in discussions on the relevant topics, amplify their voices, and call for youth action to promote rural sustainable development. The seminar also officially launched a global research project on youth and social development.

On December 10, the "4th Annual Conference and Workshop of the Rural Community Learning Centers (CLC) Capacity Building Project" was held, co-hosted



by the China Adult Education Association, the National Open University, and the Rural Education Centre. The event brought together over 80 CLC principals, teachers, and relevant personnel from educational departments across 15 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities in China. Additionally, more than 20 representatives from international organizations, scholars, and practitioners from around the world attended, jointly discussing the

future development path of rural community learning centers.

Lin Jin'an, Vice President of the China Adult Education Association, and Zhao Yuchi, Executive Director of the Rural Education Centre, delivered opening speeches, recognizing the progress of the project and expressing high hopes for its future development. Following the speeches, scholars and practitioners from China, South Africa, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Jordan gave keynote speeches on topics such as non-formal education, lifelong learning, digital transformation, and gender equality. They emphasized the important role of CLCs in empowering communities and promoting sustainable development in rural areas, suggesting that rural community learning centers should be tailored to local needs, while promoting education, cultural heritage, and green development in rural regions.



■ Launch of the "Global Report on Education Promoting Rural Sustainable Development" and First Expert Consultation Meeting

The "Global Report on Education Promoting Rural Sustainable Development" is a key knowledge product planned by the Rural Education Centre, with the aim of championing rural education and rural development globally and leading the global agenda in this field. The report is led by Professor Gu Mingyuan, a senior professor at Beijing Normal University, who serves as the Chair of the International Expert Committee. The launch event and first expert consultation meeting for the report took place on the afternoon of December 10, with Professor Gu Mingyuan attending and delivering a speech.

Notable experts who participated in the consultation meeting included Duriya Amatavivat, Director of the Sustainable Development and Moderate Economic Concepts Center of the Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Greg Shaw, Professor at Charles Darwin University, Jordan Naidoo, former Acting Director of the International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) at UNESCO, Manzoor Ahmed, Lifetime Professor at Brac University in Bangladesh and member of the Rural Education Centre's Board, Mayyada Abu Jaber, International Jury Member of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, Philip

Roberts, Professor at the University of Canberra, Roger Chao Jr, former Deputy Director of the Education, Youth and Sports Department at the ASEAN Secretariat, Vinayagum Chinapah, Professor at Stockholm University, and Liu Ji, Professor at Shaanxi Normal University. The meeting was chaired by Zhou Zuoyu, Director of the Rural Education Centre.

The meeting involved in-depth discussions on the report's framework and provided targeted recommendations on topics such as the report's themes, conceptual framework, key issues, data analysis, and case study collection. All attending experts expressed a unified commitment to building consensus and working closely with the Rural Education Centre to refine the report, thereby enriching the theoretical and practical understanding of education's role in promoting rural sustainable development.

Driven by our mission, we illuminate the future with unwavering dedication. For thirty years, the Rural Education Centre has upheld its mission of "education to promote rural transformation and sustainable development". Through research and knowledge production, policy dialogues and advocacy, capacity building, information sharing, and network connections, it has worked tirelessly to drive reforms in rural education and development in developing countries, making unique contributions to the global education agenda, including Education for All and the Education 2030 agenda. Looking to the future, the Centre will continue its commitment within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 4 and the post-2030 international education agenda, working globally to promote rural sustainable development through education. With concrete actions, it will contribute to global development initiatives and the building of a shared future for humanity.



Beijing Normal University Delegates Invited to Global Alliance on Science of Learning for Education Annual Meeting in Paris

Article Source: National Engineering Research Center for Internet Education Smart Technology and Applications |
Release date: 2024-12-13

From December 2 to 3, the UNESCO Global Alliance on Science of Learning for Education Annual Meeting was held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, drawing leading scholars and experts from around the world. Prof. HUANG



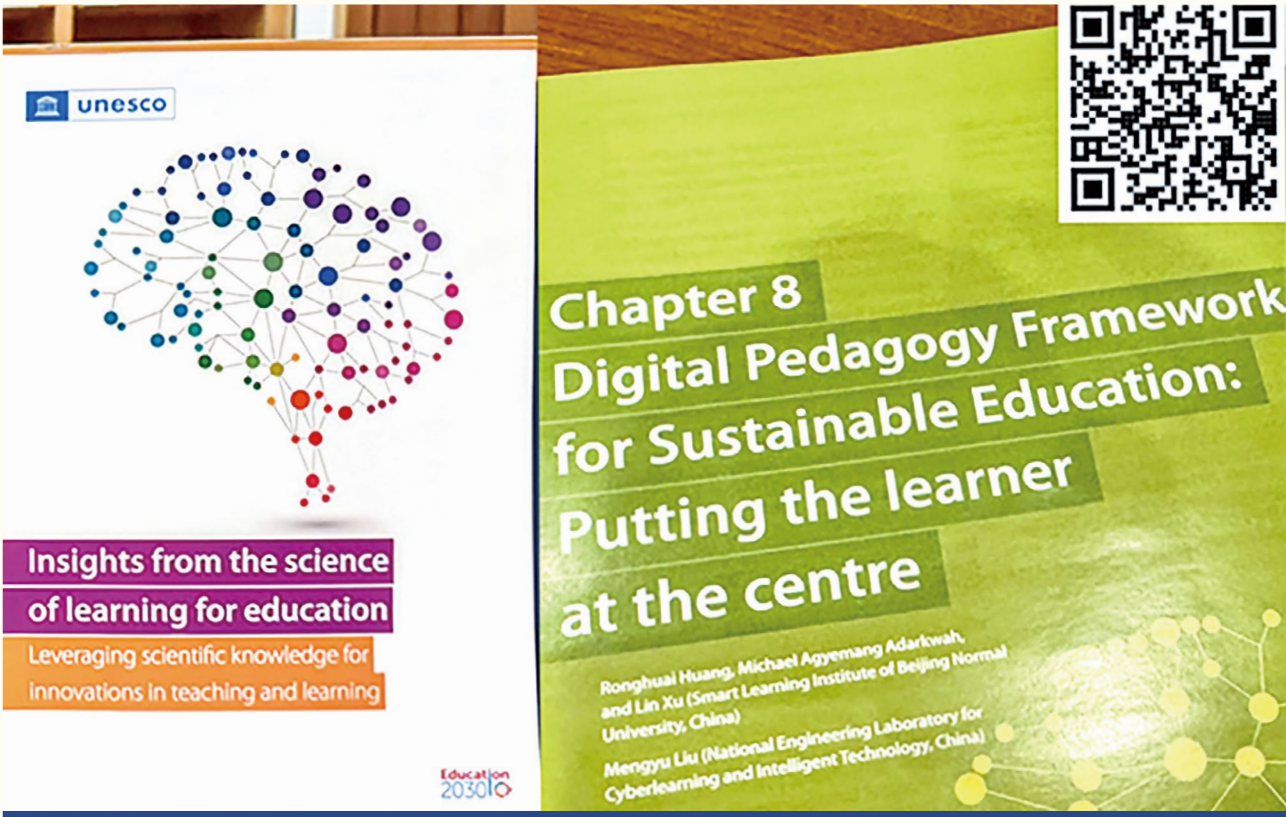
Ronghuai, Co-Dean of the Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University (BNU) and UNESCO Chair on AI in Education, Associate Professor Liu Min, Director of the Sino-French Education Innovation Center and Deputy Director of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation at BNU, were invited to attend the meeting.

The meeting focused on advancing global collaboration in learning science and exploring innovative strategies to leverage artificial intelligence in education. Participants discussed the latest research developments, shared best practices, and forged new partnerships aimed at enhancing teaching and learning on a global scale. As representatives of Beijing Normal University, Professor Huang and Associate Professor Liu contributed their expertise in AI-driven education



and Sino-French educational innovation, reinforcing BNU's commitment to promoting equitable and quality education worldwide.

During the inaugural session, Ms. Stefania Gianini, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education, delivered a keynote address by video; Dan Leeds, Co-founder of the Global Learning Science Education Cooperation Network, addressed the meeting on behalf of the Alliance's Steering Committee. Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director of the Division for Policies and



Lifelong Learning Systems, Mr. Svein Oesttveit, Acting Director of the UNESCO International Bureau of Education, and Prof. Lent Roberto of the Brazilian National Institute of Translational Neuroscience and UNESCO Chair on Scientific Learning, also shared their perspectives. Former UK Minister of State for School Standards Nick Gibb and Prof. HUANG Ronghuai presented a working paper on behalf of the two thematic working groups.

As a founding member of the Alliance, Smart Learning Institute of Beijing

Normal University and the UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence and Education led the 2024 "Technology for Education" working group. Prof. Huang introduced insights from the work paper, Science of Learning: Its promise for education transformation and the need to bridge science and practice, highlighting a chapter on "Learning Science and Digital Technology." The chapter examines opportunities and challenges in digital-age policy-making, addresses individual differences in digital education, and explores how analytical tools can foster personalized learning. Prof. Huang underscored the

value of leveraging learning sciences research to advance digital pedagogies and catalyze systemic educational transformation.

The meeting also launched another key report, Insights from the Science of Learning for Education: Leveraging Scientific Knowledge for Innovations in Teaching and Learning, which incorporates policy briefs on digital teaching methods from the research team of the Smart Learning Institute of BNU. The report is available for download from the UNESCO Digital Library at:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000392085>

Looking ahead, the Alliance will continue to drive global collaboration and knowledge sharing in learning

science. Beijing Normal University's participation reflects its commitment to harnessing technological innovation

and research-based insights to shape inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education worldwide.

The 15th Annual Conference of the Institute of International Communication of Chinese Culture and the International Academic Conference on "Cultural China and the Future of the World"

Article Source: Institute of Chinese Culture Research | Jing Shi Academy | Release date: 2024-12-2

On November 29, the 15th Annual Conference of the Institute of International Communication of Chinese Culture (2024) and the International Academic Conference on "Cultural China and the Future of the World" were held at Beijing Normal University's Jing Shi Academy. Nearly one hundred experts and scholars from countries including China, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, and Switzerland gathered together to witness this academic grand event and jointly map out the future.

The opening ceremony was attended by Beijing Normal University Vice President Wang Ming, Senior Professor and Director of the Institute of International Communication of Chinese Culture Huang Huilin, Vice President of the International Confucian Association and recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award Roger Ames, Professor of the Bogoryu Chair at Peking University,



Professor Robert Walker from the Institute of Chinese Culture | Jing Shi Academy at Beijing Normal University, Senior Professor and Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford University, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts; Professor Hu Zhifeng from the College of Arts and Media at Beijing Normal University; Professor Yu Dan, Director of the Capital Culture Innovation and Cultural Communication Engineering Research Institute; Professor Aleksei Rodionov from St. Petersburg University in Russia; Justyna Jagusick, Professor of Chinese Studies at the University

of Bern in Switzerland; Ivan Stacy, foreign expert at the School of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Beijing Normal University; Professor Meng Jian, Director of the National Cultural Innovation Research Center at Fudan University; Vice President of the International Association of Asian Cinema Studies (ACSS) Chen Xihe; Executive Director of the Public Opinion Research Center at Shandong University, Dai Yuanchu; Vice Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at Jilin University, Kong Zhaopeng; Dean of the Marco Müller Film Arts Research Institute at

Liaoning University, Geng Zhongyin; Dean of the School of Journalism and Media at Southwest University, Long Wei; Executive Dean of the School of Journalism and Communication at Anhui Normal University, Ma Mei; Dean of the School of Chinese Language and Literature at the University of International Business and Economics, Deng Rubing; Dean of the International Chinese Institute at Beijing Normal University, Feng Liping; Party Secretary of the International Chinese Institute at Beijing Normal University, Wang Xuesong; Dean of the College of Arts and Media at Beijing Normal University, Xiao Xiangrong; Party Secretary of the Institute of Chinese Culture | Jing Shi Academy at Beijing Normal University, Han Xiaolei; Deputy Director of the External Relations Department of the China Writers Association, Zheng Lei; Senior Editor and Executive Editor of External Communication at the Contemporary China and the World Research Institute of the Foreign Languages Press, Sun Modi; Senior Editor at Guangzhou Daily Group, Cao Suning; and Editor-in-Chief of the Overseas Business Center at CNPIEC, Zhao Daxin, along with nearly a hundred other distinguished guests, attended the opening ceremony.

Wang Ming delivered the opening speech at the ceremony. He emphasized that culture is the soul and cornerstone



of social development. With its long and rich history, Chinese culture, with its unique charm, has become an important window for the world to understand China and has made significant contributions to the progress of human civilization. In the context of globalization, Huang Huilin's "Third Pole Culture" theory has made remarkable progress in the field of cultural development over the past 15 years, highlighting the unique role of Chinese culture in global cultural exchanges. The "Looking China Youth Film Project", hosted by the China Cultural International Communication Research Institute, has gone through 14 editions and has become a flagship program of Beijing Normal University in the field of international cultural exchange, effectively promoting the international spread of Chinese culture and deepening understanding and communication among different civilizations. Beijing Normal University looks forward to more international experts and scholars participating in



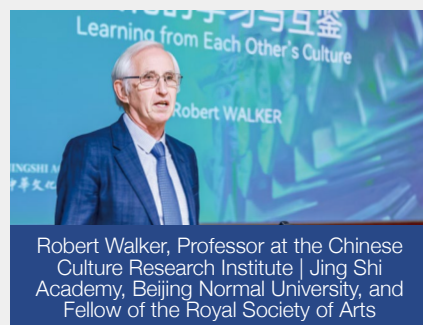
cultural exchanges, fostering intellectual collisions and the sharing of wisdom, and together opening a new chapter in China-foreign cultural exchange.

The international conference was hosted by Xiang Yunju, Executive Director of the China Cultural International Communication Research Institute and Distinguished Professor at Jing Shi Academy. In the main forum held in the morning, experts from various fields gathered and shared their viewpoints on the theme "Cultural China and the Future of the World", drawing from their research and practical experiences.





Roger Ames, Bogory Chair Professor at Peking University



Robert Walker, Professor at the Chinese Culture Research Institute | Jing Shi Academy, Beijing Normal University, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts



Hu Zhifeng, Professor at the School of Arts and Media, Beijing Normal University



Hu Zhifeng, Professor at the School of Arts and Media, Beijing Normal University



Aleksei Rodionov, Professor at St. Petersburg University, Russia



Yu Dan, Director of the Capital Cultural Innovation and Cultural Communication Engineering Research Institute



Justyna Jaguscik, Head of the Chinese Department, School of Linguistics, University of Bern, Switzerland



Luo Jun, Deputy Director of the China Cultural International Communication Research Institute



Ivan Stacy, Foreign Expert at the School of Foreign Languages, Beijing Normal University

In the afternoon, the conference held four parallel forums, each focusing on different topics: "The Global Expression of Cultural China", "China and the World in Film and Television Culture", "Overseas Transmission of Chinese Art and Culture from a Cross-disciplinary Perspective", and the 8th "Looking China Youth Film Project" Academic Seminar.



Parallel Forum One



Parallel Forum Two



Parallel Forum Three



Parallel Forum Four

In the "Three-pole Cultural Dialogue" session, the moderator Luo Jun was joined by experts Robert Walker, Meng Jian, Aleksei Rodionov, Zhou Wen, and others for a discussion. Based on the concept of the "Third Pole Culture" theory, the session explored topics such as how to highlight the distinctive elements of Chinese culture, the contributions and challenges of Chinese culture in a digital environment, and the future prospects for the international communication of Chinese culture. The dialogue revealed existing cultural gaps between China and the world, while also emphasizing the importance of academic discussions in enhancing cross-cultural understanding and constructing a more diverse and comprehensive cultural system.



Three-pole Cultural Dialogue: Guest Discussions

Through in-depth exchanges and discussions, this international academic conference has provided new perspectives, ideas, and momentum for research related

to the international communication of Chinese culture. It is hoped that more scholars will participate in the future to collectively advance academic progress.



Students from the Belt and Road Institute of Beijing Normal University Participate in the 2024 China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum and Deliver Keynote Speeches

Article source: Belt and Road Institute | Release date: 2024-11-11

To further promote China-Africa technological innovation exchanges, the 2024 China-Africa Innovation Cooperation and Development Forum opened on the morning of November 7 at the East Lake International Conference Center in Wuhan, with the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Hubei Provincial Government as hosts. The theme of this year's forum was "Innovation Drives Cooperation, Cooperation Opens New Chapters", and nearly 800 guests from both China and abroad gathered to discuss innovation cooperation and exchanges between China and Africa.



Tanzanian student HAMAD, Zuhura Miraji delivering a speech

The forum focused on the "Ten Key Actions to Advance Modernization through China-Africa Partnership" and covered areas such as civilizational mutual learning, technological innovation, modern agriculture, health and wellness, and green development. It featured an opening ceremony, keynote forums, as well as 16 specialized events including the Third



Sierra Leonean student CONTEH, Alusine Boys listening to speeches (second from right)

China-Africa Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Finals, the China-Africa Agricultural Innovation Cooperation Forum, the China-Africa Space Information Technology Innovation Cooperation Seminar, and the African Delegates' Technology Innovation Tour in Hubei.

Beijing Normal University Belt and Road Institute students, Tanzanian HAMAD, Zuhura Miraji and Sierra Leonean CONTEH, Alusine Boys, were invited as foreign guests to attend the opening ceremony of the forum and deliver keynote speeches.

HAMAD, Zuhura Miraji, a budget officer from the Tanzanian (Zanzibar) President's Office, delivered a keynote speech titled "Tanzania's Green Technology and Development Path

to Sustainability" at the China-Africa Green Technology and Sustainable Development Seminar. After the speech, HAMAD engaged with the audience through a Q&A session, discussing how Tanzania can leverage its policy advantages to achieve the goal of building green technology and sustainable development cooperation with China.

CONTEH, Alusine Boys, a lecturer at the University of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma, delivered a speech titled "The Current Status of China-Africa Public Health Technology Cooperation" at the China-Africa Public Health Technology Cooperation Sub-forum. He not only provided a detailed analysis of the current state of public health and



technology development in Africa but also proposed relevant development suggestions, earning recognition from experts and scholars in the field.

Beijing Normal University Hosts the 2024 Beijing-Hong Kong Basic Education Forum

Article source: Faculty of Education, Office of Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan Affairs | Release date: 2024-11-8

To deeply implement the spirit of the 20th CPC Central Committee's Third Plenary Session and the National Education Conference, and to follow the strategic directives of President Xi Jinping on building a strong nation through education, the 2024 Beijing-Hong Kong Basic Education Forum, hosted by Beijing Normal University, opened in Beijing on October 28. The forum aimed to strengthen educational exchanges with Hong Kong, promote integrated educational development between Beijing and

Hong Kong, and facilitate the sharing of high-quality educational resources. Under the theme "Implementing the Strategy of Building a Strong Nation through Education and Constructing a High-Quality Education System", the forum brought together 40 primary and secondary school principals from Hong Kong, 64 principals from the National Training Program in Mainland China, as well as educational experts and practitioners, to discuss cutting-edge topics and development trends in basic education. The event was

attended by Zhang Zhubo, Assistant President of Beijing Normal University and Director of the Basic Education Development and Management Department, as well as officials from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Hong Kong and the Beijing Municipal Education Commission.

At the opening ceremony, Zhang Zhubo extended a warm welcome to all the guests on behalf of Beijing Normal University. He emphasized the university's commitment to



exchanges with Hong Kong, leveraging its disciplinary strengths and geographical advantages under its "One Core, Two Wings" development framework to carry out in-depth collaboration with Hong Kong's education sector. He expressed hope that the forum would strengthen the exchange and cooperation between primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong and Mainland China, enhance communication among principals, and deepen the sharing of teaching and educational management practices, thereby contributing to the strategy of building a strong nation through education and fostering the development of educational collaboration between Beijing and Hong Kong.

Dong Chuan, Director of the Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan Office at the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, highlighted in his speech that Beijing places great importance on education exchanges and cooperation with Hong Kong. He affirmed Beijing's ongoing support for Hong Kong's basic education development and pledged further support and services for the



"Beijing-Hong Kong Basic Education Forum". Dong Chuan emphasized the importance of the forum as a platform for communication among education professionals from Beijing and Hong Kong and for the collaborative high-quality development of young teachers in both regions, ultimately contributing to the advancement of China's education sector and the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.



The opening ceremony was chaired by Zhu Xudong, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University.



Professor Chu Hongqi from the Institute of Chinese Education and Social Development at Beijing Normal University's National High-End Think Tank delivered a keynote report titled "Building an Education Powerhouse and Cultivating Students' Innovative Abilities". He provided an



Peter Douglas Koon, head of the Hong Kong delegation of primary and secondary school principals, expressed gratitude to Beijing Normal University for hosting the forum. He underscored the forum's significance for Beijing-Hong Kong educational collaboration and expressed his hope that the event would enable Hong Kong principals to gain deeper insights into the strategic plans and requirements for building

in-depth analysis of the critical role of innovation in national development and proposed three key points for

a strong nation through education, as well as to better understand developments in Mainland China's education, economy, technology, society, and culture. This, he noted, would contribute to the long-term development of basic education in both regions.



building an education powerhouse: optimizing the structure of the education system, adjusting disciplines in higher and vocational education, and fostering technological innovation and top-tier innovative talent in universities. The report emphasized the importance of education in enhancing national competitiveness, offering valuable insights for advancing the strategy of building a strong nation through education.

During the roundtable forum, distinguished school leaders, including

Mak Wai Lun, Principal of St. Stephen's College; Ko Ching Yu, Principal of St. Stephen's College Preparatory School; Xia Qingfeng, Principal of Beijing No. 4 High School; Bai Jiming, Principal of the Third Affiliated School of Beijing Normal University; Dou Guimei, Principal of Tsinghua University Primary School; and Xu Jiazan, Principal of Wanli Primary School in Dalian Development Zone, discussed the theme "Opportunities and Challenges in High-Quality School Development". They shared their experiences and

insights on enhancing education quality, addressing challenges in the new era, and advancing specialized curricula and quality education. The forum was dynamic and engaging, with active participation from the principals who explored new pathways for high-quality school development and contributed their wisdom and efforts to cultivating more outstanding talent.

On the afternoon of October 28, the delegation of Hong Kong primary and secondary school principals visited affiliated schools of Beijing Normal University, including the First and Second Affiliated Schools, Huangchenggen Primary School in Beijing's Xicheng District, and Gongyuan Primary School. During these visits, the principals gained in-depth knowledge of the schools' unique features and innovative practices. They





engaged in discussions on enhancing education quality, advancing quality education, and fostering innovative talent. These visits facilitated the establishment of cooperative relationships between schools in Hong Kong and Beijing, fostering shared educational resources and exploring more effective teaching and learning models. This exchange injected new vitality and opportunities into the development of education in both regions.

During their stay in Beijing, the Hong Kong delegation also visited the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). In-depth discussions were held with CPPCC leaders on Beijing-Hong Kong educational collaboration and exchange. Both sides shared their achievements and plans in the education sector and expressed a strong desire to strengthen

cooperation and jointly promote the flourishing development of education.

The 2024 Beijing-Hong Kong Basic Education Forum not only facilitated the collision and integration of educational ideas but also established a platform for collaborative development and resource sharing between schools in both regions. It laid a solid foundation for the continuous improvement of

education quality and the cultivation of outstanding talent. Looking ahead, the education sectors of Beijing and Hong Kong will continue to work hand in hand, exploring innovative pathways in education and striving to build a more open, inclusive, and high-quality education system. Together, they will contribute to the prosperity and progress of Beijing, Hong Kong, and the nation as a whole.



The 5th Global Teacher Education Summit Held at Beijing Normal University

Article source: Faculty of Education | Release date: 2024-11-4



The 5th Global Teacher Education Summit (GTES), hosted by the Teacher Education Research Center at Beijing Normal University (a key research base for humanities and social sciences under the Ministry of Education), took place from October 25 to 28 at Beijing Normal University. Under the theme "Looking to the Future: Building a Global Community for Teacher Education", the summit attracted 25 renowned experts and scholars from 20 countries and regions, including Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Singapore, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Greece, Brazil, Portugal, Australia, and Israel. More than 600 domestic experts and scholars from 523 universities, including 10 from Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan, also participated.

The summit featured five key topics, focusing on areas such as cultivating

essential teacher competencies in the post-pandemic era, the impact of digital technologies on teacher learning, theoretical and practical innovations in subject-specific teacher education, reforms in foundational education curricula and teacher education, and

a roadmap for its development. The summit included 26 plenary reports, comprising 10 keynote speeches, 8 invited plenary talks, 5 special invited reports, and 3 Tin Ka Ping Lectures. Additionally, there were 29 thematic seminars, 36 group presentations, and



cross-sector collaborative innovations. During the event, leading global scholars in teacher education engaged in diverse formats of discussion, including keynote speeches, invited talks, thematic seminars, group presentations, roundtable discussions, and poster exhibitions, addressing pressing issues in global teacher education and shaping

over 100 poster displays, totaling 510 research presentations.

The opening ceremony of the summit was held on the morning of October 26 at the Jingwen Lecture Hall of Beijing Normal University. In her speech, Zhao Jing, Director of the Teacher Affairs Department at the Ministry of

Education, emphasized that teacher education is a core element in building a strong nation through education and achieving modernization. She expressed hopes for improving teacher education quality through enhanced teacher resources, educational reform, research innovation, and international cooperation, thereby contributing to the realization of the national strategy for building an education powerhouse.



Zhao Jing delivering the speech

Kang Zhen, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, highlighted that in the context of new trends such as technological progress, globalization, and personalized teaching, teacher education and the development of the teaching workforce face both new opportunities and challenges. He expressed hope that the summit would foster collaboration and exchange



Kang Zhen delivering the speech

between universities and educational institutions worldwide.

Zhu Xudong, Director of the Teacher Education Research Center at Beijing Normal University, noted that this summit coincides with the 20th anniversary of the center's establishment. He remarked that the center has not only witnessed significant achievements over the past



Zhu Xudong delivering the speech

two decades but also aligned itself with the development of the global teacher education discipline and resonated with the progress of teacher education in China. He invited experts and colleagues to fully engage in global dialogue and exchange on teacher education, sharing wisdom to advance the development and innovation of teacher education.



Shi Kekan chairing the ceremony

The opening ceremony was chaired by Shi Kekan, Party Secretary of the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University.

Professor Lu Naigui, Senior Distinguished Lecture Professor at the Faculty of Education, Beijing Normal University, delivered a keynote speech titled "The Context, Challenges, and Opportunities of Reconnecting Teachers and Teacher Education Globally". He analyzed



Keynote report by Lu Naigui

the challenges and opportunities facing teacher education in the post-pandemic era from four dimensions: learning loss compensation, responses to demographic changes, insufficient international cooperation, and the impact of artificial intelligence. Lu emphasized the importance of lifelong learning for educators and urged careful consideration of AI technology's long-term educational value.

Professor Christopher Day from the University of Nottingham presented a keynote speech titled "How to Become and Remain 'Excellent' Professionals in Challenging Times?". He introduced the critical issue of teacher professionalization, emphasizing

the importance of understanding the reasons why individuals choose the teaching profession and how their motivations evolve over time. Daly argued that teachers' recognition of and commitment to their profession profoundly influence students' motivation and academic achievements. He further highlighted the importance of fostering a culture of curiosity to nurture outstanding educators.



Keynote report by Christopher Day

Professor Lee Chi-Kin from The Education University of Hong Kong gave a keynote speech titled "Possibilities for Future Teachers: Global and National Perspectives". From the perspective of Eastern and Western philosophies, Lee deconstructed core teacher competencies, emphasizing moral literacy, lifelong learning, research capabilities, and reflective abilities as



Keynote report by Lee Chi-kin

essential traits for educators. He stressed that both personal and professional development are equally important for teachers. Drawing from Confucian philosophy, he proposed suggestions for teachers' self-awareness and positioning.

Professor Lynn Paine from Michigan State University delivered a keynote speech titled "Teacher Education for Uncertainty". She analyzed three major



Keynote report by Lynn Paine

dilemmas in teacher education: the role of practice, collaboration between teachers and learners, and preparing educators for the challenges of an uncertain future. Paine emphasized that teaching should be a dynamic, future-oriented process rather than a fixed model.

Professor Cai Chun, Vice President of Capital Normal University, delivered



Keynote report by Cai Chun

a keynote speech titled "Generative Artificial Intelligence, the Activated 'World 3,' and Transformations in Teacher Education". Based on Karl Popper's three worlds theory, Cai explored the influence of generative AI on teacher education. He advocated for using educational logic to guide the logic driven by technology, capital, and efficiency, warning against the pitfalls of new empiricism and new behaviorism.



Plenary invited report by Amanda Berry

At Parallel Forum One, Amanda Berry, Associate Dean of the School of Education at RMIT University in Australia, delivered an invited report titled "Addressing the Uncertain Future of Education: The Critical Role of Teachers' Adaptive Professional Skills". She introduced two interdisciplinary math and science curricula co-designed and tested with 15 teachers from five



Plenary invited report by Gillian Roehrig

schools. The research demonstrated that providing supportive developmental conditions fosters both teachers' adaptive expertise and student learning.

Gillian Roehrig, Professor at the University of Minnesota, presented an invited report titled "Professional Learning Through Collaborative Curriculum Design Assignments". Her research explored the processes teachers engage in when collaboratively designing curricula, highlighting three key insights: effectively using protocols as collaborative resources, treating curriculum evaluation as a resource for collaboration, and incorporating storytelling as a collaborative tool.

Carlota Boto, Dean of the School of Education at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, gave a report on "The Role of Educational Sciences in Teacher Training". She reviewed fundamental educational theories from the past decades, their relationship with schools, and major paradigm shifts. Boto argued that questioning the connection between educational science and school teaching reflects another form of the long-standing separation between theory and practice.



Plenary invited report by Carlota Boto

Icy Lee, Professor at the National Institute of Education at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, delivered a report titled "Preparing Future-Oriented Language Teachers". She proposed a dynamic framework for language teacher professional knowledge, comprising expertise in vision, collaboration, professionalism, and emotion.

At Parallel Forum Two, Li Jun, Professor



Plenary invited report by Icy Lee

Emeritus at Western University in Canada, presented a plenary invited report comparing foreign teacher education models with the Chinese model. He identified four core features of the Chinese model: a humanistic orientation, the principle of moderation, openness and diversity, and the integration of knowledge and action.



Plenary invited report by Li Jun

Maria Assunção Flores, Professor at the University of Minho in Portugal, delivered a report titled "Rethinking Teacher Education in Uncertain Times". She highlighted contemporary challenges for education and teachers, offering recommendations on the value of teaching as a profession, the continuity of teacher education, working conditions, and teacher professional qualities.



Plenary invited report by Maria Assunção Flores

David Kirk, Professor at the University of Strathclyde in the United Kingdom, presented a report titled "Adaptive Competencies for the Future of Teacher Education: Preparing for the Known and the Unknown". He defined adaptive competencies and used two specific cases to illustrate teachers' strategies for responding to challenges during the pandemic, exploring new teaching



Plenary invited report by David Kirk

possibilities in broader macro contexts.

Despina Potari, Professor at the University of Athens in Greece, delivered a report on "Teacher Collaboration and Professional Learning". She summarized findings from the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction's research on teacher collaboration, focusing on four key areas: theoretical perspectives, forms and



Plenary invited report by Despina Potari

contexts, participant roles, and tools and resources for collaboration. Potari also shared case studies on collaborative practices among math teachers.

On the evening of the 27th, the summit hosted a roundtable forum titled "AI Empowering Teacher Education", where six experts from technology companies and



Expert roundtable forum

the fields of education and teacher education engaged in a dialogue on the preparation and development of teachers in the AI era.

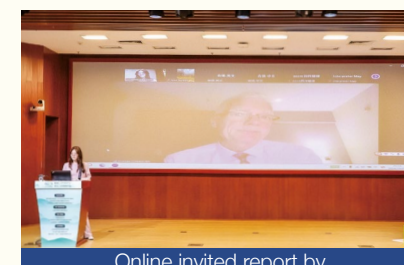
In the invited reports, Christophe Ronveaux, Senior Researcher at the University of Geneva, shared research on teaching tools and cases involving children's picture books. His presentation focused on the complexity of teaching,



Invited report by Dr. Christophe Ronveaux

the critical role of teachers as mediators, and the supportive functions of teaching tools. The research also compared cultural differences between China and Switzerland and their impact on picture book teaching, proposing solutions to improve teaching methods through innovative tools.

Andreas Schleicher, Director of



Online invited report by Dr. Andreas Schleicher

Education and Skills at the OECD, delivered an online lecture. Using PISA data from various countries, Schleicher showcased differences in children's academic and mental health development and emphasized that promoting balanced development is a priority for many nations. Addressing future technologies, digital tools, and AI readiness, he outlined directions for teacher preparation and student development. Based on OECD survey results, Schleicher highlighted that intrinsic teacher motivation, rather than salary, is a more significant driver of growth. He stressed the crucial role of teachers as active participants in future educational transformations, alongside the importance of professional collaboration and cultural practices.

Martin Mills, Professor at Queensland University of Technology and Editor-in-Chief of Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice, delivered a keynote report titled "Why We Must Continue Talking About Teacher Professionalism". Drawing on a curriculum improvement research project conducted in high-poverty schools, Mills discussed the importance



Keynote report by Martin Mills

of teacher professionalism. The study revealed that when teachers are granted professional autonomy and trust to adapt curricula to student needs, student engagement and academic performance improve significantly.

A. Lin Goodwin, Professor at Boston College, presented a keynote report titled "The Death, Absence, and Continuation of Ideas: A Perspective



Keynote report by A. Lin Goodwin

on Transforming Teacher Education". She argued that educational reform needs to shift from "improvement" to "transformation". Goodwin outlined three perspectives for transforming teacher education: overcoming disciplinary silos, strengthening the preparation of teacher educators, and upholding the ideal of quality education for all.



Keynote report by Gu Qing

Gu Qing, Director of the Center for Educational Leadership at University College London, gave a report titled "Embracing Change Through Organizational Learning: How Teachers Stay and Thrive". Gu Qing emphasized the importance of school organizational environments and cultural climates for teacher development. Her research showed that teacher job satisfaction is not merely an individual psychological attitude but a key component of organizational success.

Yasushi Maruyama, Dean of the Faculty of Education at Hiroshima University in Japan, presented a keynote report titled "Exploring the Possibility of a Global Teacher Education Community: Professionalism, Ethical Aesthetics, and Communities of Practice". Maruyama stressed that teacher educators must possess research capabilities and "indirect teaching skills", which enable them to train pre-service teachers into excellent educators. He also highlighted the importance of ethical aesthetics in teaching practice, including judgments of "right" and "wrong" and shared understandings of "good teaching", as



Keynote report by Kyoji Maruyama

key components of teacher educator professionalism.

Li Qiong, Executive Deputy Director of the Teacher Education Research Center at Beijing Normal University, delivered a keynote report titled "Who Do Primary and Secondary Schools Prefer: Government-funded Normal School Graduates or High-Level Comprehensive University Graduates? An Empirical Study of Teaching



Keynote report by Li Qiong

Competence". Based on surveys of 1,823 principals, 258 regional administrative officials, and 14,850 government-funded normal school graduates, the study revealed that normal school graduates exhibit significant advantages in teaching beliefs and professional identity compared to comprehensive university graduates. Additionally, 92% of regional administrative officials acknowledged the contributions of normal school graduates to teaching quality and regional educational development. However, comprehensive university graduates demonstrated unique strengths. The findings provide important insights for building an open teacher education system.

On the afternoons of October 26 and 27, the summit featured a series of engaging thematic seminars, with 29 sessions showcasing 128 research reports and two roundtable discussions. Topics ranged across cutting-edge themes, including cross-disciplinary practices, the construction of high-quality teacher education systems, applications of generative artificial intelligence, oral histories of teacher growth, regional innovations in teacher education, evidence-based teaching, professional competencies for family education guidance, professional development of master teachers, and the intersection of education and neuroscience. These sessions aimed to promote high-quality development in teacher education in the new era and explore innovative pathways for teacher education from both localized and global perspectives.

Simultaneously, 36 group academic presentations displayed nearly 200 research findings, delving into themes such as teacher competencies, professional development, emotions and stress, digital transformation, pre-service training, classroom interactions, intercultural teacher education, and quality evaluation in teacher education. Additionally, the conference showcased 119 academic posters, providing participants with a dynamic platform for exchange and dialogue.

Notably, three thematic seminars and group presentations included invited

reports from distinguished experts. Tony Loughland, Dean of the School of Education at the University of New South Wales in Australia, innovatively used the concept of "chefs and kitchens" to illustrate the relationship between teachers and schools. He compared and evaluated 200 years of practice in teaching schools with current best evidence on teacher learning.



Invited report by Tony Loughland

Li Baiyan, President of the Pudong Institute of Education Development in Shanghai, introduced the innovative practice of the regional teacher education "interchange bridge" model from three perspectives: value reflection, contemporary significance, and action pathways. This "Pudong sample" offered highly valuable insights.



Invited report by Li Baiyan

Cheng May-hung, Vice President of The Education University of Hong Kong, presented a mixed-methods study on early-career teachers in Mainland China. She proposed a new conceptual framework for teacher resilience and offered practical strategies to enhance resilience among educators.

The summit concluded at noon on October 28. In the summary report,



Invited report by Cheng May-hung

Song Huan, Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee, highlighted that the summit received a record-breaking 510 paper submissions, including, for the first time, 13 papers analyzing teacher education from a neuroscience perspective, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of research. Additionally, experts and scholars from new participant countries such as Greece, Portugal, Brazil, and Israel attended, further expanding the reach of this global dialogue platform. Teachers from 32 primary and secondary schools, as well as kindergartens, actively participated in academic discussions, showcasing new trends in research on teacher professional development.



Summary report by Song Huan

Zhu Xudong, Co-chair of the Organizing Committee, stated in the closing speech that there are plans to consider adjusting the summit's schedule from every three years to



Closing remarks by Zhu Xudong

every two years and to expand the hosting locations to cities such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, Chengdu, and Chongqing. Zhu noted that the summit has evolved from its initial

goal of advancing teacher education in China to becoming a key platform for promoting global teacher education development, with plans to further enhance its international impact.

As a highly influential academic event in the field of global teacher education, the GTES Summit continues to serve as a driving force for pooling global wisdom, deepening international collaboration, and fostering high-quality development in teacher education.

2024 International Symposium on University Social Responsibility Held at Beijing Normal University

Article Source: Institute of International and Comparative Education, Office of International Exchange and Cooperation |
Release date: 2024-10-31

On the morning of October 21, the 2024 International Symposium on University Social Responsibility, co-hosted by Beijing Normal University and the University Social Responsibility Network (USRN), opened at the Yingdong Academic Hall of Beijing Normal University. The symposium was organized by the Institute of International and Comparative

Education and the International Education Research Center of Beijing Normal University. With the theme "Educational Transformation and Sustainable Development", the event brought together over 200 experts and scholars from 14 countries and regions to discuss cutting-edge issues related to higher education reform and sustainable development. The three-day conference featured

16 keynote speeches, 2 roundtable discussions, and 17 parallel sessions. Experts and scholars engaged in in-depth discussions on topics such as "Educational Transformation and Holistic Human Development", "Educational Transformation and Technological Innovation", "Educational Transformation and Cultural Prosperity", "Educational Transformation and Economic Growth", "Educational Transformation

and Ecological Justice", "Educational Transformation and Social Well-being", and "Educational Transformation and Global Development". Chen Xing, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, Ben Young, Chair of the USRN Executive Committee and Vice President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Liu Baocun, President of the China Comparative Education Society and Dean of the Institute of International and Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches. Wu Yujun, Director of the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation at Beijing Normal University, chaired the ceremony.

In his opening remarks, Chen Xing emphasized that Beijing Normal University places great importance on fulfilling its social responsibility. In its 2020 Global Development Strategic



Plan, the university explicitly identified the construction of a community of social responsibility as a core mission. Chen highlighted that Beijing Normal University actively promotes educational transformation, leads innovation in education, and takes responsibility as a key driver

of societal development. Through initiatives such as the UNESCO Rural Education Research and Training Centre, located on its campus, and other international collaboration platforms, the university has deeply engaged in advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global governance, and the building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Ben Young expressed heartfelt gratitude to Beijing Normal University for its support of the 2024 International Symposium on University Social Responsibility. He



shared the achievements of the USRN in addressing global challenges through social practices and called on attendees to contribute ideas for how higher education can respond to global challenges. Ben Young encouraged increased collaboration between USRN and more institutions, attracting leaders and academic experts to jointly fulfill social responsibilities and support the realization of the United Nations 2030 SDGs, particularly in driving educational transformation and sustainable development.

Liu Baocun analyzed the current challenges faced by global higher

education, which include external pressures such as global uncertainty, the rise of digital and artificial intelligence technologies, and internal issues like the global learning crisis, declining education quality, reduced investment, and equity challenges. He stressed that reshaping the global higher education system to fully harness the critical role of universities in sustainable development is both a significant challenge and an invaluable opportunity for advancing education. Liu called for collective efforts to explore solutions and achieve sustainable development in education.



During the keynote presentation session, a series of distinguished scholars delivered speeches: Xie Weihe, former Vice President of Tsinghua University; Zhou Zuoyu, former Vice President of Beijing Normal University; Susan L. Robertson, President of the North American Comparative and International Education Society and former Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge; Mok Ka Ho, Vice President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Sui Yifan, Professor at the College of Education, Zhejiang University; Aaron Benavot, Professor at the University at Albany, State University of New York; Huang

Futao, Professor at the Graduate School of Education, Hiroshima University; Yang Rui, Dean of the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong; Zhang Yingqiang, Professor at the College of Education, Zhejiang University; Katrin Kohl, Professor at the Faculty of Education, York University, Canada; Yan Guangcai, Director of the Institute of Higher Education, East China Normal University; Zhou Guangli, Dean of the

University; and Gao Yimin, Vice President of the Chinese Comparative Education Society and Deputy Director of the Institute of International and Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University.

In the roundtable discussion on "Transformations in University Teaching and Learning Models", Hong Huaqing, Professor at Nanyang

Hongbiao, Head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and Paul Wakeling, Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of York, UK, conducted an in-depth analysis and engaged in a lively discussion on this topic. This session was chaired by Shi Xiaoguang, Professor at the School of Education, Peking University.

The roundtable discussion titled "How Can Universities Lead Sustainable Social Development" was chaired by Jiang Kai, Professor at the School of Education, Peking University. Participants included Michael Crossley, Professor of the School of Education, University of Bristol; Zhang Zhiqiang, Head of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy at The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Anatoly Oleksiyenko, Professor at the Faculty of International Education at The Education University of Hong Kong; Guo Shibao, Professor at the Faculty of Education, University of Calgary, Canada; and Charles Hopkins, Professor of the

Faculty of Education, York University, Canada. The discussion centered on how universities can take the lead in sustainable social development, offering valuable insights and strategies for higher education institutions to actively fulfill their social responsibilities and drive sustainable progress in society.

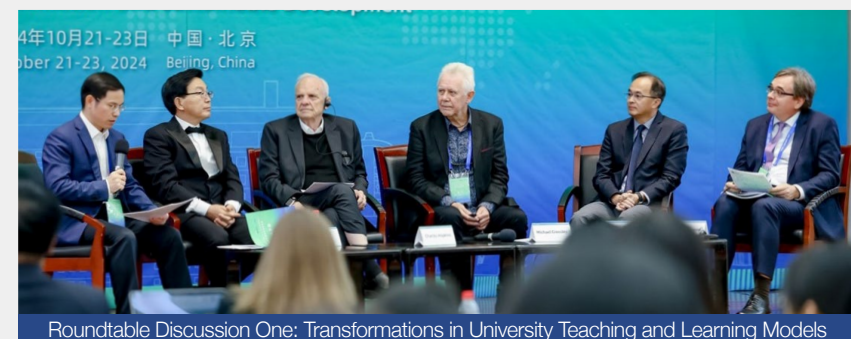
During the summit, the USRN Executive Committee Meeting was held at Beijing Normal University in a hybrid format, combining online and in-person participation. Twenty-five committee members from 12 countries and regions attended the meeting to review key initiatives for 2024, including hosting a series of online seminars and organizing the 2025 USRN Staff Development Workshop. On behalf of the USRN Executive Committee, Ben Young presented a commemorative gift to Chen Xing in appreciation of Beijing Normal University's active involvement in



USRN initiatives and its strong support for this symposium.

Founded in 2015 with its Secretariat at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, USRN counts Beijing Normal University as one of its founding members. The network aims to provide an international platform to foster collaboration among globally renowned universities in talent development, research, and social service, collectively enhancing

university students' sense of social responsibility and driving societal progress. To date, USRN comprises 20 member universities from 14 countries and regions, including Peking University, Sichuan University, Yonsei University, Kyoto University, Tufts University, Washington University in St. Louis, the University of Manchester, and the University of New South Wales. The University Social Responsibility Symposium is a flagship initiative of USRN, held biennially.



School of Education, Renmin University of China; Bie Dunrong, Dean of the School of Education Research, Xiamen University; Zhou Haitao, Dean of the Institute of Higher Education, Beijing Normal University; Karin Amos, Vice President of the University of Tübingen; and Huang Yu, Associate Professor at the Institute of International and Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University, also shared their insights. This session was moderated by Shen Qiping, Associate Vice President of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Fengshi Wu, Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales; Jennifer O'Brien, Professor at the University of Manchester; Liu Baocun, Professor at Beijing Normal

Technological University, Singapore; Li Jun, former President of the North American Comparative and International Education Society and Professor at the Faculty of Education, Western University, Canada; Yin



Cheng Jianping Leads Delegation to South Korea and Japan

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-11-17

From November 3 to 10, Cheng Jianping, Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Normal University (BNU), led a delegation to South Korea and Japan. The delegation visited Yonsei University in South Korea, Tokyo University of Science, and Tokyo Tongyuan Chinese School in Japan. They also called on the Chinese embassies in South Korea and Japan and held discussions with representatives of BNU alumni in both countries. Accompanying Cheng Jianping were officials from the School of Physics and Astronomy, the

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of National Security and Emergency Management, the Party/President's Office, and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

In South Korea, the delegation visited the Chinese Embassy and engaged in discussions with Fang Kun, Chargé d'Affaires, and Ai Hongge, Minister-Counselor for Education, focusing on fostering joint student training, research collaboration, and cultural exchange between Chinese and Korean universities and research

institutions. The delegation also visited Yonsei University, where they were warmly received by President Dong-Sup Yoon and Vice President Yong-jong Sohn. Both sides commended the achievements of their long-standing partnership and expressed a desire to deepen cooperation by building a closer transnational university community, creating better opportunities for youth development in China and South Korea. Cheng Jianping and Dong-Sup Yoon jointly witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding on student exchange and collaboration.

Discussions were held regarding challenges and solutions in running the school, with Cheng expressing hope for even greater achievements by this institution, which is Japan's oldest and largest weekend Chinese school. During their visit to the Chinese

Embassy in Japan, Ambassador Wu Jianghao met with the delegation. Cheng Jianping discussed leveraging BNU's disciplinary strengths to serve national development, and Wu Jianghao affirmed the embassy's full support for BNU's exchanges with Japan,

aiming to elevate Sino-Japanese higher education cooperation to new heights. Cheng Jianping also delivered a special lecture to embassy staff titled "Grasping Five Major Relationships to Steadily Advance Toward Becoming a Global Education Power by 2035".



Visit to Tokyo University of Science



Visit to Tokyo Tongyuan Chinese School

Cheng Jianping met with BNU alumni in South Korea and Japan, engaging in heartfelt discussions. He updated them on the university's recent initiatives, including the "Teacher Strengthening Project", the new "One Core, Two Wings" strategic

framework, the "Double First-Class" initiative, and efforts to build a high-quality education system in line with the National Education Conference spirit. Alumni expressed their gratitude for BNU's nurturing, pride in its achievements, and commitment

to contributing to the university's future development. To advance BNU's disciplines, such as physics and astronomy, the delegation also visited the Yemilab Underground Laboratory in South Korea and the Kamioka Underground Laboratory in Japan.



Visit to the Chinese Embassy in South Korea



Meeting with Yonsei University



Meeting with Alumni in South Korea



Meeting with Alumni in Japan

In Japan, the delegation visited Tokyo University of Science and was welcomed by Vice President Junichi Takada. Both sides discussed faculty and student exchanges, joint research, and

collaborative discipline development, agreeing to take this visit as an opportunity to enhance cooperation and contribute to educational exchanges between China and Japan.

At Tokyo Tongyuan Chinese School, Cheng Jianping listened to a detailed introduction by Principal Yang Lin about the school's history, curriculum development, and teaching practices.

Beijing Normal University places great importance on its partnerships with institutions in Japan and South Korea. It has established long-term, stable cooperative relationships with

numerous universities and research organizations, encompassing student training, research collaboration, cultural exchange, and university alliance-building. These efforts have

led to a series of fruitful initiatives, contributing significantly to educational and cultural exchanges among China, Japan, and South Korea.

Yu Jihong Leads Delegation to Germany and France

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-10-29

From October 13 to 20, Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), led a delegation to Germany and France. The delegation visited partner institutions, including the University of Tübingen in Germany and the University of Strasbourg, École Normale Supérieure (ENS) Paris, Paris Dauphine University, Paris Cité University, and Saint-Gobain Group in France. During the visit, they participated in the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education award ceremony, where Yu delivered a keynote speech. The delegation also called on the Chinese Embassy in France, the Fondation Prospective et Innovation, and engaged in discussions with BNU alumni representatives

and members of the Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars in France.

On October 14, the delegation visited the University of Tübingen, where they were warmly welcomed by President Karla Pollmann and Vice President Karin Amos. Yu Jihong reviewed the prior collaborations between the two universities, particularly in philosophy and education, and introduced BNU's recent developments in discipline construction and its "One Core, Two Wings" strategic framework. She expressed hopes for expanding areas of cooperation and exploring innovative exchange mechanisms. President Pollmann highlighted

the importance of the strong partnership between the two universities, noting the alignment in their academic structures and the potential for further collaboration in fundamental sciences and interdisciplinary fields. During the visit, Yu Jihong presented the Visiting Professorship Appointment Certificate of Beijing Normal University to Professor Achim Mittag of the University of Tübingen.

Before the main meeting, the delegation also visited the China Centrum Tübingen (CCT), engaging in discussions with its leadership about the university's Sinology research and student training programs within the Department of Sinology.

On October 15, the delegation visited the University of Strasbourg, where Yu Jihong held in-depth discussions with Michel Deneken, President of the University of Strasbourg, Vice President Irini Tsamadou-Jacobberger, and 2016 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, Professor Jean-Pierre Sauvage. Both sides highly commended the joint China-France Center for Educational Innovation for its active role in promoting educational exchanges between China and France. They exchanged views on advancing collaborative research in fields such as chemistry, cognitive psychology, and environmental science, as well as on fostering joint

Following the discussions, the delegation toured various academic laboratories, including those of the Faculty of Earth Sciences, the Faculty of Chemistry, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, engaging in in-depth exchanges with faculty and experts in these disciplines.

On October 16, Yu Jihong and her delegation visited École Normale Supérieure (ENS) Paris, where they were received by President Frédéric Worms and his team. Yu highlighted the similarities between BNU and ENS Paris as leading teacher-training institutions in China and France, with shared strengths in their historical development and academic frameworks. She expressed hopes to use this meeting as a new starting point for deepening mutual understanding and collaboration. President Worms praised BNU's recent achievements and welcomed Chinese students to participate in both long-term and short-term exchange programs at ENS. He emphasized the importance of exploring joint efforts to address global challenges such as climate change.

Later that evening, Yu Jihong attended the 2024 UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education award ceremony, where she delivered a keynote speech during the session "Looking Ahead: Strengthening Digital Skills



Visit to the University of Tübingen



Visit to the University of Strasbourg



Signing of Cooperation Agreement with Stefania Giannini

talent development. Yu Jihong and Michel Deneken represented their respective universities in renewing the macro-level cooperation agreement and the student exchange agreement.

Programs for African Girls". Following her speech, Yu, together with Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education, announced the launch of the BNU-UNESCO African Girls' Digital Education

Collaboration Project. The two parties also signed a cooperation agreement to formalize the initiative.

On October 17, Yu Jihong and her delegation visited Paris Dauphine University-PSL, where they were warmly received by President El Mouhoub Mouhoud and Vice President Nicolas Berland. Yu reflected on the recent exchanges between the two universities, introduced the progress of BNU's Zhuhai campus, and highlighted prospects for collaboration in economics, mathematics, and artificial intelligence. President Mouhoud emphasized Dauphine's commitment to its partnership with BNU, expressing eagerness to launch short-term student exchange programs and explore opportunities for joint training and interdisciplinary research platforms. During the meeting, Yu Jihong and El Mouhoub Mouhoud renewed their macro-level cooperation agreement on behalf of their universities.



On October 18, the delegation visited the Fondation Prospective et Innovation and held discussions with Luc Chatel, President of the French Automotive Industry Association and former Minister of National Education and Industry. Yu Jihong outlined BNU's development journey, academic strengths, and "One Core, Two Wings" strategic framework, proposing to seize the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of China-France diplomatic relations to deepen cooperation in youth exchanges, teacher education, industry-academia collaboration, and cultural exhibitions. Chatel recognized the vast potential for collaboration between China and France in education, culture, and science, suggesting

four areas for future cooperation: industry-academia integration, sustainable development research, joint film and arts festivals, and hosting international vocational education competitions.

On the morning of October 18, Yu Jihong and her delegation visited Paris Cité University, where they were warmly welcomed by Vice President Antoine Kouchner. Both sides shared insights into their respective achievements in the humanities, social sciences, fundamental sciences, and interdisciplinary laboratories. They reached preliminary agreements on collaborations in mathematics, artificial intelligence, psychology, and education.

In the afternoon of October 18, the delegation visited Saint-Gobain Group, a renowned multinational company



in France, and toured its R&D center. The team was hosted by Martin Melcher, Director of the R&D Center; H  l  ne Lannibois Dr  an, Executive Director; and Yves Br  che, member of the French Academy of Sciences. Melcher introduced Saint-Gobain's development philosophy and goals, showcasing its collaboration with BNU's Department of Psychology on applied psychology projects. Yu Jihong described the partnership as a vivid example of industry-academia integration, embodying the synergy between science, education, and the economy. She proposed exploring joint laboratories, student internship bases, and opportunities for industry experts to teach at BNU to further deepen the partnership.

On the evening of October 18, the delegation visited the Chinese Embassy in France, where they were received by Chen Dong, Chargé d'Affaires, and Zhou Jiagui, Minister-Counselor for Education. Yu Jihong shared an overview of BNU's collaborations with French universities and research institutions and highlighted the key achievements of this visit. She reiterated BNU's commitment to leveraging its academic strengths to contribute to China-France cultural exchanges. Chen Dong provided updates on key areas of cooperation outlined by the two nations' leaders and highlighted the positive trajectory of China-France relations and cultural exchanges. He encouraged BNU to continue playing an active role in fostering mutual understanding and advancing educational collaboration.

On October 19, the delegation held a cordial meeting with over 20 representatives of BNU alumni and the



Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars in France. Yu Jihong introduced BNU's strategic plans to support China's education priorities, key talent recruitment policies, and updates on the university's discipline development and future prospects. She extended a sincere invitation to outstanding young scholars and researchers to join BNU. Minister-Counselor Zhou Jiagui from the Chinese Embassy in France also attended the meeting.



Professor Christian Amatore, Recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award and Member of the French Academy of Sciences, Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-12-12

From November 30 to December 4, Professor Christian Amatore, recipient of the Chinese Government Friendship Award, member of the French Academy of Sciences, and foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU) at the university's invitation. On the morning of November 30, BNU President Yu Jihong met with Professor Amatore. She warmly welcomed him and highly praised his remarkable contributions to the fields of electroanalytical chemistry and bioelectrochemistry. Yu expressed hope that this visit would serve as an opportunity to establish substantive collaborations between BNU, École Normale Supérieure (ENS) Paris, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in chemistry and related disciplines, injecting new vitality into China-France higher education and research exchanges.



Professor Amatore thanked BNU for its warm hospitality. He briefly introduced his recent research directions, discussed his long-standing engagement with the Chinese scientific and educational community, and shared his delight in receiving the Chinese Government Friendship Award. He expressed



his eagerness to establish deeper collaborations with BNU's chemistry and education disciplines.

Representatives from the School of Chemistry and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation attended the meeting. Both sides engaged in extensive discussions on jointly cultivating high-level talent and conducting cutting-edge research in chemistry, reaching preliminary agreements.



On December 1, Professor Amatore co-hosted an interactive academic seminar with Mao Lanqun, Dean of the School of Chemistry. Young scholars and graduate student representatives from the School of Chemistry participated in in-depth discussions with Professor Amatore on frontier scientific issues in the



interdisciplinary fields of analytical chemistry and life sciences.

On the morning of December 4, the 38th Jingshi Lecture Series on Scholarly Excellence and the 17th Xingtian Lecture Series were held in the Yingdong Academic Hall. Professor Amatore delivered a lecture titled "ROS and RNS Homeostasis During Phagocytosis by Macrophages: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly". Over 100 faculty and students from the Schools of Chemistry, Life Sciences, and Mathematical Sciences attended the lecture.

Using the topic of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) measurement in oxidative stress as a starting point, Professor Amatore introduced the pioneering ultramicroelectrode technology developed by his team and its groundbreaking applications in single-

cell quantitative analysis. This technology enabled his team to successfully monitor the transient and minute fluxes of ROS and RNS generated within phagosomes during macrophage phagocytosis. These findings not only revealed the homeostatic regulation of free radicals in immune cells but also provided new perspectives for exploring the mechanisms by which environmental substances, such as nanofibers, induce tissue fibrosis and carcinogenesis.

During the interactive session, attendees enthusiastically asked questions, engaging in discussions with Professor Amatore on the electrochemical dynamics, selectivity, and scalability of ultramicroelectrode technology for chemical measurements in complex biological systems. The lively atmosphere underscored the event's strong academic engagement.



About Professor Christian Amatore

Christian Amatore is an internationally renowned expert in electrochemistry, a member of the French Academy of Sciences, a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and an emeritus distinguished professor at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). He previously served as Chair of the Department of Chemistry at École Normale Supérieure (ENS) Paris, a member of the French Presidential Advisory Council for Science and Technology, and President of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE). Amatore is a pioneer in the field of ultramicroelectrode research, leading advancements in bioanalytical electrochemistry and organic

electrosynthesis. His groundbreaking contributions to fundamental electrochemistry have established him as a highly influential figure in the international chemical community. Throughout his career, Amatore has received numerous prestigious accolades, including the ISE Gold Medal, the Lavoisier Medal from the French Chemical Society, the Legion of Honour (Commander) from the French government, and the Bourke Award and Faraday Medal from the Royal Society of Chemistry. In 2024, he was honored with the Chinese Government Friendship Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to scientific collaboration and education.

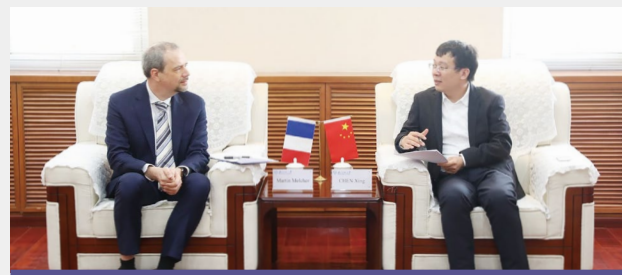
Saint-Gobain Group Delegation Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-11-21

On November 19, a delegation from the Saint-Gobain Group, led by Martin Melcher, Global Innovation and R&D Director of the Automotive Glass Division, and senior managers from the Shanghai R&D Center, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). The delegation, comprising four members, was warmly received by Vice President Chen Xing in the main building.

Chen Xing welcomed the delegation and expressed his appreciation for their visit. He reviewed and commended the innovative practice projects jointly conducted by BNU's Faculty of Psychology and Saint-Gobain's Shanghai R&D Center. He emphasized that the integration of industry, academia, and research fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and serves as a source of innovation. Chen highlighted BNU's strengths in fundamental academic research and interdisciplinary integration and noted that Saint-Gobain, with over 300 years of history and recognition as one of the world's top innovative enterprises, presents significant opportunities for collaboration. He proposed expanding the scope of joint disciplines, exploring collaborative innovation mechanisms, and developing high-level applied talent cultivation models to promote mutually beneficial international cooperation.

Martin Melcher expressed gratitude for BNU's warm hospitality. He provided a brief overview of Saint-Gobain's global operations, development plans, and the technological and resource advantages of its Shanghai R&D Center.



Melcher praised the successful collaboration between the two institutions in the field of user experience and expressed enthusiasm for broadening exchanges with additional academic disciplines at BNU.

Representatives from BNU's Scientific Research Office and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation also attended the meeting. Both sides exchanged views on potential areas for industry-academia-research collaboration.

Following the meeting, the delegation visited the School of Chemistry, where Dean Mao Lanqun and professors from related disciplines held discussions with the guests, reaching preliminary agreements on future collaborations. The delegation then toured the BNU China-U.S. Young Maker Exchange Center and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Education Center of the Faculty of Psychology, where they engaged in discussions and experimental testing related to ongoing cooperative projects.

About Saint-Gobain Group Founded in 1665, Saint-Gobain operates in 67 countries with 160,000 employees and eight R&D centers worldwide. Ranked 263rd on the Fortune Global 500 list in 2023, the group has been recognized as one of the top 100 global innovative enterprises for ten consecutive years. Saint-Gobain specializes in designing, producing, and marketing high-performance materials and providing related services.

National Day Education Delegation from Hong Kong and Macau Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan Affairs | Release date: 2024-10-09

On the morning of September 27, representatives from the higher education sector of the National Day Education Delegation from Hong Kong and Macau visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Chen Xing warmly welcomed the delegation.

In his address, Chen Xing extended a heartfelt welcome to the delegation and

their shared history, envision future collaborations, and deepen partnerships. Looking forward, Chen expressed BNU's readiness to join hands with Hong Kong and Macau's education communities to build professional platforms for educational exchange, promote coordinated development of higher education, and contribute to the broader goal of making China a global leader in education.

young people with strong patriotic values, thus injecting vitality into the successful practice of "One Country, Two Systems".

Yip Sau-mei, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Hong Kong Education Bureau, thanked BNU for its steadfast support of Hong Kong's educational development. She expressed a desire to strengthen collaboration further, particularly in advancing patriotic



shared recent developments at BNU, highlighting the university's collaborations and exchanges with Hong Kong and Macau. He emphasized BNU's commitment to fostering educational partnerships with Hong Kong and Macau, leveraging its "One Core, Two Wings" strategic advantage to develop meaningful cooperative initiatives. Chen noted that the delegation's visit, coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, was a valuable opportunity for the education sectors in both regions to reflect on

Gong Zhiming, Director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau of Macau, expressed gratitude for BNU's warm reception. He highlighted the fruitful results achieved through deepening educational collaboration between Beijing and Macau in recent years. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Macau's return to China, he expressed hope for a new phase of cooperation, with expanded channels for educational exchange between Macau and the mainland. He emphasized the need to create more opportunities and platforms for youth and teachers in both regions, nurturing a new generation of

education for Hong Kong's youth, organizing flagship educational exchange programs between Beijing and Hong Kong, and fostering closer cooperation in talent cultivation, teacher training, and educational research. These efforts aim to contribute to the sustained growth



of the education sectors in both regions and the stable implementation of "One Country, Two Systems".

Following the meeting, the delegation attended a lecture titled "Building a Strong Nation: The Role of Education" delivered by Professor Song Huan, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Education at BNU.

During the visit, the delegation toured the BNU Library and



University History Museum.

The National Day Education Delegation from Hong Kong and Macau, invited annually by the Ministry of Education, visits the mainland ahead of National Day to deepen educational exchange and cooperation. The 2024 delegation included approximately 210 members, comprising education officials from the Hong Kong and Macau SAR governments, principals of primary and secondary schools, outstanding teachers, and representatives of educational organizations.

Malaysian Education Delegation Visits Beijing Normal University

Article Source: School of Chinese Language and Culture | Release date: 2024-09-24

On the afternoon of September 20, a Malaysian education delegation led by Ahmad Sabri Bin Mohamad, Deputy Director of the Education Department of Rawang, visited the School of Chinese Language and Culture at Beijing Normal University (BNU). The delegation included over 20 members, including project officers from the Rawang Education



Department and principals of primary and secondary schools. Vice Deans Wang Zhenzhu and Yang Quan, along with faculty representatives Bu Yanxin and Guan Zixu, engaged in discussions with the delegation.

Wang Zhenzhu warmly welcomed the delegation and provided an in-depth introduction to the school's illustrious history, distinguished faculty, diverse academic programs, significant research achievements, and its unique international talent cultivation model. She highlighted the school's outstanding contributions to the advancement of international Chinese language education in recent years and its strategic vision for future development, which was met with high praise from the delegation members.

Ahmad Sabri expressed gratitude for the warm reception and admiration for the school's achievements. He reflected



on the long-standing educational collaboration between China and Malaysia, emphasizing the growing importance of Mandarin as a bridge for international communication. He noted that as Mandarin gains prominence in Malaysia, the prospects for educational cooperation between the two countries are increasingly promising. Ahmad Sabri also acknowledged the school's role in training a significant number of exceptional Chinese language teachers worldwide and expressed hope

for deepening cooperation in areas such as talent cultivation, teacher training, and language education.

The two sides engaged in lively and in-depth discussions on topics such as the development of international Chinese talent training systems and enhancing the capabilities of local Chinese language teachers in Malaysia. Several cooperation



initiatives were agreed upon during the meeting, with plans for further negotiation and implementation.

Following the meeting, delegation members toured the BNU campus, accompanied by faculty and student representatives from the school. They gained firsthand experience of BNU's rich cultural heritage and unique campus atmosphere. The delegates expressed that the visit not only deepened their understanding of Chinese higher education and international



Chinese language education but also strengthened their confidence and determination to collaborate with BNU for a shared future. The School of Chinese Language and Culture at Beijing Normal University remains committed to the principles of openness, inclusivity, and mutually beneficial collaboration. It will continue to work with educational institutions worldwide to promote the thriving development of international Chinese language education.

BNU Students and Faculty Achieve Second Place Overall at the 24th International Intercollegiate Environmental Public Speaking Competition

Article Source: Zhuhai Campus | Release date: 2024-12-10

On November 27, the 24th International Intercollegiate Environmental Public Speaking Competition, organized by the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), was held in Dubai, UAE. The Beijing Normal University (BNU) delegation, comprising students and faculty from the Academy of Future Design and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, performed exceptionally well, securing second place overall.

The BNU delegation included undergraduate students Zhang Yuhan, Xiong Xinran, and Li Yanhui from the Academy of Future Design's Art and Design program, as well as Liu Yuanbo and Chen Ziling, undergraduate students from the Geography Department of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Faculty advisors Wang Xituo and Zhou Tiange from the Academy of Future Design and Jiang Lu and Lu Haibo from the Geography Department provided guidance. As the first team from mainland China to participate in this competition, the delegation not only demonstrated the innovative thinking and sense of responsibility of Chinese youth in the global environmental arena but also fostered meaningful exchanges on sustainable development between Chinese and international students.

The Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) is the world's first non-governmental organization in the environmental protection field to achieve ISO14001 certification and the only UAE-based NGO recognized by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and UNEP. As a member of



Award Ceremony Highlights

the UN Global Compact and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, EEG is a key global advocate for sustainable development. This year's competition focused on the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with themes such as "Harmonious Communities: Leading a Climate-Conscious Society". Over 90 universities worldwide participated, presenting innovative and interdisciplinary perspectives on sustainable development, creating a vibrant intellectual exchange.

The BNU team excelled from the moment they received the competition topics, efficiently completing the entire process from proposal design and desktop research to field investigation, data analysis, and visualization. Leveraging their interdisciplinary expertise, team members adopted a theatrical presentation format to analyze key issues in sustainable development, using the energy consumption transition in Guangzhou's urban villages as a case study. This showcased the deep insights and practical achievements of Chinese youth in the field.



Competition Highlights

At the competition, the BNU delegation presented a service design-based innovative solution centered on the energy transition of urban villages in Guangzhou. Their proposal, grounded in China's unique context, adhered to sustainable development principles while reflecting China's distinctive contributions to global climate action and energy transformation. The team's outstanding performance garnered high praise from judges and the audience. After the event, the delegation actively engaged with youth representatives worldwide, sharing experiences and exploring future sustainable development pathways, further enhancing international cultural exchange and intellectual collaboration.

During their visit, the BNU delegation also toured local



BNU Delegation Exchanges with Faculty from NYU Abu Dhabi

green energy projects, such as the "Solar Park", and iconic cultural landmarks like the Museum of the Future in Dubai. They held in-depth discussions with faculty and students from New York University Abu Dhabi, further strengthening cross-cultural academic interactions.

The Academy of Future Design and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at BNU have consistently upheld an international education philosophy, fostering interdisciplinary integration. The outstanding results in this competition highlight the significant strengths of both institutions in innovation and practical applications. Looking ahead, faculty and students from both academies aim to continue excelling, showcasing the potential of Chinese youth in driving global sustainable development.

International Competition! Two BNU Teams Strike Gold Again!

Article source: BNU Wechat | Release date: 2024-11-13

Recently, the 2024 International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition (iGEM) concluded, with Beijing Normal University's BNU-China team from the Beijing campus and BNUZH-China team from the Zhuhai campus winning gold medals once again. Both teams also received multiple nominations for special awards.

GOLD		
BNU-China	BNU-China	BNUZH-China
BostonU	BUCT	BUCT-China
BWYA	Cambridge	CAU-China
CCU-Taiwan	City-of-London-UK	CityU-HongKong
CUHK-SU-China	CHPEM-BRAZIL	Cornell
CUO-China	DTU-Denmark	DUESSELDORF

The iGEM competition is the premier international synthetic biology contest for university students. It serves as a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration across fields such as mathematics, computer science, and statistics. iGEM teams integrate standard biological modules to design gene circuits, develop robust

mathematical models, and predict or manipulate sophisticated artificial biological systems to tackle competition challenges. The results of the participants' work are ultimately submitted to the competition's organizing committee at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to be shared with scientists

BNU-China Team

In 2023, the BNU-China team achieved historic results by winning a gold medal, the Best Part Award, and a nomination for the Best Project TOP5, establishing itself as one of the top representatives among Chinese universities.

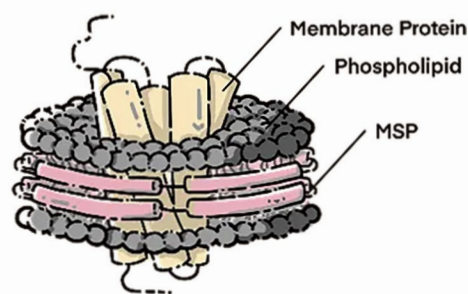
This year, the team continued its stellar performance, securing another gold medal, marking the seventh gold in its competition history. The BNU-China team focused on groundbreaking research in the field of nanotechnology, particularly on the design and modification of nanodiscs. Their work explored new functionalities of nanodiscs in areas such as virus encapsulation, drug delivery, and public health applications. This provides innovative solutions for tackling emerging infectious diseases, monitoring rapid viral mutations, and addressing drug resistance.



RNA delivery, and bioimaging.

The BNU-China team developed and optimized the "NanoDisguiser" platform to enhance the multifunctionality of nanodiscs and investigate their antiviral potential. Experimental results demonstrated that embedding specific receptors into nanodiscs allowed for the effective targeting of viral particles. By customizing the size and receptor arrangement on the nanodiscs, the team tailored them to accommodate different viral dimensions and added multivalent receptors or bispecific antibodies to enhance their functionality.

The project expanded the design capabilities of nanodiscs by introducing a modular, alternating protein linkage system for membrane scaffold proteins, rather than merely extending amino acid chains. This enabled the construction of larger nanodiscs. The team validated the effectiveness of their connector system using split-mCherry technology, achieving precise assembly of membrane proteins within nanodiscs. They overcame technical challenges in protein purification, offering advantages such as controllability, visualization,



Nanodiscs are tiny structures composed of lipid bilayers, membrane proteins, and membrane scaffold proteins (MSPs), offering significant advantages in membrane protein studies and targeted delivery. Compared to other nanoparticles, nanodiscs are uniquely flexible in design and exhibit excellent compatibility with membrane proteins. This makes them highly promising in fields like small-molecule drug delivery,



and high yields. This also allowed for real-time monitoring of membrane protein assembly, providing strong technical support for further nanodisc design and applications.

These innovations not only demonstrated the potential of nanodiscs in antiviral applications but also offered future iGEM teams a versatile nanoplatform for various uses. The 2024 BNU-China team consisted of 30 members from five



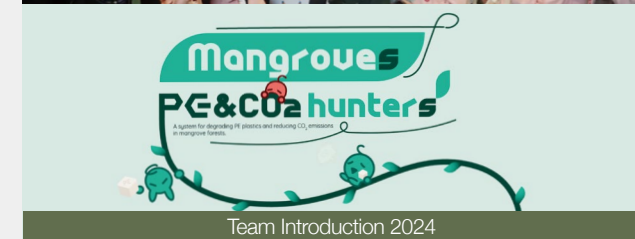
disciplines, including students from the School of Life Sciences, School of Artificial Intelligence, School of Mathematical Sciences, and School of Statistics. Over nearly a year, under the guidance of faculty advisors Zhu Xudong, Yang Dong, Hao Xiaoran, Dong Lu, Yin Peipei, and Tong Li, the team completed the design, experimentation, analysis, and modeling phases, culminating in an innovative and impactful project that provided invaluable learning experiences and personal growth.

BNUZH-China Team

The BNUZH-China team achieved its best results since its establishment four years ago. For the first time, they ranked among the top 10 global undergraduate projects and won the Best Bioremediation Project award. Additionally, they earned nominations in four special categories: Best Integrated Human Practices, Best Model, and Best Wiki. The team also secured a gold medal for the fourth consecutive year, marking a new milestone for Beijing Normal University's Zhuhai campus in international synthetic biology competitions.

The global issue of microplastic pollution has become a significant challenge for marine and coastal ecosystems. Studies show that mangroves not only effectively block plastic debris but also gradually accumulate it in soil and sediment. As a result, microplastic concentrations in mangrove soils are significantly higher than in other coastal areas or marine sediments. Among these, polyethylene (PE) microplastics are the most difficult to degrade and the most abundant in certain regions.

To address this issue, the BNUZH-China team proposed



the "Mangroves PE&CO2 Hunters" project, which employs two types of engineered bacteria to tackle this environmental challenge. The first is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, genetically modified to more efficiently degrade PE microplastics. The second is *Rhodospseudomonas palustris*, designed to fix the carbon dioxide generated

during the plastic degradation process.

In developing the project, the team's modeling group integrated techniques such as mathematical modeling, machine learning, biokinetic simulations, neural networks, large language models (LLM), and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) to complement the wet lab experiments effectively.

Additionally, the Human Practices (HP) group created the iHP tRi-Cycle initiative, engaging in long-term interviews



Team Photo from the Paris In-Person Presentation

with over 24 experts to explore the experimental design and broader impact of the project. This helped the team refine their approach to better address real-world needs and improve project outcomes.

The 2024 BNUZH-China team from Beijing Normal

University's Zhuhai campus consists of 23 members from diverse fields such as biological sciences, psychology, data science and big data technology, and artificial intelligence. They were guided by six experienced instructors and supported by five outstanding advisors.

This year, under the leadership of Professors Zhang Genfa and Shen Hongyu, team members Zheng Wendan, Li Zixi, Liao Junjie, Wu Yuning, Jiang Siyan, Cao Haobo, Wu Yuxuan, and Guo Yipeng traveled to the 2024 iGEM



Team Group Photo

Grand Jamboree at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, where they participated in in-person presentations and discussions. Other team members and faculty participated in the online sessions from campus. During the competition, the students demonstrated solid academic expertise and exceptional innovation, ultimately achieving remarkable results.

BNU International Student Wins Award at the 2024 "Charm of Chinese Characters" International Storytelling Competition

Article source: School of Chinese Language and Culture | Release date: 2024-09-25

The finals of the 2024 "Charm of Chinese Characters" International Storytelling Competition, hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with

Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), organized by the Chengdu People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and co-organized by the Sichuan People's Association for

Friendship with Foreign Countries and Chengdu University, kicked off on September 10 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Eleven contestants from the United States, Congo, Egypt, France, South Africa, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, Sweden, Togo, Vietnam, and South Korea gathered to deliver Chinese-language speeches on the theme of "信" (literally meaning correspondence or letter, and figuratively trust or faith). Contestants shared their reflections on Chinese culture and their personal connections with Chinese characters.

Nguyen Huyen Anh, an international student at Beijing Normal University's School of Chinese Language and Culture, advanced to the national finals after excelling in the Beijing regional competition. Her speech, titled "I Aspire to Be an Ambassador of Trust Between China and Vietnam", explored the meaning of "信" and earned her third place. She remarked, "This competition has been incredibly rewarding. It not only helped me improve my skills but also allowed me to connect with contestants from around the world and hear their unique perspectives on Chinese culture".



Nguyen Huyen Anh in the Q&A Session at the Competition

Reflecting on her favorite part of the event, Nguyen shared, "After the competition, we had the pleasure of embarking on a memorable tour of Chengdu. I am deeply grateful to the 2024 'Charm of Chinese Characters' event for offering us this precious opportunity to leave our footprints in the 'Land of Abundance' and gain a deeper appreciation of China's rivers, mountains, and cultural heritage".



Third Place Award Ceremony (Nguyen Huyen Anh, second from left)



Group Photo of Nguyen Huyen Anh (back row, far right) with Other Contestants

A passionate traveler and admirer of Chinese culture, Nguyen expressed her eagerness to explore more of the Bashu region. "I am particularly fascinated by the Dujiangyan Irrigation System. I deeply respect the wisdom of ancient Chinese engineers and appreciate the efforts of the Chinese government and people in preserving cultural heritage. I also learned that the Chenghan pottery figurines vividly reflect the lives of Bashu people, and even thousands of years ago, Sichuan was among the happiest regions in China. I believe the relaxed and joyful spirit of Sichuan people originates from this rich history".



Nguyen Huyen Anh at Dujiangyan (front row, third from left)

The "Charm of Chinese Characters" International Storytelling Competition, initiated by the CPAFFC, has been held annually since 2021. Over four editions, nearly 10,000 international Chinese learners from more than 80 countries have participated, contributing to the shared narrative of mutual understanding, trust, and cultural exchange.

"Experiencing China, Exploring the Greater Bay Area": Beijing Campus International Students Embark on Study Tour to Zhuhai

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-11-15

From October 24 to 27, 32 international students from Beijing Normal University (BNU) participated in the "Experiencing China" educational study tour in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province.

"One Core, Two Wings" – Coordinated Development Across Campuses

The Zhuhai campus, an integral part of BNU's "One Core, Two Wings" strategic framework, plays a vital role in the university's "Double First-Class" initiative. Serving as the base for the study tour, the Zhuhai campus offered participants a firsthand experience of its "high standards, innovative mechanisms, and internationalization". Students toured the campus facilities and environment, gaining an appreciation for its unique features.

At Phoenix School, faculty member Yang Ruixi introduced the school's distinctive programs, including degree education, summer classes, short-term courses, and the Phoenix Language Village.

Zambian student Reagan Kapilya, a former master's graduate

from the Zhuhai campus and current PhD candidate at the Beijing campus, shared his personal experiences of studying and living at both campuses. Reagan emphasized his role as a bridge fostering connections between international students from both campuses, reflecting on the meaningful bonds he has built.



Reagan Sharing His Experiences at Both Campuses

During the tour, students participated in a traditional Chinese embroidery workshop held at Phoenix Space, coinciding with the event. International students from both campuses collaborated in this hands-on cultural activity, threading needles and sharing stories of their academic and social lives, creating a vibrant cultural exchange.



Students from Both Campuses Experiencing the Art of Traditional Chinese Embroidery



Phoenix School Faculty Yang Ruixi Introducing Academic Features

Advantage-Driven Leadership for Collaborative Development

According to the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Greater Bay Area is envisioned as a vibrant world-class city cluster, an international center for technological innovation, a key support for the Belt and Road Initiative, and a demonstration zone for in-depth cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong-Macao. It also aims to become a high-quality living circle characterized by livability, business-friendly policies, and tourism, setting an example of high-quality development.

At the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone Exhibition Hall, students gained insights into the zone's achievements and development plans. Through perspectives on urban construction, industrial growth, employment, business environment, and governance mechanisms, they learned about Zhuhai's role as a strategic hub in the Greater Bay Area's new development framework.



Visit to Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone

At the Port Bay One Innovation Center in Zhuhai High-Tech Zone, students experienced Zhuhai's technological and manufacturing prowess. With its prime geographic location, thriving industries, and comprehensive talent policies, the high-tech zone showcased the city's dynamic spirit of innovation.



Visit to Port Bay One, Zhuhai High-Tech Zone

Technological Innovation, Livability and Prosperity

Zhuhai boasts a diverse industrial base and is currently focused on four leading industries—information technology, new energy, integrated circuits, and biomedicine and health—alongside three competitive sectors: smart home, equipment manufacturing, and fine chemicals. Together, these form the "4+3" industrial cluster, laying a solid foundation for Zhuhai's "industry-first" strategy.



Visit to Gree Electric Appliances



Visit to Kingsoft Corporation



Visit to By-Health Co., Ltd.

During the study tour, students visited leading enterprises in biomedicine, smart home technology, and cloud computing. These visits offered an up-close look at standardized and advanced factory operations and how technology transforms human lives.

Preserving the Past, Embracing the Future

The Zhuhai Museum vividly portrayed the city's historical journey from ancient times to the present, unveiling a narrative of perseverance and progress spanning thousands of years.



Visit to Zhuhai Museum

Near the Zhuhai campus lies Huitong Ancient Village, steeped in history and the legendary stories of the Mo family. As students wandered through its tranquil alleys, they discovered traces of traditional life and visionary entrepreneurial practices that reflect the industriousness and wisdom of Zhuhai's people.

The Zhuhai Grand Theater, an iconic cultural landmark, symbolizes the city's modern development. Its shell-like design harmonizes with the rhythmic waves of the sea, exemplifying a beautiful integration of urban growth and environmental preservation.



Visit to Zhuhai Grand Theater Plaza

Reflections

At the conclusion of the study tour, Tajikistani student Husein Huseinov wrote with enthusiasm: "This experience not only allowed me to explore China's traditional culture and modern technology but also helped me build friendships with peers from around the world, broadening my horizons. I was deeply captivated by Zhuhai—a city that preserves its historical legacy while embracing future potential."

Argentinian student Florencia Liu summarized her thoughts: "This study tour to Zhuhai filled me with anticipation for the city's future. It deepened my understanding of the importance of innovation and development. Zhuhai's achievements in technological innovation, industrial planning, healthcare, ecological conservation, and cultural preservation left a profound impression on me. Here, I witnessed a city's commitment to its future and its dedication to enhancing the quality of life for its people."

During the study tour, students visited the Zhuhai campus and engaged with faculty and peers, strengthening ties between the Beijing and Zhuhai campuses. By exploring Zhuhai's strategic goals, developmental achievements, and planning within the Greater Bay Area framework, as well as visiting pioneering enterprises and historical sites, the participants gained a deeper understanding of contemporary China. The experience inspired them to become storytellers of the Greater Bay Area and China's development journey.



Visit to Zhuhai Grand Theater Plaza



China-France University Students Engage in Football and Cultural Exchange at BNU

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-11-14



On October 30, Beijing Normal University (BNU) hosted the China-France University Students Football and Cultural Exchange, an event guided by the Ministry of Education's China Center for People-to-People Exchange and organized by BNU's School of Physical Education and Sports and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

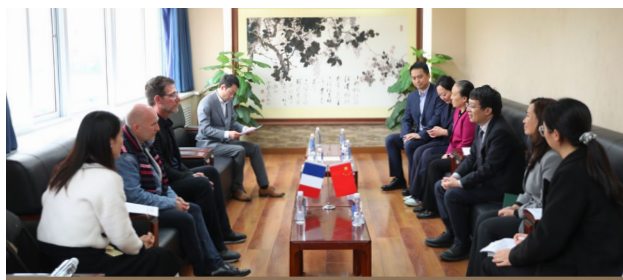
A delegation of faculty and students from the University of Montpellier visited BNU for the event, including a friendly match with BNU's women's football team. Attending the event were Xia Juan, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Education's China Center for People-to-People Exchange, Chen Xing, Vice President of BNU, and other representatives from BNU's organizing departments.



Chen Xing extended a warm welcome to the visitors and expressed gratitude to all participants. He noted that 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, emphasizing the importance of using football as a bridge to strengthen ties between Chinese and French youth. He encouraged both sides to

contribute to mutual cultural exchange and the shared vision of a community with a shared future for humanity.

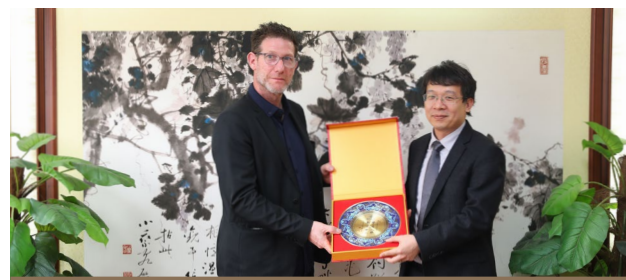
Before the match, students from BNU's School of Physical Education and Sports delivered a vibrant performance celebrating traditional Chinese culture. The dragon and lion



dance was energetic and dynamic, brimming with cultural charm. The Tai Chi fan performance seamlessly blended strength and grace, while martial arts demonstrations showcased agility and vigor. Together, these performances offered a visually stunning experience that captivated the audience.

On the pitch, the China-France student teams competed with enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The match featured dynamic play, with both sides engaging in a lively exchange of offense and defense.

In the 20th minute of the first half, BNU's women's football team executed a skillful left-side corner attack. Player #2, Wang Yirui, delivered a precise corner kick to the center, where player #17 redirected the ball to player #21, Zhou Xinyu, who scored with a header, giving BNU a 1-0 lead.



The crowd erupted in cheers and applause, creating a thrilling atmosphere. The second half saw intense competition, with both teams earning several corner and free kicks, but neither was able to break the stalemate. The match concluded with a final score of 1-0 in favor of BNU.

After the match, players from both teams engaged in friendly exchanges, capturing the spirit of international camaraderie by taking group photos and swapping jerseys.

About the University of Montpellier Founded in 1289, the University of Montpellier is one of the world's oldest universities and a member of France's

prestigious "Excellence Initiative". With over 50,000 students and 17 affiliated schools and research institutions, it has an illustrious reputation in sports. Its football teams have earned championships and runner-up titles in France's university league and claimed 11 championships in European university football tournaments.

About the BNU Women's Football Team Established in 1987, the BNU women's football team has cultivated over 200 outstanding players and holds an unparalleled record of achievements. The team has won the Capital University Women's Football League championship for 37 consecutive years, 17 national championships, and two world titles, including victories at the World University Games, the Chinese Football Association Women's League Division Two, the National University Games, the National Collegiate Women's Football Championship, and the Youth Campus Football Women's Super Cup, achieving a Grand Slam in collegiate women's football competitions.

This event not only fostered closer connections between the youth of China and France but also deepened the friendship between the two nations. It played a meaningful role in promoting people-to-people bonds and advancing mutual cultural exchange and understanding between Chinese and French civilizations.



Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Universities Basketball Friendship Tournament Held at BNU Zhuhai Campus

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | Release date: 2024-10-09

From October 5 to 6, young students from eight universities in Guangdong Province and eight universities from Hong Kong and Macao gathered at the Beijing Normal University (BNU) Zhuhai Campus for the "Unified Dream Cup" Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao University Basketball Friendship Tournament. The event, designed to resonate with youth through their favorite activities, was a tribute to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the 27th anniversary of Hong Kong's return, and the 25th anniversary of Macao's return.

At the opening ceremony, Wei Wei,



Chinese women's basketball players Shao Ting, Zhang Jingyi, and Liu Yutong presented autographed commemorative basketballs to the participating teams.

During the tournament, university students from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao gave their all on the court,

of the Chinese University Women's Basketball Team (gold medalists at the 2023 Chengdu World University Games), and team members Zhang Jingyi and Liu Yutong, actively interacted with the student athletes. In the "The National Flag and Dreams on the Court" talk, Li Sunnan, Zhang Jingyi, and Liu Yutong



Deputy Party Secretary of BNU and Party Secretary of the Zhuhai Campus, delivered an inspiring speech. She encouraged all participants to embody the spirit of unity, perseverance, mutual learning, and excellence, showcasing the vibrant energy of university students and highlighting the shared aspirations of youth from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao.

creating countless thrilling moments and unforgettable memories as they celebrated youth and sportsmanship.

Alongside the matches, a series of themed and exciting activities enriched the event. Chinese women's basketball stars, including former national team captain Shao Ting, coach Li Sunnan

shared inspiring stories of their victories and dedication to representing their country. They encouraged students to embrace their youthful mission, pursue their dreams with courage, and contribute to China's modernization and the realization of the country's second centennial goal. Shao Ting, Zhang Jingyi, and Liu Yutong also conducted a



basketball masterclass, offering students hands-on instruction in fundamental techniques and tactical strategies. The multiple-time champions of the China University Basketball Association (CUBA) women's basketball league, the BNU women's basketball team, participated in exhibition matches with athletes from other universities. These matches further deepened the connections and friendships between mainland students and youth from Hong Kong and Macao, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect.

After intense competition, the "Unified Dream Cup" Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Universities Basketball Friendship Tournament successfully concluded, with basketball teams from

participating universities showcasing their skills, earning achievements, and building friendships on the court.

The South China Normal University Men's Basketball Team and the Shenzhen University Women's Basketball Team won the championships in the men's and women's categories.

The Beijing Normal University Men's Basketball Team and the City University of Hong Kong Women's Basketball Team secured the runners-up positions in the men's and women's categories.

The South China University of Technology Men's Basketball Team, Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai Campus Men's Basketball Team, Hong Kong Baptist University Women's

Basketball Team, and University of Macau Women's Basketball Team claimed third place in the men's and women's categories.

The Harbin Institute of Technology (Shenzhen) Men's Basketball Team, Jinan University Zhuhai Campus Men's Basketball Team, Chinese University of Hong Kong Men's Basketball Team, University of Hong Kong Men's Basketball Team, Sun Yat-sen University Women's Basketball Team, Macau University of Science and Technology Women's Basketball Team, Macao Polytechnic University Women's Basketball Team, and City University of Macau Women's Basketball Team received the merit awards in the men's and women's categories.





More than 220 students and faculty members from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao participated in the tournament, demonstrating teamwork, mutual learning, and camaraderie while celebrating the prosperity of the motherland and the steady advancement of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. Participants expressed that the event was not just an athletic competition but also a meaningful connection of hearts and minds. Student representative Wu Tingxin from City University of Hong Kong reflected: "The tournament's theme, 'Unified Dream,' resonates deeply with the aspirations of youth from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao. It fostered a spirit of perseverance and teamwork while offering a unique way for us to honor our nation through competition and collaboration on the court."

The tournament was guided by the Education and Technology Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR, the Education and Youth Affairs Department of the Liaison Office in the Macao SAR, and the Guangdong Provincial Department of Education. It was hosted by Beijing Normal University and co-organized by the Zhuhai Municipal Education Bureau and the Zhuhai Youth League Committee. Participating universities included Beijing Normal University, Sun Yat-sen University, South China University of Technology, South



China Normal University, Shenzhen University, Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai Campus, Harbin Institute of Technology Shenzhen Campus, Jinan University Zhuhai Campus, as well as the University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, University of Macau, City University of Macau, Macau University of Science and Technology, and Macao Polytechnic University.

The opening ceremony on the morning of October 5 and the closing ceremony on the afternoon of October 6 were attended by Xi Enmin, Secretary of the Zhuhai Municipal Education Working Committee and Director of the Zhuhai Education Bureau; Hou Wentao, Secretary of the Zhuhai Youth League Committee; Li Chenfang, Deputy Director of the Zhuhai Education Bureau; and Kong Junliang, Deputy Secretary of the Zhuhai Youth League Committee. From BNU, attendees included Wei Wei, Deputy Party Secretary of BNU and Party Secretary of the Zhuhai Campus, and Han Jian, Deputy Party Secretary of the Zhuhai Campus. Special guests included Chinese women's basketball players Shao Ting, Zhang Jingyi, and Liu Yutong, along with more than 220 students and faculty members from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao universities.



Documentary A New Era, A New Journey Marks 50 Years of China-Brazil Diplomatic Ties: Professor Fu Yongshuo of Beijing Normal University Discusses Joint Efforts on Climate Change

Article source: Institute of Water Sciences | Release date: 2024-11-21

As China and Brazil celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, the China Global Television Network (CGTN) under China Media Group premiered the documentary A New Era, A New Journey. Through the compelling stories of professionals in fields such as aerospace research, ecology, power engineering, and dance instruction, the documentary highlights the touching journey of joint development between the two nations, paying tribute to the history of friendship between their peoples and envisioning new prospects for China-Brazil relations in the new era.

Professor Fu Yongshuo, an expert in global change ecology from the Institute of Water Sciences at Beijing Normal University, has been at the forefront of collaborative research between China and Brazil. His work, conducted under the China-Brazil international cooperation program funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, focuses on the impact of tropical and subtropical vegetation phenology



changes on biodiversity. Collaborating with Patricia Morellato's team at São Paulo State University, the research aims to understand and preserve biodiversity mechanisms in the face of phenological shifts, thus advancing biodiversity protection in tropical and subtropical regions of both nations.

The 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), emphasize the need to "actively address climate change, protect terrestrial ecosystems, and halt biodiversity

loss". Research into the response of tropical and subtropical vegetation phenology to climate change and its effects on biodiversity has become a core frontier in global change studies. It also serves as a critical scientific foundation for tackling climate change and safeguarding biodiversity.

In the documentary A New Era, A New Journey, Professor Fu Yongshuo traveled to São Paulo, Brazil, to collaborate with the research team led by Patricia Morellato at São Paulo State University. Together, they visited the Caatinga forest, a representative tropical dry forest in Brazil, to investigate how tropical and subtropical vegetation phenology responds to extreme climate conditions. Their discussions highlighted the critical significance of these responses to understanding climate change. The seminar emphasized that "collaboration is paramount in solving scientific challenges". The Chinese team showcased their strengths in studying vegetation phenology under climate change, vegetation ecological remote sensing, and LPJ-GUESS



China-Brazil Project Seminar

model development. Meanwhile, the Brazilian team demonstrated their solid foundation in tropical plant phenology and biodiversity conservation, with robust experimental conditions for tropical seasonal rainforests and extensive indoor and outdoor research facilities. Their collaboration promises to leverage complementary expertise to explore cutting-edge international topics such as phenological mechanisms of tropical seasonal rainforests under climate change and their ecohydrological effects. This joint effort aims to provide reliable data and theoretical support for understanding rainforest response mechanisms to climate change, as well as for ecological engineering projects like tropical forest vegetation restoration.

Since establishing diplomatic ties in 1974, China and Brazil have continuously deepened their bilateral relationship. In the field of ecological preservation, the two nations have joined hands to address the challenges of global climate change, striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The documentary *A New Era, A New Journey* serves not only as a tribute to 50 years of China-

Brazil friendship but also as a showcase of the remarkable achievements in ecological collaboration. It inspires both nations to continue advancing global environmental governance and sustainable development in the new era. Audiences can watch the documentary on CGTN's Spanish-language channel (CGTN-Español) and related online platforms to witness the highlights of China-Brazil cooperation and the



Petrolina Ecological Station Field Study

shared commitment of scientists from both countries to a sustainable future.

About Professor Fu Yongshuo Professor Fu Yongshuo is the Party Secretary of the Institute of Water Sciences at Beijing Normal University, a specially appointed Jing Shi Professor, recipient

of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, and a Marie Curie Fellow of the European Union. He also serves as a visiting professor at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. His primary research interests include global change ecology, watershed ecohydrology and modeling, and climate change adaptation. In 2024, he was named a "Highly Cited Researcher" and listed among the world's top 2% of leading scientists. Professor Fu has published over 150 SCI papers in journals such as *Nature*, *Science*, *PNAS*, and *Nature Climate Change*. He currently serves as the director of the Innovative Talent Base for "Watershed Water Security and Integrated Management" and holds key positions in multiple academic committees, including: Executive Member, China Committee of the International Water Resources Association; Vice Chair, Hydrology and Geography Specialized

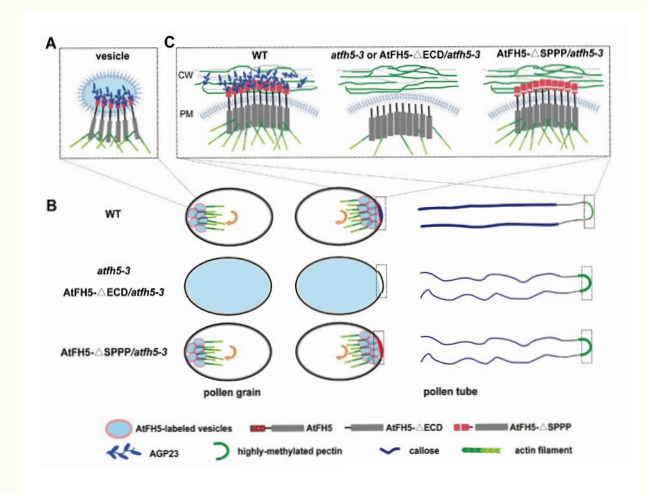
Committee, Chinese Geographical Society; Vice Chair, Ecohydrology Specialized Committee, Ecological Society of China; Member, Carbon Neutrality Committee, China Sustainable Development Research Association; Member, Working Committee, Chinese Hydrology Committee.

Professor Ren Haiyun's Team Unveils a Novel Mechanism of Cell Wall Component Sorting and Transport in Pollen Germination in PNAS

Article Source: School of Life Sciences | Release date: 2024-11-29

Professor Ren Haiyun's team from the School of Life Sciences has published groundbreaking research in *PNAS*, revealing the molecular mechanism by which the actin cytoskeleton system regulates the directional transport of cell wall components during pollen germination and pollen tube growth. Using a combination of live-cell imaging, super-resolution microscopy, genetics, and biochemical approaches, the team uncovered a new function of the actin-binding protein AtFH5. The study demonstrates that AtFH5 mediates the sorting and transport of the arabinogalactan protein AGP23 via its N-terminal domain. The paper, titled "AtFH5 recruits and transports the arabinogalactan protein AGP23 to maintain the tip growth of pollen tube", features PhD candidate Li Jiang as the first author, with Professor Ren Haiyun and Associate Professor Zhang Fanfan as corresponding authors.

The research team identified AGP23, an arabinogalactan protein, by screening proteins interacting with AtFH5. Biochemical analyses revealed that the EXT motif in the N-terminal extracellular domain of AtFH5 is critical for its interaction with AGP23. Genetic studies showed that *agp23* and *atfh5* mutants exhibit similar phenotypes, indicating a synergistic role in regulating pollen germination and pollen tube growth. Microscopic observations further revealed that AGP23 co-localizes with AtFH5, and the deletion of AtFH5's N-terminal extracellular domain



disrupts the dynamic localization of AGP23 and its proper deposition in the cell wall. Cytological and genetic evidence confirmed that AtFH5 and AGP23 jointly regulate the correct deposition of cell wall components, thereby maintaining the functional integrity of the pollen tube cell wall. This study advances our understanding of the functional mechanisms of plant Formin proteins and provides new insights into the sorting and transport mechanisms of cell wall components. These findings offer a significant contribution to the field of plant cell biology, particularly in understanding the mechanisms underlying pollen germination and tube growth.

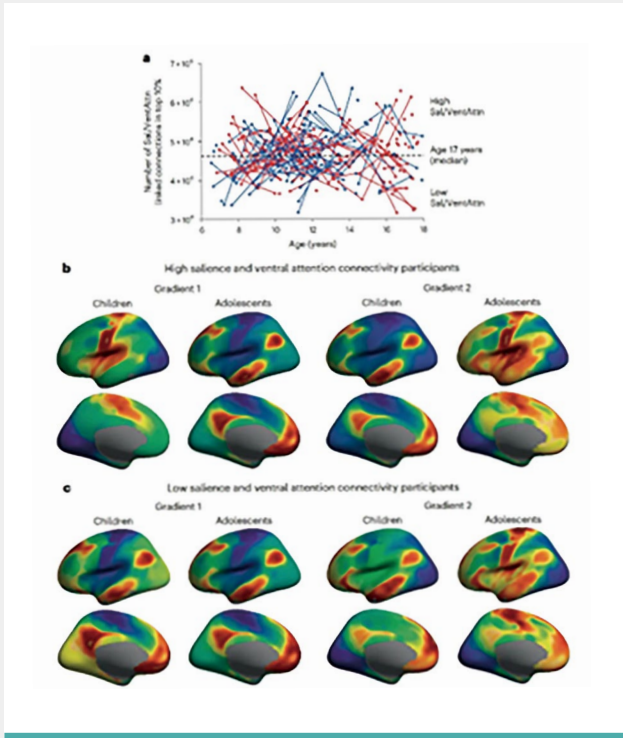
Paper Link: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2410607121>

Professor Zuo Xinian and International Team Publish in Nature Neuroscience: Mechanism of Cortical Attention Network Maturation in Brain and Cognitive Development of Children and Adolescents

Article Source: Faculty of Psychology | Release date: 2024-11-25

In the history of neuroscience, brain injury models have been pivotal for understanding human brain function. Clinical observations, such as identifying Broca's area through speech difficulties in patients with left inferior frontal gyrus damage, have significantly advanced our understanding of brain function localization. However, human brain injury studies are constrained by the unpredictability and irreproducibility of injury sites, leading to the adoption of animal models like hippocampal lesion experiments in rats, which have shed light on mechanisms of memory formation. The advent of non-invasive brain imaging techniques, such as functional MRI in the late 20th century, transformed the paradigm of brain function localization, extending it beyond clinical injury models to healthy populations. These studies revealed that many advanced human cognitive functions are not localized to single brain regions but operate through distributed network processing. Over the past two decades, developmental neuroimaging has delineated the rich developmental trajectories of brain networks in children and adolescents. However, the underlying mechanisms of brain network maturation and its causal links to cognitive development remain elusive.

Professor Zuo Xinian's team from the State Key Laboratory of Cognitive Neuroscience and Learning at Beijing Normal University, in collaboration with Yale University, Rutgers University, the National University of Singapore, and the French National Centre for Scientific Research, published a long-format research article in Nature Neuroscience. Based on the "Color



Nest Project: Growing Up in China" longitudinal cohort of school-aged children and adolescents, the study proposed a novel "virtual brain injury" paradigm, treating brain function development as a "lesion" condition to investigate the maturation of attention networks. The study revealed that as children transition through puberty into adolescence, the hierarchical reorganization of brain functions progresses "from foundational to integrative". This reorganization is primarily driven by the

pruning and optimization of functional connectivity within the ventral attention network (also known as the salience network). This process is closely linked to the maturation of cognitive abilities.

Human brain development is a complex system, interacting with the external environment across multiple scales, from genes and molecules to cells, large-scale functional networks, and behavior. Identifying the critical and sensitive time windows for brain development and understanding the supporting principles of underlying brain networks are fundamental to population neuroscience. These insights are essential for ensuring the brain health of children and adolescents. The international brain science team led by Professor Zuo Xinian previously contributed to developing the "Human Lifespan Brain Health Reference Charts". In this study, they discovered that children with streamlined ventral attention network connections exhibit an accelerated gradient of cognitive maturation. This finding was validated

using population-level big data from diverse socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds. The research elucidates the maturation mechanism of the cortical attention network and uses the temporal progression of brain development to explore the critical role of attention in cognitive development during childhood and adolescence. It provides a basis for understanding the interplay between individual differences in population neuroimaging patterns and the complex interactions within psychobehavioral biological systems, offering targets for advancing brain health and translating research into interventions for neurodevelopmental disorders.

This research was supported by the "Science and Technology Innovation 2030 – Brain Science and Brain-Inspired Research" major project (2021ZD0200500), the National Natural Science Foundation of China International Cooperation Project (81220108014), and the National Basic Discipline Public Science Data Center's "Interdisciplinary Population Imaging Database" (ID-BRAIN), as well as the Neuroinformatics Platform.

Chinese Research Team Successfully Constructs a Complex Sensory Nervous System In Vitro

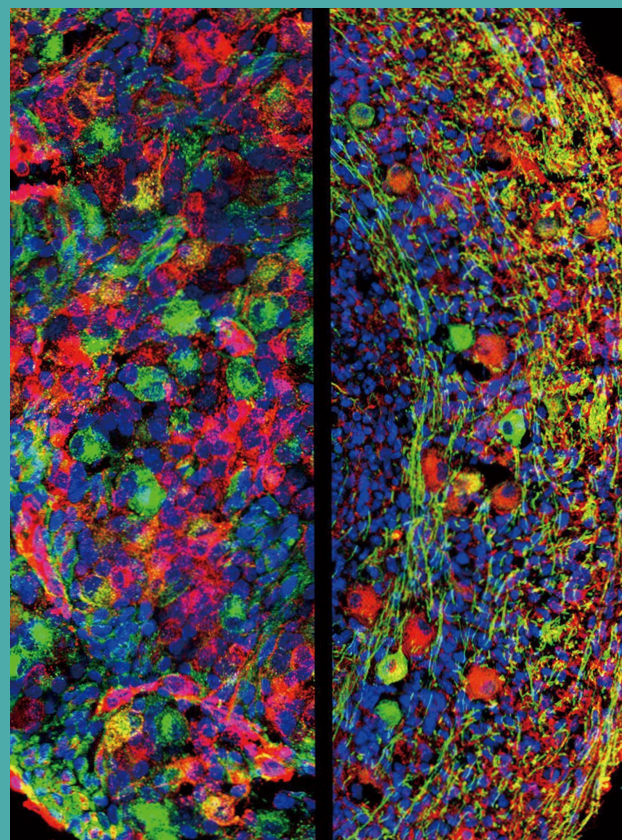
Article Source: Xinhua News Agency | Release date: 2024-11-16

Human sensory neurons enable the perception of external stimuli such as temperature, pain, touch, and pressure. Researchers from Beijing Normal University, the Guangdong Institute of Intelligent Science and Technology, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Biophysics have collaborated to uncover the

developmental mechanisms of sensory neurons. Based on these findings, they successfully constructed human dorsal root ganglion (DRG) organoids, which hold promise as a novel drug screening tool for conditions like chronic pain. The results were recently published in the international academic journal Cell.

The human dorsal root ganglion, located alongside the spinal column, comprises a complex system of diverse sensory neurons. When the skin is exposed to external stimuli, nerve endings generate electrical signals that are first transmitted to the DRG. There, various neurons integrate these sensory signals, which are then relayed to the spinal cord and brain, enabling perception. However, the developmental mechanisms of human sensory neurons have long remained a "black box", and researchers have been striving to uncover its mysteries.

Professor Wu Qian from the Faculty of Psychology at Beijing Normal University explained that the research team employed innovative techniques, including single-cell sequencing and spatial transcriptomics, to analyze gene expression across all cells at different stages of human sensory neuron development. They discovered that the generation and differentiation of distinct sensory neurons are jointly regulated by multi-level signaling pathways and transcription factors, ultimately elucidating the underlying developmental mechanisms. Academician Zhang Xu, Director of the Guangdong Institute of Intelligent Science and Technology, highlighted that the study clarified the diversity of human sensory neurons. By simulating their developmental processes, the team successfully constructed DRG organoids, replicating the growth and development of the complex human sensory nervous system in vitro. "With this organoid model, we can now test the efficacy of related drugs in vitro", said Professor Wang Xiaoqun, a New Cornerstone Investigator and team member. The team plans to continue their research to advance



A comparison of cellular composition between human dorsal root ganglia (left) and DRG organoids (right).

these findings from the laboratory to clinical applications, aiming to accelerate drug development for chronic pain and pruritus and drive innovation in medical technologies such as anesthesia and pain management.

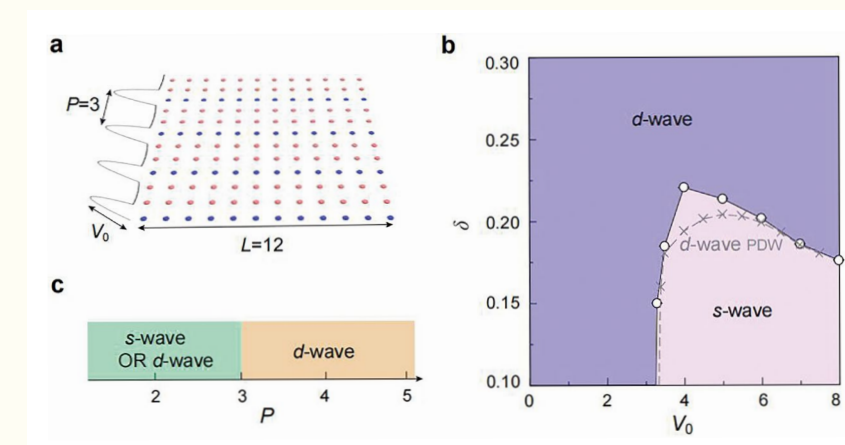
Paper Link: DOI:10.1016/j.cell.2024.10.023

Professors Ma Tianxing and Liang Ying's Team Unveils the Modulation of Superconducting Pairing Symmetry by Charge Stripe Periodicity

Article Source: School of Physics and Astronomy | Release date: 2024-11-5

The study of unconventional superconductivity remains one of the most challenging fields in condensed matter physics, as the complexity of strong electron correlations has significantly limited theoretical understanding. Numerical simulations of microscopic models are a primary tool to address these challenges, but the exponentially growing Hilbert space with system size poses substantial computational difficulties. Techniques such as Quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) and Density Matrix Renormalization Group (DMRG) each have strengths and weaknesses. Meanwhile, charge stripe orders with varying periodicities (P) and amplitudes (V_0) have been extensively observed across different types of unconventional superconductors. However, the relationship between charge stripe order and superconducting states has yet to be systematically understood.

Recently, Professors Ma Tianxing



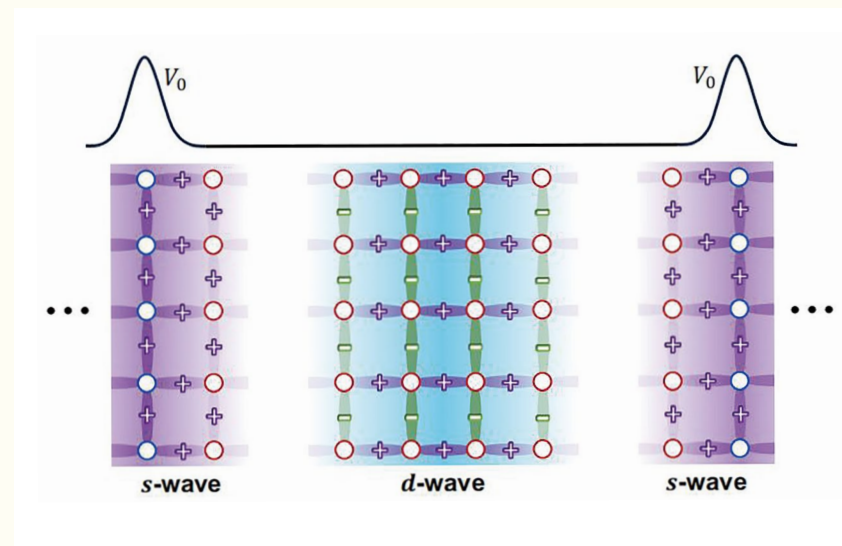
and Liang Ying from the School of Physics and Astronomy at Beijing Normal University, in collaboration with Professors Huang Bing and Hu Shijie from the Beijing Computational Science Research Center and Academician Lin Haiqing from Zhejiang University, conducted a comprehensive study combining Determinant Quantum Monte Carlo (DQMC), Constrained Path Quantum Monte Carlo (CPQMC), and DMRG methods. Their work systematically investigated the effects of charge

stripe modulation on the transition of superconducting pairing symmetry, revealing a critical distinction in dominant pairing symmetries determined by the charge stripe periodicity (P).

The study demonstrated that different charge stripe periodicities (P) in the inhomogeneous Hubbard model play a surprising role in determining the emergence of superconducting pairing symmetries. The researchers found that d-wave pairing dominates for $P \geq 4$,

while for $P \leq 3$, both extended s-wave and d-wave pairing can dominate (Fig. 1). Intriguingly, at $P = 3$, the interaction between hole doping concentration (δ) and charge stripe amplitude (V_0) induces a unique d-s wave transition. This phenomenon arises from domain walls induced by charge stripes, forming an unusual selection rule that produces s-wave pairing near stripe regions and d-wave pairing away from them, resulting in a critical transition period ($P = 3$, Fig. 2). Notably, during this transition, d-wave superconducting pairing transforms into a pair density wave that competes with s-wave superconductivity. Additionally, the system's magnetic correlations change alongside the d-s wave transition, revealing a complex interplay between charge stripe order, superconducting pairing, and magnetic correlations.

This work provides new insights into the mechanisms of superconducting pairing in systems influenced by charge stripe periodicity (P), emphasizing the decisive role of charge stripe phases. It offers a reference for distinguishing pairing symmetries across different types of unconventional



superconductors. The related paper, titled "Charge stripe periodicity modulates superconducting pairing symmetry", was published in *Nature Communications* 15, 9502 (2024). PhD graduate Chen Chao (graduated June 30, 2024; currently at the Naval University of Engineering) was the first author, with Professors Ma Tianxing, Huang Bing, and Hu Shijie as corresponding authors.

For years, the team led by Professors Ma Tianxing and Liang Ying has focused on developing computational methods in physics and exploring

novel properties of correlated electron systems. They have made significant advances in Quantum Monte Carlo methods and their applications, with results published in journals such as *Science Bulletin*, *Physical Review Letters*, and *Physical Review B*. Their work has been widely cited by experimental and theoretical studies in journals like *Nature*, *Science*, and *Nature Materials*, with some theoretical predictions confirmed experimentally. This research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Beijing Natural Science Foundation.

Paper Link: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-53841-x>

BNU Professor Liu Min Awarded the French "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques"

Article Source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-11-04



On October 31, Bertrand Lortholary, French Ambassador to China, presented the "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques" (Knight of the Order of Academic Palms) to Liu Min, Associate Professor at the Institute of International and Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University (BNU). The ceremony was held at the French Ambassador's Residence on behalf of the French government.

The Academic Palms is a prestigious national honor awarded by the French Republic to scholars who have made outstanding contributions to education and science. Established by Napoleon over 200 years ago, it holds a distinguished place in

academic recognition.

In his speech, Ambassador Lortholary highlighted Liu Min's academic journey and career, praising her remarkable achievements in French education research and China-France educational collaboration. He commended her exceptional contributions to cultural and intellectual exchanges between China and France and expressed hope for deeper engagement and stronger ties between the academic communities of both countries.

Liu Min expressed her gratitude, stating that this honor is not only a recognition of her personal work but also an encouragement for her colleagues

engaged in French education research and collaboration. She reflected on her two major academic transitions: "from language to literature" and "from humanities to social sciences". Liu also recounted her efforts in advancing educational sciences and promoting the dissemination of knowledge, while extending heartfelt thanks to her family, mentors, friends, colleagues, and students for their support and encouragement.

Dong Qiang, a foreign member of the Académie Française, Boya Distinguished Professor at Peking University, and Dean of the Yenching Academy of Peking University, attended the ceremony as Liu Min's former master's supervisor.



Photo from: BNU Weibo
Photo by: @0806 号宇航员守护破破 @k3h2 @loveisnoteverything

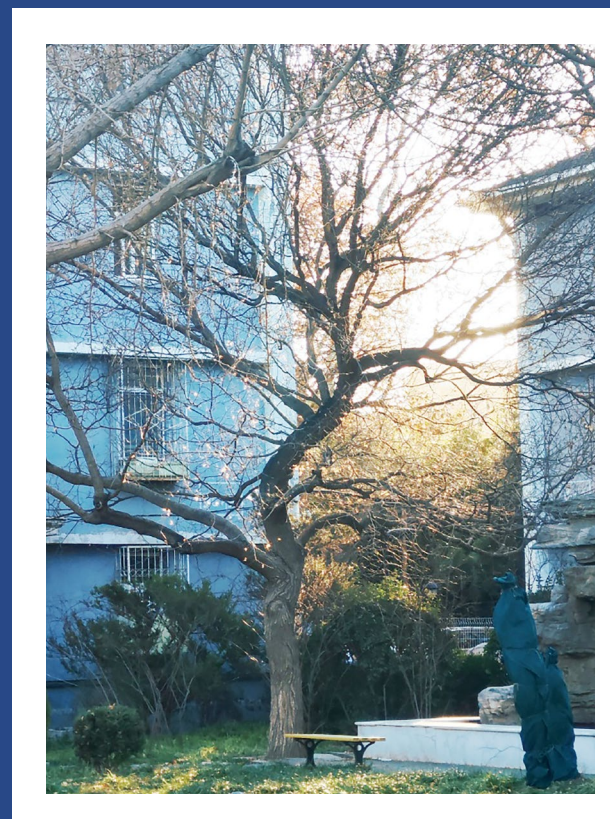


Photo from: BNU Weibo
Photo by: @ 竹木_木



Photo from: BNU Weibo

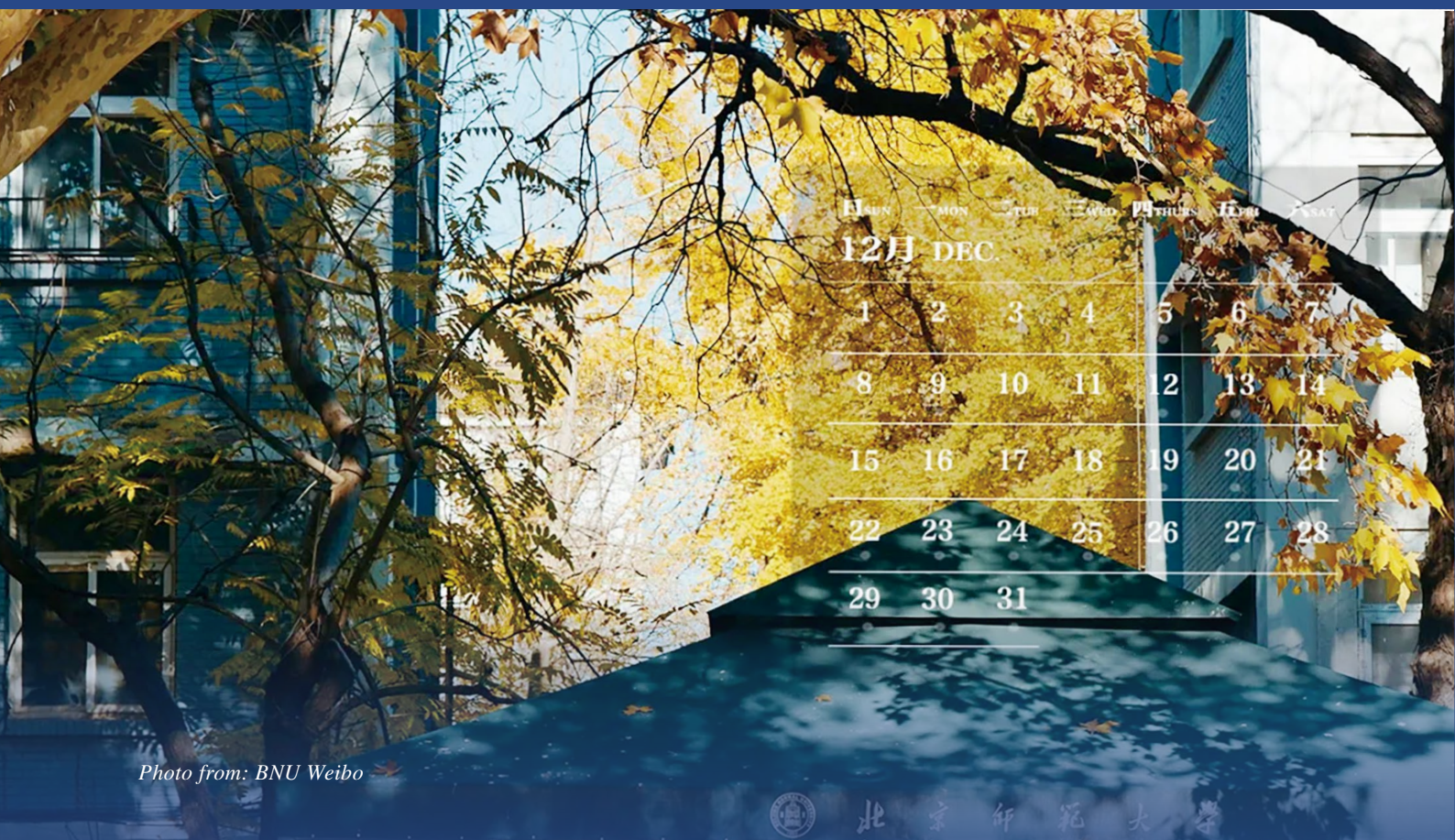


Photo from: BNU Weibo

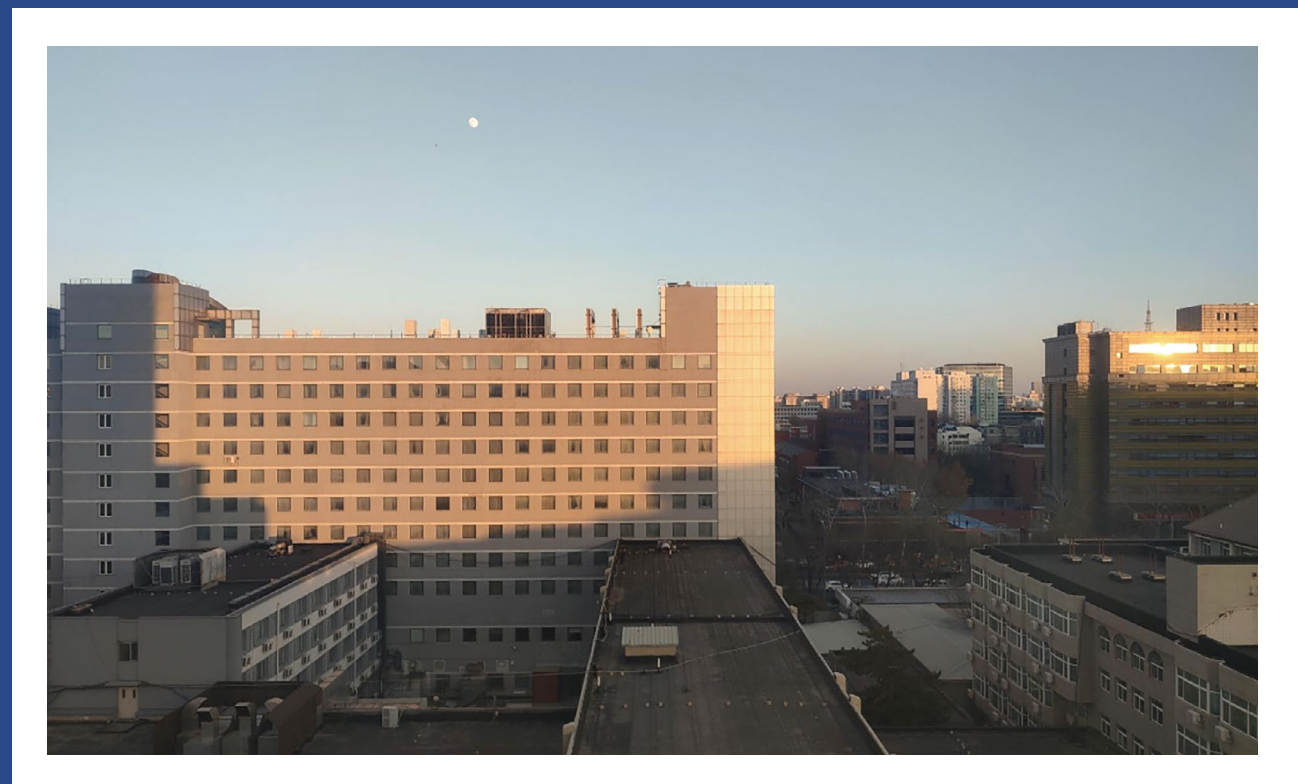


Photo from: BNU Weibo Photo by @ 是鄧縉啊



北京師範大學
BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Office of International Exchange & Cooperation
Beijing Normal University

Address: No.19, Xijiekouwai St, Haidian District,
Beijing, 100875, P.R.China

Phone: (+86) 10-5880-7170

Fax: (+86) 10-5880-0823

Email: bnunewsletter@bnu.edu.cn