Beijing Normal University

Newsletter

Summer 2024 / Issue 19

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

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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

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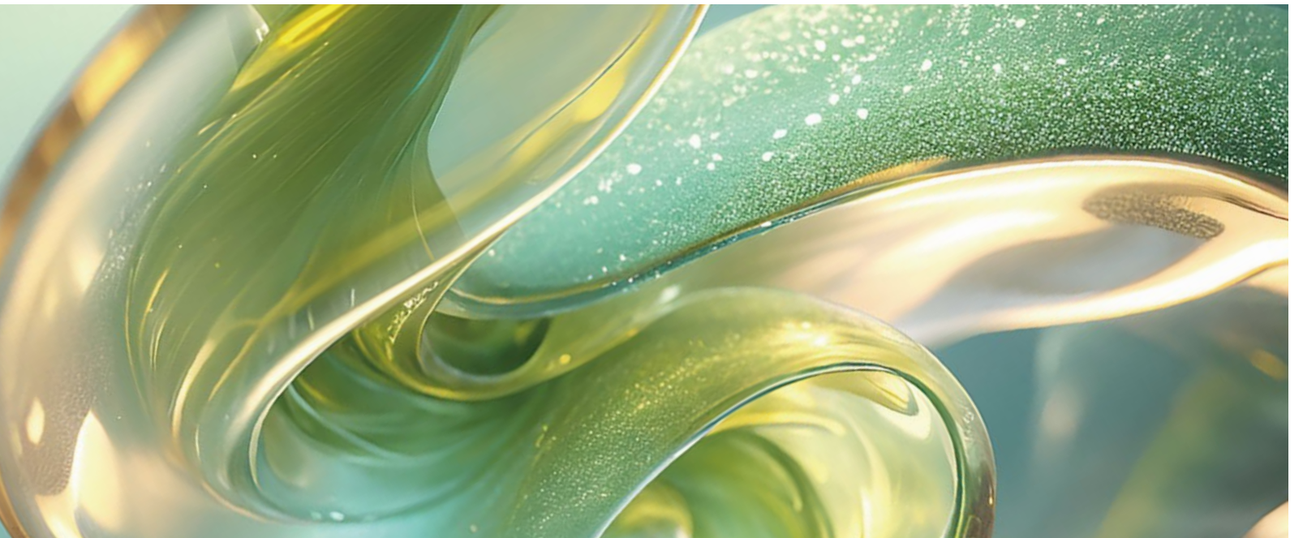


County-Level Special Survey on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan"

Beijing Normal University is committed to education and unwavering in our original mission. Since April, the research team from Beijing Normal University has conducted county-level special surveys of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" in Hunan, Shaanxi, Hebei, Sichuan, Anhui, and Qinghai provinces. This initiative has achieved comprehensive coverage of the 13 provinces targeted for the 2025 cohort's employment under the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" over the past two years. The program has significantly expanded the influence of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force", laying a solid foundation for cultivating and delivering high-quality teachers who can be effectively recruited, placed in rural areas, perform excellently, and remain long-term in their positions. This effort supports rural revitalization and the strategy of building a strong educational nation.

The "Targeted Teacher Training Plan", also known as the "Targeted Training of Outstanding Teachers for Underdeveloped Areas in Central and Western China", is a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Education's directly affiliated normal universities and local normal universities. It aims to address the gaps in high-quality teacher development by cultivating teachers who can be effectively recruited, placed in rural areas, perform excellently, and remain long-term in their positions. Beijing Normal University, as a pioneer in the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan", actively participates in policy formulation and improvement, and in deepening educational reforms, playing a leading role in the program's implementation.

Cheng Jianping Leads Team to Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province for "Zhiyuan Program" Employment Support County-Level Special Survey

Article Source: Teacher Strengthening Project Office | *Release Date: 2024-05-31*

From May 25 to 27, Cheng Jianping, Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Normal University, led a team to Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province, to conduct a county-level special survey on employment support under the "Zhiyuan Program".

The research team conducted an in-depth assessment of the development

of basic education and county-level schooling in Liangshan Prefecture. They engaged in thorough discussions with the Liangshan Prefecture government and educational authorities regarding supportive and incentive policies for the 2024 graduates of the "Zhiyuan Program" and future "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" graduates teaching in various counties within Liangshan Prefecture. These discussions led to a deep consensus.

The research team held a meeting with officials from the Liangshan Prefecture government, Yuexi County government, and Yuexi Middle School. During the meeting, the team presented the implementation of Beijing Normal University's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force", learned about the conditions and educational status of Yuexi County and Yuexi Middle School, and systematically aligned on the employment, post-employment development, and support policies for "Zhiyuan Program" graduates. They also explored several intentions for educational assistance in Yuexi County.

He Jianmei, Deputy Secretary of the Yuexi County Committee and County Head, expressed that Beijing Normal University is a leading institution among normal universities in China, and the teachers it cultivates are valuable talents for Liangshan Prefecture and Yuexi County. The prefecture, county, and Yuexi Middle School jointly customized "educational talent introduction" policies for "Zhiyuan Program" graduates from Beijing Normal University, striving to provide excellent working and living conditions and development platforms to help them grow into key teachers and leading talents. He hopes that Beijing Normal University will continue to deepen its targeted training and teacher training for Liangshan Prefecture and Yuexi County, contributing to the overall improvement of educational levels in Yuexi.

Cheng Jianping stated that the "Zhiyuan Program", proposed and implemented by Beijing Normal University in 2020, has distinct pilot value and pioneering significance. By cultivating high-quality teachers and future educators with lofty ideals and a passion for teaching, it supports the balanced development of basic education and enhances the quality of the population in poverty alleviation counties. The Party Committee of Beijing Normal University attaches great importance to and fully ensures the employment and post-employment development of the 2024 "Zhiyuan Program" graduates. He hopes that Yuexi County and Yuexi Middle School will provide care, support, and high standards for the graduates, helping them adapt, integrate, achieve professional growth, and comprehensive improvement, thereby optimizing the educational and talent ecosystem in Yuexi County and contributing to regional modernization. Beijing Normal University will actively assist Yuexi's education in achieving high-quality development through the six major plans of the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force".

Cheng Jianping emphasized that Yuexi County prioritizes educational development and has pioneered a distinctive path of "small county, big education". The choice of some "Zhiyuan Program" graduates to teach at Yuexi Middle School reflects the positive results of talent attraction by the prefecture and county and provides an effective exploration for the cultivation, delivery, and growth support of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" graduates from Beijing Normal University. In the future, he hopes to explore precise support solutions for improving educational quality in the West in collaboration with Yuexi County, continuously perfect the implementation path of school-county cooperation in revitalizing rural education, and create a model for building a strong educational and talent-based nation in the West.

Beijing Normal University Conducts County-Level Research and Collaborative Quality Enhancement Plan Survey in Anhui Province

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | Release date: 2024-5-31

From May 27 to 30, a research team from Beijing Normal University (BNU) visited Anhui Province to conduct a county-level special survey on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and a special survey on the collaborative quality enhancement plan at Fuyang Normal University. The team was led by Wang Shoujun, Standing Committee Member of the University Party Committee and Executive Vice President.

On the morning of May 27, the research team held a discussion meeting with the Anhui Provincial Department of Education. Both parties engaged in in-depth exchanges on topics including the recruitment and training of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students, employment policies, post-employment development, and support systems.

Wang Shoujun emphasized that BNU is dedicated to serving the nation's teacher education endeavors, placing high importance on the development of teacher teams and the balanced, high-quality development of education in less developed regions of Central and Western China. He expressed eagerness to cooperate closely with the Anhui Provincial Department of Education to jointly explore a sustainable mechanism for the recruitment, training, deployment, and post-employment development of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" graduates, aiming to deliver outstanding teachers precisely to poverty-stricken counties. Furthermore, BNU will continue to advance the implementation of the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force", deeply serving the basic education in less developed regions of Central and Western China, and exploring new models of county-level education governance and pathways for high-quality educational development.

The research team visited three schools: Shouxian No.1 High School, Lixin No.1 High School, and Yingshang No.1 High School. They engaged in thorough discussions

with municipal and county education authorities and local schools, introducing the achievements of BNU's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force" in promoting high-quality, balanced educational development and supporting the development of teacher teams in less developed regions of Central and Western China. The team also gained a comprehensive understanding of the current status and needs of county-level basic education, exploring potential assistance measures.

On May 29, the research team visited Fuyang Normal University to conduct a special survey on the collaborative quality enhancement plan. Discussions centered on cooperation and support paths in areas such as talent team development, discipline and specialty construction, and school management and development. Leaders from the College of Life Sciences and the School of Physical Education and Sports engaged in in-depth discussions with their counterparts at Fuyang Normal University. Additionally, the research team visited BNU Huainan Experimental School to understand the school's development and construction status.

Beijing Normal University Conducts County-Level Research on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" in Hunan Province

Article source: Weibo of Qiangshizhisheng | Release date: 2024-04-22

From April 15 to 17, in order to thoroughly implement the spirit of President Xi Jinping's important reply to the normal students of Beijing Normal University's "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and to further promote the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force", a research team from Beijing Normal University conducted an in-depth county-level special survey on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" in Hunan Province. The team was led by Wei Wei, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Normal University and Secretary of the Party Committee of the Zhuhai Campus.

On April 15, the research team visited the Hunan Provincial Department of Education for an investigative meeting. During the meeting, the team gained a detailed understanding of the implementation of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" policies in Hunan Province, the guarantees for normal students' benefits, and the post-employment training system. The Hunan Provincial Department of Education places great importance on the construction of the basic education teacher team, planning and deploying in advance to ensure that graduates of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" have secured positions, guaranteed benefits, and a robust post-employment training system.

The research team conducted on-site inspections of county-level high schools, assessing their educational conditions and environment, teacher team development, education quality, and infrastructure. They provided suggestions on the development of post-employment training systems for teachers, the recruitment of scarce discipline talents, and the construction of a teacher team for mental health education. Additionally, the research team introduced Beijing Normal University's "The Project to Strengthen Teacning Force", highlighting specific measures and achievements in promoting high-quality and balanced educational development in less developed regions of Central and Western China.

The research activities yielded significant results. First, a consensus was reached with Hunan Province and its nationally recognized poverty-stricken counties on the employment policies, benefit guarantees, and post-employment training for the 2025 graduates of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan". Second, the team promoted Beijing Normal University's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force" to relevant units, showcasing the university's efforts and achievements in serving educational strengthening and rural revitalization, as well as in promoting high-quality and balanced development of basic education. Third, preliminary selections were made for county-level high schools to serve as summer education practice bases, ensuring the smooth implementation of "dual practice" for normal students.

Beijing Normal University Conducts County-Level Research on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" in Shaanxi Province

Article source: Weibo of Qiangshizhisheng | Release date: 2024-05-07

From April 27 to 30, a research team from Beijing Normal University (BNU) visited Shaanxi Province to conduct a county-level special survey on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan". The team was led by Kang Zhen, Standing Committee Member of the University Party Committee and Vice President.

The research team conducted on-site visits to several county-level high schools, including Foping County High School, Zhouzhi High School, and Fufeng High School. They emphasized the national initiative behind the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan", which recruits teachers through a "provincial to county" model, and introduced the implementation of BNU's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force". The team elaborated on BNU's efforts and achievements in promoting high-quality, balanced basic education and supporting the development of teacher teams in less developed regions of Central and Western China.

Local counties presented their educational situations, teacher recruitment policies, and benefit guarantees, highlighting the challenges faced in enhancing basic education quality. They expressed a desire for closer collaboration with BNU in building teacher training systems and providing targeted support for outstanding graduates, aiming to improve the teacher structure and overall educational quality in county-level schools.

Kang Zhen emphasized the importance of identifying and nurturing potential future teachers early, guiding them to develop a passion for teaching, and encouraging them to join the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan". This approach would enhance the feedback loop of educational resources in counties. He also stressed the need for counties to seize the development window from poverty alleviation to rural revitalization, aligning policies with various educational organizations to create attractive platforms for recruiting and retaining talent, ultimately contributing to the improvement of local educational quality.

On the afternoon of April 29, the research team held a discussion with the Shaanxi Provincial Department of Education. They gained detailed insights into the policies implemented by the department to enhance the quality of basic education during the consolidation of poverty alleviation achievements. They discussed various aspects of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan", including student recruitment, employment, and post-employment development. Kang Zhen highlighted BNU's commitment to serving national strategic decisions and promoting high-quality education development. He emphasized the significance of this county-level survey and expressed BNU's intention to strengthen its long-term communication and cooperation mechanism with the Shaanxi Provincial Department

of Education, jointly promoting the implementation of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" to contribute to the educational development of Shaanxi Province.

The Shaanxi Provincial Department of Education places great importance on the construction of the basic education teacher team, ensuring that graduates of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" have secured positions, guaranteed benefits, and platforms for development. The consensus reached provides a solid foundation for the 2025 graduates of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" to solidify their teaching aspirations, clarify their career development paths, and complete their targeted teaching placements.

This survey focused on the effectiveness of the implementation of the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force". Consensus was reached with Shaanxi Province and its former nationally recognized poverty-stricken counties on various issues, including the construction of subject education teacher teams, benefit guarantees for normal students, and the planning of post-employment training systems. The survey established strong connections and communication, demonstrating BNU's determination to set benchmarks in normal education, cultivate high-quality normal students, and optimize employment services for normal students. Through on-site visits, the research team gained a deeper understanding of the basic conditions of county-level high schools in Shaanxi Province, selected relevant county-level high schools as summer education practice bases, and reached cooperation intentions with various educational organizations. This initiative not only promotes the immersion of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students in frontline education and the cultivation of their educational passion but also provides valuable references for continuously improving the training of normal students at BNU, laying a solid foundation for the comprehensive and in-depth implementation of the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force" in Shaanxi Province.

Beijing Normal University Conducts County-Level Research and Collaborative Quality Enhancement Plan Survey in Qinghai Province

Article source: Weibo of Qiangshizhisheng | *Release date: 2024-06-13*

From June 3 to 6, a research team from Beijing Normal University (BNU) visited Qinghai Province to conduct a county-level special survey on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and a special survey on the Collaborative Quality Enhancement Plan. The team was led by Wang Ming, Standing Committee Member of the University Party Committee and Vice President.

On the morning of June 4, the research team visited Qinghai Normal University for a special survey on the Collaborative Quality Enhancement Plan. Discussions were held on various topics including the construction of emergency management teams, plans for enhancing the teaching abilities of normal students in basic education disciplines, preparations for the Forum of Student Affairs Deans from affiliated institutions, and the training of exchange students at Qinghai Normal University.

In the afternoon, the research team held a discussion with the Qinghai Provincial Department of Education. The team gained a detailed understanding of the measures taken by the department to implement the national public-funded normal student policy. They also exchanged views on the recruitment, training, employment, and post-

employment development of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students.

Wang Ming emphasized BNU's active role in serving major national strategies and vigorously advancing the "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force", contributing to the balanced and high-quality development of basic education in less developed regions of Central and Western China. He highlighted the significance of this county-level survey for the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" and expressed BNU's commitment to deepening educational support for Qinghai Province. BNU will collaborate with the Qinghai Provincial Department of Education to implement and refine the training of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students, aiming to pass on the "BNU torch" of educational revitalization to less developed regions of Central and Western China.

From June 5 to 6, the research team conducted on-site visits to several county-level high schools. They provided detailed explanations of the overall approach and work system of BNU's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force" to relevant officials from local education departments. The team introduced BNU's initiatives and achievements in promoting high-quality, balanced educational development in less developed regions of Central and Western China. Through these visits, the team gained a comprehensive understanding of the school conditions, teacher teams, student demographics, teaching standards, and infrastructure development of county-level high schools in Qinghai Province. They also offered suggestions on teacher team development and employment support measures for "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students in these schools.

Beijing Normal University Conducts County-Level Research on the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" in Hebei Province

Article source: Weibo of Qiangshizhisheng | *Release date: 2024-05-21*

To ensure the successful employment of the first batch of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" graduates in 2025 and to strengthen the effectiveness of employment policies and post-employment development guarantees for normal students under the program, a research team from Beijing Normal University (BNU), led by Vice President Chen Xing, conducted a special county-level survey in Hebei Province from May 15 to 17.

On the morning of May 15, the BNU research team held a discussion meeting with the Hebei Provincial Department of Education. The team provided a detailed introduction to the implementation of BNU's "The Project to Strengthen Teacning Force"

and the training of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students from Hebei. They listened to presentations from provincial officials on basic education, teacher resources, and teaching resources in Hebei. The team systematically gathered the needs and suggestions from the provincial education administration regarding the training of normal students. Both parties engaged in in-depth discussions on recruitment and training under the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan", post-employment development, the responsibilities of various levels of education authorities in policy implementation, and the improvement of the employment policy guarantee system for normal students.

Chen Xing stated that BNU will focus on the goal of cultivating teachers with "four qualities" and strengthen the mission and commitment of normal students to serve education in less developed areas. This will be achieved through measures such as deepening training concepts, enhancing service awareness, optimizing training programs, implementing special actions, and strengthening the construction of teachers' ethics and conduct. The aim is to contribute positively to the cultivation of more outstanding teachers and the development of the education sector. Universities and localities should strengthen cooperation to jointly establish a long-term mechanism for the recruitment, training, and post-employment development of targeted normal students.

The research team conducted on-site visits to three county-level high schools: Xingtang High School, Quyang No. 1 High School, and Wuyi High School. They held in-depth discussions with local governments, education authorities, and schools, explaining BNU's "The Project to Strengthen Teaching Force" and its efforts to promote high-quality and balanced basic education development and support the construction of teacher teams in less developed areas of Central and Western China. The team conducted a thorough investigation into the current state of county-level basic education, the challenges faced, and the needs for assistance.

Through these visits, the research team gained a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the development status of basic education in Hebei Province, including specific conditions related to educational resource allocation, teaching quality, and student management in county-level schools. This information will help further improve the training of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students. Additionally, the team closely examined the implementation of employment policies outlined in the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" agreements with county-level schools, driving the enhancement of internship and employment support and post-employment support for BNU's "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students in Hebei Province, laying a solid foundation for the implementation of the "The Project to Strengthen Teacning Force" in the province.

With unwavering commitment and a sense of mission, our university's special research team will continue to conduct county-level surveys in multiple provinces, strengthening the promotion of policies for the "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students. We will strategically plan the employment guarantees and post-employment development of "Targeted Teacher Training Plan" normal students, coordinate advantageous resources, and serve local basic education. This effort will contribute BNU's strength to rural revitalization and the national strategy of building a strong education nation.

Yu Jihong Appointed as President of Beijing Normal University

Article source: BNU Website | *Release date: 2024-04-30*

Recently, the central government approved the appointment of Yu Jihong as President (Vice Ministerial level) and Deputy Secretary of the CPC Beijing Normal University Committee. On the morning of April 30, Beijing Normal University held a meeting for faculty and staff to announce this decision. Peng Jinhui, Deputy Director of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the meeting to announce the decision and deliver a speech. Wang Jiayi, Member of the CPC Leading Group, Vice Minister and National Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Education, and You Jun, Member of the Standing Committee and Director of the Organization Department of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee also attended the meeting and delivered speeches. The meeting was hosted by Cheng Jianping, Secretary of the CPC Beijing Normal University Committee.

Officials from the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Education, and relevant departments of Beijing Municipality along with members of the Beijing Normal University leading body, retired senior officials, professor representatives, heads of departments and faculties, and representatives of teachers and students attended the meeting.

Brief Biography of Yu Jihong

Professor Yu Jihong was born in January 1967. She got her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry. She is a member of the Communist Party of China, a member of the 20th CPC Central Committee, and an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. She has previously served as Vice President and Member of CPC Leading Group of the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

Kang Zhen Attends China-Victoria University Dialogue and Delivers Keynote Speech

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | *Release date: 2024-6-4*

To promote deeper collaboration between Beijing Normal University (BNU) and universities in Australia and New Zealand, strengthen dialogues between Chinese and Australian/New Zealand university presidents, and further explore areas of cooperation, BNU Vice President Kang Zhen was invited to join the Chinese delegation organized by the China Education Association for International Exchange on a visit to New Zealand and Australia. He attended the China-Victoria University Dialogue.

Kang Zhen held discussions with Duncan Maskell, Vice Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

On May 31, the China-Victoria University Dialogue was held in Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, Australia. The event was attended by over 40 leaders, experts, scholars, and relevant department heads from the China Education Association for International Exchange and 22 Chinese universities, as well as representatives from various universities in Victoria, Australia.

At the forum, Kang Zhen, as the keynote speaker representing China, delivered a speech on the topic "Building High-Quality Joint Talent Cultivation: Strategic Overview and Future Opportunities". He shared the history and collaborative exchanges of BNU with Australian universities, focusing on the "Global Development and Governance" two-year full-English master's program established by the Jingshi Academy.

Kang Zhen introduced the concept, development, and future plans of the Jingshi Academy, inviting universities to collaborate on cross-national education and create a platform for students from China, Australia, and around the world to gain diverse perspectives on global development and governance issues. Vice President David Halliwell of Deakin University, Vice President Caroline Zhang of Federation University Australia, and Vice President Zhao Gang of Beijing Foreign Studies University also shared their insights on the topic.

During his visit, Kang Zhen also visited the University of Auckland, the University of Adelaide, the University of Melbourne, and Monash University to discuss talent cultivation, research collaboration, and faculty and student exchanges. Additionally, he attended the China-New Zealand Higher Education Forum and the China-Australia University Presidents Forum.

Partner University Visit Partial List

University of Macerata President Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | *Release date: 2024-5-4*

On the afternoon of April 29, John McCourt, President of the University of Macerata (Università di Macerata), along with a delegation of five, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Zhou Zuoyu of BNU welcomed the guests in the main building.

Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome to McCourt and his delegation. He highlighted the long-standing and deep friendship between the University of Macerata and Beijing Normal University. In October 2011, the two universities jointly established a Confucius Institute, which has actively engaged in Chinese language teaching and the promotion of Chinese culture over the past decade. The Institute has also hosted major international academic conferences, significantly advancing Sino-Italian cultural and educational exchanges. In 2015, the Macerata Confucius Institute was named one of the five "Model Confucius Institutes" in Europe. Zhou Zuoyu expressed his hope that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for university-level cooperation would further deepen collaboration in international Chinese education and Chinese studies, expand academic exchanges, innovate cooperation models, and contribute to Sino-Italian cultural exchanges.

McCourt sincerely thanked Beijing Normal University for the warm reception. He noted the significant impact of the jointly established Confucius Institute in the local community, with its high-quality courses and activities attracting an increasing number of Italian youths to learn Chinese and understand China. He emphasized that the University of Macerata highly values its cooperation with Beijing Normal University and hopes to continue advancing the development of the Confucius Institute while expanding exchanges in disciplines such as law and sociology.

The meeting was attended by Wu Xiangdong, Dean of the School of Philosophy at BNU; Wang Xuesong, Party Secretary of the School of International Chinese Education; Hu Junhong, Associate Professor of the School of Law; Ju Xi, Associate Professor of the School of Sociology; Jiang Tianyue, Associate Professor of the School of History; and relevant officials from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

Zhou Zuoyu and John McCourt signed the MoU for cooperation between the two universities.

Founded in 1290, the University of Macerata is one of the oldest universities in Europe and the largest public institution in the capital of the Province of Macerata. The university has nearly 20,000 students enrolled in almost 100 disciplines, covering fields such as law, literature/philosophy, cultural heritage, political science, economic sciences, educational sciences, and communication sciences. Its law program is considered one of the best in Italy. The University of Macerata places great importance on international student exchange and frequently organizes academic exchanges with prestigious universities

Delegation from the University of Toronto Visits Beijing Normal University

Article Source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release Date: 2024-4-8

On April 7, a delegation from the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), led by Vice President and Provost William A. Gough, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Zhou Zuoyu of BNU welcomed the guests in the main building.

Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome to the delegation on behalf of Beijing Normal University and provided a brief overview of the university's recent achievements in talent cultivation, faculty development, and the construction of the Zhuhai campus. He noted the strong foundation for collaboration between the two institutions in environmental science and expressed hope that this meeting would serve as an opportunity to broaden exchanges and deepen cooperation in a wider range of fields.

William A. Gough congratulated BNU on its recent accomplishments across various disciplines. He shared insights on the multi-campus development of the University of Toronto and expressed a desire to deepen mutual understanding and establish a university-level cooperation agreement.

The meeting was attended by Xu Linyu, Party Secretary of the School of Environment; Jin Lan, Foreign Affairs Secretary; and relevant officials from the International Exchange and Cooperation Office.

Following the meeting, Gough visited the School of Environment, where he delivered an engaging lecture on climate change to the faculty and students.

Founded in 1827, the University of Toronto is the largest comprehensive public university in Canada and one of the oldest. It ranks 21st in the latest QS World University Rankings and comprises three campuses: St. George, Scarborough, and Mississauga.

President of the University of Tübingen Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-4-3

On the afternoon of April 2, Karla Pollmann, President of the University of Tübingen (Universität Tübingen), along with a delegation of five, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Zhou Zuoyu of BNU welcomed the guests in the main building.

Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome to Pollmann and her delegation. He noted the high compatibility between the University of Tübingen and Beijing Normal University in terms of discipline layout and development planning. The two universities have already established a foundation for collaboration in fields such as philosophy and education. Since their meeting in Tübingen in July 2022, the friendship between the two institutions has deepened, and he looks forward to further exploring cooperation potential in areas such as cultural studies, teacher education, philosophy, and history.

Pollmann expressed her gratitude for the warm reception by Beijing Normal University. She introduced the academic strengths of the University of Tübingen and emphasized the university's strong commitment to collaboration with BNU. She expressed hope for the two universities to sign an agreement to enhance personnel exchanges, promote in-depth academic dialogue, and elevate the partnership to new heights.

The meeting was attended by Zhu Xudong, Dean of the Faculty of Education at BNU; Wu Xiangdong, Dean of the School of Philosophy; Li Yuan, Vice Dean of the School of History; Xiao Kai, Vice Dean of the Institute of Chinese Culture; and relevant officials from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

Founded in 1477, the University of Tübingen is one of the oldest universities in Germany, renowned for its excellence in both natural sciences and humanities. It is recognized as one of Germany's "Elite Universities". The university has produced nine Nobel laureates and notable alumni such as philosopher Hegel, poet Hölderlin, astronomer Kepler, and writer Hesse. In the 2023 Times Higher Education Subject Rankings, the University of Tübingen ranked 43rd globally and 1st in Germany for education, 29th globally and 3rd in Germany for arts and humanities, 74th globally and 4th in Germany for psychology, and 57th globally and 5th in Germany for life sciences, with an overall global ranking of 213th.

Delegation from the U.S. Embassy in China Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-4-2

On March 29, a delegation from the U.S. Embassy in China, led by Minister Counselor for Public Affairs Mary Sue Fields and accompanied by officials from the Embassy's Public Affairs Section, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Zhou Zuoyu welcomed the guests in the main building. The meeting was also attended by representatives from BNU's faculty, the Office of Talent Management, and the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome to the delegation. He provided a brief overview of BNU's academic development and its ongoing exchanges and collaborations with U.S. universities and research institutions. He emphasized that promoting the sharing of knowledge is a core mission of universities and that institutions in both China and the U.S. share common aspirations and goals. BNU is eager to work with American partners to uphold the principles of cooperation and mutual benefit, expand personnel exchanges, and enhance knowledge sharing, creating a future-oriented educational environment. Zhou also invited American youth to visit and engage with BNU and its affiliated primary and secondary schools.

Mary Sue Fields expressed her gratitude to BNU for its continued support of Sino-American student and faculty exchanges, noting that many American students have benefited from BNU's Chinese language and culture programs. She highlighted the vast potential for collaboration between Chinese and American universities on global issues such as climate change and food security, and stated that the U.S. Embassy in China would actively promote such exchanges and cooperation.

During the meeting, BNU faculty representatives shared their experiences of visiting and studying in the U.S. and collaborating with American colleagues in their respective fields. Liu Wei, a Fulbright Scholar from the Faculty of Psychology and Director of the China-U.S. Young Maker Exchange Center, provided an update on the center's development.

Beijing Normal University has established stable cooperative relationships with numerous U.S. universities and research institutions, covering areas such as faculty and student exchanges, research collaboration, and joint training programs. Key collaborative platforms include the China-U.S. Young Maker Exchange Center and the IDG/McGovern Institute for Brain Research.

Vice President of Vrije Universiteit Brussel Visits Beijing Normal University

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation | Release date: 2024-5-20

On the morning of March 18, a delegation of six from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), led by Vice President Karin Vanderkerken, visited Beijing Normal University (BNU). Vice President Zhou Zuoyu of BNU welcomed the guests in the main building.

Zhou Zuoyu extended a warm welcome to Karin Vanderkerken and her delegation, providing an overview of BNU's recent academic developments. He noted that since the signing of a university-level macro-cooperation agreement in 2010, the two universities have established a number of effective exchange programs across various disciplines. Zhou expressed his hope that this visit would provide an excellent opportunity for further deepening collaboration and expanding future cooperation between the two institutions.

Karin Vanderkerken expressed her pleasure at visiting Beijing Normal University. She introduced the developmental history of Vrije Universiteit Brussel and expressed a strong interest in establishing deep cooperation with BNU, including joint training programs and collaborative research bases.

The meeting was attended by Wang Lijun, Dean of the Faculty of Arts; Dou Fei, Dean of the College of Life Sciences; Yu Kai, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education; Li Yuan, Associate Dean of the School of History; and relevant officials from the Office of International Exchange and Cooperation. The two sides exchanged views on cooperation in fields such as literature, education, life sciences, mathematics, and disaster reduction research, reaching preliminary cooperation intentions.

Vrije Universiteit Brussel is a public research university located in the Dutch-speaking region of Brussels, Belgium. Founded in 1834, it has produced several Nobel Prize and Fields Medal laureates. The university's strong disciplines include communication studies, sociology, linguistics, and education, and it is one of the most internationalized universities in Europe. Of its over 16,100 students, 21% are international students from 128 countries. In the 2024 QS World University Rankings, Vrije Universiteit Brussel was ranked 259th globally and 6th in Belgium.

Ministry of Commerce International Business Officials Training Program Visits Belt and Road School

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | *Release date: 2024-5-20*

On May 17, the Developing Countries International Talent Training Program and the "Consultation, Contribution, and Shared Benefits" China Development Experience Training Program, organized by the Academy for International Business Officials of the Ministry of Commerce, visited the Belt and Road School at Beijing Normal University. The training programs aim to provide opportunities for developing countries to learn from China's experiences and solutions, and to promote friendly cooperation. The delegation consisted of 64 officials from 17 developing countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

Zhang Kunling, Secretary of the Party Branch of the Belt and Road School, welcomed the visiting trainees. Zhang engaged in a deep exchange with the participants, explaining the Belt and Road Initiative and discussing the school's establishment background, development history, talent cultivation, scientific research, international cooperation, mission, and vision. The head of the school's admissions office also provided a detailed introduction to the admissions programs and policies.

The trainees also toured the Zhuhai campus. During the exchange and tour, they listened attentively and gave positive feedback about the campus and the Belt and Road School. John Machayi, CEO of the Higher Education Loans and Scholarships Board of Zambia, expressed his deep impression of the visit. He highlighted that the modern facilities and resources of the Zhuhai campus provide an ideal environment for students' academic growth and exploration. He also praised the hospitality of the Belt and Road School's faculty and students and the rich cultural diversity that creates a truly unique and inclusive learning environment. Machayi affirmed that the school's commitment to promoting mutual understanding, exchange, and cooperation among countries aligns perfectly with the values of the Belt and Road Initiative, and he expressed confidence in the school's continued growth and success. Milena Jocic, Human Resources Assistant at China Road and Bridge Corporation in Serbia, also praised the Zhuhai campus and the Belt and Road School, noting that the school offers abundant educational resources and practical courses. Jocic mentioned that she would definitely recommend the school to any young Serbian individuals interested in further studies.

Lu Di, Faculty Member of the School of Future Design, Wins Multiple International Design Awards

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | *Release date: 2024-5-12*

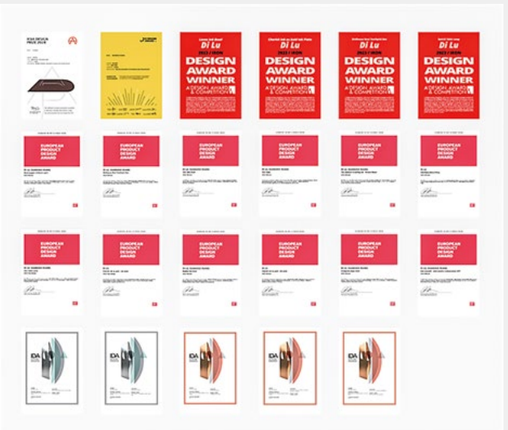
Recently, the 2024 European Product Design Awards, Los Angeles International Design Awards, A' Design Award, Asia Design Prize, and Korea K-Design Awards announced their winners. Lu Di, a faculty member from the School of Future Design at Beijing Normal University, was recognized with 23 awards for 12 design works, achieving remarkable success in these prestigious international competitions.

作品名称	奖项
love yourself	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER 2024 美国洛杉矶国际设计奖 —— 银奖
Hair dryer	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER 2024 美国洛杉矶国际设计奖 —— 银奖
Interdependence	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER 2024 美国洛杉矶国际设计奖 —— 铜奖
Bubble Sterilizer	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER 2024 美国洛杉矶国际设计奖 —— 铜奖
Birdhouse	2024 A' Design Award —— WINNER 2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER 2024 美国洛杉矶国际设计奖 —— 铜奖 2024 亚洲设计奖 —— WINNER
2in1 Vase	2024 韩国K设计奖 —— WINNER 2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER
The moment of pulling out	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER
Octagonal piggy bank	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER
Table Lamp	2024 A' Design Award —— WINNER 2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— TOP AWARD
Cherish ink as gold	2024 A' Design Award —— WINNER
Cherish ink as gold - ink plate	2024 A' Design Award —— WINNER 2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— TOP AWARD（办公产品类） 2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 — WINNER（爱好产品类）
Hand puppet children's quilt	2024 欧洲产品设计大奖 —— WINNER

List of Award-Winning Works

Lu Di, who heads the International Innovation Impact Center at the School of Future Design, has received 109 international design awards (as the first author), including the Red Dot Supreme Design Award, and 65 domestic design awards (as the first author), including the China Intelligent Manufacturing Award. Additionally, Lu Di holds over 90 national patents (as the first author).

A' Design Award & Competition (Italy) is currently the world's largest and most diverse design competition. It aims to discover and recognize outstanding global design, technology, and creativity, providing an international platform for winners to showcase their work. This inspires individuals, groups, and companies to create high-quality products, projects, and services,



(All works have been patented)

promoting social development and industry prosperity.

Asia Design Prize evaluates designs based on innovative breakthroughs and contributions to the world. The selection process is fair and open, with anonymous reviews leading to the identification of representative design works. This competition aims to discover and promote novel design concepts that can lead the future. It focuses on industrial design, visual design, and spatial design, particularly those addressing regional social issues such as climate change, polarization, racial discrimination, and food shortages, striving to create a better world.

European Product Design Award recognizes the efforts of product designers worldwide who improve daily life through practical and well-thought-out designs. It also honors the strategic thinking and imagination behind great products, promoting the development of product design globally and providing international exposure for outstanding designers.

International Design Award (Los Angeles) is one of the most respected design awards globally, recognizing legendary design visionaries and discovering emerging talent in architecture, interior, product, graphic, and fashion design. IDA emphasizes practical innovation, cultural depth, and forward-thinking concepts, encouraging exceptional designers and young talents to solve life problems through innovative design, offering a new outlook on the future.

K-DESIGN AWARD (Korea) is one of the top three design awards in Asia, aiming to transcend the simple and complex forms, emphasizing the true value of creative potential in products and outstanding ideas. This award seeks to recognize excellent designs created by designers, companies, design organizations, and design studios.

Exhibition of Selected Award-Winning Works

Dragon Boat Team of the Confucius Institute at the Universityof Manchester Wins Championship at the Northwest England Confucius Institute Alliance Dragon Boat Race

Article source: Office of International Exchange and Cooperation, School of International Chinese Education | *Release date: 2024-5-9*

On April 27, to celebrate the upcoming traditional Chinese festival of Dragon Boat Festival, the 2024 Annual Dragon Boat Race of the Northwest England Confucius Institute Alliance was held at the Liverpool Watersports Centre. Teams from the Confucius Institutes at the University of Manchester, which is co-built with our School of International Chinese Education, the University of Central Lancashire, Lancaster University, the University of Liverpool, and Edge Hill University gathered in Liverpool to participate in the grand event.

Panoramic view of the dragon boat race

Under clear skies and a gentle breeze, the University of Manchester Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Team, composed of the Chinese Co-Director, faculty and students, local Manchester residents, and international students, demonstrated excellent competitive spirit and teamwork amid the rhythmic drumbeats and resounding cheers.

The dragon boat race featured a three-round round-robin format, with the top three teams advancing to the finals after the three rounds. After intense competition, the University of Manchester Confucius Institute team made a historic breakthrough by entering the finals for the first time in ten years and winning the championship.

Group photo of the 2024 University of Manchester Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Team

The Dragon Boat Festival is a traditional Chinese festival that has been passed down through the centuries. Dragon boat racing is a symbol of the festival, vividly embodying the cultural traits and spirit of resilience, unity, and perseverance of the Chinese nation. The UK, with its diverse water sports, shares a common passion despite the cultural differences between the two peoples.

The annual dragon boat race has become a local tradition in the UK, warmly welcomed by the community, and an important cultural brand activity for the Confucius Institutes in the UK. It enriches the cultural and sports life of the local

University of Manchester Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Team during the race

University of Manchester Confucius Institute Dragon Boat Team celebrates their victory

people, enhances the friendship and connections between the Chinese and British people, and serves as an emotional link between overseas Chinese and their distant homeland. It also highlights the efforts of the Confucius Institutes to promote Chinese culture and foster Sino-British cultural exchanges, becoming a platform for enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and the UK.

Since 2013, the Northwest England Confucius Institute Alliance has annually rotated the hosting of the dragon boat race among its member institutes. The event was suspended for two years due to the pandemic, and this year marks the tenth edition.

The 9th "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad is Held

Article source: School of Foreign Languages and Literatures | *Release date: 2024-4-24*

From April 20 to 21, the 9th "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad, co-hosted by Beijing Normal University and Moscow State Pedagogical University, and organized by the Sino-Russian Educational Institutions Alliance, the Russian Research Center of Beijing Normal University, and the Department of Russian at the School of Foreign Languages and Literatures of Beijing Normal University, was held in the Lecture Hall of the Beijing Normal University Library. The opening ceremony was attended and addressed by Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, and Wu Danna, Director of the Russian Cultural Center in Beijing. Prof. LUBKOV Alexey, Rector of Moscow State Pedagogical University, delivered a video speech for the event. Liu Juan, Director of the Russian Research Center of Beijing Normal University, presided over the opening ceremony.

Group photo of the opening ceremony

Zhou Zuoyu pointed out that 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia and the China-Russia Year of Cultural Exchange. The 9th "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad provides a timely opportunity to deepen mutual understanding and enhance friendship between the youth of both countries. Zhou reviewed the recent achievements in exchanges between Beijing Normal University and Russian institutions and praised the Olympiad for its positive impact on promoting Sino-Russian cultural exchanges and enhancing the university's brand. He expressed his hope that young students would use this platform to showcase their talents and learn from each other.

Speech by Vice President Zhou Zuoyu of Beijing Normal University

In his video speech, Rector LUBKOV Alexey of Moscow State Pedagogical University warmly greeted the faculty and students of Beijing Normal University, affirmed the Russian language proficiency of past participants, emphasized the importance of the "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad in Sino-Russian academic cooperation, and expressed his vision for deepening exchanges and strengthening the friendship between the two universities.

Video speech by Rector LUBKOV Alexey of Moscow State Pedagogical University

Уржумцева Татьяна Борисовна, in her speech, noted the increasing popularity of Russian language learning in China and encouraged students not to fear making mistakes in their language studies. She offered heartfelt encouragement to the participants of the Olympiad and wished them an unforgettable experience in the competition.

Liu Juan expressed sincere gratitude to the guests and collaborating units and extended her best wishes to the participants. She then officially announced the opening of the 9th "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad.

Speech by Уржумцева Татьяна Борисовна, Director of the Russian Cultural Center in Beijing

Nearly 50 Russian language majors from universities including Northeast Normal University, Harbin Normal

Liu Juan, Director of the Russian Research Center of Beijing Normal University, announcing the official opening of the Olympiad

University, Hunan Normal University, Liaoning Normal University, Tianjin Normal University, Shaanxi Normal University, Northwest Normal University, Xinjiang Normal University, and Beijing Normal University participated in the competition. The contestants showcased their diverse Russian language skills through various aspects such as language proficiency, knowledge of Russian culture, literature, and music. After a day of intense competition, 20 participants stood out. Three senior-level winners from Beijing Normal University were awarded the opportunity to pursue a master's degree at Moscow State Pedagogical University with full funding. Representatives from the Russian Department of Beijing Normal University and the Faculty of Philology of Moscow State Pedagogical University delivered speeches at the closing ceremony, highly praising the excellent performances of the contestants. They expressed their commitment to further deepening cooperation and their anticipation for the 10th "Running to Moscow" Russian Language Olympiad.

Group photo of the award-winning contestants

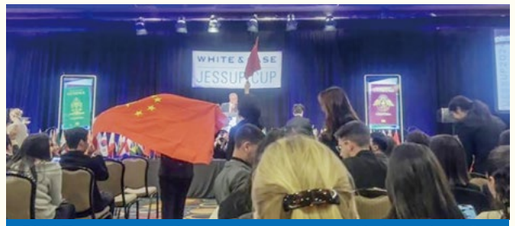
Beijing Normal University Team Reaches Top 32 in 2024 Jessup International Moot Court Competition and Wins Best Combined Memorial Award

Article source: School of Law | *Release date: 2024-4-11*

From March 31 to April 6, the 65th Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition was held in Washington, D.C. The Jessup Competition, now in its 65th year, is the largest and most prestigious international moot court competition in the world, often referred to as the "Olympics" of international moot courts. Organized by the International Law Students Association (ILSA), competitors simulate presenting written and oral arguments on hypothetical international law cases before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This year's case involved issues of freedom of expression, statelessness, the right to nationality, consular protection, and the United Nations Security Council's jurisdiction in peaceful dispute resolution.

After six months of rigorous preparation, the Beijing Normal University (BNU) team won eight consecutive matches in the China Regional Competition, emerging as the national champion from among 65 teams. The team earned the right to represent China in the international rounds in Washington, D.C. Team members Thea and Liu Jingyi were awarded Best Oralist in the domestic competition.

This year, over 674 teams from more than 100 jurisdictions registered for the competition, with over 150 teams from different countries and regions participating in the international rounds in Washington, D.C. As the China Regional Champion, the BNU team entered the opening ceremony with the national flag. In the preliminary rounds, they competed against the Muslim University of Morogoro from Tanzania, the University of the West Indies from Jamaica, the University of Cyprus, and Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, India. Facing complex questions from the judges, the team responded with composure and clarity, winning all four preliminary matches and ranking 4th globally to advance to the elimination rounds. In the knockout stage, the BNU team narrowly lost to the University of São Paulo, the eventual third-place winner, finishing in the top 32 globally. Additionally, the BNU team's memorial ranked 7th globally, earning the Alona M. Evans Award for Best Combined Memorial. These achievements mark the best performance by Beijing Normal University in its history of participation and the highest ranking for a Chinese team in this year's competition. Thea and Liu Jingyi were also among the top 100 oralists globally.



BNU Team entering the opening ceremony with the national flag

Final Memorials Rankings

Rank	Team No.	Country	University	Total	Applicant	Respondent
1	748	India	National Law University, Delhi	574	286	288
2	393	Azerbaijan	ADA University	548	267	281
3	121	United Kingdom	King's College, London	548	277	271
4	357	Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University	543	261	282
5	661	Canada	University of Toronto	541	272	269
6	728	India	Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law	541	275	266
7	844	China	Beijing Normal University	538	270	268
8	579	Greece	National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	538	267	271
9	275	Canada	University of Western Ontario	538	264	274

BNU team memorial ranked 7th globally

Final Ranking Result

Rank	Team No.	Country	University	Win	Losses	Raw Points	Round Points
1	357	Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University	4	0	3181	31.5
2	116	Brazil	Universidade Federal de Uberlândia	4	0	3149	31
3	121	United Kingdom	King's College, London	4	0	3132	33.5
4	844	China	Beijing Normal University	4	0	3130	30
5	108	Singapore	Singapore Management University School of Law	4	0	3121	35
6	128	United States	Emory University	4	0	3118	33
7	463	Singapore	National University of Singapore	4	0	3116	36

BNU team ranked 4th globally in the preliminary rounds

Oralist Ranking

#	Name	Team No.	Country	University	Avg. Score	# Matches
86	Ya Xi	844	China	Beijing Normal University	87.25	4
87	Isabelle Beatriz Ginez	357	Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University	87.20	3
88	Gabriel de Chaisemartin	541	United Kingdom	University College London	87.20	2
89	Emma Van de Venster	548	Belgium	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	87.20	2
90	Vidit Desai	661	Canada	University of Toronto	87.20	4
91	Jingyi Liu	844	China	Beijing Normal University	87.09	5

Top 100 oralists rankings

The 2024 BNU team was formed in April 2023, coached by Professor Liao Shiping from the School of Law, with team members Yang Jin, Liu Jingyi, Thea, Zhang Zichao, and Chang Jingwen. Other team members included Zhang Zixuan, Ran Jinxiang, Qu Boyi, Li Mingyu, Xu Hao, and Zhang Boju.

The BNU team's outstanding performance is attributed to the support of the university, the dedicated guidance of coach Liao Shiping, and the hard work and unity of past and present team members. Since BNU first participated in the Jessup Competition in 2017, the team has grown into one of the strongest teams in the China Region, winning the national championship seven times and qualifying for the international rounds six times, achieving remarkable results, including this year's China Regional Championship and a top 32 global ranking.

Awards


Competition in progress


Group photo with judges and opposing teams

Participation in high-level international academic competitions has become a tradition and highlight of the School of Law at Beijing Normal University. With the ongoing implementation of the school's internationalization strategy and increased support for student participation in professional competitions, Beijing Normal University's School of Law is poised to cultivate more internationally-oriented legal talent.

A Dialogue Between Mo Yan and Abdulrazak Gurnah, Two Nobel Literature Laureates

Article source: BNU Official Website | *Release date: 2024-03-21*

On March 11, Abdulrazak Gurnah, the 2021 Nobel Literature Prize winner, came to BNU to have a talk about literature with Mo Yan, the professor of BNU and the 2012 Nobel Literature Prize winner.

The Hometown and Foreign Land in Literature

Mo Yan's depiction of Gaomi and Gurnah's portrayal of Zanzibar both present their infinite attachment to their hometown and constant reflection on the world, giving birth to many stories filled with allegory and a sense of destiny.

For Gurner, Africa is "hometown", while for Mo Yan, it is "a foreign land".

Mo Yan recalled the scenes of the African savannah he witnessed during his field trip in Africa, and thought of Hemingway's work The Snows of Kilimanjaro. He believed that the "Africa of literature" he understood from works is greatly different from the "Africa of reality" he saw. For Gurnah, Africa holds different memories. He mentioned that the island of Zanzibar has vast beaches. "Our beaches, in a sense, are connecting with the world and carrying the cross-oceanic exchanges with other cultures of the world."

Gurna said that home and hometown are not only geographical concepts, but also emotional resonances deep in the heart. Mo Yan added that the writer's experiences of creation extend and their range of activity expands, everywhere in the world can be the writer's "hometown."

Gurneh also talked about his reading of Mo Yan's Red Sorghum , expressed his affection for the language, narrative style and "breath" of this work conveys, and praised Mo Yan"s novels for the outstanding depiction the experiences of ordinary people in the historical contexts in a way that is tangible and relatable to readers.

From the perspective of "storytelling", Mo Yan said that a writer's writing cannot be separated from his hometown. He believed that a novelist's autobiography is often reflected in all his works and may contain elements of fiction, but a novelist's novels definitely contain a lot of autobiographical content. This is not a matter of honesty, but purely a matter of art. He also talked about Gurnah's Desertion, suggesting that novelists will not describe a massive change in an all-round way as the historian does, but "see the big through the small" and come into an open world through a narrow door.

"The Novelist's Second Identity"

In addition to being a novelist, the two Nobel laureates also have another identity. Gurnah is an important scholar in the fields of African literature, colonial literature, and post-colonial literature, and Mo Yan is a playwright. Both writers also shared their experiences about their second identities.

Gurnah said that both academic research and literary creation are his aspirations. and there is no difficulty in balancing the two. When writing academic monographs and papers, he will use academic language, rich supporting materials, and an authoritative tone to cover as comprehensive as possible; when writing novels, he is completely free.

Mo Yan also introduced his original intentions and insights in creating dramas. He visited Shakespeare's birthplace three times and discovered a peony pavilion in Stratford's Firs Garden. Shakespeare and Tang Xianzu were great dramatists from the East and the West in the same era. The love in the drama The Peony Pavilion broke through the boundaries between life and death, as did Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. From this, he felt that the great writers captured the deep connection of human emotions.

The Novelist on Teaching Creative Writing

At the end of the talk, the two Nobel Prize winners talked about the teaching of creative writing.

Mo Yan said that BNU has accumulated valuable experience in the teaching of writing over the years. Students here have published excellent works in many top literary journals. The International Center for Writing has set up a creative writing workshop and organizes rewriting sessions, inviting critics, writers and editors to discuss students' works, which can continuously cultivate writers of literature. He believes that the dream of the "BNU Writers Group" will come into reality.

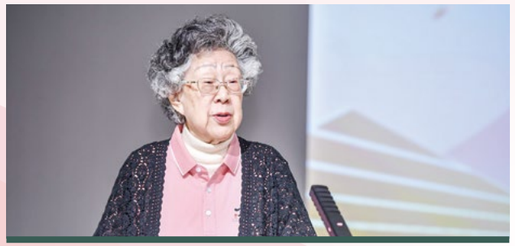
Gurnah said that many schools in the UK offer creative writing courses, with enrollment significantly exceeding capacity, which shows students' love for creative writing. Based on his own writing experience, Gurnah suggested that beginners need to learn and explore by themselves. After writing, they should ask others to read it as much as possible so as to understand the readers' opinions. He believes that creative writing courses are quite valuable and the school should encourage students, helping them find the right direction for their writing, and teach them how to be known, understood and appreciated by readers.

The 10th Golden Lenses Awards Ceremony and the 2024 Looking China Youth Film Project Launching Ceremony is Held

Article source: Official Website of BNU | Release date: 2024-05-06

On April 25, the 10th Golden Lenses Awards Ceremony and the 2024 Looking China Youth Film Project Launching Ceremony were held at Beijing Normal University.

The Looking China Youth Film Project, organized by Beijing Normal University, is an international activity for cultural exchanges among the youth. In the past 13



years, it has invited 1,009 foreign young people from 102 countries to 27 provinces in China, and completed 985 documentary short films. In 2014, the project set up a special Golden Lense Award to encourage outstanding creators with keen vision and profound insights. The award has been presented nine times so far.

Chen Xing, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, delivered a speech at the event. He said that he sincerely welcomes young friends from all over the world to start from Beijing Normal University to experience, observe and feel China, and serve as young ambassadors for cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries.

Huang Huilin, founder of the project and senior professor at Beijing Normal University, introduced the completion of the project last year and pointed out that the works last year are documentary, emotional, and innovative.

Finally, Listening! Our dreams won the first prize. Five films including The Fangdou Family won the second prize. Six films including Connection·Tea won the third prize. A Hakka Song received a special award. Cuppa won the award for Best Artistic Expression. Three films including The Return won the Best Online Dissemination Award. At the same time, 11 organizations won the Best Organization Award. Diplomats from more than ten countries, including Ecuador, Pakistan, and Greece, and hundreds of domestic and foreign experts and scholars attended the ceremony and presented awards to the winning works.

After that, the 2024 Look China Youth Film Project launching ceremony began with a flag-raising ceremony, officially announcing the start of this year's event.

In 2024, the project will take "Beautiful China: Travels, Delicacies, and Beautiful Scenery" as the theme and invite 90 foreign youths from 30 countries to travel to Beijing, Chongqing, Anhui, Jiangsu, Liaoning, Shaanxi, Guizhou, Fujian, and Xinjiang, China. From April 25 to July 8, the host institutions will cooperate to let more than a hundred teachers and students from all over the world have cultural experiences and create short films in China.

The 8th International Conference on Computational Thinking and STEM Education Opens in Beijing

Article source: Beijing Normal University Smart Learning Institute | Release date: 2024-6-2

On May 28, 2024, the 8th International Conference on Computational Thinking and STEM Education (CTE-STEM 2024) grandly opened in Beijing. This year's conference focuses on "Computational Thinking Education and STEM Education Related to Computing", inviting researchers and practitioners engaged in or interested in the fields of computational thinking and science education to participate in this prestigious event. Attendees will exchange innovative ideas, unique insights, valuable experiences, and challenges across multiple sub-themes, exploring new perspectives and trends in computational thinking and STEM education, and working together to promote the ongoing development of these fields.

Group photo of CTE-STEM 2024 guests

At the opening ceremony, several distinguished experts and scholars, including Professor Li Long from Inner Mongolia Normal University, Professor Liu Yongqian, Executive Deputy Director of the Academic Committee of the Chinese Educational Technology Association, Professor Chen Li, Chair of the Technical Committee of the National Engineering Research Center for Internet Education Intelligent Technology and Applications, Professor Li Mang from the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University, and Professor Yu Shengquan, Executive Director of the Advanced Innovation Center for Future Education at Beijing Normal University, delivered video speeches. They extended their sincere congratulations to the conference and wished for its great success.

During the opening remarks, the conference chair, Professor Kong Siu Cheung from The Education University of Hong Kong, emphasized the expanding influence of computational thinking in STEM education amidst ongoing globalization, informatization, and technological advancement. He warmly recalled the remarkable development journey since the first conference in 2017 and looked forward to the new directions as computational thinking education transitions from the 1.0 era to the 2.0 era.

Opening remarks by Professor Kong Siu Cheung, conference chair from The Education University of Hong Kong


Opening remarks by Vice President Wang Qiang of the China Educational Equipment Industry Association

Professor Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, highlighted the importance of STEM education and computational thinking in advancing the sustainable development goals advocated by UNESCO. He noted that the humanistic care and profound future-oriented focus embedded in STEM education align perfectly with Beijing Normal University's rich humanistic heritage and dedication to fundamental research. He further emphasized that cultivating computational thinking and integrating STEM education will build an efficient and comprehensive bridge for students to understand the world. Beijing Normal University will continue to strive tirelessly to achieve sustainable education development goals.


Opening remarks by Professor Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University

Vice President Wang Qiang of the China Educational Equipment Industry Association connected the timing of the conference with the traditional Chinese solar term "Xiaoman", symbolizing the continuous accumulation and growth of knowledge and wisdom. He stressed that the world is undergoing an unprecedented technological revolution and industrial transformation, and the widespread promotion and in-depth development of computational thinking and STEM education have become essential paths for cultivating forward-looking and innovative future talents. The educational equipment industry has always been a strong support for the development of education and will play an important role in promoting the steady development of future education.

Mr. Lai Sik Cheung, Director of the Jockey Club Computational Thinking Education Programme, emphasized the crucial role of technology in education, particularly the significance of artificial intelligence (AI). He firmly believes that computational thinking is an indispensable cornerstone of education. Mr. Lai highlighted the importance of constructivist learning and programming education in enhancing students' innovation capabilities and enriching their AI experiences. The Jockey Club Computational Thinking Education Programme (CoolThink@JC) is actively promoting the innovation and development of computational thinking education in Hong Kong and globally. On a global scale, CoolThink aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goal 4, aiming to provide inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all students. On a more practical level, CoolThink not only supports students but also empowers teachers and parents, striving to enhance the abilities and literacy of all education participants.


Opening speech by Mr. Lai Sik Cheung, Director of the Jockey Club Computational Thinking Education Programme

Professor Fan Lei from Capital Normal University, the conference chair, stressed that 2024 will be a significant milestone for digital construction in China and a pivotal year for the emergence of generative AI as a new productive force in the digital age. Professor Fan stated that computational thinking has become an indispensable core competency in modern society, serving as the foundation of computer science and a powerful engine driving innovation across various disciplines. In an era of increasing informatization, integrating computational thinking into STEM education is an inevitable trend.

Opening speech by Professor Fan Lei, conference chair from Capital Normal University

Following this, Professor Valentina Dagien from Vilnius University in Lithuania, Chair of the Program Committee, delivered a keynote speech titled "Computational Thinking in 'Mind-Size Bites'". In her address, she elaborated on the central role of computational thinking in modern education systems, exploring its definition, developmental trajectory, and its three main categories. Additionally, she discussed how to effectively integrate computational thinking into different educational stages and national education systems. Professor Dagien further mentioned the Bebras International Informatics and Computational Thinking Challenge and detailed the "mind-size bites" teaching strategy. She explained that this approach aims to motivate students to learn deeply through small steps and challenges, fostering their ability to think critically. This strategy also promotes a transformation in classroom teaching methods, gradually enhancing students' motivation to learn.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Associate Professor


Keynote speech by Professor Valentina Dagienė, Chair of the Program Committee from Vilnius University

Zhang Jinbao from the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University. The event featured an impressive lineup of guests, including Professor Valentina Dagien, Chair of the Program Committee; Professor Meng Meiling from The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ms. Marjorie Yang, Chairperson of Esquel Group; Associate Professor Wong Gary K. W. from The University of Hong Kong; Professor Hu Xiang'en from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Dr. Prasad Ram, founder of Gooru Learning; Professor Huang Ronghuai, Co-Dean of the Smart Learning Institute at Beijing Normal University and UNESCO Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Education; Professor Ren Yang from The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ms. Chen Wenyin, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Innovation Center; Professor Sun Zhong from Capital Normal University; and Professor Li Feng from East China Normal University.

Opening ceremony hosted by Associate Professor Zhang Jinbao from the Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University

A lively roundtable discussion was held on the topic of "How Generative AI is Transforming Learning and Education". The discussion featured Professor Huang Ronghuai, Co-Dean of the Smart Learning Institute at Beijing Normal University and UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence and Education; Professor Ren Yang from The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Ms. Chen Wenyin, Executive Director of the Hong Kong Innovation Center; and Professor Sun Zhong from the School of Information Engineering at Capital Normal University. The session was moderated by Associate Professor Wong Gary K. W. from The University of Hong Kong. During the discussion, the experts delved into the challenges and advantages of generative AI in education, its integration into K-12 and higher education, and the role AI plays in teacher professional development and instructional design. They also discussed how AI can foster student creativity and the ethical issues it may raise.

Roundtable Discussion

In their keynote address titled "Navigated Learning", Professor Hu Xiang'en from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dr. Prasad Ram, founder of Gooru Learning, elaborated on the concept and practical implementation of navigated learning. They emphasized that navigated learning is a revolutionary educational approach that leverages real-time navigation technology

Keynote address by Professor Hu Xiang'en (left) and Dr. Prasad Ram (right)

similar to GPS systems to provide students with precise and personalized learning pathways. This method can adapt to each student's learning pace and comprehension level, ensuring a tailored learning experience. Additionally, the speakers explored the interaction between human intelligence and AI, as well as the complexities of the educational ecosystem.

During the conference, Professor Meng M. Helen from The Chinese University of Hong Kong delivered a keynote speech titled "Creating the First Pre-tertiary AI Curriculum for Hong Kong". She mentioned that to engage students in the exploration of AI, The Chinese University of Hong Kong launched the "AI4Future"

Keynote speech by Professor Meng M. Helen

project. This project is Hong Kong's first AI curriculum designed for secondary schools, aiming to fill the gap in AI education at the pre-tertiary level. Professor Meng M. Helen detailed the development, implementation, and evaluation processes of the project and showcased the global progress in AI education as well as the achievements of The Chinese University of Hong Kong in this field.

As the highlight of the first day of the conference, the Teacher Forum brought together numerous distinguished practitioners in the fields of computational thinking and STEM education. They generously shared their unique insights and practical experiences related to the cultivation of computational thinking, STEM education, and computer technology. Ms. Marjorie Yang, Chairperson of Esquel Group, delivered an opening speech titled

Speech by Ms. Marjorie Yang, Chairperson of Esquel Group

"Teachers' Transformation Story in CoolThink@JC", where she shared transformation stories of teachers involved in the Jockey Club Computational Thinking Education Programme in Hong Kong.

The subsequent teacher dialogue sessions were equally engaging. Professor Yu Xiaoya from Beijing Institute of Education and Mr. Wang Zhenqiang from Beijing Academy of Educational Sciences respectively moderated discussions centered on "Integration of Computational Thinking and AI Learning in Schools" and "Applications of Generative AI in Educational Environments". Several educators shared their valuable perspectives, including Ms. Zeng Yongshan and Ms. Wen Xiaoyan from HK C.C.C Heep Woh Primary School, Dr. He Jianyi, Principal of Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division, Mr. Xu Wenxing from King's College Old Boys' Association Primary School No. 2, Ms. Song Jie, Head of the AI Curriculum Center at Yuanfudao, Dr. Yuan Zhongguo, Head of the Information Technology Teaching and Research Group at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, Mr. Xu Yan from Tsinghua University High School, and Dr. Jin Xin, Director of the Science and Technology Innovation Center at The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China Fengtai School. Their inspiring speeches provided new ideas and directions for the attending educators.

The conference will continue until May 30, featuring a series of vibrant activities, including keynote speeches, roundtable discussions, teacher forums, academic paper presentations, teacher case studies, book exhibitions, and school visits. These sessions offer researchers and educators a valuable platform to share and exchange their experiences and insights. This year's conference received 174 paper submissions from 322 authors across 11 countries and regions. After a rigorous selection process, 78 high-quality papers were accepted. The event attracted over 200 guests and representatives from home and abroad, with nearly 80 representatives presenting their academic findings and exemplary teaching cases. The conference is organized by the Asia-Pacific Society for Computers in Education (APSCE), hosted by Beijing Normal University, and supported by the Jockey Club Computational Thinking Education Programme (CoolThink@JC).

Teacher Forum

International Symposium on Systemic Risk and Multi-Crisis Management is Held at Beijing Normal University

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | *Release date: 2024-5-12*

From May 9 to 10, the International Symposium on Systemic Risk and Multi-Crisis Management was held at Yingdong Academic Hall, Beijing Normal University (BNU). The conference was hosted by BNU, co-organized by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (Austria), and jointly organized by the Ministry of Emergency Management-Ministry of Education Joint Institute for Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management, the

Faculty of Geographical Science, the Key Laboratory of Environmental Change and Natural Disaster of the Ministry of Education, and the State Key Laboratory of Earth Surface Processes and Resource Ecology.

The conference was chaired by Professor Shi Peijun, Director of the Expert Committee of the National Disaster Reduction Commission, Academician of the Eurasian Academy of Sciences, BNU, and Professor Ortwin Renn, Academician of the

German Academy of Sciences and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies. Professor Zheng Guoguang, President of the China Association for Disaster Prevention and former Vice Minister of Emergency Management, and Professor Wang Ming, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.

The symposium attracted 80 representatives from various countries, including Professor Chen Deliang, Academician of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and Foreign Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences; Professor M. Granger Morgan, Academician of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Professor Hirokazu Tatano from Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; Professor Wolfgang Lutz from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; and Professor Thomas Homer-Dixon from the Royal Roads University, Canada.

The theme of the conference was "Systemic Risk and Multi-Crisis Management Governance", aiming to promote international academic exchange and cooperation, and

share experiences and strategies in managing systemic risks and multi-crisis scenarios. Participants shared their research findings and perspectives on topics such as global climate change and systemic risks, systemic risk assessment models and defense paradigms, and case studies on multi-crisis management in the context of urbanization and aging populations. The discussions provided valuable insights and suggestions for addressing current and future global and regional systemic risks and multi-crisis scenarios.

The symposium received high praise from participants, who considered it a productive and inspiring academic event. There is a strong expectation to strengthen international cooperation and exchange to jointly address the challenges of global and regional systemic risks and multi-crisis scenarios, contributing to a safer, more stable, and sustainable future for the world and the Earth.

Beijing Normal University has long been committed to promoting talent cultivation and scientific research in disaster prevention, reduction,

and emergency management. The university established the "China Natural Disaster Monitoring and Prevention Research Office" in 1989, the "Ministry of Civil Affairs (Ministry of Emergency Management)-Ministry of Education Joint Institute for Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management" in 2006, and the "School of National Security and Emergency Management" in 2021. Leveraging its multidisciplinary strengths, BNU conducts comprehensive disaster reduction research, serves national strategies, promotes global cooperation, and has made significant contributions to China's comprehensive disaster reduction efforts.

Lancang-Mekong Countries' Capacity Building Workshop on Education for Sustainable Rural Development is Held

Article source: China Institute of Education and Social Development | *Release date: 2024-04-29*

On April 23, 2024, the Lancang-Mekong Countries' Capacity Building Workshop on Education for Sustainable Rural Development was held at Beijing Normal University. The workshop was co-hosted by the China Institute of Education and Social Development at Beijing Normal University, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (UNESCO INRULED), the Chaipattana Foundation, Hebei Agricultural University, and Yunnan Agricultural

University, with guidance and support from Secretariat of National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO and Beijing Normal University. The workshop attracted rural education policymakers, experts, practitioners, and youth representatives from the Mekong Sub-region, with over two thousands more attending online.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University and Director of UNESCO INRULED, along with Mr. Robert Parua, Education Programme Specialist, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia (UNESCO Beijing), attended and delivered opening remarks. Prof. Wei Hongjiang, Vice President of Yunnan Agricultural University, and Ms. Adhinand Indrapim, Minister Counsellor (Agriculture), the Royal Thai Embassy, Beijing, also delivered remarks via video. The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr. Zhao

Yuchi, Executive Director of UNESCO INRULED.

During the meeting, more than 40 researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders in the fields of education and rural development from China, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, and other countries were invited to participate in the exchange and dialogue. They delivered speeches on the theme of "Education for Sustainable Rural Development" and explored the new approaches in this regard. In addition to keynote speeches, the workshop included a session for sharing national case studies, where experts and practitioners from various countries shared their outstanding practices and challenges in rural development, paving the way for new ideas in rural development.

After the meeting, 18 delegates from six countries in the Lancang-Mekong region embarked on a three-day field visit of Beijing and Hebei province. The delegation visited the World Food Programme (WFP) China Office to learn about South-South Cooperation initiatives and projects of WFP Centre of Excellence in Rural Transformation (WFP China COE). In addition, the delegates visited various sites such as Huangwan Village and Baiyangdian in Xiong'an New Area, and demonstration villages for poverty alleviation, including Luotuowan Village and Gujiatai Village in Fuping County, Baoding, Heibei Province. During the visit, they gained insights into the practical measures and achievements of China's poverty alleviation efforts, learned about the digitisation-driven model for modernising agriculture, exchanged ideas on rural industrial development paths with multi-party cooperation involving government, universities, enterprises, and village collectives. They also experienced and appreciated the captivating charm and heritage of Chinese culture.

Keynote Speeches

Country Report and Good Practice Showcase

The field visit concluded successfully on April 26th, with Prof. Zhao Jianjun, Vice President of Hebei Agricultural University, delivering a closing remark presenting certificates to the delegates.

The workshop along with the follow-up field visit helps establish an academic exchange and practical action network in education and rural development among Lancang-Mekong countries. Moreover, it will strengthen traditional friendships among the countries and contribute to the construction of the Lancang-Mekong Community of Shared Future.

Kyrgyzstan University Faculty and Students Engage in Cultural Exchange at BNU Zhuhai Campus

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | Release date: 2024-5-14

From May 8 to 14, faculty and students from five universities in Kyrgyzstan—Kyrgyz State Technical University, Issyk-Kul State University, Osh State University, Naryn State University, and Batken State University—visited Zhuhai at the invitation of Beijing Normal University (BNU). They participated in a seven-day cultural exchange event and attended the "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program" results presentation, jointly initiated by BNU's School of Future Design and the Youth Design Thinking Innovation Development Center.

Scene of the "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program" results presentation

On May 12, the School of Future Design at BNU held the "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program" results presentation in the lecture hall of the Yuanbai Building Art Museum at the Zhuhai campus. The event was attended by Ning Shaolin, Deputy Director of the Zhuhai Campus Management Committee and Secretary of the Direct Party Branch of the School of Future Design, Wang Faxin, Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission of the Zhuhai Campus, Gao Peng, Dean of the School of Future Design, Koenaliev Kylychbek, Dean of the School of Design at Kyrgyz State Technical University, Li Congrong, Head of the Youth Design Thinking Innovation Development Center, and relevant officials from the Party Propaganda Office, Youth League Committee, and International Exchange and Cooperation Office at the Zhuhai Campus. Faculty and students from the five Kyrgyz universities and BNU's School of Future Design also participated.

In his speech at the presentation, Ning Shaolin emphasized that educational internationalization is a crucial link for promoting exchange and cooperation among peoples, an important support for building a community with a shared future in the new era, and a significant guide for enhancing mutual understanding among people in countries along the "Belt and Road". BNU's School of Future Design actively serves the national strategy of opening up and conducts extensive international exchanges and cooperation, providing a broad platform for students to engage in academic exchange, further studies, and cultural interaction.

Gao Peng noted that in October last year, faculty and students from BNU's School of Future Design traveled to Kyrgyzstan to engage in educational exchanges, cultural fieldwork, and innovative design activities with faculty and students from the five Kyrgyz universities. Upon returning to China, Chinese and Kyrgyz students collaborated on innovative design projects that combined Kyrgyz traditional folk culture and modern elements with Chinese traditional craftsmanship, producing a series of creative works in areas such as ethnic cultural gifts, nomadic lifestyle products, and fashion design. This presentation is a testament to the efforts of students and faculty from both countries.

Speech by Gao Peng, Dean of the School of Future Design at BNU

Speech by Qiu Yue, Deputy Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Office at Zhuhai Campus

Koenaliev Kylychbek remarked that this cultural exchange event facilitates cultural communication and cooperation based on mutual respect, offering a valuable opportunity for students and faculty from both China and Kyrgyzstan to gain a deeper understanding of each other's history, art, language, and customs.

Speech by Koenaliev Kylychbek, Dean of the School of Design at Kyrgyz State Technical University

Qiu Yue, Deputy Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Office at BNU Zhuhai Campus, emphasized BNU's open and inclusive approach under the "One Body, Two Wings" educational framework. Through joint programs, exchanges, and visits, BNU fosters a multicultural and international campus atmosphere, enhancing students' cross-cultural communication skills and broadening their global perspectives. This exchange event will significantly advance cross-field and cross-border cooperation.

The "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program" results presentation showcased over 40 design works by students and faculty from China and Kyrgyzstan, covering categories such as national gifts, nomadic lifestyle products, and fashion design. The national gifts and nomadic lifestyle products were designed based on Kyrgyzstan's natural resources and diplomatic needs, aiming to establish a national brand and product system for Kyrgyzstan. The fashion designs incorporated elements

Two national gift products designed by BNU's School of Future Design

of Kyrgyz traditional culture and focused on sustainable design, combining nomadic spirit with sports fashion through innovative technology to explore various future lifestyle possibilities.

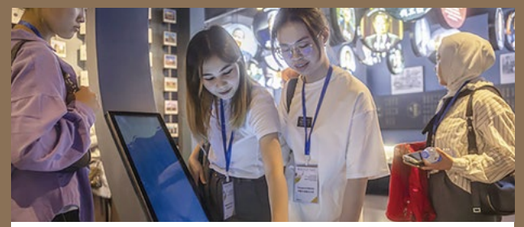
Gift items such as ceremonial plates and honey gift boxes designed by BNU's School of Future Design will be sent to the Prime Minister's Office of Kyrgyzstan for diplomatic selection and may be used as national gifts in state visits.

The presentation also featured the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between BNU's School of Future Design, five Kyrgyz national universities, and the Youth Design Thinking Innovation Development Center. The three parties will deepen cooperation in talent cultivation, course sharing, faculty and student exchanges, joint research, and project collaboration.

MOU signing ceremony between BNU's School of Future Design, five Kyrgyz national universities, and the Youth Design Thinking Innovation Development Center

Gao Peng and Koenaliev Kylychbek exchanging souvenirs

From May 8 to 14, the "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program" hosted cultural exchange activities for faculty and students from five Kyrgyz national universities visiting China. The Kyrgyz delegation, along with faculty and students from BNU's School of Future Design, visited significant cultural sites and industry bases in Zhuhai, including the Zhuhai Study Abroad Cultural Museum, Wuyong Handicraft Weaving Workshop, Rossini Clock Museum, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. They also traveled to Shenzhen to conduct two folk culture workshops for students at BNU Nanshan Affiliated School and participated in a local paper-cutting art workshop.



Kyrgyz faculty and students visiting the Zhuhai Study Abroad Cultural Museum

Kyrgyz delegation conducting a traditional handicraft "Kurok Quilt" workshop for BNU's School of Future Design

The "International Youth Student Designer Exchange Program", jointly initiated by BNU's School of Future Design and the Youth Design Thinking Innovation Development Center, has received strong support from the International Exchange and Cooperation Office at BNU Zhuhai Campus. The project aims to create a platform for exchange and cooperation between international universities, offering young designers opportunities to communicate, promoting deep understanding and interaction between different cultures, and disseminating excellent Chinese culture.

BNU's School of Future Design faculty and students with Kyrgyz counterparts in Kyrgyzstan in October 2023

Building Bridges of Friendship and Celebrating Cultural Exchange — Muscatine High School from Iowa Visits BNU Affiliated High School

Article source: Beijing Normal University Affiliated High School, Department of Basic Education Development and Management, International Exchange and Cooperation Office | Release date: 2024-5-9

Recently, Beijing Normal University Affiliated High School (BNUHS) and Muscatine High School from Iowa, USA, conducted a cultural exchange event themed "Friendship and Heritage". The delegation from Muscatine included Luca Bellon, Director of the Iowa Sister States Board, and Tony Joseph, Vice Chairman of the Committee. The event was attended by Chen Dali, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges of the Ministry of Education, Zhou Zuoyu, Vice President of Beijing Normal University, Wu Yujun, Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Office, Wang Liping, Principal of BNUHS, Xu Jianyong, Party Secretary, Xu Lan, Assistant Principal, as well as teachers and students from BNUHS and Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School.

The event commenced with a performance by the Jinfan Dance Troupe. Xu Jianyong presided over the welcome ceremony.

In his speech, Zhou Zuoyu warmly welcomed the American guests on behalf of Beijing Normal University. He highlighted BNU's long-standing emphasis on international student exchanges, noting that the university had sent its first group of students abroad as early as 1903. He cited notable BNUHS alumni, including the renowned scientist Qian Xuesen, as examples of early Sino-American educational exchanges.

Zhou expressed his hope that the visiting students would experience a vibrant and dynamic China, gain new life experiences, and help more Americans understand contemporary China, thereby creating a tapestry of international friendship.

Chen Dali welcomed the "old friends" from Muscatine and the students and faculty from Muscatine High School. He emphasized the importance of strengthening exchanges between Chinese and American youth to enhance mutual understanding and promote healthy and stable Sino-American relations. He encouraged the young people of both nations to continue learning from each other and to write new chapters of friendship that transcend time and space.

Wang Liping introduced the visiting students and faculty to the rich history and tradition of international cultural exchange at BNUHS. She expressed her hope that the "Culture and Art Exchange" activities would help build deep friendships between

Chinese and American students, fostering mutual understanding. As a member of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Basic Education Collaborative Development Alliance, BNUHS, along with Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School, looks forward to continuing the friendship between Chinese and American youth.

In his speech, Luca Bellon recalled the 1985 visit of Xi Jinping, then Secretary of the Zhengding County Party Committee in Hebei Province, to Muscatine, highlighting the deep friendship formed with BNUHS and Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School. He expressed the excitement of Muscatine students participating in the program and looked forward to inviting students and teachers from

both schools to the United States for further exchanges.

Following the welcome ceremony, the American students embarked on a vibrant cultural experience led by volunteers from BNUHS. They attended classes, engaged with BNUHS students and teachers, and immersed themselves in the learning environment.

After the event, the American students expressed their deep appreciation for the richness of Chinese culture and the warm hospitality of their Chinese hosts. They intend to share their wonderful experiences back home, believing that the friendship between Chinese and American youth will continue to deepen, laying a solid foundation for the long-term development of Sino-American relations. They look forward to the next opportunity for Chinese and American students to gather again, celebrate the beauty of Chinese culture, and write new chapters of friendship and exchange.

Opening of the "Unique Life" Sino-French Youth Painting Competition Exhibition at the Zhuhai Campus Library

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | Release date: May 7, 2024

On May 6, the "Unique Life" Youth Painting Competition Exhibition, co-hosted by Beijing Normal University Phoenix Academy and the Alliance Française de Beijing, officially opened in the atrium of the Zhuhai Campus Library. The unveiling ceremony was attended by Chen Xi, Dean of Phoenix Academy; Wan Lipeng, Director of the Library; Guo Kanjun, Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Office; Qiu Yue, Director of the Zhuhai Branch International Exchange and Cooperation Office; Wang Yan, Party Secretary of Jinfeng Primary School; Zhao Baojin, Deputy Chairman of the Zhuhai Branch Trade Union; and teachers and students from Phoenix Academy.

In celebration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, Phoenix Academy and the Alliance Française de Beijing selected 21 outstanding paintings from nearly 200 winning entries in the 2023 Sino-French Environment Month "Unique Life – Vivre autrement" competition. These works sincerely express the shared understanding and commitment of Chinese and French educators to cultivating multidimensional future skills. Through the pure perspectives of 21 Chinese children, the paintings convey their concern and love for our planet, a genuine desire for harmonious coexistence between humans and nature, and a vision of a green future for 21st-century China. Phoenix Academy aims to use activities like this to explore forward-thinking educational concepts with colleagues and students—the future educators—and to witness and support the growth of children, achieving diverse and international educational practices.

In her speech at the opening ceremony, Chen Xi congratulated the opening of the "Unique Life" Youth Painting Competition Exhibition. He praised the joint efforts of China and France to explore new approaches to children's education in the context of the new era. Chen also paid tribute to the French principal, Ms. Anne Baeyens, and the Chinese principal, Ms. Bao Yuehong, of the Alliance Française de Beijing, who are currently in Paris to witness another historic moment in the development of Sino-French relations.

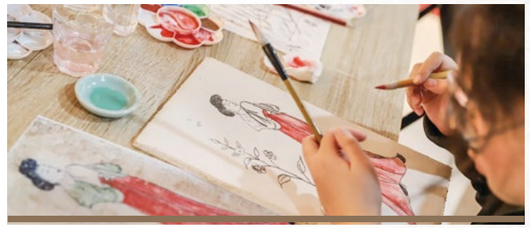
The exhibition will run until May 20, and Phoenix Academy, along with the Zhuhai Campus Trade Union, will later announce information about the "2024 Sino-French Environment Month Youth Painting Competition".

Activity for UN Chinese Language Day Held to Show Cultural Exchange in Tang Dynasty

Article source: School of International Chinese Language Education | *Release date: 2024-04-25*








To celebrate the 15th UN Chinese Language Day, BNU organized an activity for the international students to experience the traditional skills of mural restoration and copying in the Tang dynasty.

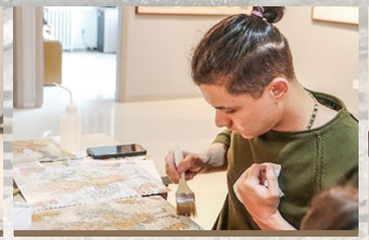
The international students appreciated the Tang Dynasty murals' copies, and practiced copying murals on clay tablets, through which they learned about the history thousands of years ago and felt the prosperity of the Tang Dynasty. The stories of the Silk Road enabled them to find examples of friendly exchanges and civilizational exchanges between China and their own country.

As the earliest form of painting, ancient Chinese murals enjoy a long history. As a national treasure, the royal murals of the Tang Dynasty vividly reproduce the scenes of palace life and aesthetic tastes of the Chinese people at that time. The foreign characters, exquisite utensils, domesticated animals, plants, decorative patterns and other elements in the murals depict the real historical scenes of the integration and development of both Eastern and Western civilizations on the Silk Road.

Some students come from countries along the ancient Silk Road. When they saw the scenes of exchanges between the Tang Dynasty and their homelands, they marveled at the fact that China has had close relationships with their own countries since ancient times, and many of the scenes and stories in the murals reflect the history and culture of their country.

After the activity, the students said that they gained knowledge and a strong sense of accomplishment in the process of making handicrafts.




BNU professor presented the Most Outstanding Asian Artists Award

Article source: Official Website of BNU | *Release date: 2024-03-29*

From 8th to 10th of March, the Chinese modern dance and poetry theatre Dongpo: Life in Poems had four performances at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and four performances at the David Kirk Theatre at Lincoln Center in New York City from 15 to 18 March. The tour was welcomed by local governments, representatives of international organizations, ambassadors of various countries and people who love dance art. In this tour, Su Peng, associate professor of the Dance Department of the School of Arts and Communication of Beijing Normal University, played the lead role of Mr. Dongpo in Dongpo: Life in Poems. His exquisite performance and superb skills were recognized by overseas industry people and audiences, and played a positive role in the artistic dissemination of Chinese culture. Therefore, the Cultural Affairs Bureau of New York, the Lincoln Center for the Arts and the Chinese American Arts Association jointly presented Su Peng with The Most Outstanding Asian Artists Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the field of dance performance.

"The Most Outstanding Asian Artists Award" established in 1981, is an award designed to honour artists of authority in various fields of art and outstanding individuals who have made special contributions to the development of Asian art. Established and presented by the American-Chinese Arts Association, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Lincoln Center for the Arts International Arts Exchange, the award has a high degree of credibility overseas. Historically, film actress Li Lihua, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and Peking Opera artists Mei Baojiu, Zhang Junqiu, and Tong Zhiling have received this award. In the field of dance art, choreographers Lin Hwai-min and Shen Wei have won the award. Su Peng is the first dance performer from the Chinese mainland to receive the award since its inception.


Chinese dance performance artist Su Peng

Modern dance and poetry theatre Dongpo: Life in Poems uses modern dance body language as the main focus and at the same time integrates multiple elements such as opera, taiji, calligraphy, guqin, painting, seal carving, and poetry, etc., to present Su Dongpo in the contemporary perspective, completing a fusion and innovation of traditional Chinese culture and contemporary aesthetic expression.

Su Peng said, as the actor of Mr. Dong Po, mixed feelings are the most emphasised feelings in the creative process for him. "Joy" is because it is fortunate to be able to participate in this dance artwork which is based on the principle of upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground and has a pioneering significance to the form of Chinese dance theatre. Hardship is because the play has clear and precise requirements and restrictions on the actor's physical mobility, physical endurance, dynamic management of the body's microcosm, sensitive control of the combination of physical and mental ideology, as well as the ability to quickly switch between physical and mental performance state. At the same time, he said he was very grateful to Director Shen Wei for his sincere dedication to this work, which enabled him to meet Su Dongpo and gave him a different thinking and understanding of art, dance, body and mind, as well as of life.

Guiding Stars: Professor Gao He Illuminates Students' Astronomical Dreams — A Tribute to One of BNU's Top Ten Most Popular Teachers Among Graduate Students

Article source: Beijing Normal University Gazette | *Authors: Zhi Hui, Zhang Naixian* | *Release date: 2024-5-8*

Department of Astronomy at Beijing Normal University. His research focuses on high-energy astrophysics, studying phenomena such as gamma-ray bursts, electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational waves, and fast radio bursts. He has published over 120 SCI papers in renowned international journals, with more than 4,000 citations. He has received the "Excellent Young Scientists Fund" from the National Natural Science Foundation of China. Professor Gao teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses, including "General Astronomy", "Introduction to Astronomy II", "High-Energy Astrophysics II", and "Academic Presentation Skills". He has won various honors, such as the "Best Language" award in the BNU Young Teachers Teaching Basic Skills Competition, "Outstanding Counselor", and "Excellent Freshman Advisor". In 2023, he was named one of the Top Ten Most Popular Teachers Among Graduate Students in the sixth edition of the award.

The interview with Professor Gao He was arranged for a sunny afternoon. At that time, the crabapple trees beside the Astronomy Building were in full bloom, adding a touch of romance to this somewhat enigmatic field. Stepping into Professor Gao's office, the first impression was one of impeccable tidiness, with not a single item out of place. Before we could fully gather our thoughts, he warmly welcomed us, saying, "Please, have a seat. Let's chat over some tea." As the tea brewed with a gentle, bubbling sound, he began to share, in a measured and reflective manner, his experiences in research and teaching, all intricately connected with the stars.

Brief Biography

Gazing at the Stars: An Unbreakable Bond with Astronomy

From curiosity to passion, Gao He's understanding of astronomy has deepened over 11 years of study. Before attending university, he was unaware of astronomy as a field of study, but his childhood experiences of gazing at the starry sky sparked his curiosity about the subject. "As a child, I was often captivated by the star-filled sky and naturally wondered where these stars came from and how the universe began," he recalls. In 2003, with this "seed" planted in his heart, Gao He enrolled in the Department of Astronomy at Beijing Normal University, embarking on his undergraduate and master's studies.

Beyond interest, what drives Gao He in his continuous exploration of astronomy is his fundamental pursuit of science and truth. Astronomy is the study of celestial bodies, the structure, and development of the universe, including the composition, properties, and motion of celestial objects. Gao He's research focuses on high-energy astrophysics. During his master's studies, he made valuable discoveries about gamma-ray bursts through data analysis, realizing his potential in academic research. "Every small breakthrough, even just a few lines of successfully running code, excites me greatly." Gao believes that scientific research requires imagination, which is built upon a foundation of theoretical knowledge, motivating him to pursue further studies to achieve his research goals. After obtaining his Ph.D. from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, in 2015, Gao He returned to BNU without hesitation to continue his research and teaching in astronomy. "I am a nostalgic person with deep affection for my alma mater," he said earnestly, with a determined look in his eyes.

Chasing the Stars: The Importance of Pure Interest in Research

Gao He's research area is high-energy astrophysics, focusing on phenomena such as gamma-ray bursts, electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational waves, and fast radio bursts. His passion and perseverance over the years have yielded significant achievements in scientific research.

To date, Gao He has published over 120 SCI papers in prestigious international journals, including "Nature" and its sub-journals, and "Physical Review Letters", with more than 4,000 citations. He has been invited multiple times to give presentations at international conferences, and several of his papers have been recognized as highly cited by the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and highlighted on the AAS Nova website. His work has also been featured in "New Astronomy Review" as the most cited paper of the year. Gao has been invited to serve as an independent reviewer for top physics and astronomy journals such as "Physical Review Letters" and as an internal reviewer for papers from gravitational wave observation collaborations. He has received funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China's "Excellent Young Scientists Fund".

In astronomy, obtaining observational data is crucial, and high-quality data often depends on advanced research equipment. "Sometimes an astronomical phenomenon may have been predicted or observed decades ago, but we lacked our own observational data, which might require a 30-meter telescope to obtain," Gao recalls the difficulties in the early stages of his research. With the rapid development and technological advancements in China, this issue has gradually been resolved. On September 25, 2016, the Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST), known as the "China Sky Eye", was officially put into operation in Pingtang, Guizhou. It is the world's largest and most sensitive single-dish radio telescope with independent intellectual property rights, enhancing China's observational capabilities in astronomy and providing valuable data and research opportunities for Chinese scientists. "Our country now has the 500-meter FAST

telescope and several high-energy satellites, making significant strides in astronomical research," Gao proudly recounts recent advancements in national scientific and technological research, expressing confidence in future research endeavors.

Interest, effort, and perseverance are the most important qualities in scientific research. "To excel in research and find joy in it, one must start from a 'pure' interest," Gao often says. He encourages students to use their imagination and let their interests drive their research. Additionally, he hopes students can develop confidence, respect authority without blindly following it. "When you achieve interest and confidence, the last part is effort, which comes naturally," he adds with a smile.

Nurturing the Stars: Becoming a Trusted Mentor and Friend to Students

“If a student in the class is distracted or unfocused, I feel it’s my issue, not theirs, because I haven’t engaged them enough,” says Gao He. Striving for a teaching approach that is both rigorous and humorous, deep yet broad, has been his goal. Since starting his career, Gao He has offered undergraduate and graduate courses including "General Astronomy", "Introduction to Astronomy II", "High-Energy Astrophysics II", and "Academic Presentation Skills Workshop". Some of these courses are considered exemplary and are open for observation by all university faculty. In the classroom, Gao He makes every effort to engage his "humorous cells", encouraging students to actively follow along with the course material. "I really enjoy crosstalk, so I incorporate some 'gags' from crosstalk into my teaching." He often introduces interesting anecdotes in his lectures, which aptly reflect the course content and help students quickly understand and grasp the concepts. His passion for teaching led him to participate in the university’s 17th Young Teachers Teaching Basic Skills Competition, where he won the "Best Language" award. "Making academic research understandable and convincing to 'laypeople' is crucial," Gao emphasizes. Beyond academic research, he places great importance on developing students’ presentation skills. In his graduate course "Academic Presentation Skills Workshop", he requires students to present and share four academic reports per semester, including two in Chinese and two in English. He analyzes each student's presentation skills and encourages peer review to identify and solve problems. This course is known among astronomy students as the "first step into the world of academic presentations". "Students who have taken this course show a marked improvement in their presentation skills," Gao says proudly.

Extending the content of his courses, Gao He has also explored new formats for scientific presentations. He has organized the "Astronomy on the Tip of the Tongue" academic report series, inviting experts and graduate students to present during Friday lunchtimes. To create a relaxed atmosphere for academic exchange, the first 20 participants receive boxed lunches. Gao encourages students to practice presenting not just in class but also to broader audiences. "This activity will continue, providing every student the opportunity to give an academic presentation," he says.

The philosophy of mutual learning underpins Gao He’s educational approach. He believes that astronomy requires knowledge from various fields, and teaching is a way to further enrich his own knowledge and inspiration. To give students more opportunities for interaction, Gao has scheduled weekly half-hour sessions for each student to come to his office to discuss their academic and personal challenges. He patiently analyzes and resolves their issues, encouraging them to maintain a positive outlook on life. "I hope to plant something in their hearts so that when they face life choices in the future, they can stay true to their original aspirations," he says. As a mentor, Gao He has helped numerous undergraduates complete research projects and publish papers. His graduate students have achieved remarkable research results, with many receiving national scholarships and the Baosteel Excellent Student Award. He has also been honored as an "Outstanding Counselor" and "Excellent Freshman Advisor" at Beijing Normal University, exemplifying the concept of mutual learning between teacher and student.

“My students are not afraid of me; we are like friends,” Gao says. In his personal life, he often plays basketball and badminton with his students, helping them maintain a balance between research and leisure. Reflecting on his interactions with students, Gao pauses and smiles, “Seeing their efforts and growth is the most touching thing for me.”

"I gaze at the starry sky, so majestic and grand; Its eternal blaze kindles hope, like springtime thunder in the land." In his "Introduction to Astronomy" class for new undergraduates, Gao He quotes the poem "Gazing at the Starry Sky", inspiring his students to explore and cherish astronomy, to forge ahead despite life's challenges and setbacks, and to keep their dreams alive. "I aspire to be the 'North Star', using my humble efforts to illuminate my students' astronomical dreams," he says with heartfelt emotion.

This article was published in the April 30, 2024, edition of the Beijing Normal University Gazette, page 1.

Original link: http://bnu.ihwrm.com/index/article/articleinfo.html?doc_id=4357710

BNU International Student Shaoguang Invited by the CRI’s “International 3 Minutes” Program

Article source: School of International Chinese Education | *Release date: 2024-5-16*

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and France, French international student Shaoguang, currently studying at Beijing Normal University (BNU), was recently invited to participate in the recording of China Radio International’s (CRI) “International 3 Minutes” program. As a beneficiary of the practical cooperation between China and France, Shaoguang shared his heartfelt thoughts on the program, highlighting the fruitful achievements of the mutual efforts between the two countries.

Shaoguang, a student of Chinese culture, literature, and language at the University of Strasbourg in France, is now studying at the School of International Chinese Education at BNU as an exchange student. He expressed, "I am a beneficiary of the pragmatic cooperation in cultural exchange between China and France." Participating in the program's recording was an exciting experience for him. Shaoguang believes that mutual assistance between the two countries will lead to an increasingly stronger China-France relationship.

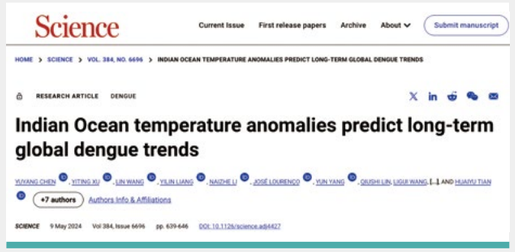
Video link: https://news.cri.cn/20240511/a871380c-cc85-8af6-f791-e1c7fb67e93c.html

[Achievement] Providing Crucial Scientific Support for Global Dengue Fever Control! New Progress Made by BNU Team

Article source: BNU Wechat | *Release date: 2024-05-10*

The research team led by Professor Tian Huaiyu from the Center for Global Change and Public Health at Beijing Normal University has achieved an original breakthrough in the theoretical study of dengue fever epidemic prediction and early warning. For the first time, they discovered that the Indian Ocean Basin-Wide (IOBW) index is a key indicator for predicting global dengue fever epidemics.

They proposed the Global Change and Epidemic (GCE) model, which analyzes the long-term dynamics of global climate change and dengue fever transmission. This model can provide early warnings up to 9 months in advance, offering crucial scientific support for the global control of dengue fever.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RESEARCH ARTICLE DENGUE

Indian Ocean temperature anomalies predict long-term global dengue trends

YUYANG CHEN, YITING XU, LIN WANG, YILIN LIANG, NAIZHE LI, JOSÉ LOURENÇO, YUN YANG, QIUSHI LIN, LIGUI WANG, [...] AND HUAIYU TIAN

+7 authors Authors Info & Affiliations

SCIENCE 9 May 2024 Vol 384, Issue 6696 pp. 639-646 DOI: 10.1126/science.adj4427

The related findings were published in Science under the title "Indian Ocean Temperature Anomalies Predict Long-term Trends in Global Dengue Fever".

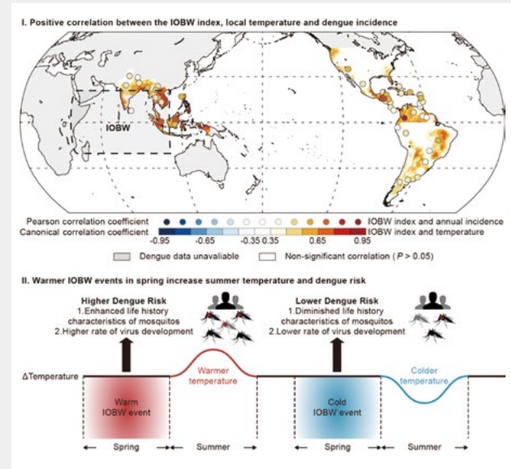
Paper link: https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adj4427

1 For the First Time, the Discovery of the IOBW Index Significantly Enhances Dengue Fever Epidemic Prediction and Early Warning Effectiveness

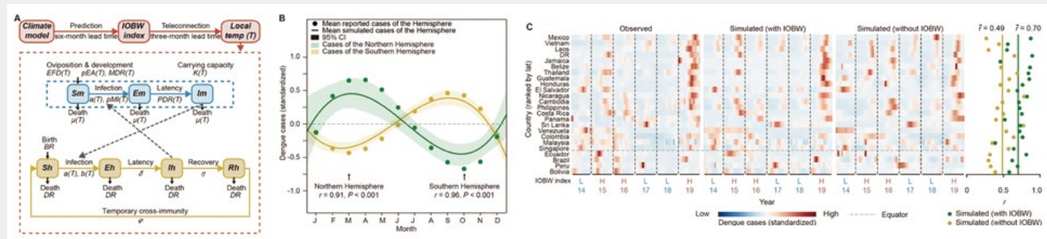
Dengue fever, an acute infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, has seen a tenfold increase in annual reported cases worldwide over the past two decades due to global changes and climate warming, posing a significant challenge to public health.

Without a universal vaccine or specific treatment, dengue fever prevention mainly relies on controlling mosquito vectors and sources of infection. Accurate and advanced predictions can help with preparedness and reduce the risk of dengue outbreaks. **How can we better predict and warn against dengue outbreaks to protect public health?**

The Indian Ocean Basin-Wide (IOBW) i ndex, representing the regional average of sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies across the tropical Indian Ocean, is characterized by widespread warming or cooling and is the primary mode of variability in the tropical Indian Ocean. Through a detailed analysis of the IOBW index and global dengue fever epidemics, **Professor Tian Huaiyu's team discovered that the IOBW index three months before the dengue season is a crucial indicator for predicting the severity and timing of dengue outbreaks.**



Spatial and Temporal Correlation Between the IOBW Index and Dengue Fever Epidemics



Framework and Effectiveness of the Global Change and Epidemic Prediction Model
Global Change and Epidemic (GCE) model

2 Cross-Disciplinary Pursuit of Original Innovation Global Change and Public Health Innovation Team

In recent years, the Global Change and Public Health Research Center at Beijing Normal University has leveraged its interdisciplinary strengths to conduct pioneering research. By studying the interplay between global change and public health, the center has laid a theoretical foundation for understanding the transmission patterns of infectious diseases such as avian influenza, hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, rabies, malaria, dengue fever, Zika, and COVID-19, thereby enhancing the overall capability of China in the prediction, early warning, and response to major infectious diseases.


Group photo of some members of the Global Change and Public Health Innovation Team
(Second from the right: Professor Tian Huaiyu, second from the left: Assistant Researcher Wang Zengmiao, first from the left: Dr. Tian Yunyu, first from the right: Dr. Pei Shan)

These research findings have been published in international journals such as *Science, Nature, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and The New England Journal of Medicine. Many of these papers have been recognized

as highly cited globally. Notably, the paper "An investigation of transmission control measures during the first 50 days of the COVID-19 epidemic in China", published in Science in 2020, was the first research paper from China to be included in the AAAS K12 educational resource "*Science in the Classroom*".

3 Conducting Research for Public Health
Proposing Global Solutions from BNU

Establishment of a Healthy Population Dengue Cohort in Ruili City, Yunnan Province

Annual Infection Surveys to Obtain Key Parameters for Dengue Transmission Models

Due to the perennial prevalence of dengue fever in tropical regions, baseline model parameters are difficult to determine, significantly impacting the accuracy of prediction and early warning models. After years of exploration, Professor Tian Huaiyu's team selected Ruili City in Dehong Prefecture, Yunnan Province, as their experimental zone. Located on the western border of Yunnan Province, this tropical and subtropical area serves as a crucial land route connecting China with Southeast Asia and South Asia. For the past decade, Ruili has experienced annual dengue outbreaks every summer and autumn due to imported cases.

The team organizes annual studies on the seroprevalence of dengue antibodies and virology among local residents. These efforts have successfully resolved the key parameters of dengue transmission, laying the foundation for the discovery of the IOBW index and the development of the prediction and early warning model. This research provides risk warning tools for the local area and theoretical risk prediction models globally.

The team conducts scientific research aimed at public health, focusing on the transmission and evolution of infectious diseases and the quantification of intervention effects. Their work provides scientific support for major national events and public health strategies, receiving important directives from central and state leaders. By leveraging public health data analysis and modeling research capabilities, the team collaborates with national and international institutions to support policy planning and threat response, generating significant economic and social benefits. Their modeling results are translated into practical policy guidance for planning and responding to public health threats.

Professor Tian Huaiyu from the Center for Global Change and Public Health at Beijing Normal University and Professor Simon Cauchemez from the Infectious Disease Mathematical Modeling Center at the Institut Pasteur in Paris are the corresponding authors of this paper. The co-first authors are Dr. Chen Yuyang from the Faculty of Geographical Science at BNU, PhD student Xu Yiting from the School of National Security and Emergency Management, Researcher Wang Lin from the School of National Security and Emergency Management, and Master's student Liang Yilin from the Faculty of Geographical Science. Beijing Normal University is the lead institution for this research. The co-authors include Assistant Researcher Wang Zengmiao from the Faculty of Geographi cal Science, Lecturer Li Naizhe from the School of National Security and Emergency Management, Associate Professor Yang Yun from the Faculty of Geographical Science, Researcher José Lourenço from the Catholic University of Portugal, Researcher Zhao He from the National Climate Center, Professor Bernard Cazelles from the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, Researcher Song Hongbin from the PLA Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and Associate Professor Oliver J. Brady from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The research was supported by the Central University Excellent Young Innovation Team, the Special Project on Epidemic of the State Key Laboratory of Remote Sensing Science, and the "Double First-Class" Initiative's Excellence Program in Global Change and Public Health.

[Achievement] Researcher Li Yan from the Faculty of Geographical Science Wins the 2024 IGU Early Career Award in Geography

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | *Release date: 2024-5-9*

The International Geographical Union (IGU) recently announced that Li Yan, a researcher from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University, has won the 2024 IGU Early Career Award in Geography. Li Yan will receive the award at the International Geographical Union conference in Dublin, Ireland, from August 24 to 30.

The IGU Early Career Award, established in 2022, recognizes young scholars who have achieved outstanding research results within ten years of completing their formal geography education. The award is given biennially. This year, five young scientists from around the world were honored, and Li Yan is among them.

International Geographical Union—Union Géographique Internationale
Interim Secretariat: Department of Geography, University of Istanbul, Ü.Edebiyat Fakültesi Coğrafya Bölümü, Orda Cd. No:196 Laleli – Istanbul, Turkey
Tel.: + 90 212 455 5700 / 15756, Mobile: + 90 532 4474509
E-Mail: barbaros@istanbul.edu.tr
URL: http://www.igu-online.org

19th April 2024

Professor Yan Li
Faculty of Geographical Science
Beijing Normal University
Beijing 100875, China
e-mail: yanli@bnu.edu.cn

Dear Professor Li

International Geographical Union Early Career Award 2024

I am delighted to inform you that the IGU Honors and Awards Committee has recommended that you be conferred with the IGU 2024 Early Career Award. At a meeting of the IGU Executive Committee held in Nanjing last week, the award was confirmed and will be formally presented at the upcoming International Geographical Congress to be held in Dublin, Ireland, from 24th to 30th August 2024.

The Committee was impressed by your excellent research in physical geography, focusing on two-way vegetation and climate interactions. Your research aims to address the sustainability challenges of coupled human-natural systems through the lenses of vegetation climate interaction with broad implications for forestry, renewable energy, and food systems. Your outstanding work is reflected in a prolific publication record, including articles in the highest profile journals. Your work is highly original and highly impactful. And you have reached a level far beyond peers at a similar career stage of career. Your work demonstrates how physical geography could help the world promote sustainability through a better understanding of the coupled human-natural systems. You are richly deserving of the IGU Early Career Award for 2024.

I hope very much that you will be able to attend the Congress in Dublin for the presentation of the award, which will be made at the closing ceremony on Thursday, 29th August 2024. I take this opportunity to offer you warmest congratulations and wish you every success in your future applied research work.

Yours sincerely

Michael E Meadows BSc (Hons) Sussex PhD Cantab. FSSAF FRGS FRSSAf MEA FGSC, FRSGS, FSC
President: International Geographical Union 2020-24

International Geographical Union Executive Committee, 2020-2022

Michael E Meadows, South Africa, *President* — Barbaros Gönençgil, Turkey, *Interim Secretary-General*
Iain Hay, Australia, *First Vice-President* — Yukio Himiyama, Japan, *Past President*
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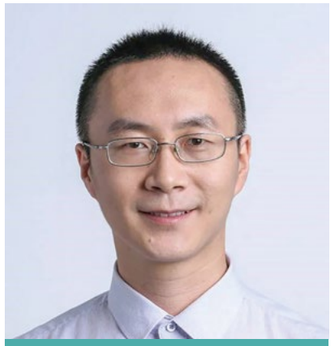
Pankaj Kumar, India, *Assistant Secretary-General*

Li Yan's research primarily focuses on vegetation-climate interactions and human-land system coupling. Utilizing various methods such as observation and simulation, Li investigates the feedback and response of vegetation to climate under the context of global change, the climatic effects of land cover change, the climatic impact of wind power renewable energy, and the coupling of human-land systems in arid regions and the Yellow River Basin. In recent years, Li has made significant academic contributions, publishing over 40 papers, including 18 SCI papers in top international journals such as Science, Nature Communications, and Global Change Biology as the first or corresponding author. In 2020, Li was selected for the Youth Program by the Organization Department of the Central Committee of the CPC and received the Youth Science and Technology Award from the Geographical Society of China in 2022. Li currently serves as the Secretary-General of the IGU Commission on "Geography for Future Earth: Coupling Human and Environmental Systems and Sustainable Development" and as an editorial board member of the journal Geography and Sustainability. The IGU Awards Committee highly commended Li Yan for his achievements in vegetation-climate interactions, renewable energy, and food security. His high-level research has not only advanced the scientific understanding of human-nature coupled systems and promoted global sustainable development but also contributed to the progress of related disciplines.



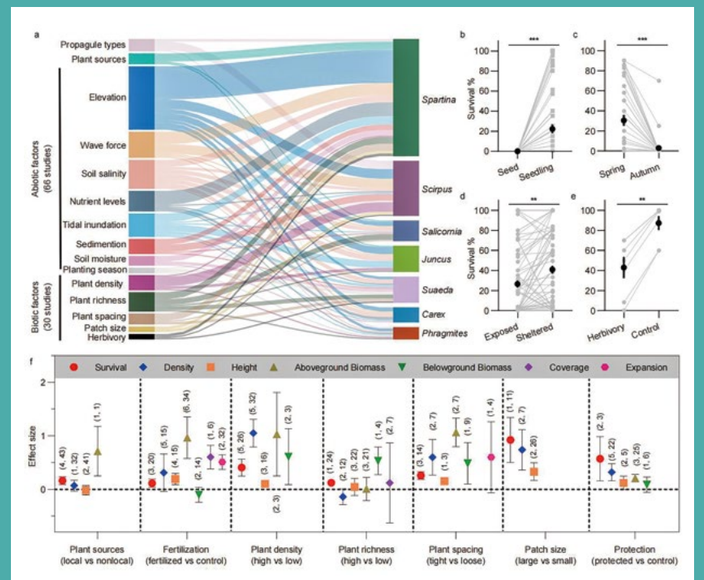
Researcher Li Yan from the Faculty of Geographical Science

Link to the IGU website announcing this year's award winners:
https://igu-online.org/igu-announces-honors-and-awards-for-2024/

[Achievement] Professor Cui Baoshan's Team from the School of Environment Publishes Key Findings on Global Salt Marsh Restoration in Nature Communications

Article source: School of Environment | Release date: 2024-4-30

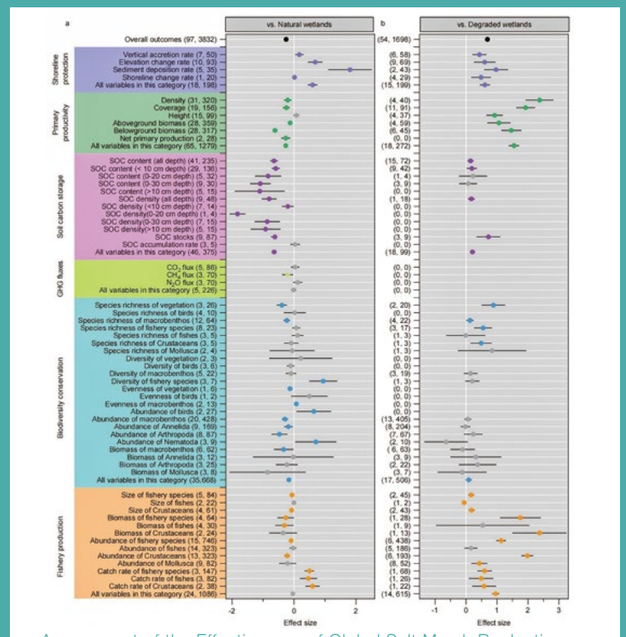
On April 29, a research paper titled "A global meta-analysis on the drivers of salt marsh planting success and implications for ecosystem services" by Professor Cui Baoshan's team from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University was published in Nature Communications.



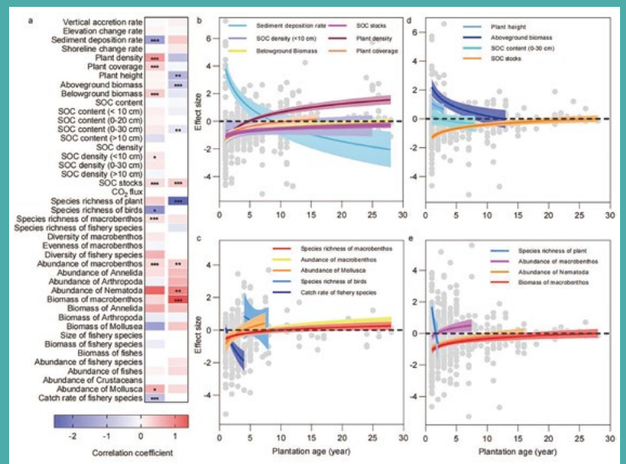
Key Ecological Processes and Characteristics of Global Salt Marsh Replanting

Vegetation planting, as a Nature-based Solution, has been widely adopted along global coastlines to mitigate salt marsh wetland loss and establish ecological shorelines. However, the factors influencing the success of salt marsh planting and their ecological effects are still not well understood globally. This study compiled a global database containing 22,074 observations from 210 studies to examine the drivers of salt marsh planting success and its ecological effects. The study found that, on average, only 53% of plantings survive worldwide. However, the survival and growth rates of plants can be improved through carefully designed planting sites, species selection, and the adoption of new planting techniques.

Compared to degraded wetlands, planting enhances ecological functions such as coastline protection, primary productivity, soil carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, and fisheries production. However, the ecosystem services of planted wetlands have not yet fully recovered to the levels of natural wetlands, except for coastline protection. Fortunately, most ecological functions related to climate change mitigation and biodiversity increase with planting age and reach levels comparable to natural wetlands within 5 to 25 years. Overall, the study indicates that salt marsh planting can serve as a global strategy to enhance coastline protection, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration, holding significant potential for achieving global strategic goals in climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.



Assessment of the Effectiveness of Global Salt Marsh Replanting on Enhancing Ecological Functions



Impact of Restoration Age on the Enhancement of Ecological FunctionsImpact of Restoration Age on the Enhancement of Ecological Functions

The School of Environment at Beijing Normal University is the primary institution for this research, with (now graduated) PhD student Liu Zezheng as the first author and Professor Cui Baoshan as the corresponding author. Co-authors include Professor Hu Zhan from the School of Marine Sciences at Sun Yat-sen University, Professors Bai Junhong and Liu Xinhui from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University, Professor Sergio Fagherazzi from Boston University, Professor Miao Chiyuan from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University, Professor He Qiang from Fudan University, and Senior Researcher Olivier Gourgue from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The research was primarily funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (projects U2243208 and 42330705), the Scientific and Technological Basic Resources Investigation Program (project 2022FY100304), and the National Key R&D Program of China (project 2022YFF1301001-04).

Paper link: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-47769-5

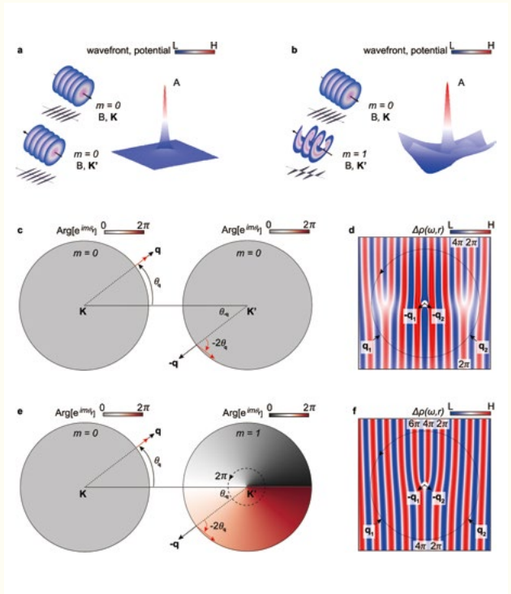
[Achievement] Professor He Lin's Team from the Department of Physics Publishes New Research: Direct Observation of Single Wavefront Dislocation Induced by Orbital Angular Momentum in Graphene

Article source: Department of Physics | *Release date: 2024-4-28*

The phase of a wave is a fundamental parameter in physics used to describe waves. A phase singularity refers to a point in a wave field where the amplitude is zero, leading to an undefined phase. As waves circulate around a phase singularity, they accumulate phase, causing wavefront dislocation. The relationship between phase singularities and orbital angular momentum is particularly close, as beams of light or electrons carrying orbital angular momentum typically exhibit helical wavefronts and can induce wavefront dislocation due to the presence of phase singularities. In previous studies, Professor He Lin's group from the Department of Physics at Beijing Normal University used atomic-scale defects as phase singularities. By employing scanning tunneling microscopy, they measured charge density wave oscillations caused by intervalley scattering from single atomic defects, demonstrating that the number of additional wavefront dislocations in real space directly reflects the sublattice pseudospin winding number in vortices. This allowed for the direct measurement of Berry phase in different layers of graphene and the study of quantum interference between sublattice pseudospin vortices with identical and opposite winding numbers[1,2].

Recently, the team led by Professor He Lin from the Department of Physics at Beijing Normal University and Professor Sun Qingfeng from Peking University conducted an in-depth study on the impact of orbital angular momentum on phase singularities by applying a locally rotating asymmetric potential field around single atomic defects in monolayer graphene. Their experiments observed that this asymmetric potential field altered the wavefront structure around the atomic defects, changing it from the original two wavefront dislocations to a single dislocation. Detailed theoretical analysis and numerical simulations indicated that this anomalous phenomenon was caused by the phase changes induced by the coupling between different orbital angular momentum confined states and the rotation of pseudospin (see Figures 1 and 2). This research not only reveals the significant influence of orbital angular momentum on phase singularities in two-dimensional massless Dirac fermions but also advances the understanding of phase singularities and wavefront dislocations in low-dimensional systems in condensed matter physics. The concept of phase singularities induced by orbital angular momentum scattering has potential applications in nano-devices, electron-optical devices, and novel microscopy techniques.

The relevant findings were recently published in the international journal Nature Communications under the title "Visualizing a single wavefront dislocation induced by orbital angular momentum in graphene" [3]. Dr. Liu Yiwen (now a postdoctoral researcher at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel), PhD student Zhuang Yuchen from Peking University, and postdoctoral researcher Ren Yaning from Beijing Normal University are the co-first authors. Professors Sun Qingfeng and He Lin are the corresponding authors. Other contributors include graduate students Yan Chao, Zhou Xiaofeng, and Yang Qian from Professor He Lin's research group.



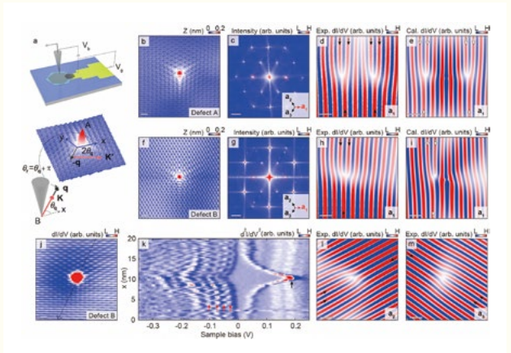
Schematic Diagram of Intervalley Scattering and Wavefront Dislocation

This work was supported by funding from the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the National Key Research Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Strategic Priority Research Program, and Beijing Normal University.

a. Schematic showing intervalley scattering due to defect potential A, where the incident wave from valley B scatters back to valley B. The orbital angular momentum m of these wavefronts is zero. b. Intervalley scattering process induced by a rotating asymmetric potential. c. Intervalley scattering process involving pseudospin rotation between the two valleys. d. Schematic showing wavefront dislocation in the total local density of states, including only the contribution from pseudospin rotation. e. Similar to the process in b, involving intervalley scattering between the two valleys, but including both pseudospin and orbital angular momentum. The influence of orbital angular momentum on the valley appears as a phase change color distribution. f. Local density of state modulation on the B sublattice, including contributions from both pseudospin rotation and orbital angular momentum coupling.

Two types of wavefront dislocations in experiments. One type of wavefront dislocation is induced by single atomic defects, resulting in two wavefront dislocations, while the other type results in a single wavefront dislocation.

[1] Y. Zhang, Y. Su, and L. He★, "Local Berry phase signatures of bilayer graphene in intervalley quantum interference". Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 116804 (2020).



[2] Y. Zhang★, Y. Su, and L. He★, "Quantum interferences of pseudospin-mediated atomic-scale vortices in monolayer graphene". Nano Lett. 21, 6526 (2021).

[3] Y.-W. Liu, Y. Zhuang, Y.-N. Ren, C. Yan, X.-F. Zhou, Q. Yang, Q.-F. Sun★, L. He★, "Visualizing a single wavefront dislocation induced by orbital angular momentum in graphene". Nature Commun. 15, 3546 (2024).

Paper link: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-47756-w

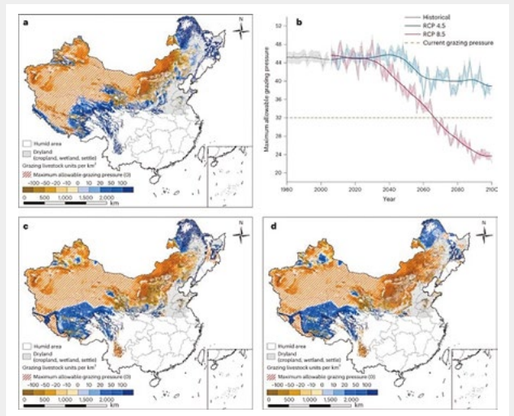
[Achievement] Coupled Human-Land System Team from the Faculty of Geographical Science Selected for 2023 "Top Ten Research Advances in Chinese Geographical Science"

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | *Release date: 2024-4-28*

On April 27, the Geographical Society of China announced the "Top Ten Research Advances in Chinese Geographical Science" for 2023. The research achievement "Thresholds of China's Arid Ecosystems Driven by Drought and Grazing" by the Coupled Human-Land System Team from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University was selected.

Arid regions are characterized by scarce precipitation, poor soil, and fragile ecological environments, making them extremely sensitive to climate change and human activities. The threshold of drought ecosystems in changing environments is a frontier research area in geography and ecology. While significant progress has been made in studying thresholds driven by single environmental pressures such as drought, the complex characteristics of thresholds driven by multiple pressures, such as drought and grazing, remain scientifically unresolved. Supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China's major project "Eco-hydrological Processes in Arid and Semi-arid Regions and Their Impact on Ecosystem Services", the research team conducted a 4,000-kilometer transect survey in northern China's arid regions. By integrating multi-source remote sensing data, meta-data from literature reviews, and ecosystem monitoring data from field stations (CERN), the team developed the first two-dimensional threshold model that comprehensively considers the combined effects of drought and grazing. This model reveals the threshold characteristics of arid ecosystems driven by both factors and clarifies the "safe operating space" for grazing intensity under varying drought conditions, providing a scientific basis for sustainable management in response to climate change and grazing in arid regions.

The study indicates that grazing and drought often exhibit synergistic effects, leading to earlier drought thresholds in arid ecosystems and making their structure and function more prone to nonlinear changes. There is a negative correlation between drought and maximum allowable grazing intensity; each 0.01 unit increase in drought degree reduces the maximum allowable grazing amount by 2.4%. This relationship defines the safe operating space for grazing, identifying key areas unsuitable for grazing, those where grazing pressure should be reduced, and areas where grazing intensity can be increased under current and future warming scenarios. The related research findings were published in 2023 in journals such as Nature Sustainability, Science Bulletin, Global Change Biology, Science of the Total Environment, Environmental Research Letters, and Ecological Indicators. The study has received widespread attention, being featured on the official websites of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, ScienceNet, and the York Environmental Sustainability Institute.



Spatial-Temporal Characteristics of Maximum Allowable Grazing Amount and Current Grazing Levels in Arid Regions Under Present and Future Climate Scenarios

The main contributors to this research include Associate Researcher Li Changjia, Academician Fu Bojie, Professor Wang Shuai, Associate Researcher Liu Yanxu, Researcher Li Yan, Professor Zhao Wenwu from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University, and graduate students Zhou Wenxin and Ren Zhuobing. The research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China's major project (41991235), the Second Tibetan Plateau Scientific Expedition and Research Program (2019QZKK0405-02), and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities.

Link to the original announcement: https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/WiVwnpFYwiOXGTFAJbL4tw

[Achievement] Associate Professor Hu Renfen's Research Group from the International Chinese Education Institute Publishes in International Linguistics Journal Studies in Second Language Acquisition

Article source: International Chinese Education Institute | *Release date: 2024-4-28*

Recently, Associate Professor Hu Renfen's research group from the International Chinese Education Institute published a paper titled "Sense-aware connective-based indices of cohesion and their relationship to cohesion ratings of English language learners' written production" in the international linguistics journal Studies in Second Language Acquisition. This paper proposes a series of sense-aware discourse cohesion indices and implements automatic extraction and computation of linguistic features based on natural language processing methods. The study analyzes a large-scale dataset of essays by English as a second language learners, providing new perspectives and measurement

tools for discourse cohesion research. The first author of this paper is Professor Lu Xiaofei from Pennsylvania State University, and the corresponding author is Associate Professor Hu Renfen from the International Chinese Education Institute.

In the assessment of discourse cohesion, connectives are among the most important features. However, many connectives have multiple meanings and uses. For example, "once" can function as a temporal connective (e.g., "I will leave once I am done"), an adverb indicating a single occurrence (e.g., "The bell will ring once"), or an adverb meaning "formerly" (e.g., "I once really liked it"). Similarly, the connective "since" can indicate a temporal relationship or introduce a causal relationship. Existing research on measuring and evaluating discourse cohesion often fails to systematically consider these differences in meaning and usage, posing challenges to accurately and effectively measure text cohesion and coherence.

Studies in Second Language Acquisition (2024), 1–19
doi:10.1017/S0272263124000202

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sense-aware connective-based indices of cohesion and their relationship to cohesion ratings of English language learners' written production

Xiaofei Lu[1] and Renfen Hu[2]

[1]The Pennsylvania State University; [2]Beijing Normal University
Corresponding author: Renfen Hu; Email: irishu@mail.bnu.edu.cn

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Abstract

The use of connectives has been considered important for assessing the cohesion of written texts (Crossley et al., 2019). However, existing connective-based indices have not systematically addressed two issues of ambiguity, namely, that between discourse and non-discourse use of polysemous word forms and that in terms of the specific discourse relations marked by polysemous discourse connectives (Pitler & Nenkova, 2009). This study proposes 34 sense-aware connective-based indices of cohesion that account for these issues and assesses their predictive power for cohesion ratings in comparison to 25 existing indices. Results from the analysis of 3,911 argumentative essays from the English Language Learner Insight, Proficiency and Skills Evaluation Corpus show that 23 sense-aware indices but only three existing indices correlated significantly and meaningfully with cohesion ratings. The sense-aware indices also exhibited greater predictive power for cohesion ratings than existing indices. The implications of our findings for future cohesion research are discussed.

as adversative, causal, additive, and sequential. Furthermore, the research proposes 34 sense-aware cohesion indices and analyzes 3,911 essays by second language learners. The experiments demonstrate high precision in automatic annotation. Compared with traditional cohesion indices, the proposed sense-aware indices have stronger predictive power for essay scores. Additionally, the experimental results effectively address the controversial issue in previous research regarding the negative correlation between the use of connectives and writing quality/language proficiency, further deepening our understanding of the cohesion functions of connectives in second language writing.

Paper link: https://doi.org/10.1017/S0272263124000202

Open-source data and tools: https://github.com/iris2hu/sense-aware-cohesion

[Achievement] Professor Chen Lei's Team from the School of Environment Proposes Adaptive Watershed Management Strategies in Changing Environments

Article source: School of Environment | *Release date: 2024-4-23*

Climate change and intensive human activities have profoundly altered global material cycles, significantly increasing the difficulty of high-quality development and protection of watersheds. Traditional watershed management often relies on data from specific years and adopts a static perspective, overlooking the dynamic changes in rainfall, land use, and human activities. This static assumption can lead to misestimation of material cycles within the watershed, resulting in the failure of management measures under changing environmental conditions. Addressing the challenge of "efficient watershed management in a continuously changing environment" is crucial for high-quality watershed development and protection.

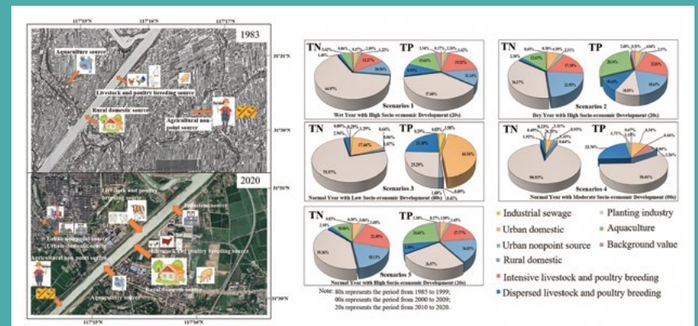

Figure 1 Sources and contribution proportions of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Chaohu Basin over 40 years

To tackle this issue, Professor Chen Lei's team from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University conducted a case study in the Chaohu Basin, an important water system in the Yangtze River basin. Using various methods such as remote sensing inversion, field observations, model simulations, and time series analysis, the team constructed a high-precision source inventory and long-term evaluation models for eight tributaries and the surrounding lake area of the Chaohu Basin. This allowed for precise analysis of nitrogen and phosphorus sources in the lake basin. The team then systematically analyzed the changes in nitrogen and phosphorus sources and land-water transfer processes over the past forty years from multidimensional perspectives of trend, periodicity, and randomness. Using the STL model, they quantitatively identified key factors affecting the sources and cyclical changes of nitrogen and phosphorus. Finally, they proposed adaptive management strategies for lake basins, including robust and long-term models.

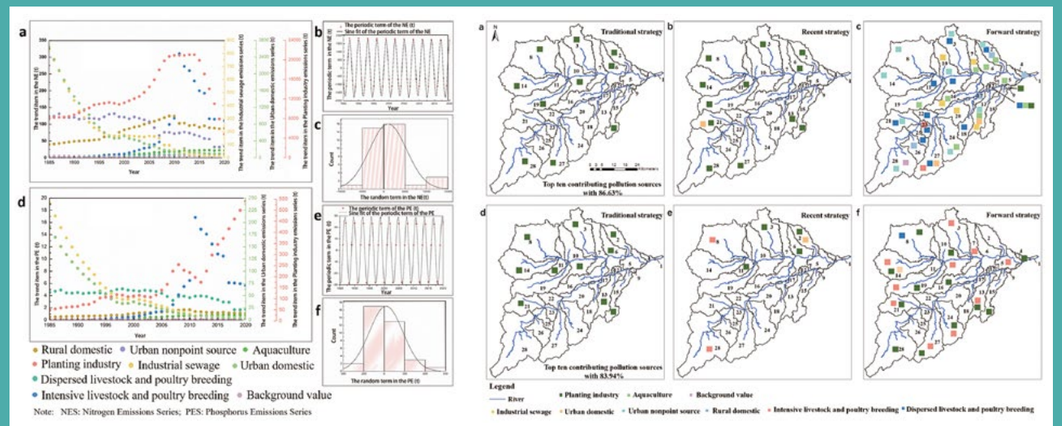

Figure 2 Periodic, trend, and randomness characteristics of nitrogen and phosphorus sources and watershed adaptive management strategies

The study results indicate significant differences in the sources and contributions of nitrogen and phosphorus within the watershed, exhibiting characteristics of trends, periodicity, and randomness. The trend component is mainly influenced by factors such as climate change, population growth, and economic development. Periodic fluctuations are primarily affected by rainfall changes, with fixed lengths and amplitudes, while randomness is mainly influenced by various factors including national policies. The STL model can dynamically analyze nitrogen and phosphorus sources based on key influencing factors.

Based on this, the study proposes adaptive watershed management strategies that comprehensively consider source contribution rates, trends, and robustness under changing environmental conditions. This adaptive strategy adjusts management measures and policies according to changing environmental conditions and the intensity of human activities, providing a more flexible and efficient approach. In contrast, traditional source analysis relies on static data and predetermined measures. Adaptive management can identify key nitrogen and phosphorus sources with growth trends and robust changes, deepening the understanding of source dynamic changes and their main driving factors, providing a scientific basis for formulating effective watershed management strategies.

This research, titled "Enhancing watershed management through adaptive source apportionment under a changing environment", was published in the April 2024 issue of NPJ Clean Water, a Nature Partner Journal. Wang Wenzhuo, a doctoral student from the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University, is the first author, and Professor Chen Lei is the corresponding author. Collaborators include Professor Shen Zhenyao from Beijing Normal University, graduate students Liu Guowangchen, Zhang Yuhan, Wang Mingjing, Pan Yan, and Meng Xinyi, and researchers such as Xiong Junfeng from the Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. This research was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China's joint key project (U2340219), innovative group project (52221003), and key research and development project (2021YFD1700600).

Paper link: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41545-024-00325-6

[Achievement] Professor Zhang Liqiang's Team Publishes Research on Monitoring Urban Destruction Using Remote Sensing Images in Nature Cities

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | *Release date: 2024-4-15*

Major natural geological disasters and armed conflicts often cause severe damage to urban buildings. Information about such destruction typically relies on eyewitness reports and news coverage, which are often incomplete and biased. Satellite remote sensing offers a large-scale, near-real-time, contactless means of monitoring urban destruction. However, in such scenarios, the number of destroyed buildings (positive samples) is much smaller than the number of undamaged buildings (negative samples), leading to a significant imbalance in sample data. This imbalance poses a challenge for remote sensing-based urban destruction assessment. Furthermore, acquiring high-resolution remote sensing images quickly is difficult, and even when available, there remains a high rate of false detections and errors.

Medium-resolution remote sensing images have advantages such as global coverage, high revisit frequency, and free access. However, each building occupies only a few pixels in these images, making it difficult to effectively recognize building shapes and textures (Figure 1). Additionally, the same building may appear in different colors in images taken at different times due to changes in lighting. This temporal shift can significantly increase the false positive rate, where undamaged buildings are misidentified as damaged. Due to severe sample imbalance, even a small false positive rate can lead to high prediction errors in complex urban environments.

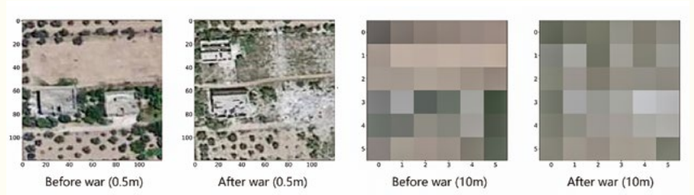

Figure 1 Damaged buildings in 0.5m and 10m resolution remote sensing images

Existing building damage detection methods focus on differences between satellite images before and after the damage at a specific point in time, neglecting the temporal pattern of destruction (Figure 2). Destroyed buildings cannot be rebuilt during disasters or armed conflicts, meaning that building damage follows a clear temporal pattern. Inspired by this, and drawing on concepts from natural language processing, this study proposes a time-series knowledge-guided detection scheme (TKDS). In change detection, various machine learning models can be embedded as detectors in TKDS. To significantly enhance urban destruction identification results, this study constructed a Pixel-based Transformer model (PtNet) as the detector for TKDS (Figure 3). Subsequently, 0.5m and 10m resolution remote sensing images were used to detect building destruction in six Syrian cities during the 2011-2018 civil war, and 10m resolution Sentinel-2 data were used to detect building destruction in four Ukrainian cities from 2022 to 2023. The results showed that the F1 score of TKDS-PtNet was twice as high as that of ResNet (2.5 times higher for 10m resolution images). Detailed validations of TKDS-PtNet's transferability, interpretability, and reliability of detection results were conducted before damage assessment.

Overall, TKDS-PtNet provides a near-real-time method for monitoring urban destruction. It can generate high-quality destruction information from

medium and high-resolution remote sensing images in environments where ground data is sparse or inaccessible. TKDS-PtNet is also applicable for detecting infrastructure damage caused by natural geological disasters, assisting in estimating and assessing disaster losses.

This research, titled "War city profiles drawn from satellite images", was published in the April 2024 issue of *Nature Cities* (https://www.nature.com/articles/s44284-024-00060-6). Doctoral student Hou Zhengyang and Researcher Qu Ying from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University are the co-first authors. Professor Zhang Liqiang and Academician Zhou Chenghu from the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, are the co-corresponding authors. Collaborators include Professors Chen Ziyue and Tang Hong, graduate students Yu Qiwei, Li Xingang, Li Yang, Yao Xin, Peng Shuwen, Meng Xichen, Associate Professor Liu Jun and Lecturer Wang Faqiang from the School of Mathematical Sciences, Professor Zeng An from the School of Systems Science, Associate Professor Zhao Yuanyuan from China Agricultural University, Associate Professor Wang Yuebin from China University of Geosciences (Beijing), and Associate Professor Ran Jing from Hunan University. The research was mainly supported by the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars (41925006), the Major Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (42293272), and the General Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (42201368).

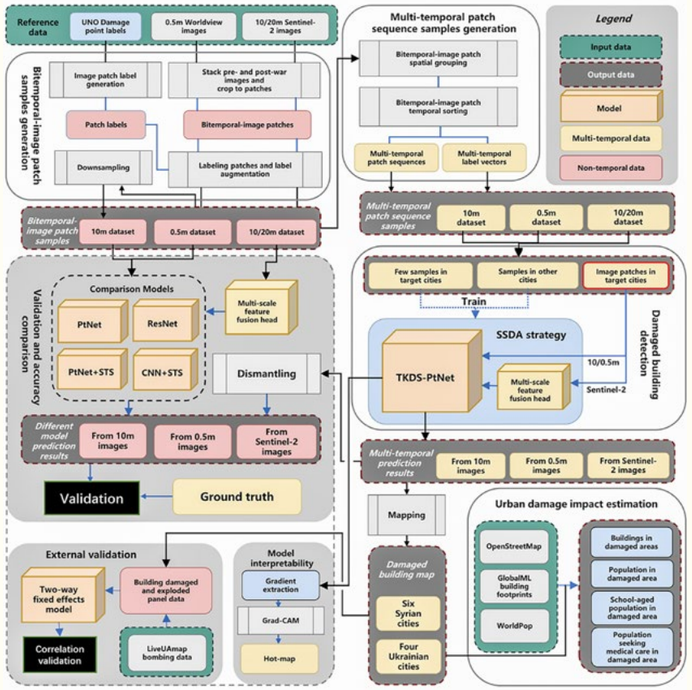

Figure 2 Comparison between existing change detection methods (a->b) and TKDS (a->c)

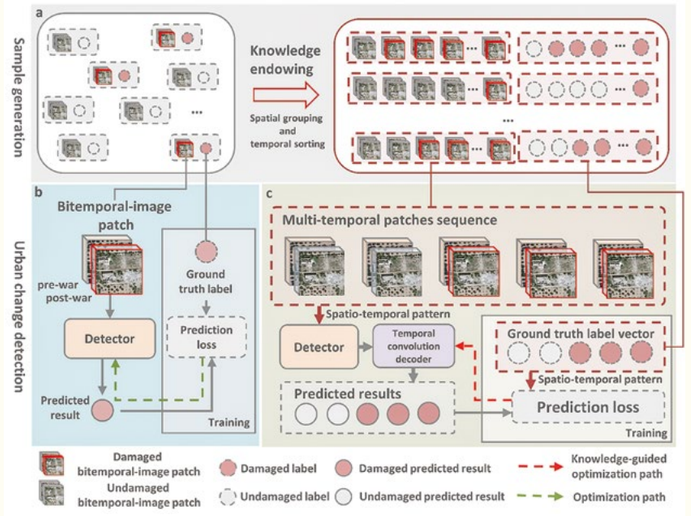

Figure 3 Workflow of urban destruction detection methods

[Achievement] Substantial Reduction in PM2.5-Related Deaths Requires Enhanced Pollution Control and Healthcare Efforts

Article source: Faculty of Geographical Science | *Release date: 2024-4-5*

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.9 aims to significantly reduce deaths attributable to PM2.5 pollution (DAPP). However, current estimates of DAPP are highly uncertain, and whether the SDG 3.9 target can be achieved requires thorough evaluation. Addressing this issue, Professor He Chunyang's team from the Faculty of Geographical Science at Beijing Normal University, in collaboration with Ocean University of China, the Institute of Plateau Science and Sustainability, Yanbian University, and Deakin University, has coupled climate change scenarios, epidemiological models, and Earth-climate system models to estimate future DAPP trends globally and systematically assess the challenges of achieving SDG 3.9. The research results were published online on March 28 in Nature Communications.

The study reveals that future deaths related to PM2.5 pollution are unlikely to decrease significantly under most scenarios. According to the multi-model average, under the current trend (SSP2-4.5 scenario), from 2015 to 2030, despite improvements in air quality and healthcare, the impact of aging will keep DAPP stable without substantial changes. Globally, DAPP reduction is not achieved under most scenarios. The SSP1-2.6 scenario shows the greatest reduction (-19%), nearly reaching the moderate target by 2030. Regionally, DAPP trends vary significantly, with the Middle East and Africa (MAF) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAM) struggling to achieve substantial reductions.

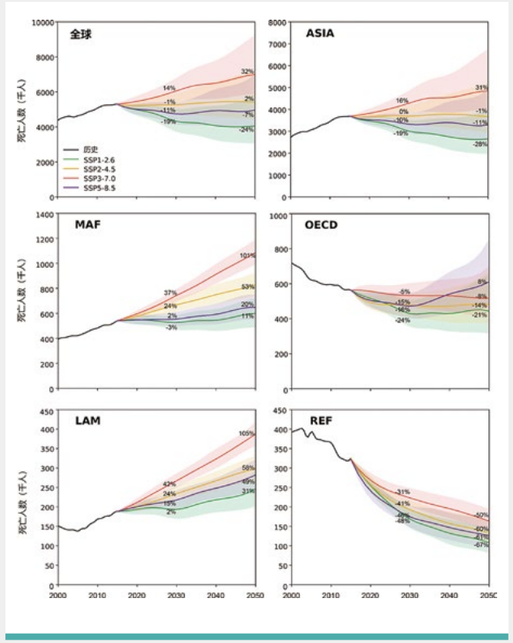

Figure 1 Historical changes in DAPP and expected achievement of SDG 3.9 by 2050. (a) Global DAPP changes, (b–f) Regional scales. Solid lines represent average estimates, with shaded areas indicating 95% confidence intervals for future PM2.5 concentrations (from 11 Earth-climate system models) and disease mortality rates (from statistical models). Abbreviations: ASIA (Asia excluding the Middle East, Japan, and former Soviet Union countries), MAF (Middle East and Africa), LAM (Latin America and the Caribbean), OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and new EU and candidate

countries), REF (Reform economies of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union).

The study finds significant challenges in achieving SDG 3.9 globally. Even under the most optimistic models and broadest standards, over one-third of countries cannot achieve SDG 3.9 under any scenario. Multi-model averages indicate that over two-thirds of countries (107/154) will struggle to reduce DAPP by more than 20% by 2030, falling short of the moderate target. When the definition of "substantial reduction" is relaxed to 10% (weak target), challenges persist, with over 50% of countries (87/154) unable to achieve SDG 3.9 by 2030 under any scenario. Tightening the target to a 30% reduction (strong target) shows that 80% of countries (127/154) fail to meet the goal. Individual model analyses yield similar results.

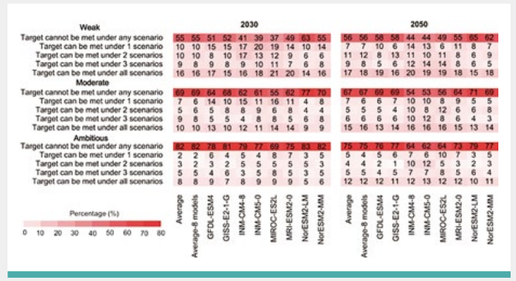

Figure 2 Achievement of SDG 3.9 by 2030 and 2050 in 154 countries. Colors indicate the percentage of countries that can meet SDG 3.9 under weak, moderate, and strong settings (representing 10%, 20%, and 30% DAPP reductions from 2015, respectively) across 0, 1, 3, 2, and 4 possible scenarios.

The research suggests that proactive measures to address air pollution can yield environmental, economic, and public health benefits. Population aging drives DAPP growth, while healthcare improvements drive its reduction. However, PM2.5 concentrations and disease mortality rates can be more readily influenced by incentives, regulations, and technological developments. Advances in air pollution control and healthcare can significantly reduce DAPP. If additional efforts can reduce PM2.5 concentrations and disease mortality rates by 20% from current projections, nearly 90% of countries could achieve moderate SDG 3.9 by 2030.

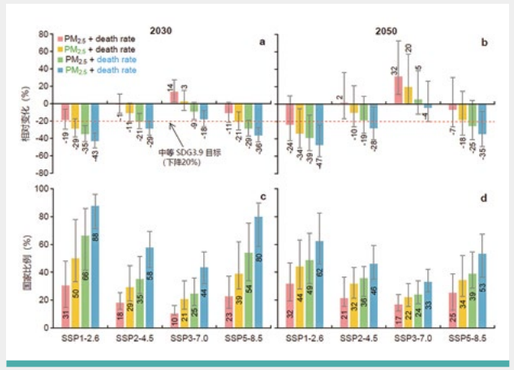

Figure 3 Potential impact of further improving air pollution control and healthcare on achieving moderate SDG 3.9. (a, b) Relative changes in DAPP from 2015 to 2030 and 2050. (c, d) Percentage of countries achieving moderate SDG 3.9 by 2030 and 2050 (based on 154 countries). Colors in the legend represent the reduction in PM2.5 concentration (green) and disease mortality rate (blue) relative to the estimated values due to further improvements.

This study's main contribution is providing comprehensive long-term DAPP estimates using all 11 available CMIP6 simulations under the latest ScenarioMIP framework. This framework integrates and internally aligns projections of DAPP drivers (population, age structure, disease mortality, and air quality). The research attempts to assess potential challenges and pathways to achieving SDG 3.9 at multiple scales. The findings highlight substantial challenges in realizing SDG 3.9 in the future. Therefore, significantly reducing PM2.5 pollution's health impact requires combined efforts in pollution control and healthcare improvement. Countries should manage PM2.5 pollution's health effects by adjusting energy structures, updating technology, and increasing healthcare investment. Strengthening international cooperation to promote universal pollution control and healthcare technologies is also essential. Moreover, integrating air pollution control and public health with climate change mitigation, technological innovation, and energy system reform can help achieve multiple SDGs simultaneously.

Yue Huanbi, Associate Professor at Ocean University of China (BNU PhD graduate, class of 2021), is the first author. He Chunyang and Zhang Da, Associate Professor at Yanbian University, are the co-corresponding authors. Other collaborators include Professor Shi Peijun and Associate Professor Huang Qingxu from Beijing Normal University, Professor Yang Yang and PhD candidate Qi Xin from Ocean University of China, Professor Brett A. Bryan and Research Fellow Enayat A. Moallemi from Deakin University, Associate Professor Ma Qun from Shanghai Normal University, and PhD candidate Xu Fangjin from Peking University. The study was primarily funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 42371296, 42271314), the BNU Global Environmental Change Project (No. 2023-GC-ZYTS-08), the Shandong Natural Science Foundation (No. ZR2022QD051), and the Beijing Nova Program (No. 20220484163).

Paper link: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-46969-3

[Opinion] Significant Achievements in the 20-Year Implementation of the Stockholm Convention: Interview with Yu Gang, Dean of the Frontier Interdisciplinary Research Institute of Environment and Ecology, Beijing Normal University, and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering

Article source: Zhuhai Campus | *Release date: 2024-5-17*

2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the international enforcement of the Stockholm Convention. Over the past 20 years, China has accelerated the elimination and reduction of the production, use, and emissions of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), achieving significant progress. Recently, a journalist from China Environment News interviewed Yu Gang, Dean of the Frontier Interdisciplinary Research Institute of Environment and Ecology at Beijing Normal University and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, to discuss the achievements of China's 20-year implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

Journalist: This year marks the 20th anniversary of the

international enforcement of the Stockholm Convention. As the chairman of the Expert Committee of the National Coordination Group for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention, could you please introduce the progress of China's implementation?

Yu Gang: Reviewing the 20-year implementation of the Convention in China, we can roughly divide it into three phases.

Phase One: Establishing Mechanisms and Formulating Strategies (2004-2007)

Due to the involvement of numerous departments in the compliance with persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the State Council approved the establishment of the National Coordination Group for the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention at the inception of the convention. Led by the former State Environmental Protection Administration, this group comprises more than ten relevant departments. Currently, the coordination group includes 15 departments such as the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Health Commission, the Ministry of Emergency Management, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Market Regulation, the National Energy Administration, and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration. The coordination group jointly formulates national implementation plans and policy documents for compliance, promoting high-quality development in related industries and gradually establishing a collaborative mechanism for compliance work involving departments, local governments, and various stakeholders.

As per the convention's requirements, parties are to submit a National Implementation Plan to the Conference of the Parties within two years of the convention's entry into force. To this end, China established a leading group for the compilation of the National Implementation Plan in September 2003. The former State Environmental Protection Administration organized a working group comprising the School of Environment at Peking University, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Research Center at Tsinghua University, the School of Environment at Beijing Normal University, the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Association, the Institute for the Control of Agrochemicals of the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Termite Control Center of the Ministry of Construction, and the Occupational Health and Poison Control Institute of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This group conducted in-depth investigations into the production, use, circulation, and disposal of POPs in China, identified economically viable alternatives and technologies, evaluated current policies and management practices, identified gaps and priority needs for compliance, and designed national strategies and action plans accordingly. The compiled report received approval from the State Council in April 2007, clearly outlining China's compliance goals, measures, and specific actions, subsequently initiating comprehensive compliance work as per the National Implementation Plan.

Phase Two: Capacity Building and Reduction (2008-2015)

The State Council-approved National Implementation Plan outlines measures to "build compliance capacity to ensure the achievement of compliance goals". These measures include strengthening the capacities of relevant compliance departments and local institutions, improving the regulatory framework, formulating economic policies for compliance, establishing funding mechanisms, enhancing POPs monitoring capabilities, promoting the development and dissemination of technologies for eliminating, reducing, and substituting POPs, and conducting compliance-related publicity and educational activities. To this end, the former Ministry of Environmental Protection, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), developed the "Enhancing China's Institutional Capacity, Regulatory Framework, and Enforcement Capabilities for Effective Implementation of the National Implementation Plan" project, which received funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Through joint efforts by national and local departments, industry enterprises, and research institutions, significant improvements were made in the environmental management capacity for POPs at both national and demonstration area levels. These improvements were achieved on multiple levels: systemic (policies, regulations, standards, funding mechanisms, etc.), institutional (monitoring, research and development, technology transfer, data and information collection, decision-making and enforcement, performance evaluation, etc.), and public (publicity, education, etc.).

During this phase, China phased out 17 types of POPs, completely banning their production, use, and import/export. Starting from November 11, 2004, China eliminated aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, toxaphene, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Subsequently, on May 17, 2009, China banned DDT, chlordane, mirex, and hexachlorobenzene. On March 26, 2014, alpha-HCH, beta-HCH, chlordecone, pentachlorobenzene, hexabromobiphenyl, tetrabromodiphenyl ether, pentabromodiphenyl ether, hexabromodiphenyl ether, and heptabromodiphenyl ether were also eliminated.

During this period, relevant departments and industry associations in China worked closely together to implement dozens of compliance demonstration projects in various sectors such as agriculture, health, construction, waste disposal, steel, and paper production. These projects promoted the adoption of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to reduce and control unintentional POPs emissions, particularly dioxins. Although the output or disposal volume in related industries increased significantly, the emission intensity of dioxins from key industries decreased sharply, resulting in a significant reduction in total dioxin emissions into the atmosphere and a downward trend in atmospheric dioxin concentrations.

Phase Three: Addressing New POPs (2016-2024)

Continue to comprehensively ban the production, use, and import/export of 17 types of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Lindane and endosulfan were phased out starting March 26, 2019; hexabromocyclododecane was phased out starting December 26, 2021; hexachlorobutadiene, pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, trichlorfon, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid and its salts and related compounds (PFHxS), were phased out starting March 1, 2023; polychlorinated naphthalenes were phased out starting June 6, 2023; and PFOS, decabromodiphenyl ether, short-chain chlorinated paraffins, and dicofol will be phased out starting January 1, 2024.

Over 100 sites with more than 100,000 tons of historical POPs waste have been cleaned up and disposed of. In 2015, all in-use PCB-containing electrical equipment was phased out, and by 2021, 100% environmentally safe disposal of discarded PCB-containing electrical equipment was achieved. This accomplishment met the 2025 and 2028 compliance targets of the convention ahead of schedule, eliminating the environmental pollution risks associated with the first batch of POPs waste.

Efforts continue to promote the domestic effectiveness of 16 newly listed POPs, including perfluorooctane

sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOS), endosulfan, and hexachlorobutadiene. Additionally, the development and release of the supplementary version of the National Implementation Plan are underway.

Journalist: Over the past 20 years, China has made remarkable progress in several areas of compliance. What significant contributions has China made to the global effort to eliminate and reduce environmental emissions of persistent organic pollutants (POPs)?

Yu Gang: While fulfilling the compliance tasks according to the National Implementation Plan, China has actively participated in global compliance actions, making significant contributions to the global effort to eliminate and reduce environmental emissions of POPs.

Firstly, we have constructively participated in the international convention process. China has been fully engaged in negotiations and consultations on various issues under the convention. Chinese experts have served as co-chairs of the Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices Expert Group, as well as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, Effectiveness Evaluation Committee, Global Monitoring Plan Expert Group, and Toolkit Expert Group, playing a vital role in promoting global compliance efforts.

Secondly, we have provided technical services for compliance to developing countries. We have established the Asia-Pacific Regional Center for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer of POPs in China, conducting compliance technical training and capacity building for over ten developing countries, including Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Bangladesh, and North Korea, sharing China's compliance experiences.

Journalist: What plans does China have for the elimination of persistent organic pollutants in the future?

Yu Gang: China will continue to eliminate intentionally produced and used POPs as required by the convention and will sustain efforts to reduce emissions of unintentionally produced POPs such as dioxins. Meanwhile, the "Opinions on Deepening the Battle for Pollution Prevention and Control" issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council in November 2021 explicitly calls for strengthening the management of new pollutants, including POPs, and developing an action plan for new pollutant management. In May 2022, the General Office of the State Council issued the "Action Plan for the Management of New Pollutants", which comprehensively and systematically deploys the management of new pollutants. The plan outlines the work approach of "screening, assessing, controlling, banning, reducing, and treating" and emphasizes the need to actively participate in international environmental conventions on chemicals and international actions on chemical management to play a positive role in global environmental governance. The "List of Key Controlled New Pollutants" (2023 edition) includes 14 types, most of which are POPs controlled by the convention. The list specifies environmental risk control measures for these substances. Looking ahead, the control of POPs in China will be continuously and deeply promoted in conjunction with international compliance and new pollutant management, playing a significant role in the grand endeavors of building a Beautiful China and a Healthy China.

This interview was published in the China Environment News on May 17, 2024, on page 2. The interviewee, Yu Gang, is the Director of the Institute of Environmental and Ecological Interdisciplinary Research at Beijing Normal University and an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

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Liu Min and Yang Mu: Leading Sino-French Educational Exchange with the "Sino-French Spirit"

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Over the past six decades, Sino-French relations have consistently led China's relationships with major Western countries. The unique history of Sino-French relations has fostered a spirit of independence, mutual understanding, foresight, and win-win cooperation, known as the "Sino-French Spirit". Education has always played a foundational role in this exchange and collaboration, driving the formation and dissemination of this spirit with its unique functions.

On May 1, visitors explored the "Encountering China" cultural exhibition at the Paris International Exposition in France. Photo by Xinhua News Agency.

Education Promotes Mutual Learning and Understanding between China and France

Different nations possess distinct natural geographic environments, historical and cultural traditions, stages of economic and social development, and customs and lifestyles. The interactions between nations aim to communicate and understand each other amidst these differences, seeking common ground. Education plays a critical role in fostering this understanding by helping people recognize the value of various civilizations through continuous learning and knowledge acquisition.

In educational exchanges, language learning serves as a pioneering element. "Language is the best key to understanding a country". During the early exchanges between China and France, French missionaries learned Chinese, translated books and documents, and established French language schools, serving as cultural "bridges". This facilitated the introduction of Chinese Confucian classics, geography, literature, music, painting, and other works to France. During the Enlightenment, figures like Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Diderot drew inspiration from Eastern wisdom. France was the first European country to establish Chinese language courses and appoint a national inspector of Chinese. Later, France formally included Sinology as a university discipline.

Today, Chinese language learning spans from primary to higher education in France, making it one of the countries with the highest localization of Chinese education globally. In 1993, France introduced European and Oriental language classes with a focus on Chinese, and in 2008, it established international Chinese classes to explore bilingual French-Chinese teaching models. In modern times, to overcome language barriers in diplomacy, schools with modern educational attributes established by the self-strengthening movement, such as the Imperial College of Translation, Fujian Shipping School, Shanghai Foreign Language School, and Hubei Self-Reliance School, successively offered French courses. Nowadays, French language education in China covers all educational stages, though fewer students learn French at the primary level, which relates to China's traditional language teaching practices. In 2018, the Ministry of Education released the

"General High School French Curriculum Standards", officially designating French as a high school subject and an elective for the college entrance examination.

Beyond language learning, China and France have engaged in mutual educational exchanges through studying abroad programs, sharing educational concepts, and establishing schools in both countries.

In 1902, Li Shizeng traveled to Paris to study, accompanying the then Chinese Minister to France. He became one of the first Chinese students in France. Later, he established a tofu workshop to support the revolution and actively organized work-study programs in France. In 1915, Cai Yuanpei, Wu Yuzhang, and others organized the "Work-Study Association" in Paris. At the beginning of 1917, the Franco-Chinese Education Association and the Association for Chinese Students in France were established in Beijing. The Franco-Chinese Education Association subsequently set up branches in several provinces and cities, becoming the preparatory schools for studying in France at that time. “Embarking on a journey of seventy thousand miles, bidding farewell to the homeland and beloved country”, from March 1919 to the end of the following year, China sent nearly 1,800 young Chinese students to France in 20 groups. Among them were Chinese revolutionary pioneers such as Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Chen Yi, Nie Rongzhen, Wang Ruofei, Cai Hesen, Xiang Jingyu, Zhao Shiyan, and Li Weihan.

Today, to promote bilateral student exchange, the governments of China and France have implemented a series of favorable policies, including mutual recognition of degrees and diplomas, reciprocal scholarships, and simplified visa procedures. They have also launched various initiatives, such as the “China-France Outstanding Young Scientists Exchange Program”, the “China-France Hundred Schools Exchange Program”, the “China-France Language Assistant Exchange Project”, the “China-France Middle School Students Mathematics Exchange Activity”, and the “China-France University Students Sports and Arts Week”. From 2022 to 2023, the number of Chinese students studying in France reached 25,605, making China the third largest source of international students in France. France, in turn, has the highest number of students studying in China among European countries, with 10,695 French students in China, according to the 2018 official statistics from the Chinese Ministry of Education.

In addition to student exchanges, China and France also draw on each other's educational philosophies and management methods. During the Republic of China period, Cai Yuanpei had a high regard for French education. In 1927, he attempted to implement a university district system based on the French experience. Although it ultimately failed, it was still a valuable exploration of incorporating foreign cultural elements into Chinese education.

In modern China, there are also examples of learning from France. For instance, in 1995, French Nobel Laureate in Physics, Georges Charpak, advocated for the introduction and development of the American "hands-on" learning model in France, naming it "Learning by Doing" In 2001, then Chinese Vice Minister of Education, Academician Wei Yu, introduced the "Learning by Doing" project to China, promoting inquiry-based learning and education in kindergartens and primary schools.

France's borrowing of Chinese educational experiences can be traced back to Napoleon's creation of the baccalaureate exam, which, to some extent, was inspired by the ancient Chinese imperial examination system. Today, due to the rapid development of globalized education, China's performance in international assessments and university rankings has also attracted the attention of French counterparts. China's educational models and management experiences are increasingly gaining attention in the French academic community.

From the perspective of educational models, there is much to learn from other countries' excellent educational philosophies, management experiences, teaching methods, and content. The only university established overseas by modern China was the Sino-French University in Lyon, founded in 1921. Many students involved in the work-study movement in France attended this university. The university published the "Annales Franco-Chinoise", continuously published articles on Chinese culture, and organized various activities, effectively enhancing mutual understanding between the two countries and playing a demonstrative role in promoting cultural exchanges.

Today, educational exchanges between the two countries have made significant progress. Especially after the promulgation of the "Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools", China and France have cooperated in fields such as engineering, management, and arts. As of March 2024, the Chinese Ministry of Education has approved the establishment of 21 Sino-French cooperative educational institutions, covering undergraduate to doctoral levels.

In Sino-French cooperative education, in addition to absorbing, integrating, and innovating French advanced educational philosophies and talent training models, we also adhere to the principle of "Chinese-led" education, rooted in China, and with Chinese characteristics.

Taking Sino-French cooperative engineer education as an example, a major feature of French higher engineering education is to cultivate students with both solid and broad basic research capabilities and the ability to adapt quickly to professional activities in various engineering branches. These talents, known as "generalist engineers" in France, possess multiple skills in design, improvement, planning, and team management. Institutions like the Sino-French Engineer School of Beihang University and the Paris Elite Engineer School of Shanghai Jiao Tong University emphasize the cultivation of elite talents with both generalist and specialist skills in their training programs. Chinese institutions also explore localizing French experiences according to China's educational system and training objectives. For instance, Beihang University's Sino-French Engineer School treats the first three years of undergraduate study as a preparatory phase for French engineering schools, emphasizing professional foundation, engineering technology and management skills, and basic research capabilities. The final undergraduate year and the master's stage are equivalent to professional engineering education. Following the strict "entrance and exit" requirements of French higher engineering education, students undergo an elimination exam at the end of the preparatory phase. Those who fail to meet the academic standards can retain their completed credits through the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System and choose to continue their studies in other departments. Sun Yat-sen University's Sino-French Institute of Nuclear Engineering and Technology also adopts a similar "streaming" system.

China and France are both countries with rich histories and cultures. Their mutual attraction and admiration stem from a spirit of independence and pioneering, making their educational exchanges a historical inevitability. Gu Mingyuan, Honorary President of the Chinese Society of Education, pointed out that education plays a positive and important role in promoting "cultural exchanges, strengthening mutual understanding and consensus, and alleviating conflicts caused by cultural and ethnic differences". The educational exchanges between China and France originate from independence and move towards mutual understanding and connection.

Education Promotes Mutual Benefit and Joint Development between China and France

Educational exchanges and cooperation between China and France have provided strong support for industrial progress and technological innovation in both countries. In an international environment marked by ideological differences, cooperation between China and France not only promotes mutual understanding and trust but also benefits the development of both nations. Moreover, it offers solutions to global issues and plays a crucial role in building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The contemporary world faces complex and diverse global challenges, such as climate change, resource scarcity, land degradation, biodiversity loss, poverty, and public health security. As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and nations with a tradition of independence, China and France are well-positioned and responsible for addressing these issues and working towards solutions. In terms of development, both countries prioritize education and technological innovation as key strategies.

In October 2021, French President Emmanuel Macron

unveiled the "France 2030" investment plan, which focuses on three themes: "better production", "better living", and "better understanding our world". The plan aims to invest 30 billion euros over five years to support the transformation of key sectors such as energy, transportation, food, health, culture, aerospace, and deep-sea exploration. It outlines ten priority development goals for France's future, including developing modular small nuclear reactors, advancing green hydrogen and renewable energy, decarbonizing industrial energy use, producing electric and hybrid vehicles, manufacturing low-carbon aircraft, investing in sustainable and traceable food production, developing treatments for cancer, chronic diseases, and geriatric illnesses, promoting cultural and creative industries, investing in aerospace, and deep-sea exploration. Similarly, China has highlighted in multiple policy documents that addressing global issues relies on education and technological innovation. The Belt and Road Initiative emphasizes cooperative efforts to establish educational technology research centers, promote teacher training and exchanges, share educational resources, and explore cutting-edge educational technologies to improve educational quality and outcomes. In 2023, China's Ministry of Science and Technology released the "International Science and Technology Cooperation Initiative", advocating for open, fair, just, and non-discriminatory international scientific cooperation. This initiative aims to address pressing global challenges through enhanced global scientific innovation collaboration and the creation of a global innovation network. Additionally, China plans to establish scientific research funds worldwide and increase technological assistance to developing countries, ensuring that scientific advancements benefit all humanity. Building on these shared values, China and France signed an intergovernmental science and technology cooperation agreement in 1978, leading to the establishment of the Sino-French Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This committee has guided bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological innovation. In 2024, the 15th meeting of the Sino-French Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation will be held, further deepening collaboration in key areas such as climate change and carbon neutrality, environmental and biodiversity protection, healthy aging, and theoretical chemistry, highlighting the consensus reached by both parties on global issues.

Leading China-France Educational Exchanges to New Heights with the "China-France Spirit"

Today, as China and France each stand at new historical junctures, facing unprecedented global changes, it is more crucial than ever to revisit the "China-France Spirit" in educational exchanges and cooperation. This spirit should guide us in addressing foundational issues and seizing the moment to explore new areas and models of collaboration.

Currently, there are still many obstacles in China-France educational exchanges. Firstly, there exist three significant disparities: the "reverse deficit" in information flow, the "contrast" between China's real image and the subjective perceptions held abroad, especially in the West, and the "gap" between China's soft power in ideological concepts and its hard power as a nation. These differences are caused by complex factors that merit in-depth study, with education being one of them.

Taking the construction of language and cultural promotion institutions in both countries as an example, China's Confucius Institutes, Confucius Classrooms, and Chinese Cultural Centers, along with France's Alliance Française and French Cultural Centers, are all influential institutions in their respective regions. Chinese institutions often focus on traditional classics, such as calligraphy, traditional painting, literature, and music. In contrast, French institutions tend to present contemporary society and the current state of the nation, through events like the Sino-French Cultural Tourism Year, the Sino-French Spring of Culture, and the Sino-French Environment Month, both offline and online. These activities are more likely to resonate with the general public.

At a deeper level, education itself is complex and systemic. To compare and understand the education systems of both countries requires looking beyond education itself. China and France still have significant differences in political and social systems, cultural and historical traditions, development paths, and domestic and foreign policies. Some current academic research on French education remains superficial. Additionally, some researchers who are familiar with France know very little about Chinese education. They are unable to make targeted comparisons that consider domestic conditions or effectively share the experiences and stories of Chinese education.

It is precisely these shortcomings that highlight the need for greater exchange and understanding between China and France. This aligns with the spirit of the "China-France Spirit" and will guide the future educational exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

First, Upholding Independence and Promoting Mutual Understanding. To enhance mutual accommodation, mutual learning, and mutual communication with countries around the world, China and France must focus on the frontiers of world science and technology, as well as on domestic weak, blank, and urgent disciplines. High-level cooperative educational programs should be carried out with world-class resources, ensuring that high-quality, relevant initiatives are introduced. While embracing diverse perspectives, the primary focus should remain on national interests and cultural integration.

Educational exchanges and cooperation between China and France should be tailored to their respective educational needs and development strategies. This ensures that the cooperation aligns with the long-term interests of both nations. Additionally, recognizing each other's educational differences and unique features with an open and inclusive attitude will facilitate the sharing of educational resources and the complementary advantages of both sides. This necessitates strengthening policy dialogue, creating systems and mechanisms conducive to personnel exchanges and shared outcomes, enhancing the study of each other's languages, and reflecting on the history of cooperation to build trust, consolidate consensus, and foster mutual understanding. China should also enhance regional and country-specific research to genuinely understand the strengths of French education and clearly articulate its own cultural narratives.

Second, Long-Term Vision and Mutual Benefit. "Civilization exchanges and mutual learning are important drivers for human civilization progress and world peace development". Cultural exchanges have become a vital foundation for building new types of great power relations, emphasizing the value of human factors in international relations. China and France can engage in exchanges and cooperation in educational resources, teaching methods, scientific research, and educational management. Moreover, through educational exchanges, both nations can compare, inspire each other, and develop forward-looking cooperative projects. This reflection on how educational cooperation can influence great power relations will contribute to global educational governance and the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Today, China and France each face development issues and challenges, including population changes, digital transformation, sustainable development, rural revitalization, and artificial intelligence, among others. These areas hold great potential for collaboration. Future exchanges and cooperation centered around these topics will further consolidate the "China-France Spirit". Guided by this spirit, educational exchanges and cooperation between the two countries will continue to progress steadily, serving as a model for peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit between nations with different systems, civilizations, and levels of development.

Originally published in Guangming Daily on May 9, 2024, on page 14; authors Liu Min, Associate Professor at the Institute of International and Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University, and Special Researcher at the Beijing Research Center for Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era; and Yang Mu, Graduate Student at the Institute of International and Comparative Education, Beijing Normal University.

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北京師範大學
BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Office of International Exchange & Cooperation
Beijing Normal University

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