

HOPE Updates – 2022 No.9

15th September 2022, Edited by: Daniel Zheng



**12-18 October, 1986, Queen Elizabeth II became
the first British monarch to visit China. Her Majesty Queen
Elizabeth II will forever hold a place in our heart and mind.**

News and editorial from HOPE

- *A get-together in Beijing with 9 UK university representatives*
- *WELC conference witnesses more HOPE's partnership with int'l schools*
- *A level results day saw HOPE students' excellent performance*
- *Road to Success! Dialogue with Two smart mums!*
- *UK university fair for Int'l schools to be held in Sept.*

Highlights from local media

- *Xi congratulates King Charles III on accession to British throne*
- *Education brightens Sino-UK relations*
- *It is not in the UK's interest to sour ties with China*
- *Britain gains edge for Chinese students*
- *Overseas students returning home in search of better career prospects*
- *White Paper on China's Development of Vocational Education released*

A get-together in Beijing with 9 UK university representatives



A get-together in Beijing with 9 UK universities' reps. and rep. from BC.

A get-together with nine UK universities' China representatives and one of Daniel's British Council former colleagues in an autumn afternoon in Beijing was such an enjoyable and informative occasion!

Due to the pandemic and travel restrictions, the communication between partner universities and their agents became relatively difficult, particularly meeting in person. The occasional meetings would also have to focus on students interviews or staff briefing. On the afternoon of 26th August, a long planned informal get-together finally landed in a tea house of Beijing joined by the China representatives of Heriot-Watt University, University of Glasgow, University of York, Loughborough University, Essex University, University of Reading, University of Strathclyde, Brunel University, Queen Mary University of London, together with Mr. Xinping Wu from the British Council, and Daniel Zheng and Alice Zhang from HOPE.



An informal but in-depth meeting benefiting both universities and HOPE.

The meeting was informal but in-depth in terms of the possible impact on universities' China recruitment strategy from the pandemic, China's new policy and the current international affairs. Daniel started with his understanding of the recent MoE's new policy on regulation of international schools in China. It was generally agreed by all participants that this might bring long term benefits to both international schools and their students for stability and quality delivery of international education. Daniel then particularly introduced HOPE's new strategy towards the challenges in the past two years, and how HOPE explored more services to students and how to be innovative in promoting the partner UK institutions since 2020. "more services, more clients and more opportunities"; "be an educator rather a pure businessman would bring agents more long term business", he said. Daniel also explained how HOPE has been working closely with local international schools so that more UG students can be recruited for UK partner universities.

Each UK universities also introduced its recruitment policy and how they have been working with agents during this challenging time. All participants agreed that challenges and opportunities could be interchangeable, and we should all be confident on the market. Nevertheless, such type of enlightening meeting between agent and universities shall be held regularly to enhance the communication and mutual understanding.

Our special thanks to Mr. Zhongyi Wang, Director of East Asia Office, Heriot-Watt University, for helping organize this meeting with HOPE!

Add: Room 411 Pole Tower, 425 Yishan Road, 200235, China
地址：中国上海宜山路 425 号光启城办公楼 411 室，邮编：200235
Tel: +86 (0)21 33634525 Fax: +86 (0)21 33634528 Email: d.zheng@hope-studyabroad.com

WELC conference witnesses more HOPE's partnership with international schools

Initiated by a group of principals of international schools in China, World Educator Learning Community (WELC) was launched in Beijing on 27th August. Professor Dianjun Wang, Dean of Elementary Education Research Institute of Tsing Hua University and former principal of Senior Middle School Affiliated to Tsing Hua University delivered an inaugural speech as the chairman of WELC at the WELC conference joined by over two hundred principals and senior management staff of international schools and education groups in China.



Professor Dianjun Wang delivering an inaugural speech

WELC is supposed to be a community for senior management staff of international schools and international education companies for their life-long learning as well as a resource pool for their daily work. Daniel Zheng, Director of HOPE, was invited to join WELC on behalf of the company. Daniel also attended the one-day WELC conference held in Daoxianghu School in Beijing where he met many old and new friends from international schools across China.

Joining WELC is also another step and opportunity for HOPE to deliver more services to international schools, including students' university applications service, teacher recruitment and training, international exchange with overseas schools, and students' enrichment activities.



Principals' dialogue, a panel discussion at the WELC Conference

A level results day saw HOPE students' excellent performance

A level result day this year on 18th August witnessed HOPE students' excellent performance with one Oxford (medicine) , one Cambridge (Maths), one LSE (PPE), one Imperial (Chemistry) , one UCL (Mechanical Engineering) enrolment. Other offers include those from Edinburgh, KCL, Loughborough, Sheffield, Leeds, Queen Mary, Bath, Manchester, Nottingham and City University.


18th August seems a real lucky day (number 8 means luck and fortune in China) for our students. With the joint effort of students' schools in the UK and our counsellors, most of our students were enrolled by their UCAS firm choice university leaving less than 10% of students entering clearing this year.

It was also a day that made many parents feel nervous at beginning. Some of them even came to HOPE's office to witness this exciting moment. The final good news was not only the best gift to the parents but also to HOPE and the schools the students went!

Road to success! Dialogue with 2 smart mums!

Following the A Level result day, HOPE invited two mums of HOPE students to the “Parents’ Meeting Room” on 2nd September to share their views on what an important role the family education can play during the kids’ schooling overseas.




 科博国际教育
HOPE International Education
— Since 2000 —

科博家长荟客厅

名校录取与家庭教育

#对话优秀科博学子家长#

主持人

 科博国际教育
科博国际教育留学总监
Chief Counsellor for School Applications
Ms. Judy Zhu

特邀嘉宾

Tara 妈妈 录取 **LSE** 伦敦政治经济学院
Tommy 妈妈 录取 **KCL** 伦敦国王学院

了解详情

活动时间
2022年9月2日 周五
北京时间 19:30

参与方式
直播方式：腾讯会议室
会议号：112-561-610

Illustrations at the bottom: a red telephone booth, a red double-decker bus labeled 'CITY BUS', a Ferris wheel, and Big Ben.

The poster for the online event

The two successful kids are: Tara: graduated from Berkhamsted School and accepted by BSc Politics and Economics at LSE; Tommy: graduated from Strathallan School and accepted by BSc Physics with Biophysics at KCL.

The online panel discussion was hosted by Judith Zhu, HOPE's chief counsellor, and joined by two mums who played an important and successful role in family education for their kids. The following are some selected dialogues between Judith and two smart mums.

Judith: What made your family decide to send the kid to the UK boarding school?

TM: It was Tommy's own choice to go to the UK when he was 14! When he was in the kindergarten, one of our friends from Singapore encouraged him if he would like to go to National University of Singapore when he grows up. Tommy replied that he would prefer to the UK! As parents, we also hoped that our child can grow up in a more lenient and generous environment, where he can experience different culture. His world could be much bigger, and he could be happier as well. So, we respect his decision since then.

TR: We approached HOPE when Tara was 12-year-old, but Tara did not go to the UK until she was 16. Our family is a democratic one. Our original plan was to send Tara to the UK when she was 13. However, Tara was a bit hesitant at that time. We then decided to postpone the plan as Tara could make more preparation as she wished. It was until she was psychologically well prepared, Tara was more confident, and going to the UK became a natural choice for her. We have no reason not to support her.

Judith: Among all the love, it seems that only parents' love may lead to a temporary farewell! However, this temporary farewell offers our kids a chance to face the real world on their own and become more independent!

Judith: both Tommy and Tara are confident, independent, easy-going, self-disciplined. What role the family education plays in shaping your kids' character?

TM: first, we shall be aware that our kids grow up in a different time from ours. We need to constantly remind ourselves not to educate him based on our so-called experience. Secondly, try not to present empty talk to him; thirdly, always set a good example to him before we ask him to do something.

TR: I totally agree with Tommy's mum! Never be a rival of your kid! On the contrary, give her full respect, give her the right to speak! When Tara chose the A level subjects, we tended to ask her to choose maths and physics of which Chinese students may be good at. However, Tara was more interested in politics, history, economics and even psychology. We finally gave up our preference and encourage her to choose what she preferred. It seems that we made a good decision.

Judith: it seems that parents' non-interference policy is the most effective way to engineer the kids' self-motivation.

Judith: In terms of choosing a school in the UK, what were your main considerations? Ranking? A Level results? Any suggestion to share with our audience?

TM: I remember clearly that I came to Judith with a comprehensive check list! We then narrowed down to two schools after in-depth discussion with Judith. We then chose one school (Strathallan School) 's one-week taste programme to have an experience. I think a visit to the school is very important!

TR: When we planned to apply Year 9 when Tara was 13, we indeed mainly considered ranking and A level result of the schools. We were much more rational when we re-started the application when Tara was 16. We visited several schools and looked at the pastoral care, dorm, food in school canteen, after school activities as well as academic strength. Finally we chose Berkhamsted School mainly because of the lunch we had in school canteen during the visit! We were touch by some details of the service the school devoted to the students! So, it is really important to visit the school and choose the most suitable one!

Judith: Wow! That lunch was really worthwhile! It is very true that there is no "best school", but "suitable school" only in the world.

Judith: I am curious that how you keep your relationship with your kids when they are far away and even with 8-hour time difference? Are you able to hear the words in their hearts?

TM: This is a difficult question, haha! When Tommy was 14, we telephoned every 2-3 days, and then, every 2-3 weeks! Now, we have an "appointment only" policy! We still have very close relationship though, as I take him for my line manager, my client, my partner, and my son. My multiple roles make me feel much relaxed and

flexible to communicate with Tommy! I agree with Judith that relationship speaks! Everything is “negotiable” if you have good relationship with your kids!

Judith: What a smart mum!

Judith: How about the challenges Tara faced during this difficult time? What type of skills you think a student needs to have if study in a boarding school?

TR: Ability to take pressure and handle stress is number one; time management skill is number 2; good English and communication skill is number 3! During the pandemic, Tara could not come back home as often as before, she had to face those challenges herself though she had a good guardian. In Year 13, she also had a lot of academic deadlines to meet. Fortunately, Tara tackled all those difficulties because of the preparation she made in advance. This is also my advice to those parents who plan to send their kids to study overseas.

Judith: Many thanks for two mums’ advice and suggestions. Today we all learned that a) clever mums know how to respect their kids and this respect allow the kids to fly higher; b) confidence, independence and self-discipline, these characters can be trained and formed by the long-term family education; c) to give kids love, trust, encouragement, parents will undoubtedly receive pleasant surprise! Thank you.



UK University Fair for Int'l schools to be held in Sept.

The autumn online UK university fair for international schools is to kick off on 19th September and will last for 5 days. 8 UK universities are invited to give themed presentations and to conduct one-to-one student interviews to potential applicants of 6 international schools in Shanghai, Hangzhou, Ningbo and Qvzhou within a week.

We are grateful for the support to the event from University of Sheffield, University of Leicester, Lancaster University, Royal Holloway University of London, University of Glasgow, Loughborough University, Newcastle University and University of York!



A previous international school fair on campus

Due to the on-going pandemic policy, the fair has to be online again. However, all schools are very serious about the event and each discussed with HOPE carefully on the topics of presentations and the format of the event that would be most appealing to the students. The event is organized a bit earlier than previous years at the request of our partner schools so that students can prepare the applications well in advance of the UCAS application deadline in mid-January 2023.

With more cooperation with the local international schools, HOPE's UG application numbers to UK universities have been increasing steadily in the past 3 years. 2021-22 applications have seen a 16% increase over the previous year's figure.

Xi congratulates King Charles III on accession to British throne

Xinhua | Updated: 2022-09-11 17:21

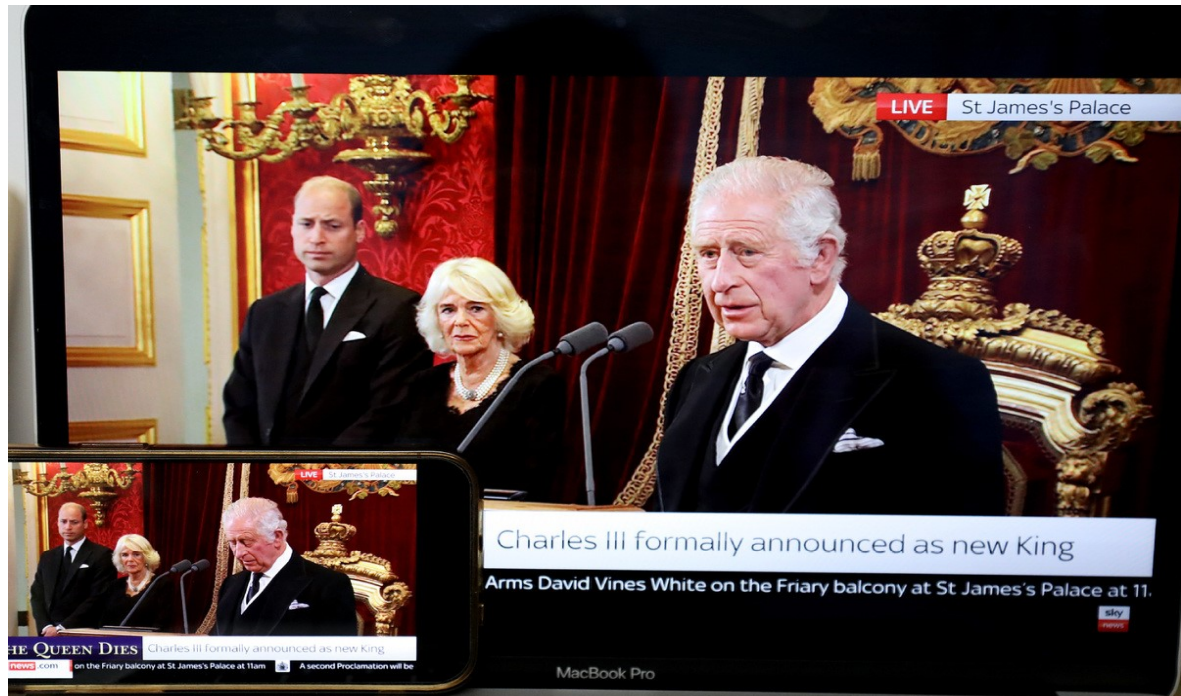


Photo shows screens displaying Britain's King Charles III delivering a speech at the accession ceremony at St James's Palace in London, Britain, Sept 10, 2022. King Charles III was formally proclaimed Britain's new monarch at a meeting of the Accession Council at St James's Palace on Saturday. [Photo/Xinhua]

BEIJING -- Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday sent a congratulatory message to King Charles III on his accession to the British throne.

Xi pointed out that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level.

The Chinese president said he is ready to work with King Charles III to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between people of the two countries, expand friendly exchanges and mutually beneficial cooperation, and strengthen communication on global issues, so as to bring benefits to the two countries and their people and contribute to world peace and development.

Education brightens Sino-UK relations

By ZOU SHUO | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2022-09-10 08:03



A booth promoting study in the United Kingdom at the China Annual Conference for International Education and Expo in Beijing on Oct 23. GUO HAIPENG/CHINA NEWS SERVICE

Young people from China and the United Kingdom should strengthen education exchanges, promote friendship and make new contributions to build closer bilateral ties, experts and diplomats from both countries said on Friday.

They made the remarks at a forum marking the 50th anniversary of government-sponsored Chinese students in the UK.

Themed "Creating a New Chapter in China-UK Cooperation on Education, Science and Technology in the New Era", the forum was hosted by the Western Returned Scholars Association.

Ding Zhongli, president of the association and vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said that when the two countries established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in 1972, China sent 16

government-sponsored young people to the UK to study, which started a new chapter of comprehensive cooperation among the two countries.

Now, there are more than 220,000 Chinese students studying in the UK and the country has become the largest overseas study destination for Chinese students in Europe. Bilateral education cooperation has bright prospects, he said.

Faced with global challenges and unprecedented changes, stable and friendly relations between China and the UK in the long term are of concern to world peace and development, Ding said.

In the past 50 years, generations of Chinese students studying in the UK have made great contributions to bilateral ties. Young people from both countries, especially those studying in the other country should pick up the baton of friendship so as to make new progress in friendly bilateral relations, he added.

Caroline Wilson, UK ambassador to China, said that the education relationship between the UK and China has flourished in recent years.

"When education collaboration works well, it builds mutual understanding and trust. It teaches us what we have in common. It helps us explore our differences with respect," she said.

She said that when she travels around China, she is always impressed by the fact that hundreds, if not thousands of people have benefited from UK-China educational opportunities.

Since 1978, the UK has welcomed more than 750,000 students from the Chinese mainland, and there are also thousands of school pupils across the UK who are acquiring fluency in Mandarin, she added.

Zheng Zeguang, vice-president of the association and Chinese ambassador to the UK, said as a government-sponsored Chinese student to the UK 36 years ago, he has first-hand experience of China-UK education cooperation and knows its importance.

In the past 50 years, both countries have benefited greatly from sending students to the other country to study. The practice has helped nurture batches of talent and improved the teaching and research level of universities in both countries, Zheng said via video link.

Although the two countries have different historical and cultural backgrounds, social systems and are at different development stages, bilateral cooperation has broad prospects, and is in line with the fundamental interests of both countries, he said. Today, there are more than 220,000 Chinese students studying in the UK and almost 20,000 UK students studying in China, who can strengthen ties between the two countries.

It is not in the UK's interest to sour ties with China

By Colin Speakman | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2022-09-09 10:03



It seems that the United Kingdom's new Prime Minister, Liz Truss, will be the least supportive of China of any of the last four Conservative prime ministers. David Cameron helped forge a "Golden Era" of UK- China relations, saying he wanted to be Beijing's closest friend in the West. Teresa May, inheriting the huge task of negotiating a Brexit deal, needed to show the benefits of the UK's future ability to

negotiate its own free trade deals with China the obvious example. The relationship soured during Boris Johnson's premiership, but he admitted to be fervently Sinophile, much aided by his visit to Beijing as Mayor of London.

Liz Truss, however, was not elected through a general election, but Conservative Party members voted for a continuity candidate who had remained loyal to the outgoing prime minister, Boris Johnson. More importantly, Liz Truss was the Foreign Secretary under Johnson and her views on the UK-China relationship are unlikely to change. The new prime minister has appointed James Cleverly as the new Foreign Secretary, providing continuity as he worked for Liz Truss as a Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. She has also appointed a known China hawk in Tom Tugendhat as Security Minister.

In Liz Truss we clearly have a leader who wants to be tough on China. As Foreign Secretary at a G7 meeting of foreign ministers in 2021, she convinced her counterparts to include a line in the closing communique that condemned China's economic policies. In a 2020-21 Integrated Review of UK defense and foreign policy, the analysis of China was a mixture of "threats and opportunities" – concerns about differences in values and security issues, but recognizing the benefits of cooperation in trade and climate change. In her last week of campaigning for the Conservative Party leadership, Liz Truss said she would change the conclusion of that Integrated Review to declare China explicitly as a threat on a par with Russia.

This positioning comes at a time when the UK is struggling with a huge cost of living crisis with inflation predicted to reach 13 percent or higher and needing to spend tens of billions of pounds on subsidies for rapidly rising energy costs. Liz Truss' plan is to pay for this in future years through economic growth, though the UK's economic growth has been weak for decades.

China has made a significant contribution to the low inflation that the UK and other Western nations have enjoyed for several decades thanks to its ability to supply many products worldwide at affordable prices. Now is not the time to put that at risk. The ability of the UK to grow needs both investment and trade – China is a leading provider of outbound foreign investment and a key player in trade opportunities.

It is expected that the UK will be able to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and this will be a major trade opportunity with Asia-Pacific nations, but China is the most important member of it and cooperation will be important.

Overall, given the challenges the UK faces, as the nation mourns the loss of its sovereign of 70 years, as millions of families face unprecedented economic pains, as many workers are striking for pay increases and the National Health Service struggles with providing many services, one has to ask – Is now really the time to sour an economic relationship with China? A more pragmatic approach is needed.

Colin Speakman is an economist from the UK and an international educator specializing in China.

Britain gains edge for Chinese students

By WANG MINGJIE in London | China Daily | Updated: 2022-09-03 00:00

Applications surge as demand for US colleges dives, with longer trend seen

Chinese students are increasingly looking to the United Kingdom as their favored study destination despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic over the past two and a half years, and education experts believe the country can cement the trend.

By the end of June, 31,400 students from China had submitted applications to enter higher education in the UK this autumn, a surge of 29 percent from 2020, according to data from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

Applications from China soared 59 percent between 2019 and 2022, while demand from the European Union, which until 2020 was the biggest source market for non-UK students, plunged 54 percent to 23,160 over the past three years, according to the admissions service.

Overseas students returning home in search of better career prospects

By Kang Bing | China Daily | Updated: 2022-09-06 07:58



Chinese students attend the graduation ceremony at the Columbia University in New York in May, 2019. [Photo by Wang Ying/Xinhua]

Editor's note: China's rapid economic and social development, along with rising racism and economic woes in the West, has been prompting an increasing number of Chinese overseas students to return home in search of better career prospects, writes a veteran journalist with China Daily.

Statistics show that more than 1 million students studying abroad returned to China last year, a sharp increase from 777,000 the previous year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic which brought the world to a standstill and disrupted their studies overseas is said to be the main reason for the increasing number of overseas students returning to China, it should be noted that the "return home movement" has been popular among Chinese students for the past decade or so.

Two figures prove the trend: while about 134,800 overseas Chinese students returned home in 2010, the number increased to 580,300 in 2019, just before the pandemic broke out, in search of better career prospects.

China began sending a small number of teenagers to Western countries to study science and technology during the latter part of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) rule. That arrangement came to a halt with the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949 when many Western countries imposed multifarious sanctions on China.

And although China managed to send thousands of students abroad—to the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries—in the 1950s, that arrangement too came to an end with the souring of Sino-Soviet ties. For the next couple of decades, few, if any, students were able to study abroad.

With the formalization of relationship between China and the United States, Chinese students again got access to Western education. In 1978, a year before China and the US formally established diplomatic relations, about 800 students travelled abroad for higher education, mostly to the US.

Since then the number of Chinese students going abroad for higher studies has increased with each passing year. Now, each year, about 700,000 students choose to study overseas.

Unlike the 1970s and 1980s when almost all the students were sponsored by the government or their respective company to study abroad, most of the students seeking higher education overseas today are sponsored by their parents or are self-financed thanks to country's rapid economic development which has enabled millions of families to pay for their children's foreign education. While the government- and enterprise-sponsored students were obligated to return home to serve the country or their company, family-sponsored or self-financed students are free to decide whether they want to return home or seek a career abroad.

Many studies have been conducted to identify the reasons why about 80 percent of overseas students now choose to return to China. The main reason they do so, according to many of the studies, is because they are optimistic about the country's future development and believe they have better career prospects in China.

They have little doubt that China will become the world's largest economy in the near future. And China's rapid economic development and good governance have convinced students that the country will be able to realize its dream of national

rejuvenation within a few decades. The students are also eager to contribute to China's further progress, which in turn will improve their career prospects and help them live a better life.

Some Chinese students are returning home after completing their higher studies overseas also because racism, including violence and hatred against Asians or people of Asian descent, is on the rise in many Western countries. Worse, some Western universities, especially in the United States, have banned Chinese students from studying certain subjects, and in some extreme cases, some Chinese students were forced to leave the campus before they could complete their course and a number of Chinese scientists were investigated for being allegedly involved in conspiracy or spying.

Such discrimination and racism compelled many Chinese students, who may have planned to develop a career in the countries where they were studying or had completed their higher studies, to rethink their decision. The ongoing energy and food crises, increasing unemployment and rising inflation could have been another factor that prompted many Chinese overseas students to return home in search of a better career.

The author is former deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily.

White Paper on China's Development of Vocational Education released

Source: www.moe.gov.cn, August 23, 2022

The Ministry of Education launched the White Paper on the Development of Vocational Education in China on August 20 to present China's experience in developing vocational education over the last decade.

According to the document, vocational education is a significant component of China's educational and talent cultivation system. In fact, developing vocational education has become part of many countries' strategic response to economic, social, environmental, and employment challenges. Since 2012, the Chinese government has prioritized vocational education in its economic development and educational reform plans, creating a unique modernization paradigm for vocational education.

Modernization, with industrialization as its core, has brought great changes to human society, including economic growth, shifts in thinking, institutional innovation and social transformation. Despite China's unique challenges in its pursuit of modernization—given the country's huge population and the legacy of a millennia-old agrarian civilization—it has explored effective ways to realize comprehensive modernization, covering economic, social, cultural, educational and other areas. Vocational education is also part of this process. It has both benefitted from and contributed to the modernization drive by spurring economic growth, improving people's livelihood, optimizing the educational system and increasing international exchange.

Over the past decade, vocational education has developed on par with regular education, while receiving more policy support to facilitate diversification, modern governance and the integration of industry and education.

China hopes to join hands with other countries in establishing more communication and cooperation platforms for sharing lessons learnt as well as good practices in developing vocational education.