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Travel Far to meet ourselves

If you don't go, you will never know! Kunming, Anji, Haining, Huangshan, Jingdezhen, Beijing, HOPE's footprints across China in May left behind another busy month to promote its partner institutions and develop the business products.

Visit to International Schools

To establish a wider network of partner international schools and provide more comprehensive services in university applications, teacher recruitment and training, summer and winter camps, and establishment of sister schools partnership, HOPE visited three schools in Kunming, Haining, and Beijing respectively. In Kunming, HOPE delegation was welcomed by the principal of International Division of Kunming No. 1 Middle School. The principal expressed the school's commitment to providing the quality service to students, and a strong interest in working with organizations with decent philosophy as well as abundant resources. In Haining, HOPE was greeted by two old friends, Principal Wu and Deputy Principal Dai from Hongda School who had been working with HOPE for more than 15 years. With the lift of travel restrictions, the school is keen on resuming the exchange with their current UK sister schools for summer and winter camps. In Beijing, Daniel, Director of HOPE, visited Tsinghua International School. Principal Li showed great interests in providing a wider selection of activities for their students to which HOPE can obviously offer.



Visit to international school in Kunming, South China's Yunnan Province

Counseling for VIP clients of Industrial Bank

In Kunming, HOPE delegation also offered two sessions of presentations and one-to-one counselling in person to the bank's VIP clients on planning and step-by-step guidance of studying abroad. Over 20 families, whose children from 10-20 of age, joined the event at the invitation of the bank. Industrial Bank, whose headquarters are in Shanghai and Fuzhou, signed a strategic agreement with HOPE two years ago, and HOPE was entrusted to provide study abroad service to its clients of the bank's 108 branches across China.



Cathy Xie, Education Counsellor from HOPE giving presentation to bank's VIP clients in Kunming

Development of research and study tour products in Kunming and Huangshan

Apart from summer and winter camps overseas, the demand from students and schools on domestic study and research tour has been soaring after pandemic. Because of this, HOPE is developing such products in line with the market demand. In Kunming, HOPE delegation met with Study and Research Tour Division of China Academy of Science and visited the Kunming Botanic Garden where the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference was held. In Huangshan, HOPE visited Jiulongfeng Nature Reserve. Both places have rich resources for biodiversity-focused study and research tours. Besides, Jingdezhen, capital of porcelain, and Yangshuo, paradise for outdoor activities and geological studies have also been explored by HOPE for the base of study tours.



Exploring Jiulongshan Nature Reserve of Huangshan (Yellow Mountain)

In this changing market, we need to travel far to meet ourselves as well as clients demand!

A Trip to Love on Mother's Day

"I never heard my daughter speaking such sweet and caring words to me in person," said F. Yun, a member from Parents Committee of Hope International Education. "No words can fully express my gratitude to this event."

Her daughter, currently studying in the UK, popped up in the Mother's Day VCR video, sending the most caring messages to Fei, moving the rest of parents to tears.



Parents teared up at Mother's Day VCR

The event, which coincided with the celebration of the Mother's Day, was organized by HOPE in Jingdezhen from May 12th to May 14th. Jingdezhen has always been the "Capital of Porcelain" since ancient China. The trip celebrated the long-term friendship between Hope and parents and widened the horizon of the attendants from studying and making of Chinese porcelains.

Following the VCR recording, a connection activity took place in a small multi-media room in the afternoon. The parents were invited to have online chats with their kids, catching up on their life events, studies, and work in the UK. Heart-felt joy and love sprang and the natural bond brought warmth and laughter.



Parents connected with their children remotely

During the trip, “The Parents Classroom” was also held in order to share knowledge of cross-cultural communications and how to achieve success as an international individual abroad. Ruru, the lecturer of the Classic Studies from Shanghai Polytechnic University emphasized the significance of incorporating classical wisdoms into our life. “Classics help children develop healthy mindsets on life events”, said Ruru. “The learning of classics helps the individual connect with their roots and find peace within wherever he or she is in the world.



Ruru, the lecturer of the Classic Studies from Shanghai Polytechnic University

Moreover, Mr. Yin, Government Affairs Manager from Gucci, the Greater China, also spoke about his own experiences of working in a multi-culture environment.



Mr. Yin, Government Affairs Manager from Gucci, the Greater China

“It’s important that we developed the value of being a global citizen, who values human rights, cooperates equally, and most importantly has a humanitarian heart foreach culture and their uniqueness”, said Yin. As this improves an individual’s global competitiveness and helps them achieve personal success abroad.

Besides, the trip also provided a precious opportunity for parents to visit Jingdehen Imperial Kilm Museum, watch the live performance “china”, and unwind in the local nature by the ancient town Yaoli as well.



Group photo shoot outside the museum



Ancient town Yaoli



The trip to the natural reserve, Raonan



Porcelain-making activity

“It’s essential that we build a platform for parents to connect, to communicate, to share and to learn. Parents Committee is such a place for new ideas to birth, connections to take place, and for greater love to be shared. There will be more trips and other meaningful events upcoming in the long term.” According to Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of Hope International Education.

A tale of three cities

HOPE pre-departure briefings in 3 cities prepare students for life overseas

The annual Pre-departure Briefing was run by HOPE on Saturday and Sunday, 27th and 28th of May, 2023 in three cities of Nanjing, Hangzhou and Shanghai. The event was launched in order to help students prepare to move to the UK and other study destinations. Most of the students who are going to study overseas this autumn and their parents attended this HOPE's traditional event, gaining precious advice on departure preparations.

The event covered a great number of topics that were of top concerns among students, which comprised what are the updated visa policies, how to do luggage packing, how to make the most of overseas life and graduate with excellence etc. Students and parents were listening with great interest and an active Q & A was held towards the end of the event to address personal curiosity and concerns over study and life in the UK.



Pre-departure Briefing (PDB) in Hangzhou



Visa policy updates at PBD in Nanjing



PBD moments in Shanghai

Apart from the presentations from HOPE Counsellors, a couple of guest speakers were also invited to share their insights on some other key areas of studying abroad,

which included cross-cultural communications by lecturer from Shanghai No.2 University of Technology, pre-departure finance preps by HSBC, overseas student apartment support from Hooli, and even overseas property purchases by L2 Cushman & Wakefield.

Following the presentations and lectures, a special ceremony was launched to congratulate and award the successful applicants this year. Among 2568 successful applications made this year, two outstanding students were selected as the “HOPE Stars” and were granted with special prizes.

“I have full gratitude to HOPE”, said S. Liu. “I never thought I would have this courage to apply and got the offer from Hongkong University. Hope assisted me in making this dream come true!” He spoke with sheer excitement about his upcoming adventure as a fresher at university this September.



HOPE stars from Shanghai and Nanjing

And for Y. Lu, the seed of studying abroad was planted even earlier. Cheltenham College has always been the right school for him, according to Lu. “What I received from HOPE was beyond the practical service. The warmth, company, and patience, they prepared me psychologically to go there as well!”



Ruru, cross-cultural communicator

HSBC's talk on financial preps



Hooli's talk on overseas student apartments



HOPE reassured family on guardian services

“It (the briefing) was very informative, and it addressed my concerns over what my child may encounter while he’s there”, said a parent, whose son was about to fly to London in 3 months, “With guardian service provided by HOPE UK Office, it brings immediate confidence for me to see my child grow in a distant country safely.”

Dialogue with UK and Chinese principals cast lights on parent concerns

“Education goes beyond the classroom!”

“The ‘ best ’ pathway for education simply does not exist; it is critical that a child chooses the most suitable one for him or her.”

The dialogue with two UK and Chinese principals on the afternoon of 29th May offered some very enlightening guidance to over 300 audience who were in the dilemma of selecting their kids’ education pathways.

At the invitation of HOPE International Education, Mr. David Griffiths, the principal of Mount School UK (former Principal of Wycombe Abbey, Changzhou), and Mr. Wenguo Chen, Principal of Shanghai Hongrun Boyuan International School joined the event with over 300 audience online and in person at HOPE Shanghai Office.

With Chinese university entrance exam (Gaokao) and senior high school entrance exam (Zhongkao) around the corner, students and parents tend to become anxious on which choice to make, study abroad or study in China. The event, broadcast online on Wechat Channel, threw some lights on the differences between going to UK for high school and choosing international schools in China, and hopefully offered some authentic and practical guidance to the parents.

During the conversation, Mr. David Griffiths, the principal of Mount School made a presentation on the school, introducing the characteristic of the girls’ school, his principles behind education, and also the rich extra-curriculum activities students could attend.

“Education goes beyond the classroom”, Mr. Griffiths said. Mount school not only supports the individual grow academically, it also assists them in cultivating the aesthetic appreciation ability, becoming all-rounded talents.



David Griffiths gave a presentation on Mount School, York

He also stressed the importance of developing critical thinking among the kids. “Chinese students are incredibly strong and excellent...and the critical thinking skills are what they need to develop and will be really good at if you give them more care and training”, said Mr. Griffiths.

On the other side, HOPE also interviewed Principal Chen online. Chen, being a highly experienced teacher and a passionate educator, is keen on supporting the children to become who they are meant to be.



HOPE interviewing Principal Chen of Hongrun Boyuan International School

“The so-called a best ‘path’ just doesn’t exist. You have to know the child, his

personality, his individuality to make the choice for them”. He remarked on the parents who aim to change the education track for their children.

“The event, providing us a good comparison on the ‘two options’, was a precious opportunity for students and parents to understand the differences between going abroad early and choosing international school system in China”. The parent attending the event highly commented the “dialogue”.



Parents expressed thanks for Mr. Griffith suggestion at the Q&A section

At the end of the event, Mr. Griffith expressed his sincere admiration to HOPE for the warm and friendly reception, and its wonderful reputation among the UK institutions for supporting students and their families.

“I am so pleased to come here and be hosted by HOPE. The event provides an excellent platform for more people to know about the Mount School and strengthens the friendly cooperation between us”, said Mr. Griffith. He sincerely hoped this bond will grow stronger over time.

Asian locales on rise as overseas study options

By Zou Shuo | China Daily | Updated: 2023-05-25 09:13



Primary school students, including Gu Keyu's daughter, fourth right, celebrate the end of the summer term in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in June 2019. [Photo/China Daily]

Survey attributes changes to students favoring more friendly destinations

A growing number of students from the Chinese mainland are choosing to study in Asia, in places where they can enjoy friendlier environments with similar cultures at relatively lower costs, while at the same time the United States, though still the most favored destination, saw a significant drop in its popularity, according to a recent report.

Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore have become popular destinations for Chinese students pursuing their studies outside of the mainland, the report said.

For students pursuing undergraduate degrees or lower, Hong Kong and Japan were tied as the fourth most popular destinations this year, favored by 15 percent of the surveyed students, followed by Singapore with 14 percent.

In 2019, only 10 percent of students chose Hong Kong, and 9 percent chose Japan and Singapore.

The US, the United Kingdom and Canada clinched the top three spots.

While the US remained the most favored overseas study destination for undergraduates in this year's report, chosen by 34 percent of respondents, this was a drop from 45 percent in 2019.

The percentage of students going to the UK and Canada remained relatively unchanged over the past five years.

For students pursuing postgraduate studies, the trend is similar.

The percentage of students going to the US for postgraduate studies dropped from 45 to 30 percent from 2019 to 2023, while those going to Hong Kong increased from 14 to 22 percent, and Singapore from 9 to 15 percent.

The UK remained the most popular overseas study destination for postgraduates in 2023, surpassing the US for the fourth consecutive year.

The report was based on a survey conducted by Vision Overseas Consulting Co, a subsidiary of New Oriental Education and Technology Group, of 9,551 students who plan to go to school overseas. The report has been released annually for the past nine years.

The report found that almost half the respondents said they would prefer to go to destinations with a favorable attitude toward China, and one-third said they would consider applying to go to schools in various countries and regions.

Lin Xiaoya, a senior high school student at Changchun Foreign Languages School in Jilin province, said she plans to study in Singapore for her undergraduate studies due to the similarity in culture, beautiful scenery and the country's strength in higher education.

She said she wants to major in a STEM field such as math or computer science, and felt that her chances of being admitted to a college in the US or the UK were slim.

"It is almost common knowledge that top universities in the US and UK only admit a very small number of Chinese students for science majors, and even if they do, they would prefer students who have already studied abroad during high school."

Chen Yihan, 25, had thought about studying at a US university for postgraduate studies, yet due to various reasons he studied at Imperial College London in 2021 and returned to work at an internet company in Beijing last year.

"I wanted to major in chip technology, and it is common for the US government to put visa restrictions on Chinese students majoring in the sector, and studying in the UK does not have that problem," he said.

"I also worry about my safety as there are many gun shooting incidents in the US."

New regulation issued on international branch campuses in Hainan

Source: www.moe.gov.cn | Updated: 2023-04-25

To promote broader, deeper, and more flexible cooperation in international education, the *Interim Regulation on the Establishment of Institutes by Overseas Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Hainan Free Trade Port (HFTP)* (“the Regulation”) was jointly issued by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Hainan Provincial Government. Based on the *Law on HFTP* and the *Master Plan for the Development of HFTP*, the Regulation specifies in a systematic way the basic principles governing the establishment of institutions or campuses by overseas higher education providers in the HFTP.

The Regulation encourages innovation in education provision. It clearly states that high-quality overseas universities and vocational colleges are welcome to set up institutes or branch campuses in the fields of science, engineering, agriculture, and medicine. The new entities will enjoy substantial autonomy and flexibility in school management, academic research, faculty recruitment, the development of tuition policies, etc.

The Regulation requires strict compliance with China’s laws and regulations, with no infringement on the country’s national sovereignty, security, or the public interest. The campuses, as legal entities operating in China, are subject to supervision by local educational authorities. They are required to offer courses introducing China’s Constitution, laws, ethical standards, and national conditions. In addition, they should only organize social activities or public gatherings that are allowed by relevant national regulations.

The Regulation stresses the need to ensure quality of education. Overseas HEIs desiring to set up institutes in the HFTP should enjoy an excellent reputation globally, have unique strengths in certain prioritized fields, and maintain a good record of producing graduates with excellent career prospects. They should follow staffing standards comparable to those applied at their home campuses when recruiting or dispatching faculty members. They are encouraged to offer courses that are eagerly needed in China. In addition, courses as well as textbooks should meet top-level international standards. The universities are also encouraged to set up student exchange programs and ensure mutual recognition of credits with their home campuses. Furthermore, the overseas HEIs must establish quality control systems and make their operations transparent to the public. They should also submit annual reports to local authorities and accept quality assessments from those authorities.

The Regulation takes effect as of the date of issuance. In the next stage, the MOE will work with the Hainan Provincial Government to ensure enforcement and constant improvement of the Regulation, with a view to supporting the cultivation of more high-caliber, innovative professionals with international vision, who are needed to boost Hainan's development.

MOE releases statistical report on China's educational achievements in 2022

Source: www.moe.gov.cn | Updated: 2023-03-28

The Ministry of Education held a press conference to release a statistical report on China's educational achievements in 2022 on March 23. Liu Changya, Director-general of the Department of Development and Planning, presented a synopsis of the report.

In 2022, China had 518,500 educational institutions of all kinds and all levels with 293 million students enrolled. The number of full-time teaching staff was 18,803,600. New entrants into the workforce on average received 14 years of formal education.

Affordable preschool education was further expanded. The gross enrollment rate at pre-school level was 89.7%, 1.6 percentage points higher than in the previous year. China had a total of 289,200 kindergartens across the country, with 46,275,500 children enrolled in preschool education. Among them, 245,700 were affordable kindergartens, accounting for 84.96% of all kindergartens in the country. 41.4405 million children were enrolled in these kindergartens, accounting for 89.55% of all enrolled preschool children, an increase of 1.77 percentage points from the previous year.

Compulsory education saw further improvement in 2022. The completion rate of nine-year compulsory education was 95.5%, an increase of 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous year. There were a total of 149,100 primary schools across the country, with 17,013,900 students newly enrolled and 1.07 billion students in attendance. The number of large and oversized classes with 56 or more students in primary schools decreased by 7,200 from the previous year to 13,800, accounting for 0.48% of the total number of classes, a decrease of 0.25 percentage points from the previous year. There were a total of 52,500 junior high schools, with 17,313,800 students enrolled and 51,206,000 students in attendance. Large and oversized classes of 56 or more students decreased by 2,703 to 4,522, accounting for 0.40% of the total number of classes, a decrease of 0.25 percentage points from the previous year.

Senior high school education was further improved. In 2022, the gross enrollment rate for high school was 91.6%, an increase of 0.2 percentage points from the previous year. There were 15,000 regular senior high schools nationwide, an increase of 441 from the previous year. New entrants in these schools totaled 9,475,400, an increase of 4.71% over the previous year, and the registered students amounted to 27,138,700, an increase of 4.18% over the previous year. There were 7,201 secondary

vocational schools (excluding technical schools under the auspice of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security) nationwide, a decrease of 93 from the previous year. The enrollment was 4,847,800 students, a decrease of 0.86% from the previous year. Registered students in vocational senior high schools totaled 13,392,900, an increase of 2.09% from the previous year.

Higher education further expanded its enrollment scale. In 2022, the gross enrollment rate for higher education was 59.6%, an increase of 1.8 percentage points from the previous year. China had 3,013 higher education institutions (HEIs). The total enrollment in various forms of higher education was 46.55 million students, marking an increase of 2.25 million from the previous year. The number of registered students in all HEIs totaled 10,145,400 across the country, an increase of 6.11% over the previous year. The total number of enrolled postgraduate students grew by 5.61% to 1,242,500.

The special education system was further improved. In 2022, there were a total of 2,314 special education schools nationwide, an increase of 1.14% from the previous year. 146,300 new students were enrolled, bringing the number of registered students receiving special education to 918,500. The structure of non-state education was further optimized. China had 178,300 privately run schools at all levels, accounting for 34.37% of the total number of schools nationwide. The number of students attending non-state schools was 52,827,200, accounting for 18.05% of all students in China.

Chinese universities gain momentum in global rankings

By Jonathan Powell in London | China Daily Global | Updated: 2023-05-18 00:00



A view of Tsinghua University. [Photo/VCG]

Almost every Chinese university moved up in this year's global rankings, as the nation continues to invest heavily in creating more elite institutions of higher education.

Ninety-six percent of Chinese universities advanced in the latest standings, including all nine schools in the C9 League, the country's equivalent of the Ivy League. Tsinghua University was the highest placed at No 44.

The top three colleges this year were Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford in the United States followed by Cambridge and Oxford in the United Kingdom, according to the Centre for World University Rankings, or CWUR.

Though US colleges secured eight of the top 10 spots, 80 percent of its universities dropped down in the latest rankings. Nearly 60 percent of the UK's top universities also fell as they battle to retain their global prestige.

China's Double First-Class University Plan, aimed at creating a group of elite universities with esteemed disciplines by 2050, is putting pressure on the US and the UK, The Times of London newspaper reported.

Researchers at CWUR, based in the United Arab Emirates, said the UK's position has diminished due to increased competition in international markets.

"While the results of this year's study confirm that the UK has an outstanding higher education system, the broader story for the nation is concerning," said Nadim Mahassen, CWUR president.

CWUR ranks universities according to their quality of education and faculty, graduate employability and research output. British universities performed poorly in areas including research and the number of graduates taking executive roles at major companies.

Irene Tracey, vice-chancellor of Oxford University, told The Daily Telegraph newspaper that "significant investment and support given by countries like China" was the likely reason for some UK institutions falling in the rankings.

"We are in a global race, and unless we meet this challenge, UK universities' position as a science powerhouse and a key export is at risk," she said.

This year's rankings included 20,531 universities worldwide, with 95 countries represented in the Global 2,000 list. The US accounted for 16 of the top 20 universities. In the UK, University College London, Imperial College London and King's College London all featured in the Global 100 behind Cambridge and Oxford.

Chinese student fashion designer wows audience in London

Source: Xinhua | Updated: 2023-05-16 17:58



A model walks the runway at adarksecret 23SS catwalk show in London, Britain, May 13, 2023. [Photo/Xinhua]

LONDON -- Home to numerous world-class designer brands and prestigious fashion schools, London always attracts the most enthusiastic and talented fashionistas from around the world, China included.

Wang Hanzhang, an 18-year-old from south China's metropolis of Shenzhen, is no exception. The student designer smiled and waved to his cheering audience as he ran down the stage after his first menswear show held in east London on Saturday.

"Our concept for this season is communication. People speaking different languages and coming from different regions all communicate through arts," he told Xinhua. Wang is a first-year undergraduate studying fashion in London.

"The whole thing was sensational and wonderful," said Eleanor Warrington, Wang's tutor, who is an associate lecturer at the London College of Fashion (LCF), a constituent college of the University of the Arts London (UAL).

Establishing his label "adarksecret" in 2019 while in high school, Wang learned that fashion is never just about dresses and looks, but also about expression and communication. Then he decided to pursue further education in fashion and design in London, the heart of the industry.

"Britain has a long history of fashion and has always been a great place in respecting different cultures and nurturing new brands," he said.

Wang said he believed the college had taught him to be more imaginative. "Here in London, ideas of each individual are highly respected and valued."

Growing up in China and studying in Britain, Wang said a better infusion of East and West is what he's looking for. It's never about competition or replacement, but always about combination and exchanges, he said.

"I was inspired by some designs from ancient Chinese clothing in this season's work, which shows both Chinese and Western cultures," he said, noting that China's thousands of years of civilization have provided a rich source of inspiration for the development and innovation of the Chinese fashion industry.

"We don't want our students to leave their culture or their roots behind," senior fashion designer and Wang's tutor Karen Heard said. "Students come here and we hopefully open things up and push the boundaries for them. And I think that's what we have seen today with Wang," she said.

A growing number of Chinese overseas students are now seen in creative arts, fashion included. Data released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency showed that in the 2021-2022 academic year, about 5,540 students in UAL came from the Chinese mainland, while their number was only 1,750 in 2014-2015.

"China's economy has developed very well in the past decades, enabling people to pay more attention to areas like arts and sports," Wang said.

China creates over 2.5 million new jobs for fresh graduates

By Zhu Qing | Xinhua | Updated: 2023-05-06 20:14

As of Wednesday, about 2.53 million new jobs had been created for Chinese college graduates this year via an employment promotion campaign, said the Ministry of Education on Saturday.

The ministry launched the campaign last November, with 2,415 universities and colleges participating in the initiative.

During the campaign, education authorities at the provincial level were required to help bridge higher education institutions with enterprises, taking into consideration the major layouts of the former and the recruitment demands of the latter.

Meanwhile, universities and colleges were encouraged to invite employers to recruitment activities on campus and offer them necessary assistance.

So far, more than 1.45 million enterprises have provided approximately 35.1 million pieces of job information through 125,000 offline recruitment activities across the country, according to the ministry.

The ministry added that it will hold a special week-long employment promotion event in May, with greater efforts to expand channels of employment and provide guidance services for job-hunting graduates.