

“Golden Sunset of Xiapu”

Winner of the charity photography contest for autistic children 2023

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INSIDE HOPE

HOPE Director and colleagues visited UK after 4 year's absence

After 4 years absence, HOPE finally re-connected with its UK partner institutions in person after the pandemic! Between 21 September and 15 October, Daniel Zheng, Managing Director, Julie Zhou, Senior Education Counsellor and Project Manager, Judith Zhu, Chief Counsellor for Schools applications visited 18 university and school partners in the UK altogether, updating our partners on China market, discussing the future collaboration, interviewing admission managers and academic staff, meeting our students in the UK and conducting live campus tours and dialogues with HOPE students and international office staff.



Daniel Zheng visiting Brockenhurst College presenting “most supportive college award of 2021” to the Principal, a late but never-too-late appreciation for the college’s support during Covid19.

“Although we have lots of connection and communication with our partner overseas institutions during the pandemic via HOPE Update, online seminars and presentations, it is really the meeting

face-to-face that shortens our distance and deepens our relationship”, said Daniel. “It is also a good opportunity to update our partners the new trends in China market and to advise new strategy and ways of cooperation in the years to come to promote our partner institutions”. Daniel added. During Daniel’s visits, he met not only the principals of the partner schools, regional managers of the international office of the universities, but also head of career office and students support, head of international partnership of the partner institutions, exploring more areas of cooperation including partnership with Chinese institutions at different levels, students internship and career-focused summer courses, teacher training etc..



Daniel giving market update to international office of Southampton University and Arts University, Bournemouth



Daniel meeting with the Head of Partnership and Senior Regional Manager of Royal Holloway and Student Support Manager and Senior Regional Manager of University of Reading.



Daniel interviewing admission manager at University of Reading

Apart from strategic meeting with the management team and market briefing, both Daniel and Julie (supported by Mei, Director of HOPE UK office) also conducted 5 live campus tours and live dialogues with HOPE students and international office staff for our students and parents in China, a creative promotion of our partner institutions welcomed by all.



Julie (left 2) enjoying the live tour and dialogue with HOPE students at Lancaster University

Another main purpose of the visit is to see our young students currently studying in our partner schools. Judy, our chief counsellors visited Leys School Cambridge, Ardingly College and Berkhamstead School, not only sending our mid-autumn greetings but also the festival moon-cakes to ease our students' homesickness.



Judy met our boys at Berkhamstead School accompanied by Chris Sutton, Director of International Office.

All the visits further enhanced the mutual understanding between HOPE and our partner UK institutions after the long isolation caused by the Covid-19. “a closer partnership and communication with our overseas partners as well as a healthier agent-institution relationship shall be resumed after the pandemic!” Daniel stressed after his two-week UK visit.

HOPE's Education Forum on How International Collaboration Empowers Institutions' Development joined by principals with love

About 30 international schools' principals, directors and officers of international offices of Chinese universities, joined HOPE's Education Forum on How International Collaboration can Empower Institution's Development from 13-15 October in Xiapu, a fishing town in South-East China's Fujian Province famous for its beautiful scenery of sunrise and sunset. Organized by HOPE and sponsored by the British Council, Newcastle University, Loughborough University and Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts, the Forum also coincided with the Charity Photography Contest and auction sale for autistic children arranged by HOPE and its partner autistic children's rehabilitation centres from Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing and Huaian.



30 principals and directors from international schools and universities across China gathered at HOPE's night forum in Xiapu.

After pandemic, international education exchange sees a rise in the past 6 months. In his key note speech, Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of HOPE introduced the strategy and the attitude that a Chinese institution shall take when it works with overseas institutions. "Any long-term collaboration lies on mutual respect and a balance of each party's benefit, interest, policy and culture." Daniel said. He also advised how Chinese institution select overseas partner and how they shall prepare themselves for working with their overseas counterparts.

Snow Jiang, Business Development Manager of the British Council, analyzed the latest policy and statistics of IELTS in China and also introduced Aptis exam, a new British Council exam product used for entrance exam of international schools which is getting popularity in China.



The panel discussion on development of international schools in China chaired by Daniel Zheng, Managing Director of HOPE, with four famous principals

Two panels discussion during the forum focused on how international collation between institutions empowered school development, and how international schools in China shall develop in the future under current government policy and international affairs. Mr. Huang Tian, Director of International Programme, College of Continuing Education, Tsinghua University, used its certificate course of “education leadership” jointly run by Tsinghua University and UCL as an example to showcase how they help international schools and their management team to improve management and operation skills. Principal Wu Yuzhong, Zhejiang Hongda School, proudly introduced how the school enhanced teachers’ as well as students’ international perspectives by partnering with UK and US schools and organizing students and staff exchanges in the past 20 years. The renowned senior advisor and former principal of YK Pao School, Mr. Wu Zijiang pointed out that his school never thinks that the government policy is a restriction to school development, on the contrary, it shall be regarded as a new opportunity for school development.



The forum participants also joined the Charity Photography Contest for Autistic Children raising a total of RMB8000 for local autistic children's rehabilitation centres.

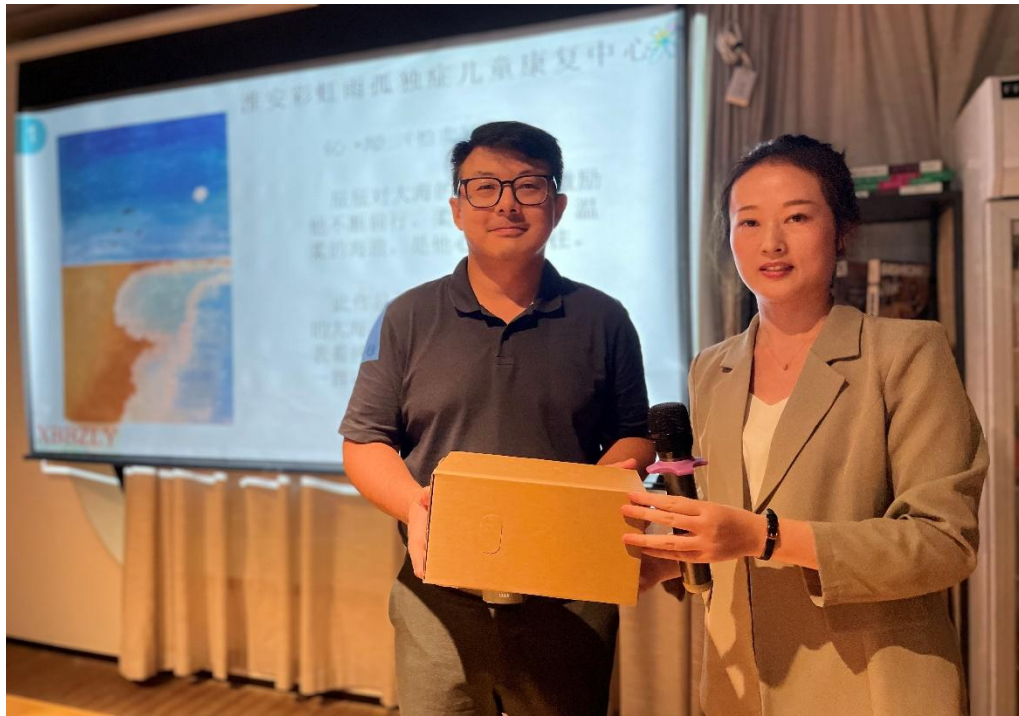
Three sponsoring UK institutions also introduced their courses at different levels, especially the art and design courses offered.



Representative from CSVPA is introducing its art and design courses.

What made the forum special and innovative was the integration of international education with special education. An auction sale of autistic children's paintings and the charity photography contest were organized during the three-day event. The fund raised will be donated to the autistic

children's rehabilitation centres, and the top 12 winners of the photography contest together with the sponsors' introduction, will be used for 2024 calendar which will be widely distributed to HOPE's partner international schools across China.



David Lu from Newcastle University receiving an appreciation gift from HOPE for his generous offer during the auction sale of autistic children's painting works.

When international education meets special education, love can always be inspired!

Pro-vice Chancellor's special day in Shanghai

Professor Rachel Thomson, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Loughborough University and her senior management team had a very special day on 25th October in Shanghai by visiting Shanghai Clover Autistic Children's Rehabilitation Centre and a charity walk along the West Bund with Loughborough alumni and industry partners organized by HOPE International Education!



Professor Thomson was presented a calligraphy work as a gift written by an autistic child with the meaning "sports changes life, love crosses boundary" in return to her university's donation.

Being the first representative of an overseas university to visit a local Chinese autistic children's rehabilitation centre and making a donation of toys, teaching and sports equipment on behalf of her university, Prof. Thomson called the visit and the event "overwhelming and very meaningful". Including the Pro-vice Chancellor, Deputy Director of Global Engagement, University's Academic and East Asia Ambassador, Project Manager and Manager of Alumni Office, Loughborough University delegation toured the campus of the rehabilitation centre, integrated with the teachers and students, appreciated the paintings works and the piano performance by the autistic children. On behalf of the university, the delegation made a donation of toys, teaching facilities and sports equipment in high demand from the rehabilitation centre.



Professor Thomson and Simon Foster, Deputy Director of Global Engagement, integrating with autistic child during their visit to Shanghai Clover Autistic Children's Rehabilitation Centre

Principal Ren from Clover Autistic Children's Rehabilitation Centre, who has been working with HOPE for 11 years, highly commented the event organized by HOPE and Loughborough University's generous contribution. "We had visits and donation from many Chinese institutions and companies, but this is the first visit and donation from an overseas institutions. Love is boundless, we are really grateful to Loughborough University. Equally, our gratitude shall also goes to HOPE who have been supporting us for more than 11 years by organizing many creative but meaningful and in-depth charity events, and this time, with its international partner university!"

Daniel from HOPE echoed Principal Ren's comment on Loughborough University's support. "I was quite touched by Loughborough's decision to slot in such an unprecedented charity event during their very tight schedule of China visit." Daniel said in his remarks during the donation ceremony. "our relationship with Loughborough has been much more than just partnership as Simon said, it is the friendship we all value. And today, we witnessed again what our British friend have done for our children." He added.



Charity walk along the West Bund in Shanghai with HOPE staff, Loughborough University alumni, representatives from university's industry partners.

After the visit to the rehabilitation centre, Loughborough delegation enjoyed a charity walk with its alumni, representatives from HOPE, Clove Autistic Children's Rehabilitation Centre and its industrial partners along the waterfront of the city's famous West Bund, an artistic area with many galleries, art museums. It is with the purpose that the event can further promote the awareness of the people to care and support the autistic children and their families.

“We want to have a positive impact on the world through all our activities, and the charity work today has just been a perfect embodiment of that strategy!” Summarized by Professor Thomson.

Photo News



On 9th October, HOPE was invited to attend an overseas university fairs organized by Kang Chiao International School, Hefei, and Daniel Zheng, MD of HOPE was invited to present a presentation on studying In the UK to over 300 students and parents.



On 23 October Professor Nick Jennings, Vice Chancellor of Loughborough University, met Daniel Zheng, and received an interview by Shanghai TV Station arranged by HOPE.



HOPE being a match-maker again! St.Joseph's College in Ipswich UK twined with Yiwu International Academy, and the MoU signing ceremony was held in Yiwu on 31 October. From left to right: Daniel Zheng, Sarah Edwards(St.Joseph's College), Principal Xie(Yiwu International Academy and President Shen (School Council of Yiwu International Academy)

News from Media

College entrance exams to see reform for fair access

By Li Hongyang | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2023-10-25 20:02



Teachers cheer on a student who is about to take the gaokao, or national college entrance exam, at Beijing Chenjinglun High School on Wednesday, the first day of the exam. JU HUANZONG/XINHUA

Starting from 2014, the reform of exam and enrollment systems in China has led to the building of a new model promoting fair access to education, according to a report made by the education minister on Saturday.

Minister Huai Jinpeng presented the report at the sixth session of the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress convened from Oct 20 to 24 in Beijing.

He said that since the resumption of college entrance examinations, known as Gaokao, reform of the exam and enrollment system has been underway with the issuance of the Opinions on Deepening the Reform of the Exam and Enrollment System by the State Council in 2014.

The reform has improved the allocation of enrollment plans to promote fairer access to education, he said in the report.

The enrollment rate of colleges and universities in populous central and western regions and provinces has been increasing. Ongoing cooperation plans have supported enrollment in the areas, including making the national enrollment increment plan more favorable for these areas, the minister said.

The number of students from rural areas and areas formerly listed as impoverished admitted to prominent universities has increased. So far, key colleges and universities have recruited about 1.1 million students from these areas thanks to the special plan.

Despite the progress, the reform faces challenges, Huai added. Some provinces in central and western regions lack necessary financial support and infrastructure for reforms in college entrance examinations. Certain high schools face shortages in classrooms, teachers and other educational resources, he added.

Beijing universities ally to promote Xiong'an growth

By ZHANG YU in Shijiazhuang | CHINA DAILY | Updated: 2023-10-05 08:04



The photo shows an aerial view of a business service center in Xiong'an New Area, Hebei province. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

Beijing universities in Xiong'an New Area, Hebei province, will coordinate activities to better contribute to the economic zone's high-quality growth and high-level management, according to a report in Hebei Daily.

The universities are Beijing Jiaotong University, the University of Science and Technology Beijing, the China University of Geosciences (Beijing) and Beijing Forestry University.

As the first four universities from the capital to have set up campuses in Xiong'an, they jointly founded a collaborative innovation alliance on Sept 23 that will explore a comprehensive mechanism for teaching and research and will serve as an innovative model for talent development, according to the report.

The opening of their campuses from Beijing to Xiong'an were disclosed last year.

Apart from the four schools, nine provincially administrated universities in Hebei, 12 related companies and nine scientific research institutions are also members of the alliance, including the Hebei University of Technology, the HBIS Group — one of the world's largest steel manufacturers — and the 13th Research Institute of China Electronic Technology Group.

Membership is expected to expand soon.

"The alliance's major task is to carry out the coordinated development of innovation among universities transferred from Beijing to help promote the development of Xiong'an New Area," Yu Zujun, president of Beijing Jiaotong University and the first chairman of the alliance, was quoted as saying by Hebei Daily.

Members have signed an agreement pledging to cooperate, co-develop the area, share experiences and nurture talent.

Together with the other members, the University of Science and Technology Beijing will explore education innovation, talent nurturing and development spurred by scientific and technological innovation, said the university's president, Yang Renshu.

Beijing Forestry University will give full play to its characteristic advantages in the fields of forestry, landscape architecture, soil and water conservation and desertification prevention and control, said An Lizhe, its president.

Meanwhile, "through the cooperation, the China University of Geosciences (Beijing) will strive to cultivate innovative talent in Xiong'an, and help create conditions for them to settle down and develop well in the new area", said Lei Yalin, Party chief of the university.

Xi calls on returned scholars association to pool talent, strengths for development

Source: Xinhua; October 22, 2023

BEIJING, Oct. 21 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on the Western Returned Scholars Association to rally talent from around the world and pool strengths of creativity for the development of the cause of the Party and the country.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in a congratulatory letter to the association, which is celebrating its 110th founding anniversary.

In his letter, Xi, on behalf of the CPC Central Committee, expressed warm congratulations to the association and extended sincere greetings to overseas Chinese students and scholars and workers providing services for relevant personnel.

Xi expressed appreciation for the association's contribution in uniting overseas Chinese students, calling on the association to continue to play its role as a talent pool in serving the country, a think tank of good ideas and proposals and a vital force in people-to-people diplomacy.

He also expressed hope that overseas Chinese students and scholars would carry forward their patriotic tradition, serve the people, stay confident, break new ground and forge ahead, and maintain an open and inclusive mind to promote the exchanges and mutual learning between China and other countries.

Huai Jinpeng meets with University of Strathclyde principal

Source: www.moe.gov.cn; October 11, 2023

Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng met with Prof. Sir Jim McDonald, principal of the University of Strathclyde and president of the Royal Academy of Engineering, UK, on Oct. 10. The two sides discussed promoting Sino-British educational cooperation and friendly exchanges between youth of the two countries.

Huai said that China and the UK are mutual partners in education. The Chinese government has worked to open its education sector wider to the world and support educational collaboration between higher education institutions in China and the rest of the world—the UK included. He expressed hope that the University of Strathclyde would establish more pragmatic partnerships with its Chinese counterparts in areas such as top-level talent cultivation, scientific research and digital education. He also said he hoped the two countries would enhance educational cooperation and people-to-people exchange and increase understanding and communication between their young people in order to play a positive role in dealing with global issues and challenges such as climate change, food security and public health.

McDonald said the University of Strathclyde has forged extensive and fruitful partnerships with Chinese universities and colleges. He said his university will reinforce such cooperation, bringing Sino-UK educational exchange to the next stage.

Wang called on overseas Chinese students and scholars to keep Xi's requirements in mind, calling on the association to better rally overseas students and scholars around the Party.

Shi Taifeng, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the United Front Work Department of the CPC Central Committee, read out Xi's letter at the gathering.

Overseas graduates eligible for civil posts

By Wang Xiaoyu | China Daily | Updated: 2023-10-27 09:51



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

Graduates returning from some prestigious higher education institutions overseas will be eligible to apply for civil service positions in some regions, through a dedicated channel that was previously only reserved for their counterparts from topnotch domestic colleges, according to several local governments.

In China, there are mainly two ways for fresh graduates to compete for a government job. The majority of young applicants sit the highly competitive annual national-level or provincial-level examinations for civil servants.

In the latest round that took place in January, there were more than 1.95 million applicants, with about one in 41 being recruited.

The other approach is to enroll in a program that will send applicants to grassroots positions in rural or less-developed areas for two to three years. Part of the appeal lies in that they are more likely to be assigned higher-level positions upon returning.

The second approach, commonly referred to as the "selected and assigned graduates", also carries additional requirements, including that applicants must be a member of the Communist Party of China, hold a leadership role in student unions on campus or have been awarded national-level scholarships that are closely associated with academic grades.

For years, the channel was only accessible to graduates from elite universities in China, such as Peking University and Tsinghua University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai.

However, a growing number of provincial-level authorities have announced slots for returnees from overseas in recent years.

For instance, officials in Sichuan province in Southwest China said earlier this month that it will recruit a number of new graduates from overseas with majors in urgently needed fields through the "selected and assigned graduates" track.

Applicants need to have majored in one of 24 fields of study, such as electronic information, equipment manufacturing, digital economy, modern agriculture and aerospace engineering.

They are also expected to graduate from a list of 52 foreign universities and two from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The list consists of Ivy League universities and other prestigious campuses in the United States, as well as a few in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Japan, Singapore and more.

The Shanghai government said that in the openings for 2024, overseas returnees from 73 colleges outside the mainland can apply.

Beijing has broadened the eligibility to all new graduates from the top 100 universities overseas. The ranking will depend on the 2023 Academic Ranking of World Universities that was released by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy this year.

Other provinces that have announced they will accept overseas returnees include the provinces of Guangdong, Shandong, Henan, Hebei, Shanxi, Yunnan as well as Chongqing.

Wang Yukai, a professor at the National Academy of Governance, told China Newsweek that allowing young people with overseas study experiences to join the government system will bring positive outcomes.

"Such graduates are likely to have a broader perspective, and those majoring in the science or technology sector will be able to learn from advanced industries in developed countries and gain more insights into industry development," he said.

Zheng Tian, an engineering major from the University of Texas in Austin, said the policy change gives her one more choice for her future career and she will probably put in an application.