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Great Wall in Summer

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INSIDE HOPE - Photo news of July



On 3rd of July, Hope Hangzhou office organized a student networking activity: students applied via Hope Hangzhou office this year met students already returned from overseas via a friendly pickleball match. This activity not only strengthened Hope's bond with students but also provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn experience of overseas study from those "veterans".



On 8th of July, Hope's French Luxury Business Study Tour program was officially launched to over 30 partner agents online. Echo ZHAO, Hope's Director of 50+ project, delivered a training session as well to all partners after the launch ceremony.



On 9th of July, Hope paid a visit to Shanghai Maple Leaf International School. Two sides held in-depth discussions focusing on Study in China programs and the recruitment of international students. After thorough communication, both parties reached a high degree of consensus on relevant cooperation including promoting overseas institutions in Maple Leaf and recruiting overseas students for the school, laying a solid foundation for long-term collaboration in the future.



On 23rd July, Hope Shanghai Office, in collaboration with DHS (Double Happiness Company), successfully hosted the Norwegian and Islandic National Junior Table Tennis Team. The young elite players in the team could hardly contain their enthusiasm for a live practice and a training session with some Chinese players. The delegation also had a guided

tour of the company, learning how this world-famous company supports China national team as well as the development of the world table tennis.



From 17-19th July, Daniel Zheng, MD of Hope joined over 40 principals of international schools in China to attend a three-day study tour in Suzhou organized by Qinghua University. The study tour included seminars on Future Education and visits to local public and private schools.



On 24th of July, Sherry ZHANG, Senior Counsellor from Hope Nanjing office, was invited by Taiyuan Branch of Industrial Bank to deliver a lecture on international education for private banking clients. Centering on mainstream overseas study trends, further education planning and application preparation, the session targeted and resolved parents' concerns in school selection and academic planning. Featuring professional and practical content, this lecture helped families arrange their international education road map well in advance.

News from local media

China to strengthen 'Study in China' brand as global education influence grows

By Zou Shuo | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-07-23 17:09 **f Xin+**



"Study in China" has emerged as a globally recognized brand, with Chinese language instruction now incorporated into the national education systems of 92 countries and the number of international students coming to Chinese campuses rising rapidly, Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng said on Thursday.

Speaking at a symposium, Huai said the number of international students in China is growing rapidly, with a marked improvement in the structure and quality of enrollment. Notably, the number of students from developed countries and regions has increased significantly, he said.

China will further strengthen the "Study in China" brand to attract outstanding young talent from abroad and cultivate more friends who understand and appreciate China, Huai said.

The country will also promote cooperation with leading foreign universities in science and engineering to offer more diverse, high-quality educational opportunities while strengthening oversight to safeguard standards. China is ready to move to the center of the global education stage by promoting its concepts, solutions and standards and transforming itself from a participant into a leader, he said.

Meanwhile, China will improve its full-chain service system for Chinese students studying overseas and encourage overseas returnees to start businesses and pursue careers back home, Huai said.

Beyond formal education, people-to-people exchanges have gained strong momentum. Huai said more than 50,000 young Americans have visited China under bilateral exchange programs, achieving the "50,000 in five years" initiative two and a half years ahead of schedule. Similarly, the goals for Franco-Chinese youth exchanges and a broader Europe-wide initiative are on track to be met ahead of schedule.

Digital education, vocational training, engineering programs and teacher development have become China's calling cards globally, with the National Smart Education Platform serving users in more than 200 countries and regions, he said.

Chinese math textbooks have been adopted in basic education in the United Kingdom, the country's "AI for K12" curriculum has been introduced in countries including Thailand and Uzbekistan, and 38 Luban Workshops have been established in 32 countries, he said.

Huai underscored China's status as the world's largest education system — with 440,000 schools, 280 million students and 18.7 million teachers — and said key indicators rank among the world's best.

Preschool enrollment stands at 92.9 percent, above the OECD average; the retention rate for compulsory education has reached 96.1 percent; and the gross enrollment rate in higher education has doubled since 2012 to 61.3 percent.

Chinese students excel in international assessments such as PISA, and domestic universities are climbing global rankings, with 66 disciplines ranking among the world's top 0.01 percent in Essential Science Indicators. China has also surpassed the United States in high-impact papers tracked by the Nature Index across five core scientific fields for three consecutive years. Chinese institutions received three-quarters of the country's national science and technology awards this year.

"In just a few decades, we have accomplished what took Western nations a century or more," Huai said. "China's education modernization has entered the upper-middle ranks of the world."

Addressing domestic challenges, Huai noted that declining birth rates — from 16.41 million in 2002 to 7.92 million in 2025 — are reshaping the education landscape. While kindergarten and primary school enrollment have already peaked, middle school enrollment will peak this year, followed by high school enrollment in 2029 and higher education enrollment in 2032. Regional disparities are also widening, with urban centers facing overcrowding while rural schools undergo consolidation, he said.

"To turn the 'population dividend' into a 'talent dividend', we must improve education quality and access for all," he said, calling for forward-looking planning.

The minister also outlined plans to accelerate the integration of artificial intelligence across all aspects of education, including teaching, lifelong learning, governance and teacher development.

From being a 'fallback' to first choice: Economic and societal shifts fuel growing demand for vocational education places

By JI HAISHENG | China Daily | Updated: 2026-07-23 08:47 **f Xin+**

SHI YU/CHINA DAILY



In the early hours of May 10, parents joined long lines outside Beijing Changping Vocational School, with some even arriving the day before, eager to secure an enrollment interview slot for their children. By the afternoon, the school issued a notice declaring that admissions slots were already full — days ahead of schedule.

One parent who had camped out for hours said that if his 15-year-old son learns industrial robotics, he'll have a job waiting for him before he even graduates.

Across China, secondary and higher vocational institutions in manufacturing hubs like Shandong and Guangdong provinces are reporting unprecedented application surges, outstripping available spots.

The intense interest in vocational tracks reflects a shifting economic reality. As China's higher education system produces a record number of university graduates each year, the traditional white-collar job market faces friction. Desk jobs in tech, finance and administration have become fiercely competitive, leaving many young degree-holders underemployed. At the same time, China's push toward high-end manufacturing, robotics and artificial intelligence has created a shortage of skilled technicians.

"The surging popularity of vocational schools in recent years signals a fundamental shift in how Chinese society views skills-based education," said Wang Heye, founder of Beijing-based Liangyou Education, a consultancy specializing in vocational education.

For years, vocational education was often seen as a fallback option for underperforming students, but nowadays it is increasingly viewed as a viable and promising pathway to a successful career, Wang said, noting that he has witnessed the change firsthand.

He attributed the turnaround to a combination of robust policy support, industrial development, market demand for high-skilled talents, bright prospects for further education and jobs, and evolving public attitudes.

According to a 2025 report released by the Ministry of Education earlier this month, China has some 8,382 vocational institutions, including 6,741 secondary vocational schools, 1,554 vocational colleges and 87 vocational undergraduate universities. The total number of students enrolled in vocational institutions reached 29.37 million, the report said.

In late June, the State Council, China's Cabinet, released an outline plan for the development of the education sector during the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026-30), which made building a modern vocational education system a key priority.

The plan underscores the need to build more high-level vocational schools and programs to cultivate large numbers of high-skilled talents. Specifically, it aims to establish around 60 high-level higher vocational institutions and 160 high-level program clusters, with continuous efforts aligned with key industrial chains, the intelligent economy, and international economic and trade cooperation.

Li Chunqin, vice-principal of Rizhao City Science and Technology School in Shandong province, said that the policy document marks a pivotal transition for vocational education in China, signaling a new era where quality takes precedence over sheer scale.

"Rather than merely pursuing enrollment and program numbers, vocational schools should now focus on improving their educational capabilities and forging

solid industry-education integration," Li said. He urged vocational schools to carve out their own niches and strengthen their core advantages.

For students, Li said the plan promises a more flexible and robust growth trajectory, as it advocates for seamless pathways connecting secondary vocational schools with vocational colleges and universities. Noting that his school enrolls nearly 1,000 students each year in its five-year secondary-to-higher vocational programs, he said that secondary vocational education, once seen as "a dead end", has now become "an expressway" for talent cultivation.

Li said he also sees the plan as a crucial step for promoting balanced resource distribution and serving local economies and regional industrial development, highlighting its push to channel higher vocational education resources to counties and smaller cities.

"High-quality vocational resources have long been concentrated in major cities, leaving a structural gap between the demand and supply of skilled talent at the county level," he said. "Bringing those resources down to counties will offer students access to quality vocational education at their doorstep and provide local businesses with talent nearby."

Zhou Zhemin, director of the Academic Affairs Office at Hunan Industry Polytechnic in Hunan's provincial capital Changsha, said the plan's call to steadily increase the number of vocational undergraduate institutions and expand enrollment will help forge a better-structured vocational education system.

Zhou dismissed concerns that expanding vocational undergraduate education would squeeze out vocational colleges, noting that the two have distinctly different training objectives. Vocational colleges focus on cultivating practical talents who can solve on-the-ground problems, while vocational undergraduate programs aim to produce technical and skilled professionals with innovation capabilities, he said.

"Over the next five years, vocational education is set for a deep overhaul in how we cultivate talent — shifting from teaching what schools have to teaching what the industry demands," he said.

Emphasizing deeper integration between vocational education and industrial needs, the outline plan sets out concrete measures, such as building around 100 industry-education alliances in various cities and about 20 national industry-education communities focused on specific industries, with support pledged to set up more training bases and centers and to upgrade training facilities.

Peng Fang, deputy general manager of China Construction Steel Structure Testing Technology Co, said many people used to assume that industry-education integration simply meant students doing a six-month internship before graduation, or agreements signed between schools and enterprises. "Such superficial collaboration can no longer meet the demands of today's industries," she said.

Peng added that schools used to design their programs and courses behind closed doors, while enterprises struggled to find qualified and capable talent.

"Companies often receive graduates with little practical experience and have to invest heavily in training them from scratch," she said.

"Industry-education integration is not just about internships. It requires a systemic, whole-chain restructuring covering program design, curriculum reform, faculty deployment and training arrangements," Peng said.

Liu Dingding, deputy head of the industry-education integration department at Beijing Freedo Technology Co, said that the outline plan sets out concrete, measurable targets for boosting such integration, calling for solid progress.

Liu said his team acts as a bridge between schools and enterprises, filling gaps between talent cultivation programs and real needs. His team has launched integrated training programs and helped shorten the onboarding period for graduates at enterprises from six months to just two months, he added.

Over the past five years, Liu said he has witnessed visible changes in the depth of school-enterprise cooperation — from signing agreements and donating equipment, to jointly developing curricula and training programs, as well as offering classes tailored to enterprises' specific demands.

This marks an ever-deepening collaboration, Liu said, adding that policy support has made industry-education integration a key pillar of vocational education.

Education ministry adds 27 vocational majors for emerging industries

By Zou Shuo | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-07-16 13:51 **f Xin+**



The

Ministry of Education announced the addition of 27 new higher education vocational majors to boost the high-skilled talent pool on Thursday, which will begin enrolling students in 2027.

The new programs include nine junior college vocational majors and 18 vocational undergraduate majors. The expansion aims to train high-skilled workers in new industries and focuses on building the modern industrial system and promoting the high-quality development of the service sector.

The key areas targeted include the digital economy, low-altitude economy, artificial intelligence, high-end equipment, urban renewal, and sectors with pressing livelihood needs.

In the services sector, new undergraduate majors such as technology brokerage services and low-altitude transport engineering technology have been introduced to help elevate industrial value chains.

Meanwhile, junior college majors — including infant family nurturing and guidance, and wellness tourism operations and management — have been added to address skill shortages.

To meet emerging industry demands, the ministry has introduced majors such as humanoid robot engineering technology, digital twin engineering technology, and vehicle-to-everything communication technology, responding to new occupations listed in the national occupational classification dictionary.

In the green energy sector, new programs include hydrogen energy engineering technology and energy storage material equipment intelligent maintenance technology.

Since the first release of the vocational education majors directory in 2021, China has cumulatively added 169 majors, accounting for 11 percent of the total directory.

Initiative launched to support teachers in border areas

By Zou Shuo | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-07-21 11:36 



A new program has been rolled out to provide targeted training and financial support for young outstanding teachers at border schools, aiming to strengthen the teaching workforce in China's frontier regions.

The program is guided by the Ministry of Education's Department of Teacher Education, supported by a donation from the People's Education Press, and implemented by the China Teacher Development Foundation.

The initiative is designed to systematically enhance the teaching capabilities through a combination of funding and professional development, with the goal of raising the overall quality of the teaching force in border areas.

Teachers in border regions are seen as a critical force in safeguarding the nation's frontiers and shaping the future of these communities, officials noted.

Strengthening border schools and building a stronger teaching force in these areas are key measures to uphold educational equity and are vital to border area stability and the nation's long-term development.

The program will focus on ideological guidance, teacher allocation, training, and compensation packages to improve the overall caliber of border-region educators, contributing to the broader efforts of safeguarding and stabilizing China's border areas.

The launch ceremony for the program was held in Heihe, Heilongjiang province recently. During the event, the China Teacher Development Foundation and the People's Education Press signed a memorandum of cooperation.