



31st August 2026 No.8

Editor in chief: Daniel Zheng Editor: Liz Zhou, Alice Zhang



Health Qigong-Baduanjin, a traditional Chinese health-preserving exercise practiced by 50+ during a recent event in Shanghai organized by Hope

Inside Hope

- ✧ *New academic year, new strategy and new Hope*
- ✧ *Hope Shanghai office in move and new address announced*
- ✧ *50+ series salons held in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Yiwu City*
- ✧ *Photo news from August*

Highlights from local media

- ✧ *Australia cuts university ties, drawing flak*
- ✧ *Fields medalist stresses intl experience*
- ✧ *Chinese universities shine in 2026 global rankings*

New academic year, new strategy and new Hope

With the new academic year being around the corner, Hope is also expecting quite a few 'news' in the year to come, new office, new strategy, new business and new hope, although with new challenges as well.

2025-26 proved to be the most challenging year for the study abroad industry, even more difficult than the covid years. Most of the companies experienced an average of 20-30% drop in students recruitment business. Some of the challenges might be temporary, but some can be long term or even irrevocable. In response to the market change and forthcoming challenges, Hope reviewed its business in the past year and accordingly set up new strategy for the new year, particularly re-prioritize its business focus with more diversified business range and services.

Some highlights of the new strategy include:

1. Further diversification of the business by exploring and developing the following business:

- a) Develop Study in China business, i.e. to recruit overseas students for Chinese institutions for both degree and non-degree programme; and develop landing services for those students when they arrive in China;
- b) Develop 50+ domestic and overseas study tour programme for adults to catering to increasingly high demand from the retiring and retired third age.
- c) Explore students' recruitment for selected non-English speaking countries having increasing popularity in China

2. Explore overseas market for current business under B2B, particularly in Southeast Asia;

3. explore more new marketing services and innovative marketing and promotion events for partner institutions.

4. develop more new services for students and families relating to international education planning and overseas study support.

5. restructure of cross-department and cross-office staffing, and strengthen staff training so that they are more professionally qualified under current market change.

The strategy will be reviewed quarterly and hope that the company is in the right direction of its development after 26 years of establishment.

Hope Shanghai Office in move and new address announced

After almost 10 years in the current building, Pole Tower, Hope Shanghai is moving to a more central location in Xujiahui CBD area next to two of the landmarks of the city, Xujiahui Catholic Church and Zikaiwei Library.

Effective from 14th September 2026, Hope Shanghai's new address will be at:

Suite 11, 15A/F, Sheng'ai Building, 88 North Caoxi Road, Shanghai 200030

The new office is accessible to many bus lines, three metro lines, Line 1, 9 and 11, as well as to many city's cutting-edge cafés, restaurants and shopping malls. Shanghai Hongqiao Train Station and Hongqiao International Airport is 40 minutes away by taxi, and Pudong International Airport 55 Minutes..

Please kindly update our contact information and look forward to welcoming you to our brand new office.



Xujiahui Catholic Church



Zikawei Library

Savour French Elegance, Embrace Chinese Wellness: 50+ series Salons held in Shanghai, Hangzhou & Yiwu city

Recently, the 50+ club hosted themed salons in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Yiwu, themed French Culture and Luxury, alongside Chinese Wellness and Anti-Ageing Diet. The events delivered an immersive sharing experience integrating aesthetics, study tours and wellness for participants from diverse social circles in these cities.



Sheshan, Shanghai Salon featuring diets and slow rhythm of life



Yiwu Salon with Hope parents and partner schools' principals



Hangzhou Salon with partner agents and Hope students and parents

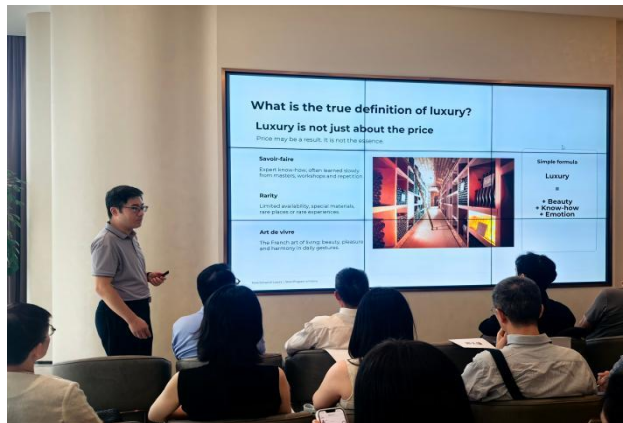
The salons featured an impressive line-up of guest speakers. Jianning MA, Certified Nutrition and Wellness Consultant by the Chinese Nutrition Society, delivered a presentation on health management and anti-ageing diets, popularising evidence-based wellness knowledge rooted in traditional Chinese dietary nourishment principles.

Daniel ZHENG, Managing Director of Hope International Education, elaborated on the concept of 50+ immersion study tours. He proposed that travel for 50+ age group should not be superficial sightseeing and check-ins, but rather learning journeys for self-improvement, broadening horizons and enriching inner lives through exploration.

Echo ZHAO, Director of the Hope 50+ Programme, shared the value of the 50+ club. She explained that Hope serves not only teenage students but also whole-family needs, with special attention to the spiritual demands of senior family members. Drawing on French culture and luxury brand heritage, she unpacked the essence of refined living for mature-age groups.

The Hangzhou salon was mainly attended by partners and alumni parents. Participants engaged in in-depth exchanges covering mature-adult study tours, family-oriented services and wellness lifestyles. The Yiwu salon brought together local school principals, teachers, alumni parents and travel-agency partners. Within a relaxed salon atmosphere, participants from varied backgrounds exchanged insights and built multi-party resource connections.

Apart from these salons, Hope partnered with the Shanghai Hangzhou Chamber of Commerce to host Hangzhou Entrepreneurs Lifestyle Aesthetics Salon at China Merchants Bank Private Banking Centre on 21st of August.



Daniel ZHENG discussing his insights of international Education industry in the past two decades, which has aroused resonance among audiences



Mr YIN and Mr YANG shared their concepts of luxury brands

Daniel delivered a presentation titled ‘From study abroad for youth to study tour for 50- Plus: Adaptive Survival Strategies for Enterprises’. 26 years’ experience of Hope when facing various challenging time gave a lot of enlightening thoughts to the presented entrepreneurs. Mr. Shuming YIN, former director of Government Affairs Department a Fiat-Chrysler, Nike and Gucci, and ex-official of the Protocol Department of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared his insights of luxury brands. Mr. Yang Dongkai, publisher and former editor at WWD fashion media, gave a presentation on Narrative as Productivity: Content-led Marketing for Luxury Brands.

Guided by its mission “Explore the World, Rejoice in Life”, the 50+ club advocates cultivating external elegance through French-inspired refinement and revitalising inner vitality via Chinese dietary wellness. The differentiated events in Shanghai, Hangzhou and Yiwu showcased a new-era lifestyle for the 50+ demographic. Moving forward, the club will continue curating premium events that nurture both physical wellbeing and intellectual growth. Catering to multi- generational needs across the whole family, it empowers the 50+ people to embrace a high- quality life of world exploration.

INSIDE HOPE - Photo news of August



全龄段升学规划时间轴（3-18岁）

04

科博国际教育
KIP International Education
Est. Since 2008

01、3-6岁 · 幼儿园启蒙

🎯 **目标：** 锁定优质“一条龙”附属园，衔接优质基础教育资源。
📅 **节点：** 每年9-11月开放申请，需提前准备注册及报名材料。
📍 **策略：** 提前1-2年布局，重点培养孩子的语言表达与综合适应力。

02、6-12岁 · 小学择校冲刺

🎯 **目标：** 跻身Band 1梯队小学，建立扎实的学业基础与学习习惯。
📅 **节点：** 9-10月自行分配学位，次年1-2月教育局统一派位。
📍 **策略：** 本地生实施“冲-稳-保”志愿填报；非本地生强化面试特训。

03、12-14岁 · 初中体系抉择

🎯 **目标：** 入读Band 1中学，确定高中升学路径（DSE/IB/AP等）。
📅 **节点：** 中三下学期决定课程体系，这是影响未来升学的关键分水岭。
📍 **策略：** 重视校内“呈分试”成绩，结合未来深造意向选择适配课程。

04、15-18岁 · 升学冲刺与申请

🎯 **目标：** 高分通过升学统考，获得理想大学及专业的录取通知。
📅 **节点：** 每年3-5月进行DSE/IB等大考，9-12月为本科申请季。
📍 **策略：** 保持优异的在校GPA，积极参与竞赛、科研等背景提升活动。

On 14th of August, Alex WEN and Sherry ZHANG were invited to the Private Banking Salon of Industrial Bank Zhengzhou Branch. In response to the strong market demand for Hong Kong-based investment and education planning, Hope selected the theme ‘Diverse Pathways for Further Study, Empowering Holistic Growth’— a comprehensive all-age planning programme for Hong Kong international education. The team engaged in in-depth discussions and interactions with more than ten families on site. Hope offered practical and impartial admissions advice, helped parents avoid common pitfalls, and clarified prevailing misconceptions, striking a chord among the attending parents.



Daniel Zheng, MD of Hope, visiting London Film School on 27 August to discuss collaboration on short programme for both students and 50+.

News from local media

Australia cuts university ties, drawing flak

Experts warn of wider consequences for academic exchanges, bilateral relations
By ALEXIS HOOI in Sydney and YANG RAN in Beijing | China Daily | Updated:
2026-08-

Australia's recent move to end two university-related arrangements with China, citing "national security" concerns, has drawn criticism for its negative impact on education exchange and partnerships.

China opposes the abuse of the concept of national security to restrict and target normal international cooperation in education and research, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said during a regular news briefing on Tuesday.

Lin was responding to a reporter's question about Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong's decision to "ask the Australian National University and the University of Queensland to terminate their collaboration respectively with Shandong University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences".

ANU's arrangement with Shandong University, which involved cutting-edge research in science and mathematics and student exchanges, was ended and declared "invalid and unenforceable" by Wong on national security grounds, The Australian newspaper reported last week.

Research collaboration between the University of Queensland and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, "involving pain relief derived from Australian native plants", had also been axed, it said.

Wong's move came after the United States' Department of Defense added Shandong University to a blacklist of institutions "engaging in problematic activities" in July.

Hu Dan, deputy director of the Australian Studies Centre at Beijing Foreign Studies University, said Canberra's actions demonstrate regular and close US-Australia information sharing and consultation under the "Five Eyes" alliance and other security mechanisms.

"This once again illustrates the elephant in the room in China-Australia relations: lack of political trust," she said.

Hu also pointed to growing "pan-securitization" in Australia's education and research sectors, citing the Australian Education Minister's decision in May to block research funding for 13 grant applications under the Australian Research Council on grounds relevant to security, defense or international relations.

The number more than doubled the previous annual record since the council was established in 2001, according to reports.

'Chilling effect'

Warning of potential repercussions, Hu cautioned that such actions could lead to negative spillover effects on broader China-Australia relations, noting that "the pan-securitization of

education and scientific research activities has already started to hinder normal bilateral exchanges, resulting in some cases a chilling effect".

"In the long run, such actions could jeopardize a vital channel for deepening mutual understanding and maintaining dialogue between the two nations," said Hu.

"Don't imagine, and certainly hope, that these decisions do not generally impact research and education cooperation between Australia and China in areas permitted by both governments," David Goodman, director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, told China Daily.

Brian Schmidt, a former vice-chancellor of ANU, said at an education event on Tuesday that the university's partnership with Shandong University was "almost no risk" and "went through a lot of due diligence".

The Australian Financial Review quoted Schmidt as saying universities had "hundreds" of such deals, and he was "therefore quite surprised to see it singled out".

Fields medalist stresses intl experience

By ZOU SHUO | China Daily | Updated: 2026-08-20 10:03 [f](#) [X](#) [in+](#)



Wang Hong, who last month became one of the first two Chinese nationals to receive the Fields Medal — often referred to as the "Nobel Prize" of mathematics — believes young mathematicians should embrace opportunities to study and work in different countries, a practice she says is widely encouraged in China, France and the United States.

"Moving to different cities and schools is a very common practice, and people generally believe it is good for one's growth," Wang said in an interview with Peking University's School of Mathematical Sciences.

The 35-year-old mathematician, a tenured professor at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, or IHES, in France, and a Silver Professor at New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, has experienced such moves firsthand.

Looking back on her time at Peking University, where she transferred into the mathematics department, Wang recalled that students typically built a solid mathematical foundation while also getting an early start on graduate-level coursework.

She also emphasized the collaborative learning atmosphere. Many students were keen on research, often discussing which textbooks to read outside class and organizing seminars together. That peer support, she said, helped her develop good study habits that later proved invaluable.

Wang later pursued a one-year master's program at Universite Paris-Sud, where she took a course on harmonic analysis taught by Pascal Auscher. She was struck by the lecturer's deep command of the subject — he never used notes and wrote fluently on the board. But what left the deepest impression were the tutorial sessions.

She also noted that although only a handful of students at her French school pursued pure mathematics — about five or six out of 500 — professors were very willing to engage with those who did.

When Wang moved to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for her PhD, coursework took a back seat. The most important part, she said, was conducting research with her adviser.

Her adviser, Larry Guth, had a profound influence on her. During their meetings, she had to anticipate every possible question he might ask and prepare answers in advance — a discipline that has shaped how she communicates with collaborators to this day.

Guth also gave each of his doctoral students a book upon graduation. For Wang, it was a French book titled *School Blues*, an educational essay about a former struggling student who became a teacher. She found it deeply meaningful.

Wang acknowledged that struggling with difficult problems for long periods is part of every mathematician's life. Her advice is to work on smaller problems with collaborators and write them up well when stuck on a big problem. Even modest contributions can be useful and help build momentum.

She compared her approach to solving a large problem to piecing together a puzzle. Each piece comes from working out examples and special cases. Once you have thought about a problem long enough, you know where the real difficulties lie.

Wang said China now has many outstanding professors and a strong research environment and encouraged students to make decisions about studying abroad based on the opportunities available to them.

For those pursuing mathematics, her parting advice was simple: "Follow your own pace and work on the problems you love."

zoushuo@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese universities shine in 2026 global rankings

By Yang Yang | chinadaily.com.cn | Updated: 2026-08-19 11:06



ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, a higher education company, released the 2026 edition of the Academic Ranking of World Universities on Aug 15. Universities on the Chinese mainland performed well, with 16 institutions now in the global top 100, up from 13 in 2025. In the global top 1,000, the Chinese mainland leads with 234 universities, followed by the United States with 187. The United Kingdom has 57, Germany 51, and Italy 42.

The 2026 global top 100 list features universities from 18 different countries and regions. The US has 37, the Chinese mainland 16, and the UK 8. Europe and Asia/Oceania each contribute 30 universities.

Tsinghua University remains the highest-ranked in Asia at 18th place. Peking University has moved

up to 22nd, Zhejiang University is tied for 24th, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University has risen to 27th. Southeast University is now in the top 100 at joint 89th, Harbin Institute of Technology is 97th, and Tianjin University is tied for 98th. Xi'an Jiaotong University and Central South University have both climbed to 79th and 83rd, respectively, while Sichuan University is now tied for 77th.

Elsewhere in Asia, the University of Tokyo ranks 30th, maintaining its position as Japan's top university. The National University of Singapore has risen to 53rd, and Nanyang Technological University is now tied for 84th.

US universities continue to dominate the top rankings, holding eight out of the top 10 spots and 14 out of the top 20. Harvard University remains first in the world, followed by Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The University of Cambridge in the UK is fourth, and the University of California, Berkeley, rounds out the top five. Princeton University has moved up to sixth, surpassing the UK's University of Oxford, which is seventh. Columbia University is eighth, the University of Chicago ninth, and the California Institute of Technology 10th.

Since 2003, ARWU has annually ranked the world's top universities based on six indicators: the number of alumni and staff members winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, the number of articles published in academic journals Nature and Science, the number of highly cited researchers selected by Clarivate, the number of articles indexed in major citation indices, and the per capita performance of a university. In 2026, ARWU ranked more than 2,500 universities and published the top 1,000.