

MONTHLY BRIEFING



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THE CHINA-AFRICA YOUTH DIALOGUE ON CIVILIZATIONS



The China-Africa Youth Dialogue on Civilizations was held in Beijing on September 1.



“一带一路”语言教育文化组织联盟
BELT AND ROAD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES NETWORK

MONTHLY BRIEFING

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Editorial team

Chief editor: Peng Lun

Executive editor: Han Fang

Layout designer: Guo Ziai

Contact us

Address: Office of BRLCN, 21st Century Media and Education, 15 Huixin Dongjie,

Chaoyang, Beijing, P.R.China, 100029

Phone: (86) 10-85887518/7503

Email: brlcen@i21st.cn

Newsletter online

The newsletter can be read online at <https://brlcen.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

In September 2026, China announced a new initiative to invite 100,000 American youths to China for exchange and study programs over the next five years. This follows the early achievement of the “50,000 in Five Years” initiative. These efforts reaffirm that understanding between people begins with encounters and deepens through exchange.

When young people visit one another's schools, homes and communities, they gain more than knowledge from textbooks. They meet real people, experience everyday life and discover diverse cultures. Exchange may not eliminate all differences, but it can help people find common ground amid diversity and foster greater understanding through listening and sharing.

Over the past two months, the BRLCN's chairing institution and Secretariat have organized the 2026 China-Vietnam Youth International Communication Event in Guiyang and the 2026 Youth Pulse in Hong Kong, creating opportunities for youth exchange and intercultural communication. Meanwhile, the Secretariat has continued discussions with council member institutions in Kazakhstan, Thailand, Singapore and other countries to explore people-to-people exchange initiatives, including student exchanges and teacher visits. Our aim is to gradually turn shared aspirations for cooperation into concrete action.

Of course, promoting cross-border exchange comes with practical challenges. Coordinating schedules across time zones, accommodating different cultural backgrounds and needs, and arranging participants, funding and itineraries all require ongoing communication and coordination, as well as mutual understanding and cooperation. Nevertheless, the Secretariat continues to seek opportunities and work to turn ideas into feasible programs. We also encourage council member institutions to share their needs and resources and work with the Secretariat to develop practical proposals. Starting with small-scale, achievable initiatives will allow us to gain experience and create more opportunities for collaboration.

Every exchange marks a new beginning. Let us continue working together to identify opportunities through communication and build experience through cooperation, creating more opportunities for young people and educators from different countries and regions to meet, understand one another and grow together.

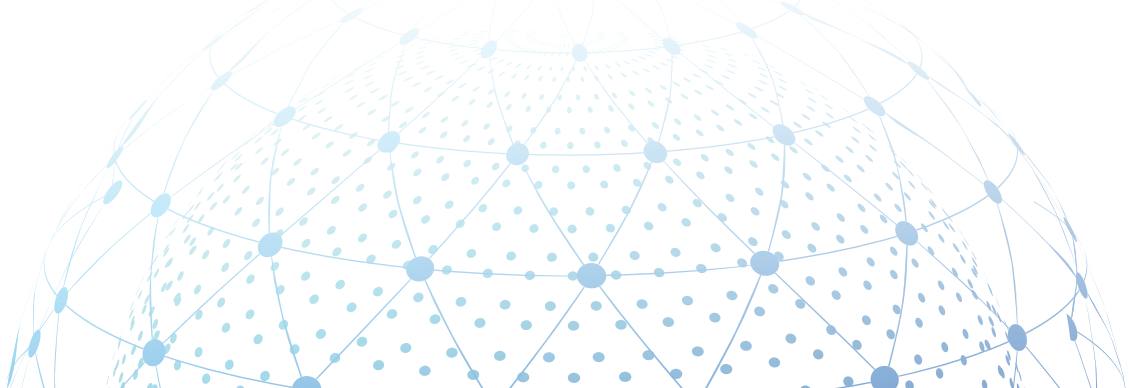
2026年9月，中国再次向美国青少年发出交流邀约，宣布未来5年将邀请10万名美国青年来华交流学习。此前，“5年5万”倡议已提前实现目标。这再次表明，人与人之间的理解始于相遇，深化于交流。

当年轻人走进彼此的校园、家庭和社区，他们接触的不再只是书本中的知识，而是鲜活的人、真实的生活和多元的文化。交流未必能消除所有分歧，却能让人们在差异中发现共同点，在倾听中增进理解。

过去两个月，联盟理事长单位及秘书处先后组织开展了“2026年中越青年主题国际传播活动”和“2026年‘世界学生汇’活动”，积极搭建青年交流与沟通的平台。与此同时，秘书处也与哈萨克斯坦、泰国、新加坡等国的理事单位保持沟通，探讨学生交流、教师互访等人文交流项目，希望将合作意愿逐步转化为实际行动。

当然，在推动跨国交流的过程中，我们也面临不少现实挑战，例如如何协调不同国家的时间安排，如何兼顾各方的文化背景与实际需求，以及如何落实项目的人员、经费和行程安排。这些工作离不开反复沟通与协调，也需要各方的理解与配合。尽管如此，秘书处仍在积极寻找合作机会，努力将交流设想转化为可实施的项目。我们也期待各理事单位积极提出需求、分享资源，与秘书处共同讨论项目方案，从小规模、可落地的合作做起，逐步积累经验，创造更多合作可能。

每一次交流都是一次新的开始。让我们继续携手，在沟通中寻找机会，在合作中积累经验，为不同国家和地区的青年、教育工作者创造更多相识、相知与共同成长的机会。



“100,000 IN FIVE YEARS”: CHINA INVITES YOUNG AMERICANS FOR EXCHANGE AND STUDY

5年10万：中国再次向美国青少年发出交流邀约



Young Americans took part in the Youth Partners International Exchange Program—2026 China-U.S. Youth Tour for a Shared Asia-Pacific Future.

Last month, China announced that it would invite 100,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study over the next five years.

This marks a renewed invitation to young Americans following the “50,000 in Five Years” initiative announced in 2023. The initiative reached its target ahead of schedule, with more than 50,000 young Americans have entered classrooms, communities, and homes, experienced Chinese culture, and interacted face-to-face with their Chinese peers, gaining a firsthand understanding of China through their experiences.

Henry, a student from the University of Chicago who took part in the Youth Partners International Exchange Program—2026 China-U.S. Youth Tour for a Shared Asia-Pacific Future in September, said the experience gave him a sense of China’s “rich and long history” and was truly “eye-opening.”

Language serves as a bridge for communication, while culture provides an important bond for deepening mutual understanding. From “50,000 in Five Years” to “100,000 in Five Years,” more young people will have opportunities to build mutual understanding through language exchange, cultural experiences, and face-to-face interaction, growing together through exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

(Source: Xinhuanet.com, CCTV.com)

2026 BEIJING CULTURE FORUM

2026 北京文化论坛开幕

The 2026 Beijing Culture Forum, with the theme “Cultural Heritage and Mutual Learning among Civilizations,” was held in Beijing from September 22 to 23. More than 600 guests from 44 countries and regions attended the forum. The event consisted of a main forum, five parallel forums, six specialized salons, and regular activities held at the Beijing Culture Forum Guest Hall. Participants exchanged views on such topics as the systematic protection of cultural heritage, international cooperation in cultural heritage protection, the protection of ancient capitals amid urbanization, cultural heritage and literary and artistic creation, and youth participation in the preservation and transmission of cultural heritage.

Jad Tabet, senior adviser to the Minister of Culture of Lebanon and honorary president of ICOMOS Lebanon, said that heritage protection must be regarded as a shared responsibility. Only by strengthening multilateral cooperation, he said, can these cultural



The forum in session.

and natural treasures, which belong to all humanity, be preserved for generations to come.

(Source: Xinhua News, Sina Finance)

THE 2026 CHINA-VIETNAM YOUTH INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION EVENT

2026 年中越青年主题国际传播活动在贵阳举办



A group photo of participants attending the 2026 China-Vietnam Youth International Communication Event.

The 2026 China-Vietnam Youth International Communication Event, with the theme “Youth Advancing Together, Carrying Forward Our Shared Legacy”, was held in Guiyang, Guizhou province, on September 21. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the victory of the Red Army’s Long March. The event brought together young representatives from China and Vietnam in Guizhou to revisit the revolutionary journey and celebrate the two countries’ friendship.

Zeng Qingkai, secretary-general of China Daily, said that China and Vietnam are both at a crucial stage of reform and development and share the historic mission of achieving national prosperity and improving the well-being of their people. In the face of new circumstances and challenges, young people from the two countries should work hand in hand as inheritors of China-Vietnam friendship, participants in practical cooperation, and promoters of people-to-people bonds.

China Daily will continue to serve as a bridge through its media work to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Vietnam, Zeng said.

(Source: China Daily)

THE CHINA-AFRICA YOUTH DIALOGUE ON CIVILIZATIONS

中非文明青年对话会在北京举行



Yu Yunfeng, director of the Center for Language Education and Cooperation, addresses the opening ceremony.

The China-Africa Youth Dialogue on Civilizations was held in Beijing on September 1. More than 200 government and international organization officials, diplomatic envoys to China,

university presidents, young scholars, and directors of Confucius Institutes from China and 41 African countries gathered both online and in person to discuss mutual learning among civilizations. In his opening remarks, Yu Yunfeng, director of the Center for Language Education and Cooperation, said that the center has long supported extensive cooperation between Chinese and African universities. It has jointly established Confucius Institutes, Confucius Classrooms, and Chinese Language Workshops in a number of African countries, and has cultivated more than 100 young African scholars of Chinese studies from 28 African countries through the New Sinology Plan.

The Report on the Development Trends of Young African Scholars of Chinese Studies was released at the opening ceremony. The report, the first of its kind to systematically present a profile of young African scholars of Chinese studies as a group, examines their research trends and patterns of academic development. During the event, a roundtable dialogue among Chinese and African youth and university presidents was held alongside two parallel sessions with the theme “New Opportunities for China-Africa Educational Cooperation and the Development of Young Talent” and “Pathways for Youth Cooperation in Promoting Mutual Learning among China-Africa Civilizations in the Digital and Intelligent Era”.

(Source: Center for Language Education and Cooperation)

GLOBAL SMART EDUCATION CONFERENCE 2026

2026 全球智慧教育大会在京举行

The Global Smart Education Conference 2026, co-hosted by Beijing Normal University and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education, opened in Beijing on August 18. Under the theme “Reimagining Education in the Age of AI: Equity, Quality and Sustainability”, the conference brought together experts and scholars, as well as frontline educators, from the fields of education, technology, and industry around the world.

The Global Smart School Initiative, launched by the Global Smart Education Network, was announced at the conference. It aims to establish an open, inclusive, and evidence-informed platform for global cooperation and to facilitate the sharing of best practices among schools across countries and regions, as well as professional assessment, consultancy services for school transformation, and school certification.

(Source: CCTV.com)



A group photo of guests attending the opening ceremony.

2026 YOUTH PULSE

2026 年“世界学生汇”活动在香港举行



Zhou Li, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily and editor-in-chief of its Hong Kong edition, addresses the opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony of 2026 Youth Pulse was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on August 2. More than 500 young representatives, education experts, and media professionals from over 30 countries and regions gathered in Hong Kong for this international youth cultural exchange event.

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Zhou Li, deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily and editor-in-chief of its Hong Kong edition, said that the world today faces both opportunities and challenges. Artificial intelligence is reshaping the boundaries of knowledge, while climate change calls for coordinated global action. At the heart of addressing these global challenges, he said, is the need for people to understand one another and work together, with young people serving as a vital force in advancing global cooperation. The three-day event featured a range of activities, including youth showcases, thematic discussions, and immersive study and learning experiences.

(Source: China Daily)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Sep 25-27

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF MONGOLIA

The 15th Mongolia TESOL International Conference

蒙古英语教师协会第 15 届国际学术会议举行

The 19th National TEFL/15th Mongolia TESOL International Conference was held from September 25 to 27, 2026. At the invitation of the organizing committee, 21st Century nominated Prof. Han Yu, from Guizhou University of Commerce, to deliver a featured speech titled "Effective Assessment Techniques: Instant OBE Rubric Feedback for Large-Class English Writing with Lark Base" at the conference.



A group photo of organizers and speakers at the Mongolia TESOL International Conference.

Sep 23

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Macao Institutions

马来西亚双威大学与澳门机构签署合作备忘录

Sunway University hosted several high-level delegations from Macao, China, in September 2026, culminating in the formalization of strategic partnerships with Macao institutions to advance student and faculty exchanges, joint research, and academic collaboration. The engagements culminated in signing the agreements at the "Study in Macao" Education Fair 2026 in Kuala Lumpur, where President Prof. Sibrandes Poppema of Sunway University signed Memoranda of Understanding with both Dr Vong Chuk Kwan, rector of Macao University of Tourism and Prof. Zhou Zhongrong, rector of Macao Polytechnic University. The agreements provide a formal framework for long-term faculty exchanges, joint research initiatives, and student mobility programmes.



Group photo of representatives after signing the MoU.

Sep 21

BEIJING FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Memoranda of Understanding signed with KCA University in Kenya and the University of Tunis

北京外国语大学和肯尼亚 KCA 大学、突尼斯大学签署合作备忘录

A delegation led by Professor Olusola Bandele Oyewole, secretary-general of the Association of African Universities, visited Beijing Foreign Studies University on September 21. The Beijing university signed inter-university cooperation memorandums with KCA University in Kenya and the University of Tunis in Tunisia, with the aim of further cooperation in areas including personnel exchanges, joint research, and the development of academic communities.

Li Hai, secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Foreign Studies University, said that education, science and technology, and talent constitute fundamental and strategic pillars of Chinese modernization. Universities have the dual responsibility of educating young people and advancing knowledge, while also playing an important role in promoting exchanges among civilizations and addressing shared challenges. He expressed the hope that the two sides would strengthen mutual understanding and trust through youth exchanges, advance common development through joint knowledge creation, and establish mechanisms to ensure long-term and sustained cooperation.



Group photo of representatives after signing the MoU.

Sep 16

BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

Letters of Intent signed with Marche Polytechnic University, Italy and Matteo Ricci International Foundation

北京语言大学与马尔凯理工大学、利玛窦国际基金会签署合作意向书

Duan Peng, president of Beijing Language and Culture University, met with Enrico Quagliarini, rector of Marche Polytechnic University in Italy, and Gao Dali, chairman of the Matteo Ricci International Foundation on September 16. The two universities had discussions on joint talent development, faculty and student exchanges, research collaboration, interdisciplinary integration of artificial intelligence and the humanities, and overseas education, and signed a letter of intent on cooperation.

Duan said that the university is ready to leverage the complementary strengths of the two universities and deepen cooperation in such fields as business, computer science and artificial intelligence, and Sinology and China studies, with the aim of developing a model project for China-Italy cooperation in higher education.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES



Duan Peng (right), president of Beijing Language and Culture University, and Enrico Quagliarini, rector of Marche Polytechnic University after signing a letter of intent.

Sep 16

UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Agreement signed with National University of Mongolia

中国社会科学院大学与蒙古国立大学签署合作协议

Xu Jincheng, secretary of the Party Committee of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, visited the National University of Mongolia and met with Rector Ochirkhuyag Bayanjargal. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formally launching institutionalized exchanges and cooperation between the two universities.

The two sides agreed to regard the signing of the memorandum as a new starting point, align their cooperation closely with the development needs of China and Mongolia, leverage their respective disciplinary strengths and distinctive areas of expertise, and work to ensure that cooperation initiatives are implemented effectively. They also pledged to continuously deepen substantive exchanges and cooperation between the two universities.



Xu Jincheng (left), secretary of the Party Committee of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Ochirkhuyag Bayanjargal, rector of National University of Mongolia, after signing an agreement.

Sep 12-13

MALAYSIAN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSOCIATION

The 34th Malaysian English Language Teaching Association International Conference on English Language Education 2026

第34届马来西亚英语教师协会国际学术会议

The 34th Malaysian English Language Teaching Association International Conference on English Language Education 2026 brought together educators, researchers, language practitioners and education leaders together in Malaysia from 12 to 13 September. The two-day conference brought together 250 participants from Malaysia and abroad, representing various sectors of English language education. Discussions highlighted the need to support educators in adapting to developments such as artificial intelligence and changing learning environments, enabling them to remain competent and relevant in the years ahead.

At the invitation of the organizing committee, 21st Century nominated Dr. Huang Rongrong, a lecturer at Chengdu Aeronautic Polytechnic University in China, to deliver a featured speech, and Mr. Sun Zelong, founder and English teacher at CLARK ENGLISH™, to present a paper at the conference.



A group photo of participants.

Sep 2-5

NINGBO UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Universiti Utara Malaysia

宁波大学与马来西亚北方大学签署合作备忘录

Zhang Zhenzhu, deputy secretary of the Party Committee of Ningbo University, paid a visit to Malaysia for exchanges and cooperation from September 2 to 5. In Penang, the delegation held talks with Ahmad Martadha Mohamed, vice-chancellor of Universiti Utara Malaysia. The two universities signed a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a strategic framework for collaboration in areas including scientific research, academic exchanges, staff and student visits, joint publications, knowledge sharing, and international scientific and technological cooperation.

The two sides also jointly inaugurated the International Cooperation Base for Water Resilience and One Health in Coastal Agriculture of Zhejiang Province. Focusing on challenges related to coastal agriculture, aquatic environments, climate resilience, and health, the base will provide a platform for researchers from the two universities to conduct collaborative research.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Sep 1-4

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Agreements signed with Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy and Technische Universität Berlin

清华大学与伍珀塔尔研究所、柏林工业大学签署合作协议

Qiu Yong, secretary of the Party Committee of Tsinghua University, paid a visit to Germany from September 1 to 4. Qiu attended the China-Europe Symposium on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Climate Change and Energy Transition, co-hosted by the Institute for Carbon Neutrality at Tsinghua University and the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding after the symposium. Qiu also visited Technische Universität Berlin, where he held talks with President Fatma Deniz on strengthening joint research in key disciplines and cultivating top innovative talent. The two sides signed an agreement for a dual master's degree program in architecture between Tsinghua University and Technische Universität Berlin.



Representatives of Tsinghua University and the Wuppertal Institute for Climate after signing an agreement.

Aug 20

QUEST INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY, MALAYSIA

Memoranda of Understanding signed with Northern College and Nakhonratchasima College in Thailand

马来西亚奎斯特国际大学与泰国北方学院、珂叻学院签署合作备忘录



A group photo of representatives after signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

The university expanded opportunities for cross-border learning, research and academic exchange by signing Memorandums of Understanding with two education institutions in Thailand, strengthening its growing network of regional partnerships in health sciences and related fields. The MoU with Nakhonratchasima College will further expand opportunities for collaboration in health sciences, with a particular emphasis on Chinese Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine. The two agreements reflect the university's commitment to building international partnerships that create opportunities for students and academics while contributing to the advancement of knowledge and professional practice.

Aug 7

BELJING UNIVERSITY OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Agreement signed with University of Cape Town in South Africa

北京化工大学与南非开普敦大学签署合作协议

Thokozani Majozi, deputy vice-chancellor for Research and Internationalization at the University of Cape Town, visited Beijing University of Chemical Technology on August 7. Wang Feng, vice president of the Beijing university, met with Majozi, and the two sides held a signing ceremony for the China-South Africa Joint Research Center for Clean Energy. Wang said that jointly establishing the center with the University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand is an important step in advancing China-Africa cooperation. He hoped that the two universities would continue to deepen cooperation in areas such as student exchanges and faculty research collaboration, contributing to high-quality educational, scientific and technological exchanges between China and Africa.



Wang Feng (right), vice president of Beijing University of Chemical Technology, and Thokozani Majozi, deputy vice-chancellor at the University of Cape Town, sign an agreement on behalf of the two sides.

Aug 6

BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

The closing ceremony of the China-Brazil Young Science and Technology Innovation Leaders Camp held at the Hangzhou International Campus of Beihang University

首届中巴青年领袖营闭营仪式在北京航空航天大学杭州国际校园举行

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

The closing ceremony of the China-Brazil Young Science and Technology Innovation Leaders Camp was held at the Hangzhou International Campus of Beihang University on August 6. A total of 120 doctoral students, 40 master's students, and 24 professors from 18 Brazilian universities and research institutions, together with 236 faculty members and students from Beihang University, gathered in Hangzhou for a month-long program of intensive exchanges and collaborative research. At the closing ceremony, the Joint Laboratory for Smart Construction and Intelligent Operation and Maintenance of Modern Transport Infrastructure was officially launched by Beihang University, China State Construction Engineering Corporation Limited, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro.

Beihang University has continued to expand cooperation with Brazilian universities, including the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the University of São Paulo. In 2025, Beihang University established three platforms in Brazil: the Beihang Brazil Institute for Innovation and Research, the Beihang Brazil Center and a Confucius Institute. The three platforms form a three-pronged framework for Beihang's cooperation with Brazil, covering language and cultural exchange, innovation and research, and broader institutional engagement.



Launching ceremony of the China-Brazil Joint Laboratory for Smart Construction and Intelligent Operation and Maintenance of Modern Transport Infrastructure.

COMING EVENTS

October 28-November 8, 2026

China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education,
Beijing, China

October 7-9, 2027

62nd National and 8th International ASOCOPI Annual
Conference, Popayan, Colombia

November 20-21, 2026

12th BELTA International Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh

January 22-23, 2027

46th Thailand TESOL International Conference 2027, Hat Yai,
Thailand

January 30-31, 2027

30th NELTA International Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal

March 15-18, 2027

61st RELC International Conference, Singapore

March 24-27, 2027

TESOL 2027 International Convention & Expo, Houston, Texas,
USA

April 6-9, 2027

60th IATEFL International Conference and Exhibition,
Birmingham, UK

July 13-16, 2027

23rd BRAZ-TESOL International Conference, Foz do Iguaçu,
Paraná, Brazil

July 23-25, 2027

10th Global English Education China Assembly, Shanghai, China