ISSUE 29

MONTHLY BRIEFING

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The Mazu Culture Youth Exchange Forum: Global Gen Z Dialogue with Mazu was held in Putian, Fujian Province on October 31, under the theme "Love and Unity Among Youth, Building a Shared Future".

2026 SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION



The 2026 Symposium on Language and Communication was held at Fudan University in Shanghai on October 24.

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

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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 China Daily, 15 Huixin Dongjie,

Chaoyang, Beijing P.R.China, 100029

Phone: (86) 10-85887518/7503

Email: brlcn@i21st.cn

Newsletter online

The newsletter can be read online at https://brlcn.com/

SECRETARIAT'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

What brings people closer in a world shaped by cultural diversity? Sometimes, it is a shared tradition, a familiar story passed down through generations, or simply the chance to meet face to face. Such encounters can turn unfamiliar faces into friends and reveal the common values that connect us.

More than 200 young representatives from over 20 countries and regions across five continents gathered in Putian, Fujian Province, for the Mazu Culture Youth Exchange Forum: Global Gen Z Dialogue with Mazu on October 31. Through discussions on Mazu culture, they shared their perspectives and experiences while exploring the common ground between different cultures. More than just a cultural exchange event, the gathering offered young people an opportunity to get to know one another and forge new friendships.

As people have traveled and connected across borders over the centuries, Mazu culture has gradually spread around the world, leaving its mark in many countries and regions. Even today, it continues to resonate with people from diverse backgrounds. Some find a spirit of love and kindness in Mazu culture, while others are drawn to its values of mutual support and solidarity. These simple yet universal sentiments provide common ground for people to connect and bring them a little closer together.

In today's increasingly interconnected world, information about other countries is more accessible than ever. Yet truly getting to know a culture and understanding a country often requires something more: face-to-face interaction. An open and honest conversation, a shared experience, or even a friendly smile can help bridge the distance between people. Language gives us the means to express ourselves, while cultural exchange offers us the opportunity to step into one another's worlds.

Young people are not only participants in cultural exchange; they are also bridges connecting different cultures. From dialogue among young people and scholarly discussions on language and international communication to coperation among educational institutions, the stories in this issue once again highlight the efforts being made across different fields to foster mutual understanding and strengthen collaboration.

Culture helps us get to know one another, and communication allows us to gradually become friends. May every sincere encounter build a bridge in our hearts, allowing understanding and friendship to flourish and endure among people from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

在多元文化交织的今天，究竟是什么能让不同国家、不同背景的人真正走到一起？也许是一段共同的文化记忆，一种跨越国界的传统，也可能只是一次面对面的交流——让原本陌生的人，有机会看见彼此。

10 月 31 日，来自五大洲 20 多个国家和地区的 200 余名青年代表相聚福建莆田，参加妈祖文化青年交流论坛暨全球“Z 世代”对话妈祖活动。他们围绕妈祖文化展开交流，分享各自的理解与感受，也在对话中寻找不同文化之间的共通之处。这不仅是一次文化交流活动，更是一次让年轻人认识彼此、结交朋友的机会。

人来人往之间，妈祖文化也逐渐走向世界，在许多国家和地区留下了自己的印记。直到今天，妈祖文化依然吸引着不同国家的人们。有人在这里感受到爱与善意，也有人体会到互助和团结的可贵。这些朴素而共同的情感，让不同文化背景的人有了更多交流的话题，也让彼此的距离更近了一些。

在今天这个联系越来越紧密的世界里，我们比以往更容易获取不同国家的信息，但真正了解一种文化、理解一个国家，往往还需要更多面对面的交流。一次坦诚的对话、一段共同的经历，甚至一个善意的微笑，都可能拉近彼此的距离。语言让我们能够表达自己，而文化交流则让我们有机会走进彼此的世界。

青年不只是文化交流的参与者，也是连接不同文化的桥梁。从青年之间的对话，到学者对语言与国际传播的探讨，再到各教育机构携手推动国际教育合作，本期新闻信再次展现了不同领域的人们为增进理解、深化合作所作出的努力。

文化让我们彼此认识，交流让我们慢慢成为朋友。愿每一次真诚的相遇，都能在彼此心里留下一座桥，让理解与友谊在不同国家、不同文化背景的人们之间一直延续下去。

HIGHLIGHTS

MAZU CULTURE YOUTH EXCHANGE FORUM: GLOBAL GEN Z DIALOGUE WITH MAZU

妈祖文化青年交流论坛暨全球“Z 世代”对话妈祖活动在莆田圆满举办



Round-table Dialogue in session.

The Mazu Culture Youth Exchange Forum: Global Gen Z Dialogue with Mazu was held in Putian, Fujian Province on October 31, under the theme “Love and Unity Among Youth, Building a Shared Future”. More than 200 Gen Z representatives from over 20 countries and regions across the five continents gathered for the event to engage in dialogue and celebrate cultural exchange. The program featured three sections: Echoes of the Maritime Silk Road, Dialogue Across the Seas, and Working Together for a Shared Future. Through academic research, youth-led initiatives, and the presentation of proposals, the three sections explored and promoted the spirit of Mazu.

Zhang Haigang, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of 21st Century Media and Education, China Daily, said that Mazu culture transcends geographical boundaries and national borders, and that China Daily would continue to serve as a bridge through the media, leveraging youth-oriented and visually engaging integrated media products to promote Mazu culture worldwide. He hoped that young people from different countries would take culture as their vessel and communication as their sail, helping Mazu’s spirit of universal love to cross mountains and seas and injecting sustained youthful energy into efforts to build a community with a shared future for humanity.

(Source: China Daily)

2026 SYMPOSIUM ON LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

2026 语言与传播学术交流会在上海成功举办

The 2026 Symposium on Language and Communication was held at Fudan University in Shanghai on October 24. Under the theme “Discourse Practices and Educational Innovation in International Communication in the Global South Context,” the symposium aimed to draw on the strengths of foreign language disciplines to explore discourse construction and talent development mechanisms in the context of the Global South.

More than 100 experts, scholars, and teachers in international communication, foreign language education, and related fields gathered in Shanghai to discuss the role of foreign language education in cultivating high-caliber professionals in international communication. Their discussions sought to provide both a theoretical foundation and practical solutions for developing a framework for international communication capacity suited to the needs of the new era.

(Source: Language and Communication Committee, CACSEC)



Professor Zha Mingjian, Chair of the Committee on Language and Communication, China Association for Comparative Studies of English and Chinese, addresses the symposium.

12TH “THE BELT AND ROAD” FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATION & CLOSED-DOOR SEMINAR FOR CHINESE AND FOREIGN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND AMBASSADORS TO CHINA

第十二届“一带一路”国际教育合作高峰论坛暨中外校长与驻华大使闭门研讨会成功举办



“The Belt and Road” Forum for International Education Cooperation in session.

The 12th “Belt and Road” Forum for International Education Cooperation was successfully held in Beijing on October 24. The program consisted of two main sessions: a closed-door seminar for Chinese and foreign university presidents and ambassadors to China in the morning, followed by the opening ceremony of the Forum for International Education Cooperation in the afternoon. More than 500 participants attended the opening ceremony in the afternoon, bringing together representatives from more than 40 Chinese universities, hundreds of representatives from educational institutions, and industry leaders.

A signing ceremony for a major cooperation agreement was also held during the event. Dr. Tojidini Bakhriddin, First Deputy Director of the Center for International Projects under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, and Yu Dejin, Chairman of the Forum for International Education Cooperation and Chairman of Beijing Yude International Education Technology Group, signed the agreement. The signing marked a new chapter in educational cooperation between China and Tajikistan.

(Source: BJNEWS.COM.CN)

HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2026

2026 年世界职业技术教育发展大会在天津举办



Participants attend the conference. Photo: Li Ran/Xinhua News Agency.

The 2026 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference, with the theme "TVET: C0-Embracing, Co-Forging Standards, Co-Creating Future" concluded in Tianjin on October 17.

At the closing ceremony, 45 countries jointly released the Framework of World Vocational and Technical Education Standards (Beijing Consensus). Under the framework of the Beijing Consensus, China signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on vocational education cooperation with 13 countries. Relevant Chinese institutions also signed MoUs with 11 foreign counterparts in six fields, including telecommunications and automotive technology.

Other major outcomes announced at the ceremony included the White Paper on Vocational Education in China and the national standards for Luban Workshops. The Ministry of Education–UNICEF South-South and Triangular Cooperation Project in Vocational Education, under the One Province, One Country initiative, was also launched. In addition, the China–Spain Alliance for Vocational and Technical Education and the China–Switzerland Alliance for Vocational and Technical Education were established. A demonstration of the Future Training Center was also presented at the event.

(Source: www.gov.cn, www.wvtedc.com)

2026 CONFUCIUS CULTURE WEEK FOR CHINESE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

2026 中外青年学生孔子文化周举办

The 2026 Confucius Culture Week for Chinese and International Students was held in Jining, Shandong Province, from September 25 to 28, attracting more than 170 Chinese and international teachers and students from 24 Chinese universities and 49 countries. During the event, participants attended ceremonial activities at the Confucius Mansion and Confucius Temple, took part in educational visits at Nishan Sacred Land, explored modern technologies and traditional intangible cultural heritage, and competed in friendly pickleball matches. They also listened to a keynote speech by an international Sinologist on mutual learning among civilizations and visited intelligent manufacturing production lines showcasing Jining's technological innovation. As part of the program, participants completed checkpoints in a "Youth Cultural Exploration Passport" and documented their experiences, reflections, and insights on social media. Through hands-on activities, they explored China's traditional culture, forged friendships with peers from around the world, shared stories of their youth, and gained a deeper understanding of China in its true, multidimensional, and comprehensive form.

The Confucius Culture Week for Chinese and International Students has been held under the theme "Youth, Exchange and the Future" since 2021. The initiative aims to encourage international



Award-Winning Representatives from China and Abroad Pose for a Group Photo.

students in China to gain a deeper understanding of the country and inspire young people from China and abroad to serve as ambassadors of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and advocates of the Global Civilization Initiative, contributing their youthful energy to building a community with a shared future for humanity.

(Source: People.com)

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Oct 27

SICHUAN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed to Establish China-Uzbekistan Research Center

四川外国语大学与塔什干国立东方大学签约成立“中国—乌兹别克斯坦研究中心”



Representatives after signing the agreement online.

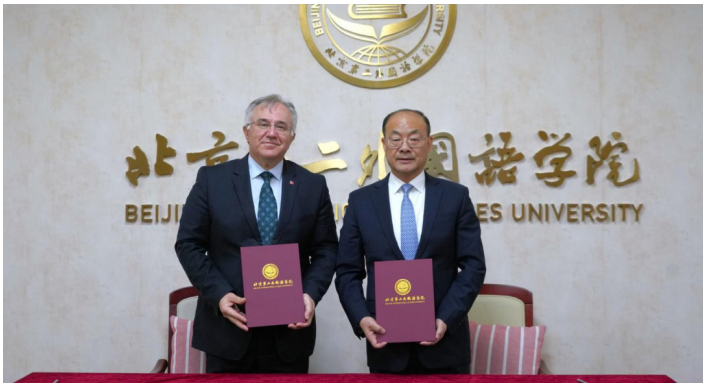
Sichuan International Studies University and Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies in Uzbekistan held an online signing ceremony to establish the China-Uzbekistan Research Center on October 27. Zhu Chaowei, president of SISU, said that establishing the center was a concrete step toward further strengthening the university's cooperation with higher education institutions in Central Asia, as well as an innovative initiative to expand its international education programs. The two institutions will conduct research in areas including the history of Silk Road exchanges, Central Asian civilizations, bilateral relations between China and Uzbekistan, and cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Through regular academic seminars, mutual translation of scholarly works, and academic exchanges, the two sides aim to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and contribute academic insights to the development of a China-Uzbekistan community with a shared future.

Oct 27

BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Hacettepe University, Türkiye

北京第二外国语学院与土耳其哈西德佩大学签署合作协议



Mehmet Cahit Güran (left), president of Hacettepe University, and Yang Weiguo, president of Beijing International Studies University, after signing the cooperation agreement.

Mehmet Cahit Güran, president of Hacettepe University in Türkiye, visited Beijing International Studies University on October 27. Yang Weiguo, deputy secretary of the Party Committee and president of the Beijing university, said that 2026 marks the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Türkiye. As bilateral relations continue to develop steadily, ties between the university and Turkish universities, including Hacettepe University, have also grown stronger. Yang said that internationalization is a defining feature of the university's educational mission. He also hoped for further cooperation with Hacettepe University in research collaboration, academic exchanges, artificial intelligence, and cultural and people-to-people exchanges, among other areas.

Oct 24-25

NORTHWEST NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Fourth Asia-Europe Teacher Education Forum

第四届亚欧教师教育论坛在西北师大举行



The forum in session.

The Fourth Asia-Europe Teacher Education Forum was held at Northwest Normal University from October 24 to 25. More than 300 participants attended the forum, including experts and scholars, teaching and research professionals, journal editors, heads of educational research institutions, faculty members, and student representatives from over 40 universities and institutions in more than 10 countries and regions. Under the theme “Transforming Teacher Education and Global Governance in the Age of Artificial Intelligence,” this year's forum featured discussions on topics including the transformation of teachers' roles in the AI era, innovation in teacher education systems and curricula, educational equity and global governance, and cooperation in teacher education under the Belt and Road Initiative. The discussions helped build broader consensus on the digital and intelligent transformation of teacher education and its development through international collaboration.

Oct 22-25

UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Agreement signed with Trinity College Dublin

中国社会科学院大学与圣三一大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Zhao Rui, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, visited Ireland from October 22 to 25. Feng Shizheng, president of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, accompanied the delegation.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

During the visit to Trinity College Dublin, President Feng Shizheng and Naito Oka, director of the Trinity Centre for Asian Studies, signed an agreement on a visiting scholar programme. The two institutions will exchange visiting scholars annually, with each visit lasting either one semester or one academic year. The agreement marks the establishment of a stable cooperation mechanism between the two universities in academic exchanges and joint research.



Feng Shizheng (left), president of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Naito Oka, director of the Asian Studies Centre at Trinity College Dublin, sign the cooperation agreement.

Oct 22

NINGBO UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with University of Algarve, Portugal

宁波大学与葡萄牙阿尔加维大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Maria Alexandra Anica Teodósio, rector of the University of Algarve in Portugal, visited Ningbo University, where the two universities held a signing ceremony for a joint postgraduate training program. Cai Ronggen, president of Ningbo University and a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, met with the visiting delegation. Cai said that the agreement would serve as a new starting point for advancing joint postgraduate education, co-supervision by faculty members from both universities, and the sharing of research resources, thereby expanding substantive cooperation between the two institutions.



A group photo of representatives of both universities.

Oct 20

SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Peoples' Friendship University of Russia

上海交通大学与俄罗斯人民友谊大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Yastrebov, rector of Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, visited Shanghai Jiao Tong University on October 20. Liu Weidong, vice president of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, met with the delegation. The two sides discussed the establishment of a joint research center, joint doctoral training programs, and mechanisms for exchanges between faculty members and students. They also signed an agreement to establish a joint research center, providing a new platform for expanding research collaboration and promoting academic exchanges.



Representatives of both universities after signing the agreement.

Oct 16

BEIJING FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania

北京外国语大学与宾夕法尼亚大学教育研究生院签署合作协议

Catherine Strunk, dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn GSE), visited Beijing Foreign Studies University on October 16. Li Yiqun, Assistant to the president of BFSU, met with the delegation. Li hoped that the two universities would take this visit as an opportunity to explore innovative forms of China–US educational cooperation and further deepen practical collaboration. The two universities signed agreements on a “4+1” undergraduate-to-master’s pathway programme and a “1+1+1” academic pathway programme leading to dual master's degrees.



Representatives of both universities after signing an agreement.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Oct 10

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

MoU signed with Paris Institute of Political Studies

清华大学与巴黎政治大学续签合作协议



Li Luming (right), president of Tsinghua University, and Luis Vassy, president of the Paris Institute of Political Studies, after signing the MoU.

Li Luming, president of Tsinghua University, met with a delegation led by Luis Vassy, president of Paris Institute of Political Studies on October 10. The two sides exchanged views on further strengthening cooperation between the universities and renewed the memorandum of understanding. Li hoped that the renewal would serve as an opportunity to advance student exchanges and talent development, promote joint research in areas such as climate change and sustainable development, and continue to expand the scope and depth of bilateral cooperation.

Oct 8

BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

ICESCO Center for Arab Cultural Studies launched

北京语言大学伊斯兰教科学文组织阿拉伯文化研究中成立



Duan Peng (right), president of Beijing Language and Culture University, and H.E. Salim M. AlMalik, director-general of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, jointly unveil the plaque for the Center for Arab Cultural Studies.

Duan Peng, president of Beijing Language and Culture University, met with a delegation led by H.E. Salim M. AlMalik, director-general of the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), on October 8. Duan said that the university attaches great importance to exchanges and cooperation with the Islamic world and currently hosts more students from Arab countries than any other university in China and has established Confucius Institutes in several member states of the Islamic world. Duan and AlMalik signed a memorandum of understanding and jointly unveiled the plaque for the ICESCO Center for Arab Cultural Studies at the Beijing university. Both sides agreed to use the signing of the memorandum as a new starting point to expand areas of cooperation and improve its quality and effectiveness. They also pledged to leverage the research center to deepen research in relevant fields and promote dialogue, exchanges, and mutual learning between Chinese and Islamic civilizations. The two sides held a meeting to discuss practical initiatives, including joint scholarship programs, youth internships, AI-powered language translation, and platforms for dialogue among universities.

Oct 3-10

SHANTOU UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Davis University in Ohio

汕头大学与戴维斯大学签署合作协议

Yu Hong, vice president of Shantou University, visited the United States and Canada from October 3 to 10. During the visit to Davis University, the two universities signed a memorandum of understanding. They also held discussions on potential collaboration in student exchanges, faculty mobility, joint program development, and collaborative research.



Yu Hong, vice president of Shantou University and representative of Davis University after signing the agreement.

Oct 3

XIAMEN UNIVERSITY

China-Southeast Asia Forum on Cooperation in Chinese Language Education

中国—东南亚中文教育合作论坛

The China-Southeast Asia Forum on Cooperation in Chinese Language Education was held at the Xiang'an Campus of Xiamen University on October 3, bringing together experts and scholars from China, Singapore, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan and other countries and regions. Under the theme "Digital Intelligence Empowerment and Resource Sharing: Regional Collaboration and Innovation in International Chinese Language Education," participants discussed topics including the application of artificial intelligence in Chinese language education, innovative teaching models, the joint development and sharing of digital resources, teacher training, and cooperation among regional educational institutions. As part of Xiamen

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

University's series of events celebrating the 70th anniversary of its overseas education and international Chinese language education programmes, the forum provided a platform for deepening educational exchanges and cooperation between China and Southeast Asia and promoting resource sharing and complementary strengths across the region.



The opening ceremony of the China–Southeast Asia Forum on Cooperation in Chinese Language Education in session.

Sep 27-29

SHANDONG UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History and the China-Mexico Cultural Development Foundation

山东大学与墨西哥国家文物局、中墨文化发展基金会签署合作协议

A delegation from Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History and the China-Mexico Cultural Development Foundation visited Shandong University from September 27 to 29. The three parties signed a cooperation framework agreement. Li Zhongjun, secretary of the Party Committee of Shandong University, met with the delegation and attended the signing ceremony. Li said that both China and Mexico are ancient civilizations with rich cultural heritage and there is broad potential for cooperation in archaeology and cultural heritage. He hoped that the agreement would serve as a starting point for deeper collaboration in areas such as cultural heritage conservation and research, as well as joint talent development. He also called for greater efforts to foster mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and Mexican peoples and to contribute to the protection and preservation of the world's cultural heritage.



The signing ceremony in session.

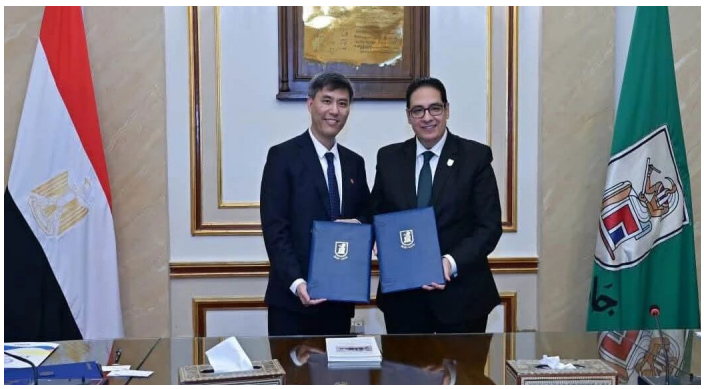
Sep 24-30

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Letter of Intent signed with Cairo University

上海外国语大学与开罗大学签署合作意向书

Meng Zhongjie, president of Shanghai International Studies University, visited Egypt and Indonesia from September 24 to 30. During the visit to Egypt, the SISU delegation attended the Arab Countries session of Global Dialogue on China Studies, co-organized by SISU and the China-Arab States Reform and Development Research Center. Meng delivered a keynote speech titled “Toward a Dialogue of Knowledge Based on Mutual Subjectivity: China Studies, the Global Middle East, and Mutual Learning Among Civilizations.” The delegation also attended the 2026 Global South Modernization Forum, which SISU co-organized. At Cairo University, Meng met with its president, Professor Mohamed S. Abdel-Sadek. The two universities signed a letter of intent to jointly establish the Institute of China Studies in Egypt. The institute is expected to provide robust academic and intellectual support for the development of the China-Egypt comprehensive strategic partnership and the China-Arab community with a shared future.



Meng Zhongjie (left), president of Shanghai International Studies University and Mohamed S. Abdel-Sadek, president of Cairo University after signing an agreement.

Sep 20-30

BEIJING UNIVERSITY OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY

Agreements signed with Universities in Morocco, Spain and Belgium

北京化工大学与摩洛哥、西班牙、比利时高校签署合作协议

Ren Zhongqi, vice president of Beijing University of Chemical Technology visited Africa and Europe from September 20 to 30. During the visit, the Beijing delegation met with representatives of Mohammed V University of Rabat and Hassan II University in Morocco, as well as Ghent University in Belgium. The universities signed memorandums of understanding to strengthen practical cooperation in areas including joint talent development, collaborative research, and faculty exchanges.



Ren Zhongqi (right), vice president of Beijing University of Chemical Technology, and Lkhider Mustapha, vice president of Hassan II University in Morocco, after signing the agreement.

COMING EVENTS

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

October 7-9, 2027
62nd National and 8th International ASOCOPI Annual Conference, Popayan, Colombia