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THE SECOND SINO-FRENCH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FORUM OPENS IN CHENGDU, SICHUAN PROVINCE



The Second Sino-French Education Development Forum was held in Chengdu, Sichuan Province on December 5.

2025 GLOBAL MOOC AND ONLINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE OPENS IN MEXICO



The 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference was held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico from December 2 to 4.



MONTHLY BRIEFING

Issue 21, 2026

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SECRETARIAT'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As the new year begins, everything is renewed. With cherished memories of the past and bright hopes for the future, we step together into the promising year of 2026.

Looking back on 2025, we embraced “innovation” as our annual theme and guiding principle. Over the past year, with the joint efforts of all of you, this vision has been deeply integrated into every initiative of the BRLCN.

Innovation lies in broadening our focus, allowing the voices of youth to be heard by the world. Our flagship event, the Belt and Road Forum for Language and Culture Collaboration, was successfully held in Beijing. This year's forum achieved a significant shift in perspective—moving from a focus on educational institutions to engaging with Generation Z, the core of education. We created a multidimensional dialogue space that brought together schools, teachers, and students, turning the forum into a true platform for young minds to exchange ideas and express themselves. In resonance with this, the “Round-table with TESOL Presidents,” participated in by seven council members, also shifted its focus from macro-level educational management to the practical topic of “how to cultivate cross-cultural communication skills among Generation Z.” This stems from our shared belief that young people are the envoys of mutual learning among civilizations and the key force shaping the future.

Innovation lies in deepening our content, building bridges of dialogue across borders. The Global English Education China Assembly, again yielded fruitful outcomes. For the first time, the assembly featured the “Bridging Cultures: An ELT Dialogue” session, exploring language teaching practices in basic education and successfully establishing a vibrant platform for global classroom observation and exchange. English teachers from Malaysia, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and China shared their experiences, showcasing the rich diversity of language education and culture. The success of this event, particularly the new session, owes much to the crucial role played by our overseas council members in content planning and international coordination.

Innovation also lies in uniting like-minded partners, strengthening the power of collaboration. Most delightfully, over the past few months, the BRLCN family has welcomed several new academic partners: Tribhuvan University (Nepal), Jashore University of Science and Technology (Bangladesh), University of Rajshahi (Bangladesh), Universiti Malaya (Malaysia), Mandakh University (Mongolia), Voronezh State University (Russia), University of Auckland (New Zealand), Society for Anglo Chinese Understanding (UK), Asociación Colombiana de Profesores de Inglés (Colombia) and Angolan English Language Teachers' Association (Angola). Their inclusion has infused new energy and perspectives into our alliance. Let us once again extend a warm welcome to our new members!

2026 marks the Year of the Horse in the Chinese lunar calendar. The horse symbolizes resilience, progress, and far-reaching vision. We hope the BRLCN will advance like a steadfast steed—combining the steady perseverance of “moving forward without haste” with the dynamic attitude of “advancing with sure and swift steps” to seize the opportunities ahead.

The road before us is vast and filled with possibilities. Let us continue to stand shoulder to shoulder, with language as our vessel and culture as our sail, navigating toward a broader future and embracing a brilliant 2026 for each and every one of us.

新元肇启，万象更新。我们怀着对过往的珍视与对未来的憧憬，共同迈入了充满希望的2026年。

回望2025年，我们以“创新”为年度主题与行动指南。这一年，联盟在各位的携手努力下，将这一理念深深融入到了每一项工作之中。

创新，在于拓宽主体，让青年的声音被世界听见。我们的旗舰活动“一带一路”语言教育文化论坛在北京成功举办。本届论坛实现了重要视角转换，从聚焦教育机构延伸至关注Z世代青年。我们构建了融合学校、教师与学生的立体对话场，使其成为青年思想碰撞、表达自我的舞台。与之呼应，七位理事单位主席参与的“国际TESOL主席对话”，也将议题从宏观教育管理下沉至“如何培养Z世代的跨文化沟通能力”。因为我们深信，青年是文明互鉴的使者，是塑造未来的关键力量。

创新，在于深化内涵，让对话的桥梁跨越国界。我们的品牌项目“国际英语教育中国大会”再结硕果，大会首次设立了“中外文化教学对话”专题，初探基础教育教学实践，成功搭建了全球课堂观摩与研讨的平台。来自马来西亚、蒙古、阿塞拜疆、哈萨克斯坦、俄罗斯、印度尼西亚、越南及中国的英语教师同台分享，展现了语言教育文化的多样风采。活动的成功，特别是新专题的设立，正得益于各海外理事单位在内容策划与国际联络中发挥的关键作用。

创新，更在于凝聚同道，让合作的力量不断壮大。最令人欣喜的是，联盟的大家庭在过去几个月迎来了多位新的学术伙伴：尼泊尔特里布文大学、孟加拉国拉吉沙希大学、孟加拉国贾肖尔科技大学、马来西亚马来亚大学、蒙古曼达赫大学、俄罗斯沃罗涅日国立大学、新西兰奥克兰大学、英中了解协会、哥伦比亚英语教师协会和安哥拉英语教师协会。他们的加入，为我们注入了新的活力与视野。让我们再次以热烈的掌声，欢迎新成员的到来！

2026年，是中国农历的马年。马，象征着坚韧、进取与致远。我们期待联盟如骏马前行，既有“不疾而速”的沉稳定性，久久为功；亦有“蹄疾步稳”的奋进姿态，把握机遇。

前路浩荡，万事可期。让我们继续并肩，以语言为舟，文化为帆，共同驶向广阔的未来，迎接属于我们每一个人的、璀璨的2026年！

HIGHLIGHTS

THE 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SINO-RUSSIAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE AND THE CHINA-RUSSIA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' FORUM OPENS IN HARBIN, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

2025 中俄语言教育大学联盟年会暨中俄大学校长论坛举行



The Annual Conference of the Sino-Russian Language Education University Alliance and the China-Russia University Presidents' Forum in session.

The 2025 Annual Conference of the Sino-Russian Language Education

University Alliance and the China-Russia University Presidents' Forum was held at Heilongjiang University in Harbin on December 17. More than 140 participants attended the event, including officials from relevant provincial government departments, representatives from the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Harbin, as well as university leaders, experts, scholars, and student representatives from more than 40 Chinese and Russian universities.

During the conference, the list of new member universities was announced, and the 2026-2027 Roadmap and the logo of the Sino-Russian Language Education University Alliance was released. The event featured two parallel forums, with the themes "Innovation and Development in Language Education Cooperation between Chinese and Russian Universities" and "The Development of the Era and the Power of Youth: Youth Exchanges between Chinese and Russian Universities." Experts and scholars from China and abroad had discussions on topics such as technology empowerment and resource sharing and joint talent cultivation and mutual cultural learning, building consensus and charting directions for future cooperation. (Source: China Daily)

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON MUTUAL LEARNING AMONG CIVILIZATIONS OPENS IN MACAO SAR

文明互鉴国际论坛在澳门召开

The 2025 International Forum on Mutual Learning Among Civilizations kicked off in China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) on December 16, convening about 300 government officials, international organization representatives, and prominent scholars from about 10 countries and regions. The event, with the theme "Mutual Learning among Civilizations, Inheritance and Development", featured more than 20 keynote speeches and academic exchanges, bolstered by two parallel forums addressing civilizational coexistence and sustainable heritage protection. Hosted by the Macao SAR Government and organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the forum served as a high-level platform for fostering global dialogue and cultural preservation. (Source: CGTN, Xinhua News)



Academic salon on Practices and Experiences in International Cooperation for Cultural Heritage Protection in session.

THE SECOND SINO-FRENCH EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FORUM OPENS IN CHENGDU, SICHUAN PROVINCE

第二届中法教育发展论坛在四川成都举行



Sino-French Higher Education Cooperation Agreements signed.

The Second Sino-French Education Development Forum was held in

Chengdu, Sichuan Province on December 5. The opening ceremony featured keynote speeches by Huai Jinpeng, Minister of Education of China, and Philippe Baptiste, French Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space. Huai said that the ongoing technological revolution and industrial transformation are posing unprecedented challenges to education, and China and France, as globally influential countries, have both the will and capacity to cooperate closely and jointly contribute "Sino-French educational wisdom" to address shared global challenges. During the forum, universities from both countries reached 54 cooperative outcomes, covering areas such as joint dual-degree training programs, cooperative education initiatives, student exchange programs, joint research laboratories, and the construction of overseas campuses. Representatives from many universities discussed topics including building future-oriented talent cultivation systems, promoting sustainable development, exploring innovative humanities and social science pathways to address major global challenges, and advancing balanced and sustainable student mobility. (Source: China's MOE)

HIGHLIGHTS

2025 GLOBAL MOOC AND ONLINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE OPENS IN MEXICO

2025 世界慕课与在线教育大会在墨西哥举行



Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, delivers a keynote speech at the 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference.

The 2025 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference was held at the National Autonomous University of Mexico from December 2 to

4. The Conference, under the theme “Education Without Borders · Intelligent Future”, released the Report on the Digital Development of Global Higher Education (2025) and the Digital Development Index of Global Higher Education (2025). Participants discussed topics such as the transformation of educational paradigms, industry-education integration and the global education ecosystem, the ethics and governance of artificial intelligence, and visions for educational quality and equity.

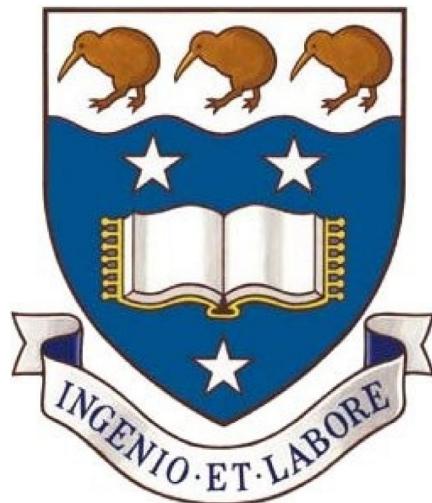
A new global concept of “Smart MOOCs” was proposed, and exemplary smart MOOCs were unveiled, including “Chemical Thermodynamics” from Tsinghua University and “Introduction to Artificial Intelligence” from Zhejiang University. The concept defines a new course paradigm that reshapes the full teaching–learning–management–assessment process through intelligent technologies. The event also issued the Mexico City Declaration and held an Intelligent Education Achievement Exhibition, showcasing future education concepts and scenarios centered on “Future Teachers”, “Future Classrooms”, “Future Learning Centers” and “Future Schools.”

(Source: China's MOE, Tsinghua University)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

新西兰奥克兰大学

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND



The University of Auckland is the largest and the most comprehensive university in New Zealand, hosting over 45,000 students on five Auckland campuses, including international students representing around 100 countries. The University is ranked 65th in the world by the QS World University Rankings 2026, making it New Zealand's highest ranked university. The University's motto is Ingenio et

Labore. Freely translated from the Latin, it means "by natural ability and hard work". The purpose is to create globally transformative impacts through our distinctive strengths in world leading research, scholarship, teaching and collaborative partnerships, inspired by our unique position in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific. Website: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/>



COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Dec 18

SHANDONG UNIVERSITY

The Pakistan Research Center of Shandong University Inaugurated

山东大学巴基斯坦研究中心揭牌仪式举行

The inauguration ceremony of the Pakistan Research Center of Shandong University was held at the university's Central Campus on December 18. Khalil Hashmi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to China, and Wu Zhen, Executive Vice President of Shandong University, jointly unveiled the center. The Pakistan Research Center is a joint research platform established by Shandong University in cooperation with the Embassy of Pakistan in China. The center will focus on areas such as education and training, scientific research and consulting, and bilateral cooperation, serving as a professional platform for academic exchange and people-to-people engagement between China and Pakistan. It aims to support the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and contribute to building an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.



Khalil Hashmi (left), Pakistani Ambassador to China and Wu Zhen, Executive Vice President of Shandong University jointly unveil the plaque for the Pakistan Research Center of Shandong University.

Dec 12

BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

Agreement Signed with the École Centrale Group

北京航空航天大学与法国中央理工集团签署合作协议

During the 2nd Sino-French Education Development Forum, a dual-degree cooperation agreement between Beihang University and the Groupe des Écoles Centrales was showcased as one of eleven representative agreements, marking a new milestone in their partnership.

Under this agreement, 30 French students will be recruited annually for dual-degree exchanges in China. After completing a period of study in the country, these students will be eligible to receive a Master's degree awarded by the Chinese side. By integrating premium educational resources from both nations, the program establishes a joint cultivation system that bridges Chinese and Western academic traditions, providing students with a bicultural learning environment and a broader platform for development. The initiative will support the regularized intake of French students for dual-degree programs in China in collaboration with leading French universities, and contribute to advancing the "10,000 students in three years, doubling exchanges with Europe" initiative.



Sino-French Higher Education Cooperation Agreements signed.

Dec 14-18

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Agreements Signed with Universities in France and Greece

清华大学与法国、希腊多所高校签署合作协议

Qiu Yong, Party Secretary of Tsinghua University visited France and Greece from December 14 to 18. During his stay in France, Qiu signed a letter of intent for cooperation between the Institute for Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Tsinghua University and the Climate School of Sciences Po (the Paris Institute of Political Studies). In Greece, Qiu signed Memorandum of Understandings with Gerasimos Siasos, Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Vassilis Vasdekis, President of the Athens University of Economics and Business, and concluded a student exchange agreement with the National Technical University of Athens.



Delegates of Tsinghua University and Sciences Po after signing the agreement.

Dec 5

UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

MoU signed with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences

中国社会科学院大学与拉丁美洲社会科学院签署合作谅解备忘录

The University of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, marking the official launch of their partnership in academic exchange and talent cultivation. The two institutions will engage in deep cooperation across multiple fields, including the placement of outstanding students for internships at FLACSO, joint postdoctoral training programs, bilateral student and scholar exchanges, and collaborative research initiatives. Established in 1957, FLACSO is a regional intergovernmental international organization headquartered in San José, the capital of Costa Rica.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Dec 1-3

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

The Fifth China–Russia Young Writers Forum Opens

第五届中俄青年作家论坛在上外召开

The Fifth China–Russia Young Writers Forum was held from December 1 to 3 at the Hongkou Campus of Shanghai International Studies University. The forum was also included as part of the China–Russia Year of Culture program. Li Yansong, President of Shanghai International Studies University, said that the China–Russia Young Writers Forum, as the only institutionalized literary exchange mechanism between Chinese and Russian writers, has played a unique role in deepening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries. A total of 18 young writers from China and Russia, including Yelena Antipova, Zhou You'an, and Ilya Karameshev, delivered speeches at the forum.

Since its inception, the China–Russia Young Writers Forum has been held five times, attracting more than 120 writer participants from both countries, and has become an important platform for regularized exchanges among young writers from China and Russia.



Group photo of forum participants.

Dec 1

BELJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The International Symposium on Education for Rural Sustainable Development 2025

2025 教育促进农村可持续发展国际研讨会举行

The International Symposium on Education for Rural Sustainable Development 2025 was held at Beijing Normal University on December 1. The event was co-hosted by Beijing Normal University, the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education, and the China Zigen Association for Rural Education and Development. His Highness Tengku Amir Shah, the Crown Prince of Selangor, Malaysia attended the symposium upon invitation.

Chen Xing, the Vice President of Beijing Normal University, said that entrepreneurship education is a crucial path for stimulating the endogenous driving force of rural areas and cultivating the innovative capabilities of youth. The university will advance these practices through three dimensions: conceptual framework building, community empowerment and youth leadership, he said.

The Youth Empowerment Action Plan for Rural Sustainable Development was launched at the opening ceremony of symposium. The action plan provides a hands-on platform for young people to engage deeply in rural transformation and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Tengku Amir Shah, Crown Prince of Selangor, Malaysia, and delegation visit Beijing Normal University.

Dec 1

DALIAN UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The University Held an Online Meeting with the Royal Thai Embassy in China

大连外国语大学与泰驻华使馆举行线上见面活动

Dalian University of Foreign Languages held an online meeting and donation ceremony with the Royal Thai Embassy in China on December 1. Cong Mingcai, President of the university, expressed his gratitude to the Royal Thai Embassy in China and the Foreign Affairs Office of the Dalian Municipal People's Government for their long-standing support for the development of the university's Thai language program and talent cultivation. Cong said that 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand, and that guided by the spirit of kinship between China and Thailand, exchanges and cooperation between the two countries have continued to deepen. As the first public university in Northeast China to offer an undergraduate program in Thai, the university will continue to leverage its strengths in language and cultural education, deepen cooperation with Thai partners in the fields of education and culture, and better contribute to the broader development of China–Thailand exchanges.



Online meeting in session.

Nov 30-Dec 4

NORTHWEST NORMAL UNIVERSITY

MoU Signed with Bangor University

西北师范大学与班戈大学签署合作协议

Zhang Jinyao, Vice President of Northwest Normal University, visited universities in the United Kingdom from November 30 to December 4. The delegation visited the University of South Wales, Aberystwyth

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

University, and Bangor University for academic exchanges. At Bangor University, Zhang Jinyao and Oliver Turnbull, Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University signed Memorandum of Understanding, laying a solid foundation for deeper collaboration in the future.



Zhang Jinyao (left), Vice President of Northwest Normal University and Oliver Turnbull, Vice-Chancellor of Bangor University sign MoU.

Nov 28-29

SOUTH CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY

2025 Symposium on Sino-Foreign Cooperative Education

2025年中外合作办学研讨会在华南师范大学举行

The 2025 Symposium on Sino-Foreign Cooperative Education was held at the Foshan Campus of South China Normal University from November 28 to 29. The symposium, with the theme "Quality Assurance of Sino-Foreign Cooperative Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, Challenges and Innovation", included a main forum with parallel sub-forums and brought together about 100 scholars from China and abroad to discuss the high-quality development of Sino-foreign cooperative education in the AI era.

Wang Chunhao, Vice President of South China Normal University, said that AI is transforming Sino-foreign cooperative education, necessitating a shift from scale expansion to quality-driven development under a Chinese-characteristic intelligent education system. He said there is an urgent need to establish AI-powered quality standards, deepen Sino-foreign collaboration in AI education, and cultivate high-level digital talent with a global perspective.



The symposium in session.

Nov 28

BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

Confucius Institute at the University of Magallanes Inaugurated

智利麦哲伦大学孔子学院揭牌仪式举行

The inauguration ceremony of the Confucius Institute at the University of Magallanes, jointly established by Beijing Language and Culture University and the University of Magallanes, was held in Punta Arenas, Chile on November 28. Mariela Alarcón, Vice President of the University of Magallanes, Niu Qingbao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Chile, and Zhang Baojun, Vice President of Beijing Language and Culture University, attended the ceremony and delivered remarks. Zhang Baojun said that the university will integrate its academic strengths with the University of Magallanes' distinctive disciplinary advantages, and promote the development of "Chinese plus professional" courses tailored to areas such as polar scientific research, international trade, and tourism. He said that these efforts will provide stronger intellectual support for cooperation between China and Chile.



Niu Qingbao (right), Chinese Ambassador to Chile, Mariela Alarcón, Vice President of the University of Magallanes and Zhang Baojun (left), Vice President of Beijing Language and Culture University jointly unveil the plaque for the Confucius Institute at the University of Magallanes.

Nov 26

BEIJING JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY

Interdisciplinary Brazil-China Research Center established

巴西坎皮纳斯州立大学巴西－中国研究中心成立

The Interdisciplinary Brazil-China Research Center was inaugurated at the University of Campinas in Brazil on November 26. Zhu Qingqiao, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brazil, delivered remarks via video link. Susan Kleebank, Director of the Asia-Pacific Department of Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Yu Peng, Consul General of China in São Paulo attended and addressed the event. The establishment of the center marks a new stage in academic cooperation between Chinese and Brazilian universities. The center will further integrate interdisciplinary resources within the University of Campinas, promote the implementation of joint research projects with Chinese universities, and strive to become a model for Global South cooperation. The Confucius Institute at the University of Campinas, jointly established by Beijing Jiaotong University and UNICAMP, played a key role in facilitating the creation of the center and has served as an important bridge for China-Brazil academic and cultural exchanges.



The inauguration ceremony in session.

COMING EVENTS

January 23-24, 2026

45th Thailand TESOL International Conference 2026, Bangkok, Thailand

October 1-3, 2026

61st National and 7th International ASOCOPI Annual Conference, Bucaramanga, Colombia

January 30-31, 2026

30th NELTA International Conference 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal

March 9-11, 2026

60th RELC International Conference, Singapore

March 24-27, 2026

TESOL 2026 International Convention & Expo, Utah, USA

April 8-11, 2026

IATEFL International Conference and Exhibition, Brighton, England

May 18-21, 2026

NATE Russia conference, Samara, Russia

May 22-24, 2026

6th Psychology of Language Learning Conference, Shantou, Guangdong, China

May 29-31, 2026

Africa ELTA 10th International Conference, Nairobi, Kenya

July 14-17, 2026

22nd BRAZ-TESOL International Conference, Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil

August 24-25, 2026

16th AzETA International Conference, Baku, Azerbaijan





BRLCN

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New
Year

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