

**BRLCN**

# MONTHLY BRIEFING

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### THE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION



This year's conference welcomed more than 3,000 education leaders and experts from over 70 countries and regions, marking the largest attendance in APAIE's history.

### 2026 GLOBAL ENGLISH EDUCATION CHINA ASSEMBLY CALL FOR PROPOSALS



The 9th Global English Education China Assembly will be held in Beijing from July 23 to 26, 2026.



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

## MONTHLY BRIEFING

Issue 22, 2026

### 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) 10-858875188/7503

Email: [brlcni@21st.cn](mailto:brlcni@21st.cn)

### Newsletter online

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

On January 24, 2026, we marked the eighth International Day of Education. This year, the United Nations has chosen the theme “Youth Power in Co-Creating Education,” aiming to redefine the role of young people in transforming education.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres shared a sobering statistic in his addressing message: 272 million children and young people worldwide remain excluded from school due to poverty, conflict, or discrimination. He said that we must listen to young people and respond to their aspirations for qualified teachers, transformative skills, and equitable access to technology.

To commemorate this year's International Day of Education, UNESCO has outlined four systemic actions. From releasing the first global report measuring youth participation in educational decision-making, to showcasing empowering practices worldwide and promoting tools for youth engagement, the core message is clear: young people must move from being recipients of education to becoming co-creators of it.

In this issue of our newsletter, we are delighted to see this transformation in action. Beijing Language and Culture University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Ghana, opening new career pathways for West African youth through a “Chinese + Technology” model. Tianjin Foreign Studies University has established the China-Africa Digital Humanities Exchange Research Center, leveraging digital innovation to inspire young people to safeguard the memory of civilizations. Universities such as Tsinghua University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Beijing Normal University continue to deepen global partnerships, extending the reach of knowledge across Europe, Asia, and Africa. At academic conferences in Thailand, young Chinese scholars have joined international peers to explore cutting-edge practices in AI-empowered teaching.

Education is humanity's shared language. It transcends borders and beliefs, resonating in every soul that longs to grow. Through these cross-border co-creation initiatives, we are not only spreading knowledge but also connecting the future.

As spring comes, may this newsletter bring you fresh inspiration from global educational collaboration.

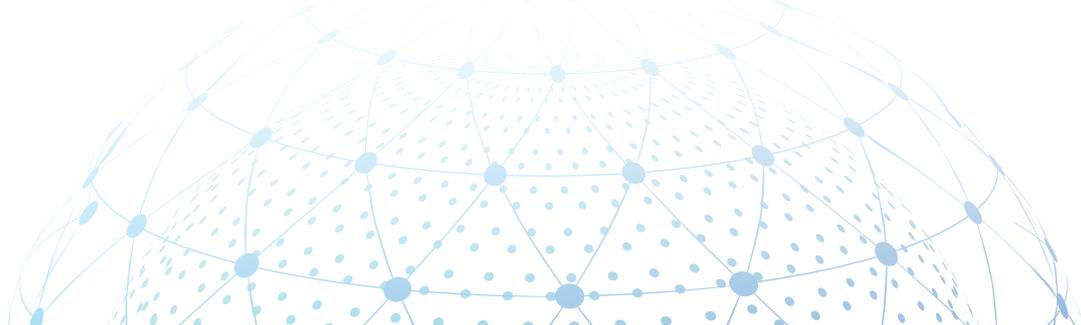
2026年1月24日，我们迎来了第八个“国际教育日”。今年，联合国将主题聚焦于“共创式教育中的青年力量”，旨在重新定义青年在教育变革中的角色。联合国秘书长古特雷斯在致辞中分享了一组沉重的数字：全球仍有2.72亿儿童和青年因贫困、冲突或歧视被阻隔在校门之外。他更发出恳切呼吁：“我们必须倾听年轻人的声音，响应他们对合格教师、变革性技能以及公平获取技术的期盼。”

联合国教科文组织为今年国际教育日规划了四项系统行动。从发布首份衡量青年参与教育决策的报告，到展示各类赋能青年的全球实践和青年参与工具的推广，核心指向只有一个：让青年从教育的“接受者”转变为教育的“共创者”。

在本期新闻信中，我们欣喜地看到这种转变正在发生：北京语言大学与加纳签署备忘录，通过“中文+技术”模式为西非青年开启职业新可能；天津外国语大学成立中非数字人文交流研究中心，以数字技术激发青年守护文明记忆的创造力；清华大学、上海交通大学、北京师范大学等高校持续深化全球合作，将知识的触角延伸至欧亚非大陆。在泰国的学术会议上，中国青年学者与各国同行共话AI赋能教学的前沿探索。

教育是人类共同的语言。它跨越国界与信仰，在每一个渴望成长的灵魂深处激起回响。通过这些跨国界的共创行动，我们不仅在传播知识，更在连接未来。

春意渐浓，愿这期新闻信为您带来全球教育合作的新气象。



## THE 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

2026 亚太国际教育协会年会暨展览在香港举行



Group photo of attendees at the 2026 Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education.

The 2026 Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education (APAIE) opened on February 24 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with the theme “Advancing Asia-Pacific Cooperation for a New Era in Global Education”. As one of the world’s three major international education conferences, this year’s conference brought together more than 3,000 leaders, experts, and scholars in international education from more than 70 countries and regions, marking the largest attendance in APAIE’s history.

The APAIE run for five days and featured a wide range of activities, including seminars, presidents’ forums, and education exhibitions. Key topics covered the internationalization of higher education, student mobility, and research collaboration. Participants also explored ways to build more inclusive and sustainable models of higher education cooperation in response to the rapidly changing global environment.

(Source: Phoenix News, The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

## 2026 GLOBAL ENGLISH EDUCATION CHINA ASSEMBLY CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2026 国际英语教育中国大会发言征集

The 9th Global English Education China Assembly will be held in Beijing from July 23 to 26, 2026. It provides a premier platform for participants to share expertise, explore evidence-based practices, and discuss emerging trends in the field of English Language Teaching (ELT). The event features a diverse range of sessions, including keynote and featured speeches, panel discussions, workshops, demonstrations, paper presentations, and poster sessions. It also highlights “Teachers Talk” English speech and exhibitions showcasing the latest educational technologies, audiovisual tools, and instructional materials.

### SUBMISSION PROCESS

Step 1: Register for the 2026 Global English Education China Assembly via the official website <https://tesol.i21st.cn/2026>  
Step 2: Submit your proposal online through the submission system.

### KEY DATES

Proposal Submission Deadline: May 5, 2026 (12:00 PM EDT/ 24:00 PM GMT +8)  
Notification of Acceptance: Late May 2026  
Payment Deadline for Accepted Speakers: May 31, 2026

### SUB-THEMES

AI and Technology-Enhanced Language Learning  
Teacher Education and Professional Development  
Second Language Acquisition and Cognitive Studies  
Pedagogy and Language Skills  
Content and Language Integrated Learning  
Curriculum Design, Materials Development and Assessment  
Development and Utilization of Teaching Resources  
Intercultural Communication and Global Competence  
Area Studies and International Communication  
Multilingualism and Multiculturalism  
English as a Medium of Instruction  
“Teachers Talk” English Speech

### PRESENTATION TYPE AND GUIDELINES

Panel discussion: 45 min, incl. Q&A 3–4 presenters  
A moderated session where experts discuss current ELT issues, focusing on practice, research, or advocacy.  
Workshop: 45 min, incl. Q&A 1–3 presenters  
An interactive, hands-on session designed to help participants solve specific problems or master teaching/research techniques.  
Mini Workshop: 15 min, incl. Q&A 1–2 presenters  
A focused, hands-on session designed to quickly address a specific pedagogical challenge or demonstrate a targeted teaching/research technique.  
Demonstration: 15 min, incl. Q&A 1–2 presenters  
A practical showcase of a specific teaching or assessment technique, supported by its underlying theoretical framework.  
Paper presentation: 15 min, incl. Q&A 1–2 presenters  
A formal presentation of original research, theoretical developments, or reflective practice.  
Teachers Talk: 5 min, incl. Q&A 1 presenter  
A TED-format speeches focusing on authentic and inspiring personal narratives of educational growth.  
Poster session  
A visual, self-explanatory exhibit allowing for informal, one-on-one discussions with participants.

### SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All proposals must be submitted in English and include the following:  
Title: Maximum 20 words.  
Abstract: Maximum 150 words.  
Presenter(s) Bio: Maximum 50 words per presenter

If you have any questions about registration or submissions, please contact the organizing committee at [tesol@i21st.cn](mailto:tesol@i21st.cn) or [proposal@i21st.cn](mailto:proposal@i21st.cn)

We look forward to welcoming you to Beijing this July!

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Jan 30-31

## NEPAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION 30th NELTA International Conference 2026

第 30 届尼泊尔英语教师协会学术会议举办

The 30th NELTA International Conference, with the theme “ELT for NextGen: Teaching for People, Planet, and Peace” was held on 30-31 January at Galaxy Public School, Kathmandu. The keynote speeches centered on English language teaching for Gen Z and future generations, discussing topics from the perspectives of inspective experience, the changing definition of effective language learner, to empirical research and classroom strategies on teaching and learning. The planetary speakers re-imagine the future of English pedagogy with the development of AI tools and reflect on the flexibility of the current curriculum and the methodology of English language teaching.

Jan 30-31

## THAILAND TESOL 45th Thailand TESOL International Conference 2026

第 45 届泰国英语教师协会国际会议举行

The 45th Thailand TESOL International Conference was held on 30-31 January 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. At the invitation of the organizing committee, 21st Century was privileged to recommend Yu Qingchu, Associate Professor of English at Wuhan Engineering Institute (BAOWU University), to present as a featured speaker at the conference. She delivered a featured speech with the title “AI Digital Teachers for Scalable Chinese Training and Belt-and-Road Cultural Exchange”.



Group photo of the attendees at the 45th Thailand TESOL International Conference.

Jan 25 - Feb 1

## SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY Memorandum of Understanding signed with Universities from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

上海交通大学与哈萨克斯坦、乌兹别克斯坦高校签署合作协议

Zhang Zhaoguo, Vice President of Shanghai Jiao Tong University and his delegation visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan from January 25 to February 1. During the visit, the delegation met with six universities, three national-level institutions, and two top secondary schools across the two countries. The Shanghai university signed several agreements with Kazakh-British Technical University, Tashkent State Technical University, Tashkent University of Technology, and International

Programs Center Bolashak. These agreements established a series of shared understandings and will inject new momentum into talent development, international education collaboration, and joint scientific research and innovation.



Zhang Zhaoguo (right), Vice President of Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Kadisha Dairova, Vice President of Nazarbayev University after signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

Jan 29

## TIANJIN FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY China-Africa Digital Humanities Exchange Research Center inaugurated

天外中非数字人文交流研究中心揭牌

Tianjin Foreign Studies University held the inauguration ceremony for the China-Africa Digital Humanities Exchange Research Center, along with a special lecture on Area Studies, at the Clock Tower Lecture Hall on campus on January 29. The center will focus on building a leading national “China-Africa Digital Language and Cultural Resources Database.” It also aims to develop flagship academic events and exchange programs, while promoting the digital transformation of cooperation in areas such as China-Africa language and culture, historical heritage, and educational collaboration. The initiative seeks to establish the center as a high-level platform for humanities exchange, integrating academic research, think tank services, cultural communication, and talent cultivation.



Ai Ping (second from left), Vice President of the Chinese Association for International Understanding; Luan Jianzhang (second from right), Party Secretary and Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of Tianjin Municipal People's Government; Li Yingying (first from left), President of Tianjin Foreign Studies University; and Feng Peng (first from right), Vice President of the university, jointly unveiled the plaque for the Center.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Jan 26-29

## UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Memorandums of Understanding signed with Kyrgyz National University and Bishkek State University

中国社会科学院大学与吉尔吉斯国立大学、乌兹别克斯坦世界经济与外交大学签署合作谅解备忘录



Representatives of University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Kyrgyz National University after signing the agreement.

Xu Jincheng, Party Secretary of Tianjin Foreign Studies University, visited Kyrgyzstan from January 26 to 28. The delegation held meetings with the presidents of Kyrgyz National University and Bishkek State University, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Kyrgyz National University. The delegation also visited and signed an agreement with the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan. Both universities agreed on collaboration in faculty exchange, scientific research cooperation, and talent cultivation, laying a solid foundation for further practical cooperation.

Jan 22

## SHAANXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with University of Szeged, Hungary

陕西师范大学与匈牙利塞格德大学签署合作协议



Representatives after signing an agreement.

László Rovó, President of University of Szeged in Hungary, along with Péter Zakar, Vice President, and their delegation visited Shaanxi Normal University on January 22. During the visit, the two universities signed an agreement to jointly establish a Sino-foreign cooperative education institution. Chen Xinbing, President of Shaanxi Normal University, said that the two universities are actively advancing the application process for the joint institution, which will play a significant role in enhancing the internationalization of both universities and promoting the cultivation of globally oriented talent.

Jan 20

## BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Ghana

北京语言大学接待加纳高级别代表团并签署合作协议



Representatives after signing the agreements.

Duan Peng, President of Beijing Language and Culture University, met with Augustus Obuadum Tano, Presidential Advisor of Ghana and head of the Ghana 24-Hour Economy Secretariat on January 19. Following the meeting, President Duan Peng, Advisor Tano, and Akwasi Agyeman, Deputy CEO of the Ghana Tourism Authority, jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Beijing University, the Ghana 24-Hour Economy Secretariat, and the Ghana Tourism Authority under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Creative Arts (Ghana).

The university and its Ghanaian partners agree to establish a high-level and institutionalized cooperation mechanism, deepening practical collaboration in areas including "Chinese + Technology" interdisciplinary talent development, youth exchanges, protection of language and cultural resources, tourism and cultural communication, and the establishment of joint research institutes.

Jan 19-23

## QSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Agreements signed with the Technical University of Munich and Hamburg University of Technology

清华大学与慕尼黑工业大学、汉堡工业大学签署合作协议



Li Luming (left), President of Tsinghua University, and Thomas F. Hofmann, President of the Technical University of Munich after signing an agreement.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, visited Switzerland and Germany from January 19 to 23. During the trip, he attended the World Economic Forum's 56th Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland, participated in the Global Forum of University Presidents, and took part in the council meeting of the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate.

While abroad, Li also visited leading local universities, research institutions, and industry-leading companies, promoting international cooperation in education, science and technology, talent development, and sustainable development. During the visit, he met with representatives from Technical University of Munich and Hamburg University of Technology, and signed Memorandum of Understanding with both institutions.

Jan 17

## SOUTH CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The 2025 Annual Meeting of Confucius Institute University Alliance in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

2025年粤港澳大湾区孔子学院合作大学联盟年会在华南师范大学召开

The 2025 annual meeting of the Confucius Institute University Alliance in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (hereinafter referred to as "the Alliance") was held at South China Normal University on January 17. The meeting, under the theme "Empowering Confucius Institute Development through Digital Intelligence", discussed about the development mechanisms and innovative pathways for Confucius Institutes in the context of digital transformation. About 30 representatives, including directors of Confucius Institutes and guest delegates from 10 member universities, attended the event.

Experts said it was important to seize opportunities presented by digitalization, to deepen the integration of "Chinese language + vocational education," and to promote the transformation of international Chinese language education from tool-based applications toward ecosystem development, thereby contributing Greater Bay Area experience to the global development of Confucius Institutes.



Group photo of attendees.

Jan 12

## BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The inauguration ceremony of the Joint Secretariat for World Digital Education Alliance held

世界数字教育联盟联合秘书处成立仪式在北京师范大学举行

The inauguration ceremony of the Joint Secretariat for World Digital Education Alliance was held at Beijing Normal University on January

12. More than 100 experts and representatives from the Alliance's Expert Advisory Committee, Standardization Committee, and member institutions gathered in a hybrid format to participate in the event.

Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University and Chair of the World Digital Education Alliance, said that the establishment of the Joint Secretariat marks the Alliance's entry into a new stage of institutionalized operation and professional development. The Secretariat will provide a more open, efficient, and pragmatic cooperation platform for member institutions, contributing to the global digital transformation, intelligent upgrading, and green development of education.



The inauguration ceremony of the Joint Secretariat for World Digital Education Alliance in session.

Jan 9

## SICHUAN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

四川外国语大学与俄罗斯下诺夫哥罗德国立语言大学续签合作协议

Nikita Avralev, President of Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod in Russia, visited Sichuan International Studies University and attended the 12th Board Meeting of the Confucius Institute jointly established by the two universities on January 9. Avralev said that Sichuan International Studies University is the most important partner of the Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod. The two institutions have maintained cooperation for more than 20 years, and their jointly established Confucius Institute is about to enter its 15th year of operation. The two universities also discussed the development of interdisciplinary programs under the "Foreign Language +" model, and renewed the inter-university exchange and cooperation agreement.



Dong Hongchuan (left), President of Sichuan International Studies University, and Nikita Avralev, President of the Linguistics University of Nizhny Novgorod, after signing an agreement.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Jan 2

## BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

Beihang Valencia Polytechnic Institute established

北京航空航天大学与西班牙瓦伦西亚理工大学合作设立中西智能学院



Zhao Changlu, Party Secretary of Beihang University, and José E. Capilla, Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de València, jointly met with a delegation led by José Manuel Albares, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Spain.

Beihang Valencia Polytechnic Institute, jointly founded by Beihang University and Universitat Politècnica de València in Spain was approved by Chinese-Foreign Cooperation in Running Schools under China's Ministry of Education.

The new institute is the first Sino-foreign cooperative education institution in China jointly established with a Spanish university that offers a full degree system covering bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs. It is located at the Beihang University Hangzhou International Campus in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province. The institute will focus on cutting-edge fields including artificial intelligence, embodied intelligence, intelligent manufacturing, and intelligent communications, and aims to cultivate high-level interdisciplinary talent through innovative Sino-foreign integrated education models.

# COMING EVENTS

## 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

## July 23-26, 2026

9th Global English Education China Assembly, Beijing, China

## August 24-25, 2026

16th AzETA International Conference, Baku, Azerbaijan

## September 12-13, 2026

34th MELTA International Conference 2026, Ipoh, Malaysia

## October 1-3, 2026

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