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### 2026 WORLD DIGITAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



[Photo/Xinhua]

The 2026 World Digital Education Conference, with the theme "AI and Education: Transformation, Development and Governance", opened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on May 11.

### OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHINA-RUSSIA YEARS OF EDUCATION HELD IN BEIJING



[Photo/Xinhua]

China-Russia cooperation in education has continued to deepen and yielded fruitful results, enriching the substance of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era.



“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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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

We welcome another International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations in June. Established by the United Nations, this occasion conveys a simple yet profound belief to the world: genuine peace and progress begin with listening to and understanding one another across civilizations.

Language is perhaps the most powerful bridge in this dialogue.

This July, the Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network, in partnership with the 2026 Global English Education China Assembly, will jointly present a special session of Leaders' Talk. We are bringing together leading scholars in English language education, presidents of international English teachers' associations, deans from universities in China and abroad, and international student representatives to have an in-depth discussion around a central question:

How can language serve as a bridge between cultures? We seek to explore:

As English continues to serve as a global lingua franca, how can countries preserve and pass on their indigenous cultures while embracing international communication? What successful experiences demonstrate that mastering a foreign language does not weaken cultural identity, but rather empowers local cultures to reach a wider global audience?

At a time when the Belt and Road Initiative is fostering deeper connectivity and people-to-people exchanges are becoming increasingly frequent, how can language and cultural programs promote the social integration of immigrants, ethnic minorities, and international youth? Which policies and initiatives offer valuable lessons for achieving intercultural harmony and mutual understanding?

These are precisely the issues that bring the spirit of dialogue among civilizations to life.

Through Leaders' Talk, we look forward to educational leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds sharing their insights, exchanging perspectives, and inspiring new ideas. Let language be our bridge and dialogue our vessel as we work together to explore a more inclusive future—one characterized by mutual learning, mutual respect, and shared progress.

See you in Beijing this July.

六月，夏意正浓，我们迎来了又一个“文明对话国际日”。这一由联合国设立的日子，向世界传递一个朴素而深刻的信念：真正的和平与进步，始于不同文明之间的倾听与理解。

而语言，正是这场对话中最具力量的桥梁。

七月，“一带一路”语言教育文化组织联盟将与2026国际英语教育中国大会携手，共同推出“Leaders' Talk”专场。我们邀请各国英语教育领域的专家学者、海外英语教师协会主席、海内外高校院长及留学生代表，围绕一个核心话题展开深度对话：语言如何成为文化的桥梁？

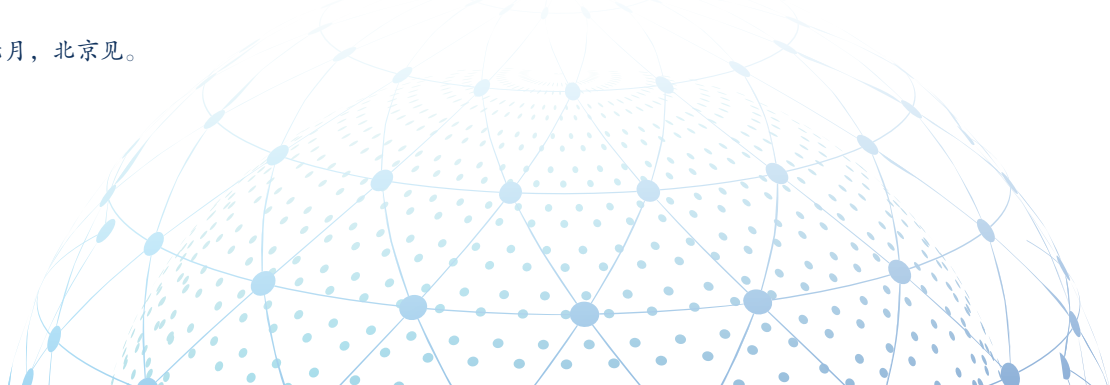
我们关心的是：

在学习英语这一全球通用语的时候，不同国家如何保护与传承本土文化？有哪些成功经验证明，掌握外语不会削弱文化认同，反而能让本土文化更好地走向世界？

在“一带一路”倡议深入推进、各国人员往来日益频繁的今天，我们如何通过语言和文化项目，促进移民、少数民族及国际青年的社会融入？哪些政策或项目为跨文化和谐共处提供了有益借鉴？

这些议题，正是对“文明对话”最生动的诠释。我们期待，在“Leaders' Talk”中，来自不同文化背景的教育领袖分享真知灼见，碰撞思想火花。让我们以语言为桥，以对话为舟，共同探索一个更加包容、互鉴的未来。

七月，北京见。



## 2026 WORLD DIGITAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

### 2026 世界数字教育大会在浙江杭州举行



The opening ceremony in session.

The 2026 World Digital Education Conference opened in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province on May 11. With the theme “AI and Education: Transformation, Development and Governance”, the conference explored how artificial intelligence can drive systemic transformation

in education, promote high-quality educational development and foster a new paradigm of inclusive, secure and sustainable global governance.

More than 850 participants from 65 countries and regions gathered in Hangzhou, including government officials, heads of international organizations, diplomatic envoys to China, presidents of leading universities, and renowned Chinese and international experts and scholars. They exchanged views on global trends and emerging opportunities in the integration of artificial intelligence and education, and discussed how AI can advance systemic transformation across education systems worldwide.

At the closing ceremony, a signing ceremony was held for international cooperation projects on artificial intelligence. The conference also released eight major research outcomes, including the China Smart Education Development Report (2025–2026), the Global Digital Education Development Index (2026), and the Top 10 Global Research Hotspots in Digital Education (2026).

(Sources: Ministry of Education of China; Xinhua News; World Digital Education Conference)

## OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CHINA-RUSSIA YEARS OF EDUCATION HELD IN BEIJING

### “中俄教育年”开幕式在北京举行

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin jointly attended the opening ceremony of the China-Russia Years of Education at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 20. President Xi said that this year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Russia strategic cooperative partnership and the 25th anniversary of the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. Over the years, China-Russia cooperation in education has continued to deepen and yielded fruitful results, enriching the substance of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era. Taking the China-Russia Years of Education as an opportunity, the two sides should further strengthen consensus on cooperation, expand areas of collaboration, and elevate the level of educational exchanges and cooperation.

Putin said that educational cooperation is an indispensable component of the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between Russia and China, and that the launch of the Russia-China Years

of Education is of milestone significance. He said that the initiative features a rich agenda and large-scale activities. Russia stands ready to work with China to enhance mutual understanding among younger generations through closer educational cooperation, ensure that the cause of Russia-China friendship is carried forward by future generations, and promote greater development of bilateral relations.

Witnessed by the two heads of state, a number of leading Chinese and Russian universities signed cooperation agreements, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Beijing Foreign Studies University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Fudan University, Saint Petersburg State University, Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, and Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.

(Source: Xinhua News; Fudan University)

# MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

马来西亚奎斯特国际大学

QUEST INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# QIU

QUEST INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

(DU021(A))

Quest International University (QIU) is a comprehensive, research-led private university in Ipoh. It comprises six faculties: the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy, the Faculty of Business and Management, the Faculty of Computer Engineering, the Faculty of Biosciences, and the Faculty of Social Sciences. It offers more than 40 academic programs, including foundation studies, diploma programs, undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs, as well as

professional qualifications such as ACCA, providing students with comprehensive learning opportunities. The University aspires to be a model research-led private university with global strategic linkages oriented to deliver quality programmes and interdisciplinary research of international standing.

Website: <https://qiu.edu.my/zh/>



# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

May 25

## CHINA FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan

外交学院与巴基斯坦外交学院签署合作谅解备忘录



Wang Shiting, Secretary of the Party Committee of the China Foreign Affairs University, and Syed Qalandar Kirmani, Additional Secretary for Asia-Pacific Affairs of Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President of the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on behalf of their respective institutions at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 25. The year 2026 marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Moving forward, the two sides will make full use of the cooperation framework to further deepen practical cooperation in an all-round and multi-level manner, while continuously strengthening educational exchanges in the diplomatic field, and continuously consolidate the bonds of China-Pakistan friendship.

May 25

## JIANGSU UNIVERSITY

The Jiangsu University Deakin University Joint Institute approved

江苏大学迪肯大学联合学院获批设立

The Jiangsu University Deakin University Joint Institute, jointly established by Jiangsu University and Deakin University of Australia, was approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education on May 25. With this approval, Jiangsu University has thus become one of the few Chinese universities operating two Sino-foreign cooperative educational institutions. The Joint Institute fully integrates the high-quality academic resources of both universities. In its initial phase, it will offer three undergraduate programs: Electrical Engineering and Automation, Software Engineering, and Data Computing and Applications. Adopting a "4+0" education model, the institute will have a planned enrollment capacity of 1,200 students. The institute is expected to begin student recruitment in 2027.

The successful establishment of the Joint Institute represents a significant milestone in Jiangsu University's commitment to internationalization and educational opening-up. It also serves as a testament to the university's continued efforts to enhance the global dimension of its education and strengthen international cooperation in higher education.

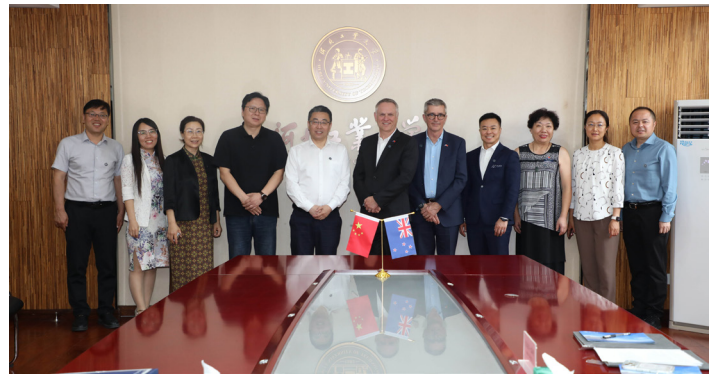
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## HEBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Agreement signed with Massey University of New Zealand

河北工业大学与新加坡梅西大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Alastair Crozier, Education Counsellor at the New Zealand Embassy in China, and Professor Pierre Venter, Vice-Chancellor of Massey University, visited the Langfang Campus of Hebei University of Technology on May 24. Crozier said that educational cooperation between China and New Zealand is built on a solid foundation and has yielded fruitful results. As of April 2026, the two countries had established 70 jointly operated educational programs and institutions. During the meeting, Hebei University of Technology and Massey University signed a service cooperation agreement for the Master of Information Science (2+0) Program. The agreement marks a new milestone in the partnership between the two universities and reflects their commitment to advancing cooperation at a higher level, with greater quality and broader impact.



A group photo of representatives from both universities.

May 23

## JILIN UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay

吉林大学与乌拉圭机构签署产业协同合作谅解备忘录



Zhang Guoxing (right), Vice President of Jilin University, and Matías Carámbula, Vice Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, after signing an agreement.

A delegation led by Matías Carámbula, Vice Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, visited Jilin University on May 23. During the visit, the two sides signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint Establishment of the China-Uruguay Belt and Road Joint Laboratory for Animal Health and Food Safety. The agreement aims

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

to deepen practical cooperation between China and Uruguay in the fields of agriculture and veterinary science, and to promote coordinated industrial development between Jilin and Uruguay. Zhang Guoxing, Vice President of Jilin University, said that the enhanced cooperation in agriculture and veterinary science represents an important practical step toward implementing the China-Uruguay Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and advancing the Five-Year Agricultural Cooperation Plan between the two countries. He expressed the hope that, building on existing achievements and guided by the principle of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, both sides would continue to deepen practical cooperation in agricultural science and technology, promote the integrated development of industry, academia, research and application, and elevate bilateral cooperation to a higher level of quality and effectiveness.

May 23

## HANGZHOU NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Letter of Intent on Cooperation signed with the Embassy of Pakistan in China

杭州师范大学与巴基斯坦驻华大使馆签署合作意向书

Hangzhou Normal University and the Embassy of Pakistan in China signed a Letter of Intent on Cooperation for the Joint Establishment of the China-Pakistan Joint Technology Research Center at Hangzhou Normal University on May 23. The jointly established China-Pakistan Joint Technology Research Center will leverage the university's strengths in such distinctive disciplines as the digital economy and e-commerce. Focusing on four key areas—digital industrial upgrading, cutting-edge technological innovation, professional talent cultivation, and cross-border trade and commerce—the center aims to serve as an international cooperation platform that promotes connectivity and collaborative innovation among universities, research institutions, and enterprises in both countries. The initiative is expected to contribute to higher-quality opening-up in Zhejiang Province and further advance practical cooperation between China and Pakistan across a broader range of sectors and at a deeper level.

May 20-24

## SHANTOU UNIVERSITY

The 6th Psychology of Language Learning Conference

第六届国际语言学习心理学会议举办



The opening ceremony in session.

The 6th Psychology of Language Learning Conference (PLL6) was held in Shantou, Guangdong Province from May 20 to 24. The conference featured more than 200 parallel sessions and brought together over 350 scholars from 150 universities and institutions worldwide for

academic exchanges and presentations. Discussions covered a wide range of cutting-edge topics in the psychology of language learning and teaching. In addition, a series of workshops were offered, focusing on advanced research approaches such as meta-analysis, Q methodology, and vignette methodology.

The Psychology of Language Learning Conference, organized biennially by the International Association for the Psychology of Language Learning, is a leading international academic event in the field. Since its inception in 2014, the conference has been hosted in countries including Austria, Finland, Japan, Canada, and Spain, serving as a premier platform for scholarly exchange on the psychology of language learning and teaching. The hosting of PLL6 in China marks the first time the conference has been held in the country. It reflects the growing international influence of Chinese scholarship in the field of the psychology of language learning and represents a new milestone in China's engagement with the global academic community in this area.

May 17-23

## SHANDONG UNIVERSITY

Agreements signed with Institutions and Universities in Mexico and Brazil

山东大学与墨西哥、巴西机构和高校签署多个合作协议



Cao Xianqiang (right), Vice President of Shandong University, and Marcos Sfeir, President of the Federal University of Paraná after signing the agreement.

Cao Xianqiang, Vice President of Shandong University, visited Mexico and Brazil from May 17 to 23. During the visit to Mexico, Shandong University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Cooperation with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History and the Mexico-China Cultural Development Foundation. The three parties jointly inaugurated the China-Mexico Joint Archaeological Center, which will serve as a platform for deeper collaboration in archaeological research, cultural heritage preservation, and academic exchange.

At the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), the School of Archaeology and Museology and the School of Space Science and Technology of Shandong University signed agreements with the Institute of Anthropological Research and the Institute of Geophysics, respectively. The agreements reflect a shared commitment to advancing collaborative scientific research, establishing high-level joint laboratories, and cultivating high-caliber talent through closer academic cooperation.

During the visit to Brazil, Shandong University signed an agreement on cooperation in International Chinese Language Education Cooperation with the Federal University of Paraná. The two institutions will work closely to address local talent development needs, jointly develop training and practicum programs, establish a coordinated, practice-oriented, and systematic education platform, and cultivate interdisciplinary professionals with expertise in both the Chinese language and specialized fields.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

May 17-23

## SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

上海外国语大学与意大利米兰圣心大学签署合作协议



Yin Dongmei (left), Secretary of the Party Committee of Shanghai International Studies University, and representative of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan after signing the agreement.

Yin Dongmei, Secretary of the Party Committee of Shanghai International Studies University, visited Greece and Italy from May 17 to 23. During the visit to Italy, the university signed an agreement with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan on a 3+2 integrated bachelor's–master's program in Italian Studies. The two sides also reached a series of cooperation intentions in areas including interdisciplinary research on computational linguistics and artificial intelligence, an international in-service doctoral program in higher education, a master's program in media management, and the joint development of short-term cross-border credit-bearing courses.

May 21

## CENTRAL SOUTH UNIVERSITY

China–Indonesia Institute of Elite Engineers inaugurated

中国–印度尼西亚卓越工程师学院在中南大学揭牌



The Inauguration Ceremony in session.

The inauguration ceremony of the China–Indonesia Institute of Elite Engineers was held at the Yuelu Mountain Campus of Central South University on May 21. The institute is jointly established by five partners: Central South University, GEM Co., Ltd., SANY Group Co., Ltd., Bandung Institute of Technology, and QMB New Energy Materials Co., Ltd. Focusing on key areas that underpin China–Indonesia economic cooperation—including geosciences, mining engineering, metallurgy, new energy materials, construction machinery, and

artificial intelligence—the institute aims to cultivate interdisciplinary engineering talent with global perspectives, cross-cultural competence, and strong practical skills. It is expected to contribute to deeper integration of the industrial and supply chains of the two countries.

Li Jiancheng, President of Central South University, said the launch of the institute marks a new milestone in cooperation between the two universities and opens a new chapter in university–industry collaboration to support the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and foster outstanding engineering professionals for the future.

May 20

## TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Saint Petersburg State University

清华大学与圣彼得堡国立大学签署合作备忘录

Qiu Yong, Secretary of the Party Committee of Tsinghua University, and Nikolay Kropachev, Rector of Saint Petersburg State University, signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the Joint Establishment of the China–Russia Institute for Innovation between the two universities on May 20. The institute will be oriented toward innovation, forward-looking development, and interdisciplinary integration, with the aim of building an international innovation platform that integrates academic research, talent cultivation, and industrial transformation.

May 18

## SHANDONG NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Agreement signed with the University of Music and Theatre Hamburg

山东师范大学与德国汉堡音乐学院签署合作协议



Feng Jikang (left), Secretary of the Party Committee of Shandong Normal University, and Michael Petermann, President of the University of Music and Theatre Hamburg, after signing the agreement.

Michael Petermann, President of the University of Music and Theatre Hamburg, led a delegation on a visit to Shandong Normal University on May 18. Feng Jikang, Secretary of the Party Committee of Shandong Normal University, and Petermann jointly signed an inter-university friendship and cooperation agreement as well as an agreement on a joint student cultivation program on behalf of their respective institutions.

The University of Music and Theatre Hamburg became the 190th overseas partner university of Shandong Normal University. Feng said that the continuous deepening of the China–Germany comprehensive strategic partnership has provided fertile ground for practical cooperation in education and the arts between universities of the two countries. Educational exchanges with Germany, as an important component of the university's internationalization efforts, have broad prospects for future development, he added.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

May 10-15

## BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Agreements signed with Institutions and Universities in Egypt and Tunisia

北京第二外国语学院与埃及、突尼斯机构及高校签署多个合作协议



Li Biyou (left), Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing International Studies University, and Khelba, Vice President of the University of Sousse, after unveiling the Confucius Institute for Tourism at the University of Sousse, Tunisia.

Li Biyou, Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing International Studies University, led a delegation on visits to Egypt and Tunisia from May 10 to 15. During the visits, the delegation signed multiple cooperation and exchange agreements with relevant ministries, universities, and institutions in both countries, advanced the establishment of branch centers of the China-Arab Research Center on Culture and Tourism Cooperation, and attended the inauguration ceremony of the Confucius Institute for Tourism at the University of Sousse in Tunisia.

The new institute will become the second Confucius Institute in Tunisia after the Confucius Institute of Carthage and the seventh Confucius Institute jointly established with the participation of Beijing International Studies University.

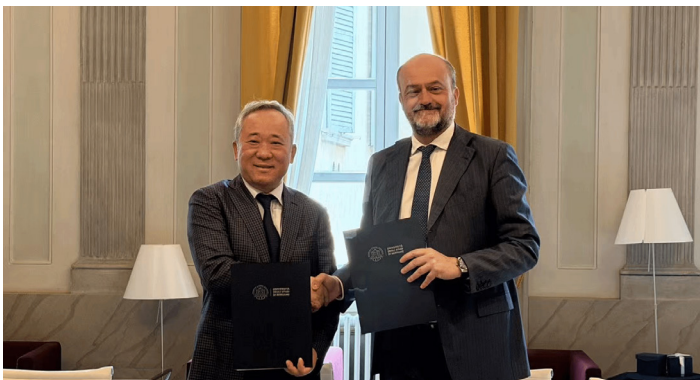
During the visit to Egypt, the delegation signed framework agreements on cooperation with the Supreme Council of Culture of Egypt and Badr University, respectively, and jointly inaugurated a High-Quality Student Source Base with the latter.

May 6

## BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

Agreements signed with the University of Bergamo and University of Carthage

北京语言大学与贝加莫大学、迦太基大学签署合作协议



Duan Peng (left), President of Beijing Language and Culture University, and Sergio Cavaliere, Rector of the University of Bergamo, after signing the agreement.

Duan Peng, president of Beijing Language and Culture University, led a delegation on visits to Italy, Tunisia, and Morocco. During the visit, the university established strategic cooperation channels for the first time with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, and the Arab States Broadcasting Union. During the visit to Italy, the university signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural and Scientific Cooperation and a Student Exchange Agreement with Università degli Studi di Bergamo. The two universities will encourage exchanges among faculty members, students, and researchers, and pursue cooperation in joint research, dual-degree programs, and jointly established research institutes.

During the visit to Tunisia, President Duan Peng signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation with Nadia Mazouzi Akil, President of the University of Carthage. The agreement aims to establish a stable and productive partnership in higher education and scientific research, while promoting collaboration between academic institutions and the business community.

# COMING EVENTS

## 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

## October 28 - November 8, 2026

China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education, Beijing