

BRLCN BRIEFING



2024 Global MOOC and online education conference in session.

The official newsletter of
the Belt and Road
Languages and Cultures network

Published by
the BRLCN secretariat

CONTENTS

- A message from the secretariat
- Highlights
- Council members' activities
- Coming events



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

BRLCN BRIEFING

Issue 11, January 2025

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) 10-64995598/5494

Email: brlcni21st.cn

Newsletter online

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

SECRETARIAT'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As the Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network enters its third calendar year we can look back with some satisfaction on what we have achieved together since the network was founded in October 2023. We believe that two fitting one-word descriptions of 2024 would be trust and progress. Activities carefully planned by the secretariat always received swift and enthusiastic responses from all of you. Whenever the secretariat faced challenges, many were eager to offer their advice and help. Moreover, your unstinting support for the secretariat's decisions has been instrumental in ensuring great progress in our work.

As we look to the coming year, a word that particularly resonates is innovation, and we are keen to draw on the many conveniences that various technologies deliver to add vitality to the network. We believe technology can be a powerful driver of educational equity and can lubricate the wheels of cultural exchange, guiding us to journey further and wider on the path of educational and cultural collaboration.

As President Xi Jinping said in his New Year address, "Dreams and wishes may be far, but they can be fulfilled with dedicated pursuit." The network's journey is one of years and decades rather than weeks and months, and with clear direction and unity we will surely achieve the goals we set for ourselves.

In that spirit, here is some inspiration from Sikhumbuzo Sibanda, President of the National Association of English Teachers of South Africa, BRLCN's newest friend and partner, who said: "Together we can do more."

大家好！时光荏苒，转瞬之间，我们再度携手步入了充满希望的2025年！

自2023年10月联盟成立以来，我们并肩同行，共同探索与经历，取得了诸多令人振奋的成就。若要为2024年贴上一个标签，“信任”和“高效”无疑是最为贴切的形容。秘书处精心策划的各类活动，总能迅速得到大家的积极响应；秘书处面对的任何挑战，大家无不踊跃献计献策；对于秘书处的各项决策，大家亦给予了坚定的支持。正是有了大家的信任和鼎力相助，我们的工作才得以如此高效推进，成绩斐然。

展望2025年，我们期许能紧紧拥抱“创新”这一理念，充分利用科技带来的诸多便利，为联盟这个温馨的大家庭注入更多活力。让科技成为推动教育公平的强大动力，让科技成为促进文化交流的重要桥梁，引领我们在教育文化交流的道路上越走越远，越走越宽广。

中国国家主席习近平在2025年新年贺词视频中寄语：“梦虽遥追则能达。”联盟未来的征程依然漫长且充满挑战，但只要我们方向明确，团结一心，定能抵达梦想的彼岸。

在此，借用我们的新伙伴——南非英语教师协会主席Sikhumbuzo Sibanda先生在联盟第二次理事会上分享的那句鼓舞人心的话语来与大家共勉：“Together we can do more.”

2024 BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COLLABORATION

2024 “一带一路”语言教育文化论坛成功举行



Zeng Qingkai, Editor-in-Chief of 21st Century, China Daily, delivered a speech.

This forum, with the theme “Language connectivity: A path to quality Belt and Road development” was held in Beijing in both online and offline formats on December 30. It aimed to foster dialogue and exchange between China and other countries in the fields of language, education and culture so as to drive quality Belt and Road development.

In the opening ceremony, Zeng Qingkai, Editor-in-Chief of 21st Century, China Daily, said the theme of the forum was in line with the idea of promoting interconnectedness among Belt and Road partner countries. He made three key proposals on improving language and cultural exchanges as part of the Belt and Road Initiative: to strengthen the cultivation of language talent to lay a solid foundation for language connectivity; to seize the opportunities of the digital age to innovate with collaboration and exchange models; and to enhance mutual understanding among young people to consolidate the power of cultural exchange and mutual learning.

Six experts and scholars from China, Brazil, Italy and the United Kingdom delivered keynote speeches on international language and culture, and on deepening language education collaboration and improving cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries. Representatives of members of the Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network, as well as experts, scholars and teachers of language and in cultural fields from China and overseas took part in the forum online.



Keynote speakers (Clockwise from top left): Prof. Li Yuming from Beijing Language and Culture University, Daniela Cucurullo from TESOL Italy, Prof. Cheng Aimin from China Association for International Education, Prof. George Xinsheng Zhang from Richmond American University London, Prof. Lixian Jin from International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies and Lucia Rodrigues Alves from BRAZ-TESOL.

SECOND COUNCIL MEETING OF BELT AND ROAD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES NETWORK

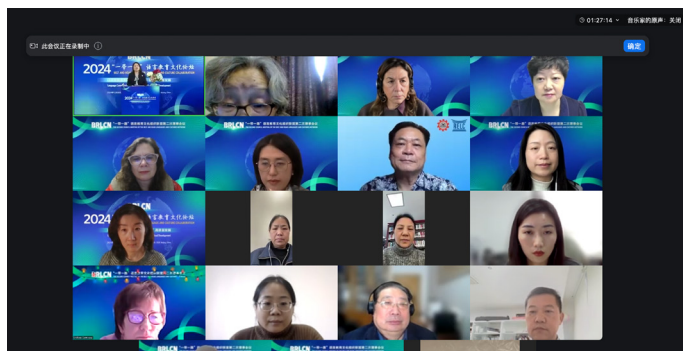
“一带一路”语言教育文化组织联盟理事会第二次会议顺利召开

This was held on December 30, 2024, with 51 representatives of member organizations attending online.

Zhang Haigang, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of 21st Century, China Daily, summarized the network’s work over the year and reported on the work plan for 2025, on behalf of the secretariat. This year the network will continue to innovate with the mission of paving the way through language and building bridges through culture, he said. The main task of the network is to implement the consensus adopted at the first council meeting of the network, to organize international academic activities and to promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries, he said.

Four representatives of council member organizations gave their views and offered suggestions on the network’s future. They were: Dr Alvin Pang of the SEAMO Regional Language Center (Singapore); Professor Shang Xin of Shanghai University; Professor Svetlana Sannikova of the National Association of Teachers of English in Russia; and Professor Liu Yanhui of Ningxia University, Yinchuan.

Sikhumbuzo Sibanda, president of the National Association of English Teachers of South Africa, a new member of the network, said he looked forward to working with other member organizations to improve the quality of English education in his country and to fostering cross-cultural exchange.



The second council meeting in session.

2024 GLOBAL MOOC AND ONLINE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

2024 世界慕课与在线教育大会成功召开



Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, spoke at the opening ceremony.

At this conference, at Queen Mary University of London on December 12, the theme was “Reimagining the future of higher education in the intelligence era”, and the concept of “the first year of intelligent education” in global higher education was presented. During the event the Report on the Digital Development of Global Higher Education (2024) and The Digital Development Index of Global Higher Education (2024) were published. In addition, typical applications of intelligent education were explored, and the latest achievements in educational digitalization in various countries were exhibited. There were four thematic sessions, on the reconstruction of university models, ethical risks of artificial intelligence, professional capabilities and digital literacy, and new teaching paradigms centered on practical application. More than 340 participants, including leaders and experts from 135 universities, online education platforms, international organizations and government agencies in 32 countries and regions, took part.

CHINA-UK UNIVERSITIES ROUNDTABLE AND LAUNCH OF THE UK YOUNG ENVOYS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

中英高校圆桌会暨“欧洲翻番”倡议英国站正式启动

These two events were held at Queen Mary University of London on December 12. Wu Yan, China’s Vice Minister of the Ministry of Education, Zheng Zeguang, China’s Ambassador to the UK, and Jacqueline Jill Smith, Minister of State in the UK Department for Education, attended and delivered speeches. Leaders of 24 universities and educational institutions from China and the UK took part and discussed topics such as “Open scientific exchange and cooperation” and “China-UK student mobility and collaboration”. An initiative called Europe Doubling, proposed by President Xi Jinping when he visited Europe last May, aims to double the scale of youth exchanges between China and Europe over the next three years.



The launch ceremony of the UK Young Envoys Scholarship Programme.

CHINA-EUROPE TOP UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS’ DIALOGUE

2024 中欧顶尖校长对话成功召开



Representatives at the China-Europe Top University Presidents’ Dialogue.

This event, held at University College London on December 13, was jointly organized by the Association of University Presidents of China and the League of European Research Universities. Presidents of a total of 16 Chinese and European universities discussed the internationalization of higher education, research collaboration, talent cultivation and cultural exchange. They also discussed optimizing cooperation mechanisms, expanding collaborative areas and improving the effectiveness of partnerships.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Dec
23

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, BEIJING

The university signed MoU with Moscow State Technical University of Bauman

清华大学与莫斯科国立鲍曼技术大学签署合作备忘录

The university and Bauman Moscow State Technical University signed a memorandum of understanding on December 23. Mikhail Gordin, Rector of the Moscow institution, and a delegation were welcomed by President Li Luming, and they discussed extending collaboration in areas such as scientific research innovation and joint talent cultivation programs.



Representatives of Tsinghua University and of Moscow State Technical University of Bauman on December 23.

Dec
13-15

BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The 6th Annual Conference of China Universities Alliance for the Development of Foreign Language and Literature Discipline

第六届中国高校外语学科发展联盟年会在北京师范大学举办

The sixth annual conference of the China Universities Alliance for the Development of Foreign Language and Literature Discipline was held at the university from December 13 to 15. The conference, with the theme "Promoting innovative development of disciplines and accelerating the construction of a quality education system", attracted about 100 experts who looked at developments in foreign-language and literature learning and teaching. In addition to keynote speeches, the conference featured sub-forums that discussed various aspects of foreign-language and literature discipline development, including the empowerment of artificial intelligence, international talent cultivation, teacher professional development, international communication capabilities and foreign-language curriculum reform.



The annual conference of the China Universities Alliance for the Development of Foreign Language and Literature Discipline in session.

Dec
10

DALIAN UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES, LIAONING PROVINCE

The "Young Envoys Scholarship" in Liaoning Province Launched

辽宁省 YES 法国项目暨 2024 大连外国语大学中法大学生人文交流项目启动

On December 10 the university hosted the launch ceremony for the Young Envoys Scholarship France Program in Liaoning and the 2024 China-France Student Exchange Program. The Young Envoys Scholarship France Program will welcome 27 French students and faculty, with a series of activities planned, including professional coursework, school visits, local business tours and cultural exchange events. These activities aim to enhance mutual understanding and foster long-lasting friendships between young people of both countries. The Young Envoys Scholarship was initiated by the leaders of China and France as the two countries last year celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries being established. The scholarship is designed to build bridges and promote in-depth exchanges between Chinese and French youth in various fields, including culture, education and innovation.

Dec
9-15

BEIHANG UNIVERSITY, BEIJING

The university signed agreements with universities and research institutions in France and Austria

北京航空航天大学与法国、奥地利多所大学、科研机构签署合作协议

The President of the university, Wang Yunpeng, led a delegation to France and Austria from December 9 to 15, during which he signed agreements with several institutions, including the École supérieure de physique et de chimie industrielles de la ville de Paris, Université Paris-Saclay and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria.



Wang Yunpeng (right) and Vincent Croquette, President of the École supérieure de physique et de chimie industrielles de la ville de Paris, signing an agreement.

Dec
8-15

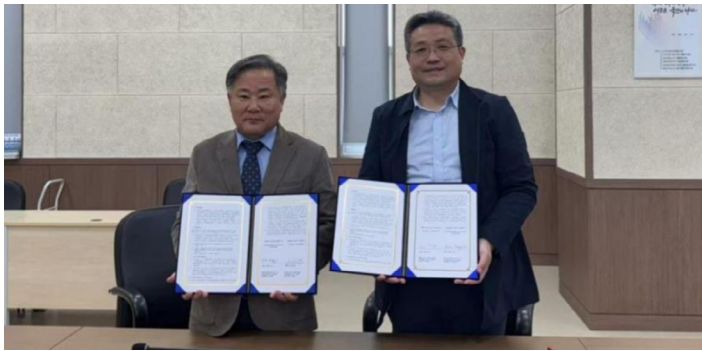
JIANGSU UNIVERSITY, ZHENJIANG

The university signed MoU with Gwangju Institute of Automotive Technology in South Korea

江苏大学与韩国光州振兴汽车研究院签署合作谅解备忘录

The Vice President of the university, Yang Daojian, led a delegation on visits to Croatia and South Korea from December 8 to 15. At Gwangju Institute of Automotive Technology in South Korea both parties agreed on strengthening research collaboration in vehicle engineering, and they signed a memorandum of understanding.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES



Yang Daojian (right) and Jin Chengzhen, president of Gwangju Institute of Automotive Technology, after signing the agreement.



Yin Dongmei, Party Secretary of Shanghai International Studies University, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

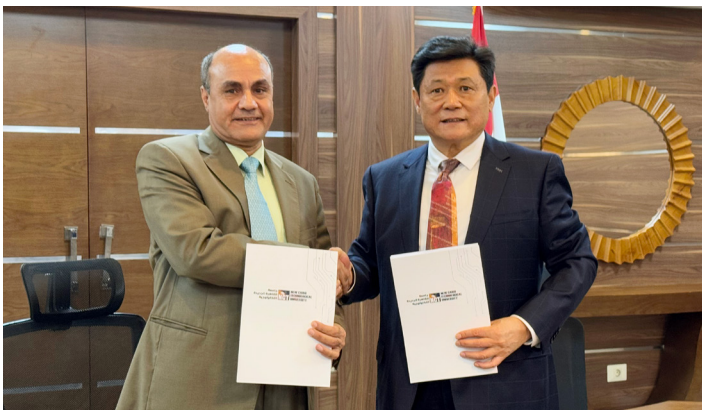
Dec
8-15

BEIJING YOUTH POLITICS COLLEGE

The college signed an agreement with universities in Egypt and Morocco

北京青年政治学院与埃及、摩洛哥多所高校签署合作协议

The President of the college, Qiao Dongliang, led a delegation on a visit to Egypt and Morocco from December 8 to 15, during which he signed agreements with New Cairo University of Technology and Omnia School of Business and Technology in Casablanca. The Egyptian and Moroccan universities agreed to work with their Beijing counterpart on dual degree programs, short-term student and faculty exchanges, and joint research.



Qiao Dongliang and Tarek Abdel Malek, President of New Cairo University of Technology, after signing the agreement.

Dec
4-13

SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY

China-Latin America Development Research Center

上海大学和巴伊亚联邦大学合作成立
“中国—拉丁美洲发展研究中心”

Cheng Danhong, Party Secretary of the university, led a delegation on a visit to Brazil and Bahrain from December 4 to 12. At the Federal University of Bahia in Brazil he signed an agreement on jointly establishing the China-Latin America Development Research Center. This collaboration aims to contribute to academic collaboration in the Global South and to strengthen ties between China and Latin America.



Cheng Danhong and Paulo Miguez, Rector of the Federal University of Bahia, after signing an agreement.

Dec
7-8

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

World University Presidents Forum

上海外国语大学举办中外大学校长研讨会

The World University Presidents Forum, with the theme “Technology, language, higher education for human progress”, was held at the university from December 7 to 8. Ten university presidents from China, Germany, Japan, Peru, the United Kingdom and the United States discussed topics such as the transformation of foreign-language institutions and the development of higher education and humanities disciplines. Shanghai International Studies University has been celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding, and those who attended the forum represented 49 universities in China and elsewhere, international organizations and educational institutions, and other attendees included alumni and current staff and students.

Dec
3

XI'AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

SHAANXI PROVINCE
Seminar on Quality Development of Chinese Education in Central Asia

中亚中文教育高质量发展研讨会暨中亚中文专业负责人联席会议

A seminar on developing Chinese education in Central Asia and a joint meeting of Chinese program leaders were held at the university on December 3. Experts and scholars discussed topics such as deepening language and cultural exchanges in Belt and Road countries and the current reform strategy of international Chinese education. About 200 participants, including experts from 12 universities in four Central Asian countries, Chinese scholars and staff and students of Xi'an International Studies University took part.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES



The seminar on developing Chinese Education in Central Asia in session.



Lyu Chaofeng, Vice President of Ningbo University, and a representative of the University of Auckland after signing the memorandum of understanding.

Dec
2

TIANJIN FOREIGN STUDIES UNIVERSITY

International Seminar on Application of Modern Educational Technology in Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language

“现代教育技术在对外俄语教学中的应用”国际学术研讨会在天津外国语大学举办

An international seminar on applying modern educational technology in teaching Russian as a foreign language was held at the university on December 2. It was organized by the university in collaboration with South Ural State University of Chelyabinsk, Russia. Experts discussed research findings and practical experience on applying modern educational technology in teaching Russian. The seminar helped deepen collaboration between Chinese and Russian higher education institutions and advance innovation in language education. It also underlined the close collaboration of China and Russia in the field of educational technology.



The seminar in Tianjin on Russian-language teaching in session.

Nov
27

UNIVERSITY OF CHINESE ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, BEIJING

The university signed an agreement with the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

中国社会科学院大学与雅典大学签署合作协议

The President of the university, Gao Xiang, led a delegation on a visit to the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on November 27, during which he and the Rector of the Greek institution, Gerasimos Siasos, discussed collaboration, and the two universities signed an agreement.



Representatives of the University of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and University of Athens after signing an agreement.

Dec
1-8

NINGBO UNIVERSITY, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

The University Signed Cooperation Agreements with Universities in New Zealand and Australia

宁波大学与新西兰、澳大利亚多所高校签订合作协议

The Vice Party Secretary and Vice President of the university, Lyu Chaofeng, led a delegation on a visit to Australia and New Zealand from December 1 to 8. At the University of Auckland he signed a student exchange program agreement, and at Victoria University of Wellington a memorandum of understanding was signed covering collaboration on short-term student exchanges, direct entry from undergraduate to postgraduate programs, and international collaboration in cultivating talent.

COMING EVENTS

Jan 24-25

Thailand TESOL International Conference, Bangkok

Feb 1-2

10th International Conference on Languages, Linguistics, Translation and Literature, Ahwaz, Iran

Feb 27-Mar 1

29th NELTA International Conference, Katmandu, Nepal

Mar 17-19

RELC International Conference, Singapore

Mar 18-21

TESOL International Convention & Expo, California

Mar 22-25

American Association for Applied Linguistics 2025 Conference, Denver, Colorado

April 4-6

The 8th International Forum on Linguistics and Chinese Education

Apr 8-11

IATEFL International Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

Apr 12

The 4th Global Language Governance Forum

Apr 10-13

XXX NATE-Russia Conference

May 9-10

Chinese Language Association annual conference, New York

May 30-Jun 1

Pacific Second Language Research Forum 2025 in conjunction with Conference on Innovation in L2 Chinese Acquisition Research, Shanghai

Jun 14-17

The 5th International Symposium on Language Teaching and Research

Jun 20-22

Africa ELTA International Conference, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

July 17-19

21st BRAZ-TESOL International Conference

July 25-27

Global English Education China Assembly

Dec 17-19

11th International Symposium on Second Language Acquisition in China, Shanghai