

BRLCN BRIEFING

Issue 1, 2024



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

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

BRLCN BRIEFING

Issue 1, 2024

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NEWSLETTER ONLINE

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dear council members:

Happy New Year!

It has been more than two months since we last met, and in that time the network has expanded rapidly. We are now delighted to bring you the network's first newsletter of 2024.

In it we bring you news of recent activities of council members and tell you of coming events and opportunities for collaboration. We believe we can deepen our understanding of each other, achieve the goal of working closely together and learn from one another. We hope that in addition to active participation, council members can provide the network with information resources and suggestions. With your supervision and support we will work together to improve the network's information services so as to provide members with more comprehensive high-quality support.

2024 is the Year of the Dragon. In Chinese culture the dragon is regarded as a sacred and exalted creature that symbolizes prosperity and good fortune. We are brimming with confidence about the network's future and will tirelessly implement the annual work plan and keep you updated through follow-up meetings and newsletters. We hope that as we work together the network can continue to grow.

We wish you all the best in 2024 and look forward to seeing you again in the next issue.

Secretariat

Jan 5, 2024

亲爱的联盟成员：

时间匆匆如白驹过隙，转眼间已经过去了两个多月了。自我们上一次相聚以来，联盟的发展蓬勃而迅速。在这个独特的时刻，我们非常高兴地向大家介绍联盟2024年度第一期新闻信。

在这份新闻信中，我们将为您呈现联盟各理事单位最新动态，同时预告未来的活动计划和合作机会。我们深深地相信，通过各理事单位的互学互鉴，取长补短，我们能够更好地增进了解，达成更加精诚合作的目标。我们希望各理事单位不仅积极参与，更能够为新闻信贡献信息资源，提出宝贵的建议和意见。在大家的监督和支持下，我们共同努力，将联盟的信息服务水平不断提升，为广大成员提供更全面、更优质的支持。

2024年正值龙年，在中国传统文化中，龙被视为神秘、神圣和尊贵的存在，象征着繁荣兴旺、吉祥如意。对联盟的未来，我们充满信心和期待。我们将全力以赴逐一落实年度工作计划，并通过后续的会议和新闻信与大家同步更新信息。希望在大家的共同努力下，联盟能够不断发展壮大。

祝大家在新的一年里工作顺利、万事如意。期待我们在下一期再次相聚。

秘书处
2024年1月5日

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST COUNCIL MEETING OF BELT AND ROAD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES NETWORK HELD

Language educators representing more than 50 countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative have established the Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network. This momentous collaboration, formalized in Beijing on Oct 16, seeks to break down language barriers and cultural misunderstandings on a global scale. The council now consists of five dozen members from Asia, Africa, Europe and South America.



Group photo of the first council meeting of the BRLCN.

WORLD CHINESE LANGUAGE CONFERENCE HELD IN BEIJING

The World Chinese Language Conference was held at the China National Convention Center in Beijing on Dec 8. More than 2,000 people attended, including national ministers of education, representatives of international organizations and language and culture institutions, leaders of local education authorities in China, presidents of universities in China and elsewhere, directors of Confucius Institutes, and those engaged in and concerned with international Chinese education.



The plenary session of the World Chinese Language Conference.

2023 ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION HELD IN XIAMEN

The 2023 Annual International Forum on Higher Education, hosted by China Association of Higher Education and Xiamen University, Fujian province, was held in Xiamen on Dec 10. More than 800 people from nearly 30 countries attended, including national ministers of education and scientific research, representatives of international organizations, embassies or consulates in China, university presidents and experts and scholars attended and discussed the theme “the Digital Age and Sustainable Development in Higher Education”.



The plenary session of the 2023 Annual International Forum on Higher Education.

HIGHLIGHTS

SEMINAR ON BILINGUAL AND MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION HELD IN GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAO GREATER BAY AREA

The Seminar of Bilingual and Multilingual Education in Guangdong-Hong Kong- Macao Greater Bay Area was held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province on Nov 25. Its topic was “Orientation and development of bilingual and multilingual education for the Greater Bay Area in the context of globalization”. The aim was to promote the development of China’s bilingual and multilingual education, giving full play to the advantages of the Greater Bay Area’s location and educational resources, and cultivating high-quality bilingual and multilingual talent. The seminar was hosted by the committee of bilingual and multilingual education, Global English Education China Assembly.



The panel session of the seminar.

TWO CHINESE ENGLISH TEACHERS PRESENTED AT 48TH TESOL ITALY ANNUAL CONVENTION

At the invitation of TESOL Italy, China Daily 21st Century was privileged to recommend two featured speakers at the 48th TESOL Italy Annual Convention, which took place through the internet on Dec 1 and 2.



Shen Yang, an English teacher at a public primary school in Zhejiang province, China, gave a speech online.



Sun Zelong, an English teacher and founder of a training school in Henan province, China, gave a speech online.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

CHINA DAILY& JILIN UNIVERSITY

An exchange event featuring “youth drive empowering global promotion for world-class ski resorts” was held at Jilin University, Changchun province on Dec 20. The aim was to promote communication between young people of China and other countries through expert lectures, tours for participants to experience ice and snow culture, and through exchange events and seminars. More than 10 outstanding youth representatives of Generation Z in China and elsewhere as well as more than 200 student and teacher representatives of Jilin University attended. The event was co-sponsored by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China Jilin Provincial Committee and China Daily and was organized by 21st Century. Jilin University provided great support.



The host and guests presented the commemorative plate of Jilin Cultural Communication Officer to representatives of Generation Z from eight countries.

CHINA DAILY

In November and December China Daily signed cooperation agreements with council members including Xiamen University in Fujian province, Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, Gansu province, and Sichuan International Studies University in Chongqing. China Daily and the universities will collaborate in promoting international communication, cultivating talent and people-to-people exchanges.

SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY



More than 600 students and teachers attended the fifth annual meeting of developmental network of foreign languages of Chinese universities online.

The fifth annual meeting of China University Alliance for the Development of Foreign Language and Literature Discipline, also known as the seminar of high-quality development of foreign languages and literature discipline, was held at Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) from Dec 22 to 23. About 100 experts and scholars of foreign languages from universities and colleges attended and discussed the development of foreign languages and literature discipline. Li Yansong, president of SISU, delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

The Beihang Global Competency Development Forum was held at Beihang University in Beijing on Dec 10. Zeng Qingkai, Editor-in-chief of 21st Century, delivered a speech titled Practice and Thinking of Generation Z in international communication and answered questions from students.



The Beihang Global Competency Development Forum at work.

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The International Forum on Future-Oriented Education for High Schools was held at the Beijing Institute of Technology on Dec 19. The theme was “International and open future education”. More than 60 people attended, including experts in basic education from China and Southeastern Asian countries and presidents.



Attendees of the International Forum on Future-Oriented Education for High Schools.

BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY



The opening ceremony and keynote speakers at the China-Africa Deans of Education Forum.

The China-Africa Deans of Education Forum was held at Beijing Normal University on Nov 15. Deans of education of 10 universities in 10 African countries including Gambia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia, UNESCO representatives and deans of education of 13 Chinese universities attended. They delivered speeches with the theme “Education revolution for a more resilient future” and discussed how to strengthen collaboration and communication between China and Africa in education.



Experts and representatives at the forum.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

CITY UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

The Global Consortium of Metropolitan Universities 2023 annual conference and presidents' forum was held in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, on Nov 30. The forum, with the theme "University, city and future", discussed the relationship between the development of universities and cities and provided a learning and communicating platform for university members. Liu Jun, chairman of the Consortium and rector of City University of Macau, delivered a keynote speech.



Global Consortium of Metropolitan Universities at work in Guangzhou.

DALIAN UNIVERSITY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The annual meeting of the Confucius Institute Partner University Alliance of Dalian University of Foreign Languages was held in Beijing on Dec 9. Nearly 30 representative from China and other countries including Armenia, Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Russia, South Korea and Tunisia attended. Liu Hong, President of Dalian University of Foreign Languages, delivered a speech.



Experts and representatives at the meeting.

JIANGSU UNIVERSITY

The 2023 World Chinese Language Conference hosted by the Ministry of Education was held in Beijing from Dec 7 to 9. A series of international Chinese education textbooks independently developed by Jiangsu University featured in the language exhibition and were widely praised. Among them, the series of bilingual and multi-functional textbooks "Three-Character Primer (《三字经》 Sānzìjīng)", "Thousand Character Classic (《千字文》 Qiānzìwén)", "Agricultural Machinery Chinese (《农机汉语》)" and "100 Sentences of Spoken Chinese (《汉语口语100句》)" were much appreciated.

SHANTOU UNIVERSITY

Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, Thailand, and Shantou University in Shantou, Guangdong province, signed a memorandum of cooperation on Dec 13. Hao Zhifeng, president of Shantou University, said the collaboration would help strengthen collaboration between the two institutions in fields including education, research and cultural communication. This would help improve the two universities' international education capacity and help advance the Belt and Road Initiative, he said.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS



Chen Songcai of Srinakharinwirot University, left, and Hao Zhifeng of Shantou University after signing the memorandum of cooperation.

SHAANXI NORMAL UNIVERSITY



The plenary session of the 2023 Belt and Road Teacher Education Forum.

Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'an hosted a series of events featuring the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative from Nov 26 to 28. Li Zhongjun, party secretary of the university, said the university would regard the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative as a starting point for deepening communication and collaboration in education between countries involved in the initiative, working with universities in China and elsewhere to contribute in areas such as cultivating talent, scientific research, creating and developing think tanks, people-to-people exchanges, and jointly

promoting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative collaboration and communication in education.

UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



Scholars, experts and representatives at the seventh meeting of the International Youth Dialogue in Beijing.

The seventh meeting of the International Youth Dialogue was held at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing recently. The theme was "Belt and Road Youth Cultural Inheritance and Mutual learning of Civilizations". Experts and scholars from China, Egypt, Germany, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as well as youth representatives from many industries attended. A research report on Belt and Road youth dialogue was issued at the event.



Unveiling ceremony of the International Youth Research Contact Point.

ACTIVITIES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

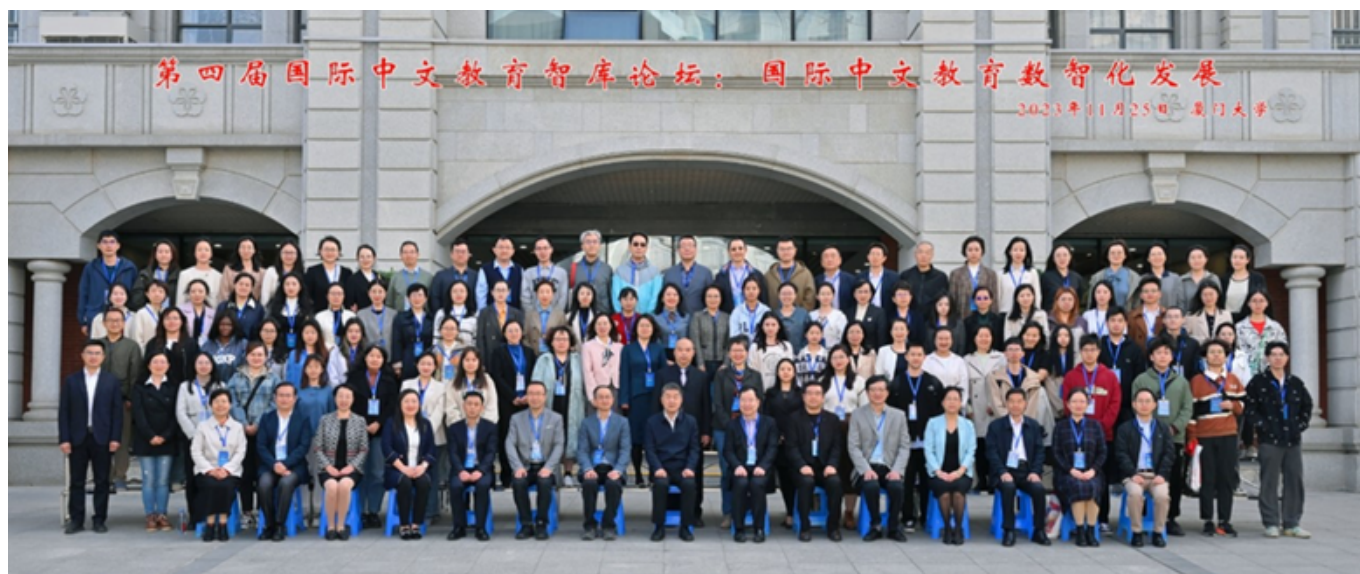


Experts and guests at the China-UK Humanities Alliance for Higher Education Forum.

The eight China-UK Humanities Alliance for Higher Education Forum “World Map and World Culture” was held in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, from Nov 18 to 19. More than 49 experts and scholars from more than 20 universities in China and elsewhere attended and discussed the topic “Across the border: literature, art and world history”. Peng Gang, vice president of Tsinghua University, delivered a speech.

XIAMEN UNIVERSITY

The fourth International Chinese Language Education Development Think Tank Forum was held in Xiamen, Fujian province, from Nov 25 to 26. The forum, on the theme “Digital intelligence development of international Chinese-language education”, included 10 presentation conferences, eight sub-forums and more than 120 experts and scholars in international Chinese-language education from 69 universities who gave keynote speeches and discussed the latest trends and new ideas and new technologies in digital and intelligent education.



Attendees of the International Chinese Language Education Development Think Tank Forum.

Most of the material in this newsletter is sourced from council member websites.

COMING EVENTS

- **Jan 26-27**

43rd Thailand TESOL International Conference, Chiang Mai, Thailand

- **Jan 31 to Feb 2**

20th TELLSI International Conference and 7th Allameh Tabataba'i ELT Conference, Tehran, Iran

- **Feb 17-19**

28th NELTA International Conference, Lalitpur, Nepal

- **March 11-13**

58th RELC International Conference, Singapore

- **April 22-24**

NATE Russia Conference-“NATE-Russia 30th Anniversary: Further and Beyond”, Magnitogorsk, Russia

- **May 30-June 1**

Africa ELTA 8th International Conference, Cairo, Egypt

- **July 17-20**

BRAZ-TESOL 20th International Conference, Goiânia, Brazil

- **July 25-28**

Global English Education China Assembly, Macao & Zhuhai, Guangdong, China

RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

WE ARE SEEKING A GLOBAL CO-ORGANIZER FOR THE 2024 BELT AND ROAD FORUM FOR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COLLABORATION

To strengthen international communication and collaboration and to promote the development of education and culture of countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative, we plan to hold the second council meeting of the Belt and Road Languages and Cultures Network as well as the 2024 Belt and Road Forum for Language and Culture Collaboration in the third or the fourth quarter of 2024.

To ensure the success of the event and to increase the international influence of the network and the meeting, we're seeking a global co-organizer. The co-organizer will need to be:

- experienced in hosting international academic events;
- able to host large-scale international conferences;
- good at coordinating the resources of a local government as well as a national education department

The network secretariat will be in charge of financing and working with the co-organizer to ensure the successful organization of the meeting. All council members interested are welcome to contact the secretariat.

“一带一路”语言教育文化组织联盟第二届理事会暨2024语言教育文化论坛 招募全球联合承办方

为加强国际交流与合作，促进共建“一带一路”国家教育及文化发展，我们计划于2024年第三或四季度择期召开联盟第二届理事会暨2024语言教育文化论坛。为保证活动的顺利开展，扩大联盟及会议的国际影响力，现面向所有理事单位招募联合承办方。我们希望贵单位：

1. 有举办国际学术交流活动的经验。

提供往届学术交流活动的成功案例，包括主题、规模、参与人数等。

描述贵单位在国际学术交流方面的专业领域和优势。

2. 有承办大型国际会议的资源 and 能力。

提供过去承办大型国际会议的经验，包括场馆、技术支持、会务组织等方面的能力。

说明贵单位在组织大型活动时所拥有的资源和团队。

3. 能协调当地政府及本国教育部门资源。

说明贵单位在协调与政府和教育部门合作方面的经验和优势。

提供曾与政府和教育部门合作的案例，以证明贵单位具备推动本次活动成功举办的合作潜力。

联盟秘书处负责筹措活动经费，与承办单位一起把活动办好。有意承办的理事单位欢迎与秘书处联系。

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