

MONTHLY BRIEFING



DeepSeek

PHOTO: VCG

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



CHINESE UNIVERSITIES
ADOPT DEEPSEEK TO
ENHANCE EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



CHINA AND FIJI SIGN
AGREEMENT ON
CHINESE-LANGUAGE
EDUCATION



GLOBAL ENGLISH
EDUCATION CHINA
ASSEMBLY CALL FOR
PROPOSALS



“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

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping industries, including education. Over the past month DeepSeek's open-source technology has become a global focal point. DeepSeek is not only driving the widespread adoption of AI but is also injecting fresh vitality into educational advances.

At the first Minister's Passage of the 14th National People's Congress held on March 5 in Beijing, China's Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng said DeepSeek and robotics have recently attracted widespread attention both domestically and internationally. It reflects the achievements of China's technological innovation and talent development. However, it also raises the question of how education should respond to major technological changes and industrial transformations.

"Throughout history, every major technological revolution and industrial transformation has created significant societal demands, particularly for education. Therefore, this is also a major opportunity for educational reform and development," he said.

Against this backdrop the 2025 Global English Education China Assembly, with the theme "Building a new digital ecosystem for language education in the AI era", will discuss the integration of AI and language education. We cordially invite all member institutions to take part and submit proposals, contributing their insights on this important issue.

We are also delighted to announce that Tribhuvan University in Nepal and Rajshahi University in Bangladesh have joined the network. We look forward to welcoming more universities as well as language, education and cultural organizations to be part of this growing community, working together to promote the global advance of culture and education.

Let us seize the opportunities and tackle the challenges of the AI era, shaping a brighter future for education.

三月伊始，万象更新。

在科技迅猛发展的今天，人工智能(AI)正以前所未有的速度重塑各行各业，教育领域亦不例外。过去一个多月，DeepSeek的开源技术成为全球科技界的焦点，它不仅推动了AI的普及与应用，也为教育创新注入了新的活力。

在3月5日举行的十四届全国人大三次会议首场“部长通道”上，中国教育部部长怀进鹏表示，DeepSeek和机器人在最近一段时间引起国内外的广泛关注，它从一个方面也说明了中国科技创新和人才培养的效果。但与此同时，它也向我们提出了面对重大科技变化和产业变革，教育如何应对。“历史上每一次重大科技革命和产业变革都对社会提出了特别重要的需求，尤其是对教育，所以它也是教育改革和发展的重大机遇。”

在此背景下，由21世纪报社承办的2025国际英语教育中国大会也将以“构建AI时代外语教育数字化新生态”为主题，深入探讨人工智能与语言教育的融合发展。我们诚挚邀请各理事单位积极参与，踊跃投稿，共同为这一重要议题贡献智慧。

此外，我们很高兴地宣布，孟加拉国拉吉沙希大学和尼泊尔特里布万大学已正式加入联盟。我们期待更多高校及语言、教育及文化组织加入联盟大家庭，携手推动全球文化教育事业的繁荣发展。

让我们共同迎接AI时代的机遇与挑战，为教育的未来谱写新篇章！

CHINESE UNIVERSITIES ADOPT DEEPSEEK TO ENHANCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

中国多所高校引入 DeepSeek 推动教育科研创新发展



Photo:VCG

The open-source AI model DeepSeek of China has gained global popularity over the past month. The surge of DeepSeek, a two-year-old startup in Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, creating open-source large language models much more cheaply than its foreign peers, has not only led to rising interest by companies but has also injected fresh vitality into educational advances.

Many universities have joined this technological wave by integrating DeepSeek to advance education and research. Shenzhen University, Guangdong province, has launched a related general education course, while Zhejiang University launched an online course incorporating the ZJU Mentor system. Institutions such as Beijing Jiaotong University, East China Normal University in Shanghai, Renmin University of China in Beijing, Beijing Normal University and the University of Jinan, Shandong province, have also deployed DeepSeek in teaching, research and campus services.

Despite DeepSeek's benefits its application raises concerns over academic integrity and data security. Experts are calling for stronger regulations, digital literacy training and improved policies to ensure AI enhances education while mitigating risks.

(Sources: China Daily, People's Daily Online, Southern Metropolis Daily, Toutiao)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

UNESCO 2025 国际教育日活动在巴黎举行

Under the theme "AI and education: Preserving human agency in a world of automation", the International Day of Education on January 24 inspired reflections on the power of education to equip individuals and communities to navigate, understand and influence technological advances. By dedicating the day to artificial intelligence, UNESCO aimed for a global discussion on the place of this technology in education. The organization scheduled conferences in Paris and New York, as well as a webinar.

(Source: UNESCO)



wavebreakmedia/Shutterstock.com (Source: UNESCO)

CHINA AND FIJI SIGN AGREEMENT ON CHINESE-LANGUAGE EDUCATION

中国与斐济签署中文教育合作谅解备忘录



China's Ambassador to Fiji, Zhou Jian, and Fiji's Minister of Education, Aseri Radrodro, sign the memorandum of understanding.

China's Ambassador to Fiji, Zhou Jian, on behalf of China's Ministry of Education, and Aseri Radrodro, Minister for Education of Fiji, signed an agreement on the Joint Chinese Language Education Program in Fiji on January 15. Under the agreement China will take into account the needs of Fiji and provide support and assistance, such as offering schools at all levels and types in the country with Chinese language courses, organizing Chinese cultural experience activities, and building Chinese + TVET programs, so as to enhance language and cultural exchanges and understanding between the two countries, and jointly promote the development of Chinese language education in Fiji.

(Source: Center for Language Education and Cooperation)

GLOBAL ENGLISH EDUCATION CHINA ASSEMBLY CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2025 国际英语教育中国大会发言征集



The 2024 Global English Education China Assembly in session.

The eighth Global English Education China Assembly will be held from July 24 to 27, and about 3,000 English educators from around the world are expected to take part. Participants can share their knowledge and expertise, learn about successful practices and research, and discuss trends in the field. The event includes keynote speeches, featured speeches, panels, workshops, poster presentations and exhibitions that feature recent writings, audiovisuals and other materials.

The assembly is now welcoming abstracts and contributions from academics, researchers, teachers, students and assessment agencies.

Final deadline for abstract submissions: May 5

Academic review for proposals: May 5-31

Notification of acceptance: June 16

Academic review for presentation materials: June 20-July 17

For more information go to <https://tesol.i21st.cn/2025/30587.html>

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Feb 24-26

BEIHANG UNIVERSITY

Beihang University of Beijing and United Arab Emirates University host bilateral academic symposium

北航与阿联酋大学召开首届双边学术研讨会

United Arab Emirates University was the venue for a bilateral academic symposium jointly hosted with Beihang University. The symposium aimed to strengthen academic exchanges and collaboration between the two institutions, exploring the latest research achievements and future development directions in technological fields. More than 30 professors and scholars from the two universities discussed collaboration in various fields including aerospace science and technology, data science, materials science and information technology.



Representatives of both sides

Feb 22

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

Agreement with Durham University, England, signed

拉吉沙希大学与杜伦大学签署谅解备忘录

The University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh, and Durham University, England, signed a memorandum of understanding at the Varendra Research Museum in Rajshahi that aims to strengthen academic and research collaboration between the two institutions. Under the agreement, the two universities will exchange teachers and students, undertake joint research projects and conduct publication activities, organize workshops, conferences and seminars, diversify cultural and educational exchange activities and explore opportunities for joint financing for research.



Vice-Chancellor Prof Saleh Hasan Nakib of Rajshahi University, third from left, and Prof Karen O'Brien of Durham University with the agreement they signed.

Fed 14

CENTRAL SOUTH UNIVERSITY, CHANGSHA, HUNAN PROVINCE

Confucius Institute at Diplomatic Academy of Congo of Central South University and L'Université de Kinshasa establish Chinese-language teaching site

中南大学刚果（金）外交学院孔子学院与金沙萨大学合作共建中文教学点

The Confucius Institute at the Diplomatic Academy of Congo of Central South University and L'Université de Kinshasa signed a memorandum of understanding on establishing a Chinese-language teaching site. The ceremony took place at the official residence of China's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa. The collaboration promotes the development of international Chinese-language education at the Confucius Institute of the Diplomatic Academy of Congo of Central South University. Under the agreement, the Chinese-language education program will begin in early April.



Representatives of the Confucius Institute at the Diplomatic Academy of Congo of Central South University and L'Université de Kinshasa after signing the agreement.

Feb 5-7

TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE SOCIETY OF IRAN

21st TELLSI and sixth LDP International Conference

第 21 届国际伊朗英语语言及文学教学协会学术会议暨第 6 届国际语言、话语和语用学会议在伊朗举办

The 21st TELLSI (International Teaching English Language and Literature Society of Iran) Conference and the sixth International Conference on Language, Discourse, and Pragmatics were held both online and onsite at Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Iran. The conferences provided opportunities for researchers around the world to exchange knowledge and sociabilities as well as develop new research networks.



Moments from the 21st TELLSI and the sixth LDP International Conference.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

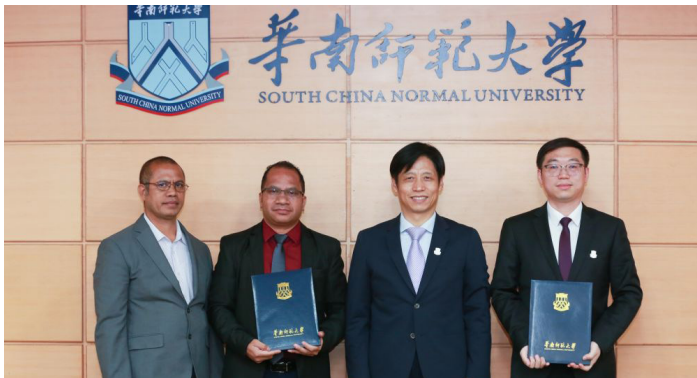
Feb 4-6

SOUTH CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY, GUANGZHOU, GUANGDONG PROVINCE

Belt and Road laboratory set up with Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e, Dili, Timor-Leste

华南师范大学与东帝汶国立大学共建“一带一路”联合实验室

South China Normal University and Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e have signed an agreement on establishing a joint laboratory. The two universities discussed collaborative research platforms, academic exchanges and postgraduate training in fields such as optical science, smart education and agricultural science. Yang Zhongmin, President of South China Normal University, said the initiative would serve as an opportunity for the two institutions to deepen their collaboration, setting an example for educational collaboration under the Belt and Road Initiative and laying a more solid foundation for taking the partnership between the two countries to new heights.



Representatives of South China Normal University and Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e after signing an agreement.

Jan 31

BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

Students from the university and Harvard University hold joint study and dialogue event

北京语言大学与哈佛大学两校学子开展联学对话活动

International students of Beijing Language and Culture University, hailing from countries such as Benin, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Russia and Zimbabwe, met students of Harvard Kennedy School of the United States in Hangzhou. They engaged in a joint study and dialogue on topics including industrial development, technological innovation, the inheritance of traditional culture and other issues of common concern to young people worldwide.



Students from Beijing Language and Culture University and Harvard University visited the Investment and Technology Promotion Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Beijing.

Jan 24-25

UNIVERSITY OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Accord signed with Moscow State University

对外经济贸易大学与莫斯科大学交换校际交流协议文本

As Moscow State University played host to Huang Baoyin, Party Secretary of the University of International Business and Economics, Beijing, both sides discussed the development of student exchange programs, collaborative case library construction, joint MBA entrepreneur internship projects and higher education evaluation and assessment. During celebrations of the 270th anniversary of Moscow State University's founding the two parties exchanged the collaborative agreement.



Huang Baoyin (second from left), Party Secretary of the University of International Business and Economics, and Ma Zeyi (second from right), Vice President of Moscow State University, after signing the agreement.

Jan 24-25

THAILAND TESOL

Thailand TESOL International Conference, Bangkok

第44届泰国英语教师协会国际学术会议在曼谷举行

The 44th Thailand TESOL International Conference was held under the theme "Exploring the new frontiers of ELT for a better tomorrow: Innovative curriculum, pedagogy and assessment". Dr Ning LIU, associate professor of interdisciplinary studies at the College of Global Talents, Beijing Institute of Technology (Zhuhai), delivered a speech on behalf of 21st Century. Professor Liu delivered a talk titled "Learning Oriented Language Assessment as a Systematic Approach to Synergizing Curriculum Components at College Level".



Liu Ning, associate professor of Beijing Institute of Technology (Zhuhai), addressed the Thailand TESOL International Conference.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

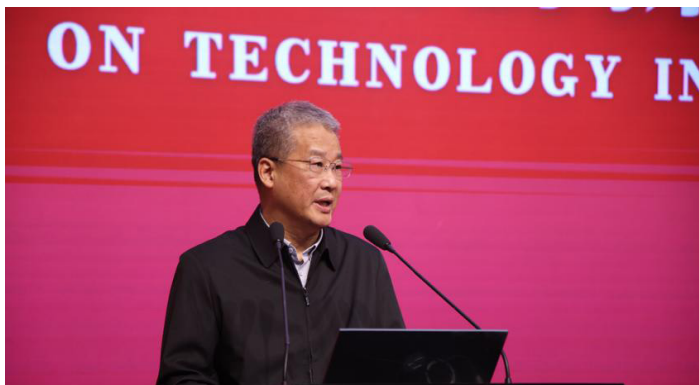
Jan 17

BEIJING JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY

Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation and Talent Development Forum

“一带一路”科技创新与人才培养论坛举办

The Belt and Road Science and Technology Innovation and Talent Development Forum was held at the university. A strategic cooperation agreement with Traffic Control Technology Co. Ltd. for the joint cultivation of international talent was signed as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. The event facilitated cooperation and exchanges between universities and companies, promoting the sharing of academic achievements among young scholars from around the world. About 120 Chinese and international students took part.



Standing Committee Member of the Party Committee and Vice President of Beijing Jiaotong University Gao Liang addressed the forum.

Jan 9

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Myanmar Ministry of Science and Technology pays a visit

缅甸科技部代表团访问北理工

Myanmar's Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Aung Ze Ya, led a delegation to the Beijing institution. Myanmar is a significant partner in the Belt and Road Initiative. As the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar approaches, the visit by representatives of Myanmar's Ministry of Science and Technology to Beijing Institute of Technology marked a new chapter in furthering bilateral exchanges and deepening scientific and educational collaboration. Wei Yiming, Standing Committee Member of the Party Committee and Vice President, said exchanges and collaboration with Myanmar will continue to be advanced in terms of new energy batteries, electric vehicles, energy policy and intelligent manufacturing under the Belt and Road Initiative and the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation.



Representatives of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Myanmar and Beijing Institute of Technology.

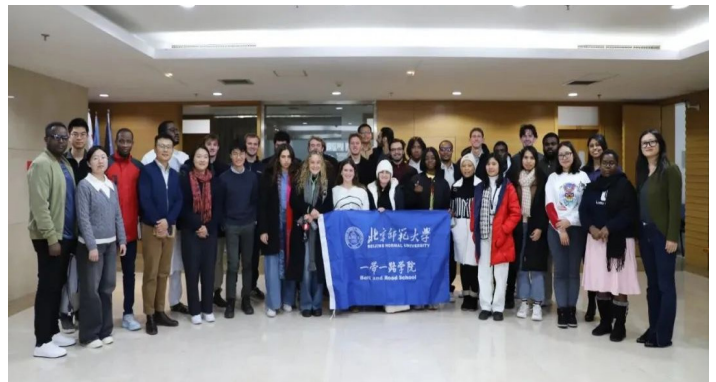
Jan 8

BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Global North-South Youth Dialogue

“全球南北青年对话”活动在北师大举办

The Global North-South Youth Dialogue, jointly organized by the Belt and Road School and Jingshi Academy of Beijing Normal University, was held at the Jingshi Lecture Hall in Beijing. An exchange group from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, was invited to the Beijing university, where they gathered with international students and scholars from 33 countries. They discussed topics such as international education and cultural differences and consensus.



Representatives of the College of William & Mary and the Belt and Road School, Beijing Normal University.

Jan 2

CHINA FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY, BEIJING

Research Center on Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind inaugurated

人类命运共同体研究中心揭牌仪式在北京举行

The Research Center on Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind that opened in January aims to deepen academic research, policy consultation, publicity and talent cultivation related to the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind.



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi addressed attendees of the research center inauguration event.

COMING EVENTS

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

Apr 4-6

The 8th International Forum on Linguistics and Chinese
Education

Apr 8-11

IATEFL International Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

Apr 10-11

21st International KazTEA & Buketov University Conference
2025, Karaganda, Kazakstan

Apr 12

The 4th Global Language Governance Forum

Apr 10-13

XXX NATE-Russia Conference, Pushkin, Russia

May 9-10

Chinese Language Association annual conference, New York

May 30-June 1

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

June 14-17

The 5th International Symposium on Language Teaching and
Research

June 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

MILESTONE MOMENTS
UNIVERSITY ANNIVERSARIES
IN MARCH



big day to celebrate



Founded
Mar 28, 1981

澳门城市大学
City University of Macau

明德 · 博学 · 尚行
Virtue, knowledge, practice