

# BRLCN BRIEFING



The 13th meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum

**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

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## FIRST AGREEMENT ON CHINESE SMART CLASSROOM IN SOUTH PACIFIC SIGNED

南太国家首个中文智慧教室正式签约

The Center for Language Education and Cooperation, which is linked with the Chinese Ministry of Education, has signed an agreement with the King George V and Elaine Bernacchi School of Kiribati to jointly establish the first Chinese smart classroom in South Pacific countries. Song Yongbo, the center's Deputy Director-General, and Eritiam Lotam, Acting Senior Education Officer for Senior Secondary and Scholarship of the Kiribati Ministry of Education, signed the agreement on behalf of both sides.



Song Yongbo and Eritiam Lotam after signing the cooperation agreement.



Deputy President of South Africa, H.E. Mr. Paul Mashatile, delivers opening remarks on the first day of the Forum. Sourced from Teacher Task Force.

## POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM ON TACKLING GLOBAL TEACHER SHORTAGES

联合国教科文组织国际教师工作组  
第14届政策对话论坛在南非召开

The 14th Policy Dialogue Forum was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from Feb 26 to 28. The forum, organized since 2010 by the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030 and hosted by UNESCO, is a global platform for education stakeholders that aims to foster advocacy, knowledge exchange, peer learning and monitoring of progress toward quality education of Sustainable Development Goals for teachers and in teaching.

Under the theme “Addressing global teacher shortages: Dignifying, diversifying and valorizing the profession”, the forum looked at common challenges relating to teacher shortages and how to tackle them through effective policies, and explored future transformative strategies to validate and reinforce the teaching profession.

The forum was hosted by South Africa's Ministry of Basic Education.

## LATEST FRONTIERS OF DIGITAL EDUCATION PUBLISHED

《数字教育前沿（英文）》创刊发布

The latest edition of the seasonal journal *Frontiers of Digital Education* was unveiled at the World Digital Education Conference in Shanghai on Jan 31. The journal is published by Higher Education Press under the auspices of the Chinese Ministry of Education. Overseas distribution is managed by Springer Nature of Germany. It is a quarterly English-language publication with advisory and editorial board members in China, Germany, the United States and elsewhere. The journal focuses on interdisciplinary research in the fields of digital technology and education, aiming to inform readers about policy trends in digital education, analyze crucial problems and help deal with pressing challenges in digital education and technology innovation.



The latest edition of *Frontiers of Digital Education* was published in Shanghai.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

2024  
3/8

## ZHEJIANG NORMAL UNIVERSITY

中非智库论坛第十三届会议在坦桑尼亚达成功举行

The 13th meeting of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on March 8. The conference was hosted by the Secretariat of the Follow-up Committee of the Forum on China-Africa Collaboration, in partnership with Zhejiang Normal University, the Chinese embassy in Dar es Salaam, the Foreign Affairs Office of Zhejiang province and the government of Jinhua.

As a prelude to the “second-track diplomacy” of China-Africa collaboration and the pre-session of the upcoming China-Africa Collaboration Forum, the conference attracted more than 300 participants both online and offline, including African scholars, representatives of international organizations in Tanzania, diplomats, government officials, think tank scholars, media representatives and entrepreneurs from more than 50 countries. The conference, whose theme was “China-Africa practice: Building a community with a shared future”, aimed to discuss the major concerns and strategic collaboration between China and Africa, promote initiatives and achievements in China-Africa collaboration and provide collective wisdom for the upcoming China-Africa Collaboration Forum.



Liu Hongwu, right, Dean of the Institute of African Studies at Zhejiang Normal University, and Charles Onunaiju, center, Director of the China Studies Center in Nigeria, jointly released a multilingual version of the “Initiative for the Establishment of the China-Africa Think Tank Collaboration Network”.

2024  
2/27

## CENTRAL SOUTH UNIVERSITY

中南大学与泰国宋卡皇家大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Tusana Sirichote, President of Songkla Rajabhat University in Khao Rup Chang, Thailand, visited Central South University in Changsha, Hunan province, China, on Feb 27. President Li Jiancheng and Vice President Li Zhihong of Central South University met the delegation and signed an agreement on collaboration in fields including exchange of teachers and students, cultivating talent and research.



Li Zhihong, right, and Tusana Sirichote signed an agreement on behalf of the two universities.

2024  
2/7

## TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

清华大学与沙特苏欧德国王大学续签合作备忘录

A delegation led by Badran Alomar, President of King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, visited Tsinghua University, Beijing, on Feb 7. Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, met the delegation. They discussed extending collaboration in areas including exchange of students and teachers, joint scientific research and international conferences, and renewed the memorandum of cooperation between the two universities.



Li Luming and Badran Alomar signed a cooperation agreement.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

2024  
1/31

## SHANDONG NORMAL UNIVERSITY

山东师范大学承办首个俄罗斯基础教育学段中文普及项目

The Center for Language Education and Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of China and the Committee on Education of St Petersburg, Russia, signed a cooperation memorandum to apply distance education technology to the education system of St Petersburg to teach Chinese and Chinese culture on Jan 31. The program will be implemented by the International Education College of Shandong Normal University in Jinan and the Confucius Institute of St Petersburg.



The online signing ceremony of the agreement between the Center for Language Education and Cooperation of the Ministry of Education of China and the Committee on Education of St Petersburg.

2024  
1/29  
-2/7

## BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

北京理工大学与多所中东国家高校签署合作备忘录

A delegation led by Zhang Jun, Secretary of the Party Committee of Beijing Institute of Technology, visited the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar and held discussions with local government departments, universities, other institutions and companies from Jan 29 to Feb 7. The delegation visited the University of Dubai, Khalifa University, Bahrain Polytechnic and the University of Bahrain, and signed collaboration agreements with the University of Dubai and Khalifa University, reaching consensus on collaboration in international talent cultivation and technology research.



Zhang Jun and Dr Eesa Mohammed Al Bastaki, President of the University of Dubai, signed a cooperation memorandum.

2024  
1/29

## BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

二外巴拿马大学孔子学院举行洪都拉斯校区首开课仪式

The Confucius Institute at the University of Panama in Panama City, jointly established by the university and Beijing International Studies University, opened the first courses in its new teaching site in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on Jan 29. They are the first Chinese language and traditional Chinese painting courses since China and Honduras established diplomatic relations a year ago. Ji Jinbiao, President of Beijing International Studies University, delivered a speech via video in which he expressed his hope for the teaching site to become a bridge of friendship for the people of China and Honduras and to continue to promote cultural communication and collaboration between the two countries and strengthen friendship between them through language, culture and art. The ceremony was carried on Honduras' national television.



The opening ceremony for the first courses of the Confucius Institute in Tegucigalpa.

2024  
1/25  
-27

## TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

清华大学与新加坡国立大学签署合作协议

A delegation led by Qiu Yong, Secretary of the Party Committee of Tsinghua University, Beijing, visited the National University of Singapore from Jan 25 to 27. The delegates held discussions on extending collaboration and signed a strategic research collaboration agreement, aiming to work closely together on artificial intelligence, healthcare, energy materials, advanced manufacturing and in other areas.



Qiu Yong and Chen Yongcai, President of the National University of Singapore, signed a research collaboration agreement.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

2024  
1/22  
-25

## FUDAN UNIVERSITY

### 复旦大学与英国多所高校签署合作备忘录

A delegation from Fudan University, Shanghai, led by its President Jin Li visited the University of Southampton, the University of Surrey, the University of Cambridge and the University of Warwick from Jan 22 to 25. During the tour, memorandums of cooperation between Fudan University and the University of Southampton, the University of Surrey and the University of Warwick were signed covering further collaboration in joint teaching, exchanging teachers and students and scientific research.



Ji Li and Mark Smith, President of the University of Southampton, signed a memorandum of understanding.

2024  
1/16  
-18

## SICHUAN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

### 四川外国语大学与新西兰多所高校签署合作备忘录

Zou Yu, Secretary of the Party Committee of Sichuan International Studies University, led a delegation to visit the Whitireia and WelTec of Te Pukenga and Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand from Jan 16 to 18. During the visit discussions were held on early childhood education, language teaching and talent training. A memorandum of cooperation was signed during the visit.



Zou Yu, left, and Roger Shew, Director of the international department of Victoria University of Wellington, signed a cooperation memorandum.

# COMING EVENTS

**Jan 26-27**

43rd Thailand TESOL International Conference, Chiang Mai, Thailand

**Jan 31-Feb 2**

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

**Feb 17-19**

28th NELTA International Conference, Lalitpur, Nepal

**Mar 11-13**

58th RELC International Conference, Singapore

**Apr 22-24**

NATE Russia Conference, Russia

**May 30-Jun 1**

Africa ELTA 8th International Conference, Cairo, Egypt

**Jun 6-8**

International KazTEA & ARELTA Conference 2024, Kokshetay, Kazakhstan

**Jul 17-20**

BRAZ-TESOL International Conference, Goiânia,, Brazil

**Jul 25-28**

Global English Education China Assembly, Macao and Zhuhai, Guangdong, China  
(Deadline for proposal submissions: May 5)

**Sep 8-20**

IAICS International Conference, University of Opole, Poland  
(Deadline for proposal submissions: March 31)

**Oct 23-25**

70th TEFLIN – 17th CONAPLIN International Conference, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, West Java, Indonesia  
(Deadline for proposal submissions: April 30)