

**BRLCN**

# MONTHLY BRIEFING

ISSUE 13 April 2025



## INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

The Institute of Global Teacher Development, initiated by China's Ministry of Education, was officially established in Beijing on March 27.

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## FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOREIGN LANGUAGE REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT

The ninth Forum on Higher Education Foreign Language Reform and Development was held in Beijing from March 22 to 23.

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



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

## MONTHLY BRIEFING

Issue 13, 2025

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

April is an important month for the United Nations in celebrating linguistic diversity. April 20 is Chinese Language Day, honoring the wisdom of Chinese characters, April 23 is English Language Day, paying tribute to literary classics, and April 23 is Spanish Language Day, celebrating cultural dialogue. As a bridge for communication, language is connecting the world through educational collaboration.

In this issue of our newsletter we see evidence of the practical efforts of Chinese educators. This includes: the South African Parliament establishing Chinese courses to improve governmental exchanges; Brazilian students traveling to Xi'an, Shaanxi province, to experience the real China; Egypt and Shanghai International Studies University establishing an archaeology center to unlock the mysteries of civilization; and students and faculty on a Finnish campus working to foster China-Europe collaboration. These initiatives reaffirm the essence of education, breaking barriers through language and fostering understanding through action.

AI is reshaping classrooms worldwide. Tanzanian girls are acquiring digital skills, Chinese-language teachers in Washington are exploring smart tools, and the overseas Chinese community is preserving cultural heritage. Each brings us closer to educational equity.

As we celebrate multilingual and multicultural exchanges, let us sail forward with education as our vessel and collaboration as our oar, moving toward a future in which diverse cultures thrive in harmony. When knowledge transcends borders, the world celebrates unity.

四月，是联合国纪念语言多样性的重要月份——中文日（4月20日）传承汉字智慧，英文日（4月23日）致敬文学经典，西班牙日（4月23日）颂扬文化对话。语言作为沟通的桥梁，正通过教育合作连接世界。

本期新闻信中，我们看到中国教育者的务实行动：南非国会开设中文课程，助力政务交流；巴西学生赴西安学习，触摸真实的中国；埃及与上外共建考古中心，破解文明密码；芬兰校区里，中欧师生用代码书写合作新篇。这些实践印证了教育的本质：以语言打破隔阂，以行动传递理解。

当前，AI技术正重塑课堂，坦桑尼亚女孩学习数字技能，华盛顿中文教师探索智能工具，马来西亚侨界守护文化根脉……每一步都朝着“教育公平”迈进。

值此多元语言文化交辉之际，让我们以教育为舟，以合作作桨，驶向“各美其美，美美与共”的彼岸。当知识跨越国界，世界便多一份共鸣。



## INSTITUTE OF GLOBAL TEACHER DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHED IN BEIJING

教育部在京牵头成立全球教师发展学院



The first international teacher training program in session.

The Institute of Global Teacher Development, initiated by China's Ministry of Education, was officially established in Beijing on March 27. About 200 representatives, including teachers and students from more than 50 countries, took part in the first international teacher training program.

The institute, consisting of 21 universities and institutions under the leadership of the ministry, is based at Beijing Normal University. It aims to overcome the fragmented nature of previous international teacher exchange programs by integrating resources from various universities, streamlining teacher training initiatives and fostering a structured and large, robust international exchange system.

The institute will develop personalized teacher exchange programs targeting key regions and countries. It will also encourage top-tier universities to establish overseas teacher training collaboration centers, supporting local educational resource development and teaching reform.

(Source: CCTV News)

## FORUM ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOREIGN LANGUAGE REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT

第九届高等学校外语教育改革与发展论坛在京举办

The ninth Forum on Higher Education Foreign Language Reform and Development, with the theme "Focusing on innovation, striving for global excellence", was held in Beijing from March 22 to 23. In addition to keynote speeches, the forum featured three sub-forums and nine panels, exploring new pathways for developing higher foreign-language education and innovative measures for cultivating top-tier talent.

The Global Language Service Platform, developed by Beijing Foreign Studies University, was officially launched during the forum. About 2,200 experts and scholars in higher foreign language education attended, and more than 300,000 foreign language teachers took part online.

(Source: CCTV News, Sohu)



Invited guests helping launch the Global Language Service Platform.

## NATIONAL CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON

全美中文教育大会在美国华盛顿举办



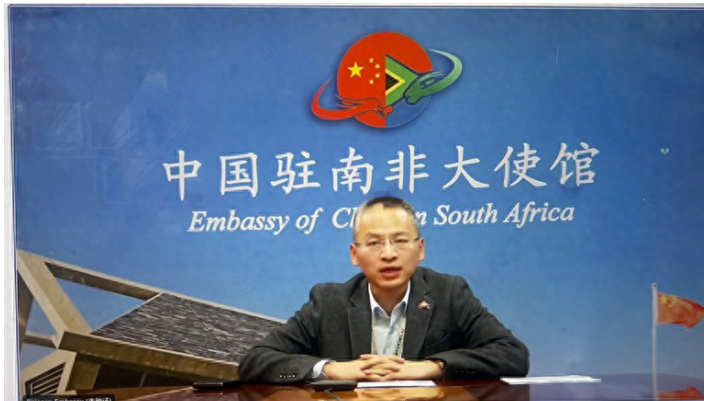
The National Chinese Language Education Conference in session.

The 2025 National Chinese Language Education Conference was held at the Chinese Embassy in Washington on March 22. The conference, with the theme "Embracing the future: The application of artificial intelligence in teaching", was organized by the Chinese Language Association of Secondary Elementary Schools. Participants discussed the role of AI tools in language courses and new strategies for advancing Chinese language education in the United States. More than 150 Chinese-language teachers, education administrators and experts from about 20 US states attended.

(Source: Toutiao)

## SOUTH AFRICAN CHINESE GAOKAO MEETING

南非“汉语高考”会议深化中文教育合作



Li Xudong, Education Counselor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in South Africa, addresses the meeting.

Chinese-language teachers from across South Africa gathered online on March 12 to take part in the 2025 South African National Senior Certificate Examination Chinese Second Additional Language User Group Meeting, commonly known as the South African Chinese Gaokao meeting. The event was co-hosted by the Confucius Classroom at the Chinese Culture and International Education Exchange Center in Pretoria, South Africa. Participants discussed the 2024 Chinese language exam in South Africa, the current state of international Chinese education in the country, and ways to improve teaching and assessment methods.

(Source: People's Daily Online)

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Mar 24

## ZHEJIANG NORMAL UNIVERSITY, JINHUA

The first "Chinese Language Course for the South African Parliament" inaugurated

南非国会联合浙江师范大学孔子学院首开中文课程

The first Chinese Language Course for the South African Parliament was inaugurated in the Marks Building of the South African Parliament in Cape Town on March 24. This four-month course, designed by the Confucius Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine at the University of the Western Cape, is tailored to meet the work-related language needs of South African parliamentary staff. The curriculum covers basic Chinese language skills, diplomatic and governmental Chinese, as well as traditional Chinese culture, aiming to help participants quickly acquire practical Chinese proficiency while gaining insights into tea culture, traditional Chinese medicine, and other cultural aspects. The launch of a Chinese-language course within the parliament highlights the South African government's commitment to Chinese-language education and marks a deeper stage of cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and South Africa.

The Confucius Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine at the University of the Western Cape was jointly established by the University of the Western Cape, Zhejiang Normal University and Zhejiang Chinese Medical University in September 2019.



Representatives of both sides

Mar 23

## HEBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

The university signs an agreement with Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology, Finland

河北工业大学与芬兰拉彭兰塔 - 拉赫蒂工业大学续签芬兰校区合作协议

A delegation of Lappeenranta City Government and Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology (LUT University), Finland, visited Hebei University of Technology and attended the renewal signing ceremony for the cooperation of the Finnish campus on March 23. Han Xu, Party Secretary of Hebei University of Technology, met the guests. Wang Limin, President of Hebei University of Technology, and Juha-Matti Saksa, Rector of LUT University, signed the Finnish Campus Cooperation Agreement.



Representatives of both universities after the signing ceremony.

Mar 18

## BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY

The Beijing Language and Culture University Clermont Campus inaugurated

北京语言大学克莱蒙校区揭牌仪式举行

The Clermont campus of the university was inaugurated at the Clermont School of Business in Clermont-Ferrand, France on March 18. Richard Sobano, President of Clermont School of Business, said the two institutions signed a mutual campus establishment agreement in 2022, and the Clermont BLCU campus was inaugurated in Beijing at the end of 2023, further building their collaboration. Zhang Baojun, Vice President of Beijing Language and Culture University, said the two universities are jointly applying for the establishment of the Clermont Institute of Language Sciences and Industry, a Chinese-foreign cooperative educational institution that will provide students with a broader learning platform. The two sides signed an agreement on student exchanges as well as an agreement on Clermont's short-term student dispatch program.



Zhang Baojun, Vice President of Beijing Language and Culture University, and Richard Sobano, President of Clermont School of Business, inaugurating the Beijing Language and Culture University Clermont campus.



# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Mar 17-19

## SEAMEO REGIONAL LANGUAGE CENTRE, SINGAPORE The 59th RELC International Conference

东南亚教育部长组织新加坡语言中心第 59 届国际学术会议举行

The 59th RELC International Conference, with the theme “Learning and Teaching English in Multilingual and Multicultural Contexts”, was held in Singapore from March 17 to 19. At the invitation of the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, 21st Century was privileged to recommend Li Yan, an Associate Professor and the Director of the Research Center for Artificial Intelligence and Foreign Language Education at the School of Foreign Languages, Hebei Normal University, to appear as a featured speaker. Professor Li delivered a speech titled “Transforming English Literacy Education with AI and Multimodal Technologies: Preparing Learners for the Digital Age”. 21st Century engages in academic collaboration with BRLCN's international members, and since 2020 has facilitated the participation of about 50 speakers in international conferences.



Susan Leong, Centre Director of the SEAMEO Regional Language Centre, addresses the conference.



Li Yan, Associate Professor and the Director of the Research Center for Artificial Intelligence and Foreign Language Education at the School of Foreign Languages, Hebei Normal University delivers a featured speech.

Mar 17

## XI'AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY, SHAANXI PROVINCE

The Xi'an International Studies University and Paraíba State Education Program inaugurated

西安外国语大学与巴西帕拉伊巴州首个教育项目开班仪式举行

Xi'an International Studies University and Paraíba State Education Program was inaugurated at the Chinese Culture Experience Center on the Chinese university's Yanta campus on March 17. This program is the first strategic collaboration project between XISU and the Paraíba State Department of Education in Brazil, representing a milestone in China-Brazil educational collaboration. Under this initiative, Paraíba State will send about 50 students to XISU each year for a three-month Chinese-language and cultural immersion program over the next five years.



Xi'an International Studies University and Paraíba State Education Program inauguration in session.

Mar 14

## BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY

UNESCO-BNU Project on Closing the Digital Divide for Women and Girls in Tanzania launched

北京师范大学与联合国教科文组织关于消除坦桑尼亚妇女和女童的数字鸿沟项目启动

The UNESCO-BNU Project on Closing the Digital Divide: Ensuring Gender-Transformative Digital Skills Education for Women and Girls was launched by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Dodoma, Tanzania, on 14 March 2025. The UNESCO-BNU Project, organized by UNESCO and Beijing Normal University, aims to bridge the gender gap in STEM education and career opportunities, empower young women to be key contributors to the digital economy, and promote gender equity in technology.



Representatives of the interested parties.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Mar 14

## SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

The university signs agreements with institutions and universities in Saudi Arabia and Egypt

上海外国语大学与埃及、沙特多所高校及科研机构达成合作共识

Yin Dongmei, Party Secretary of the university and Chairwoman of the China-Arab Research Center on Reform and Development, led a delegation to visit Egypt and Saudi Arabia recently. The delegation visited 18 universities, research institutions and international organizations, engaging in in-depth discussions on China-Arab higher education talent cultivation, international collaboration and think tank research, reaching agreement on numerous matters. During the visit, Shanghai International Studies University signed agreements with the Center for Knowledge Exchange in Saudi Arabia, the Secretariat of the Arab League and New Giza University in Egypt.



Yin Dongmei, Party Secretary of Shanghai International Studies University, and Dr Khali Manzarawi, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League, after the signing.

Mar 13

## HANGZHOU NORMAL UNIVERSITY, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

The China-Caribbean Youth Development and Cooperation Exchange

中国—加勒比青年发展与合作交流会举行

The university hosted the China-Caribbean Youth Development and Cooperation Exchange, with the theme “Shared dreams and aspirations — A community of shared future for China and Latin America from a youth perspective”. Ying Biao, Deputy Party Secretary of the university, and Analisa Low, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to China, delivered addresses. Ying Biao said that despite the geographical distance between China and the Caribbean, the friendship between the two regions remains strong, with Trinidad and Tobago being an important partner of China.



Ying Biao, Deputy Party Secretary of the university, presented an honorary professor appointment letter to Analisa Low, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago to China.

Mar 4

## CHENGDU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, SICHUAN PROVINCE

The university signs an agreement with the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia

成都理工大学与马来西亚中华大会堂总会签署合作协议

Tan Sri Wu Tianquan, President of the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia, visited Chengdu University of Technology on March 4. Hu Bing, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Chengdu University of Technology, said the visit would serve as an opportunity to deepen collaboration between the university, the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia, China Zhigong Party and the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese. The College of International Education (Oxford Brookes College) of the university signed a school-enterprise education and research cooperation agreement with the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia and Zhongguang Tongyuan (Sichuan) Cultural Exchange Co Ltd.



Representatives of the College of International Education of Chengdu University of Technology and the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia and Zhongguang Tongyuan (Sichuan) Cultural Exchange Co Ltd sign an agreement.

Feb 28-Mar 2

## TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY, BEIJING

The university signs agreements with universities in Vietnam

清华大学与越南多所大学签署合作协议

The Sino-Vietnamese Higher Education Seminar, with the theme “Opportunities and Challenges of Higher Education in the Digital Intelligence Era of the 21st Century”, and jointly organized by Tsinghua University and Hanoi National University, was held on March 1. Experts and scholars from China and Vietnam discussed topics such as the empowerment of education development and scientific research innovation through artificial intelligence, the new mission of higher education in the intelligent era, the application of large model technology in teaching, and the basic concepts of Confucian educational philosophy. On March 2 Tsinghua University signed cooperation agreements with Hanoi National University, Ho Chi Minh City National University and the National Economics University.



# COUNCIL MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES



Representatives of Tsinghua University and Hanoi National University at a signing ceremony.

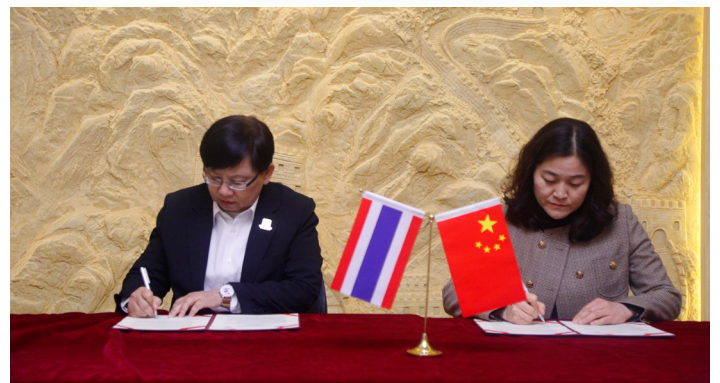
Feb 28

## BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

The university signs an agreement with Silpakorn University in Thailand

北京第二外国语学院与泰国艺术大学签署合作协议

Warangkana Nibhatsukit, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Silpakorn University in Thailand, visited the university and signed a student exchange agreement with the Asia College on February 28th. Zheng Chengjun, member of the Party Committee and Vice President of the Beijing university, met the visitors. Warangkana said Thai students are highly enthusiastic about learning Chinese, with many students at the University of Arts choosing Chinese as a selective. She said she hopes that both sides will see the visit as an opportunity to jointly explore collaborative research projects in Asian languages.



Zheng Chengjun, member of the Party Committee and Vice President of Beijing International Studies University, and Warangkana Nibhatsukit, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at Silpakorn University in Thailand, signing an agreement.

Feb 23-Mar 2

## XIAMEN UNIVERSITY, FUJIAN PROVINCE

The university signs agreements with universities in Indonesia and Malaysia

厦门大学与印尼、马来西亚多所高校签署合作协议

Zhang Rong, Party Secretary of Xiamen University and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, led a delegation to Indonesia and Malaysia. During the trip Zhang signed a memorandum of inter-university cooperation with Jonathan Parapak, President of the University of Light of Hope in Indonesia. He also signed a student exchange agreement with the University of Malaya and donated semiconductor process and device simulation software to the Malaysia Polytechnic University and the University of Malaya.



Zhang Rong, Party Secretary of Xiamen University, and Jonathan Parapak, President of the University of Light of Hope, after the signing ceremony.

# COMING EVENTS

**Apr 8-11**

IATEFL International Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Apr 10-11**

21st International KazTEA & Buketov University Conference

2025, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

**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 APRIL

6 big days to celebrate



Founded  
Apr 6, 1921

厦门大学

Xiamen University

自强不息，止于至善

Persue Excellence; Strive for Perfection.



Founded  
Apr 14, 2004

宁波诺丁汉大学

University of Nottingham Ningbo China

城市建于智慧之上

A City is Built on Wisdom.



Founded  
Apr 16, 1956

浙江师范大学

Zhejiang Normal University

砺学砺行，维实维新

Tempering Knowledge, Forging Innovation.

(Unofficial version)



## MILESTONE MOMENTS UNIVERSITY ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

# 6

### big days to celebrate



**Founded**  
Apr 20, 1922

### 云南大学

Yunnan University

### 自尊、致知、正义、力行

Self-respect, Wisdom, Justice and Action.

*(Unofficial version)*



**Founded**  
Apr, 1911

### 清华大学

Tsinghua University

### 自强不息 厚德载物

Self-discipline and Social Commitment.



**Founded**  
Apr 29, 2000

### 中南大学

Central South University

### 知行合一 经世致用

Integrating Knowledge and Practice; Using Practice.

*(Unofficial version)*