

Higher Education for Global Common Good

Policy Briefs

ISSUE FIVE

February 2025

Acknowledgements

Higher Education for Global Common Good (HEGCG) is a platform that recognizes the importance of higher education in influencing the future of global community. It is committed to fostering a space for open and inclusive discussions on the challenges and opportunities for promoting global common good through cooperation in higher education and scientific research. Its aim is to create a platform where all stakeholders can come together to share their experiences, ideas, and knowledge, and work towards building an independent think tank for global common good.

HEGCG is initiated and governed by the Steering Committee, composed as follows:

Professor Futao HUANG, Hiroshima University, Japan

Professor Jenny J LEE, University of Arizona, the USA

Professor Nian Cai LIU, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Professor Simon MARGINSON, University of Oxford, the UK

Professor Ka Ho Joshua MOK, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, HK SAR

Under the leadership of Professor Nian Cai LIU and the guidance of Zhuolin FENG, Professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and Secretary-General of HEGCG, the fifth issue of HEGCG Policy Briefs was co-drafted and edited by the editing team. The team includes editor Xintong JIA (Research Associate at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, responsible for editing the content of the fifth issue and collecting information on Australia, Europe, and Japan), regional editor Lin TIAN (Associate Professor at Hunan University, responsible for collecting information on Mainland China), regional editor Lili YANG (Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong, responsible for collecting information on Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan Province, assisted by Lijun FAN and Xiangni WU, both are PhD students at the University of Hong Kong), and regional editor Noboru MIYOSHI (Associate Professor at Hiroshima University, responsible for collecting information on

Japan).

HEGCG extends a warm invitation to scholars with an interest in the higher education field and topics related to the global common good to join the editing team of Policy Briefs as regional editors. Currently, HEGCG is actively recruiting regional editors for North America, EU, UK, Korea, Oceania, ASEAN, India, Russia, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, etc. For those interested in assuming the role of regional editors, please contact hegcg@sjtu.edu.cn.

1. Colleges and universities to promote inter-continental flow of ideas and knowledge

1.1 CUHK and PKU Co-Host the Second Sino-US University Presidents' Dialogue (The Chinese University of Hong Kong; October 1, 2024)

Building on the success of the inaugural event hosted at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) in the end of 2023, CUHK and Peking University (PKU) co-organized the second Sino-US University Presidents' Dialogue at the University of Chicago on September 23, 2024. This event aimed to enhance academic exchange and collaboration between Chinese and American universities. Distinguished speakers from China's C9 League, CUHK, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, Yale University, and the University of California, Los Angeles, among others, participated in discussions focused on strengthening academic partnerships and exploring the transformative impact of AI and emerging technologies on higher education. Their conversations aimed to enrich learning experiences, boost productivity, and promote inclusivity and accessibility in academia.

Source: <https://www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk/202410-61-sino-us-u-presidents-dialogue/>

1.2 University of Manchester Launches Global Humanities Alliance to Champion Humanities and Social Sciences (The University of Manchester; October 14, 2024)

On October 11, 2024, The University of Manchester launched the Global Humanities Alliance (GHA), a collaborative initiative by eight international universities aimed at advancing the humanities and social sciences worldwide. In the inaugural meeting, participants engaged in a panel discussion focusing on sustainability and climate change, highlighting one of the Alliance's key areas of interest. The GHA's mission is to enhance the social and political impact of humanities and social sciences through a robust program of research

and teaching that addresses global issues, incorporates diverse perspectives, and fosters critical dialogues among scholars and students alike.

Source: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/about/news/the-university-of-manchester-celebrates-launch-of-global-humanities-alliance/>

1.3 “Nanjing Forum 2024” Convened at Nanjing University (Nanjing University; October 19, 2024)

The “Nanjing Forum 2024” was recently held at Nanjing University, focusing on the theme “Tradition, Transformation, Creation: Modernization in East Asia.” With nearly 200 experts, scholars, and guests from both domestic and international backgrounds, the forum aimed to strengthen regional cooperation and contribute to shaping a new form of human civilization. Serving as a platform for insightful discussions and academic exchange, the event fostered dialogue on key issues while supporting local economic and social development.

Source: <https://www.nju.edu.cn/en/info/1057/12761.htm>

1.4 The 10th International Business School Shanghai Conference Explores AI’s Impact on the Future of Business Education (Shanghai Jiao Tong University; October 28, 2024)

Recently, the 10th International Business School Shanghai Conference (IBSSC) took place at Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, focusing on the transformative impact of AI on global business education. The event explored opportunities and challenges in the AI era, including ethical considerations, moral implications, and sustainable development. Through plenary sessions, parallel discussions, roundtables, and entrepreneurial dialogues, participants engaged in in-depth conversations on AI-driven educational innovation, business school development in a globalized world, and the role of sustainability and social responsibility. The conference also strengthened collaboration with international accreditation bodies such as AACSB, EFMD, and AMBA, reaffirming its commitment to advancing global

business education and supporting the development of business schools in Belt and Road Initiative countries.

Source: <https://en.sjtu.edu.cn/news/4710>

1.5 CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute and Corvinus University of Budapest Co-Host the AI Transformation Conference (The Chinese University of Hong Kong; November 5, 2024)

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Shenzhen Research Institute and Corvinus University of Budapest jointly hosted the AI Transformation Conference and the Chinese-Hungarian AI Summit on October 24–25 at Corvinus University’s Gellért Campus. The event marked a significant step in advancing AI collaboration between China and Hungary while fostering global cooperation in AI technology. This conference was the first joint initiative under the Academic and Innovation Matrix cooperation agreement, signed by CUHK Shenzhen Research Institute and Corvinus University on March 6, 2024. The agreement aims to enhance academic, scientific, and technological collaboration, promote talent development, and drive progress in science and technology between the two nations.

Source: <https://www.cpr.cuhk.edu.hk/en/press/cuhk-shenzhen-research-institute-and-corvinus-university-of-budapest-jointly-organise-the-ai-transformation-conference-and-the-chinese-hungarian-ai-summit/>

1.6 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference Explores the Future of Higher Education in the Intelligence Era (Tsinghua University; December 12, 2024)

On December 12, the 2024 Global MOOC and Online Education Conference (GMC) officially commenced in London under the theme “Reimagining the Future of Higher Education in the Intelligence Era.” Jointly organized by the Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance (GMA) and the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE), the event was co-hosted by Tsinghua University, Queen Mary University of London, and

Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications. Bringing together over 340 attendees and speakers from 135 universities, online education platforms, international organizations, and government agencies across 32 countries and regions, GMC continued to drive the digital transformation of education by leveraging global collaboration and innovation.

Source: <https://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/en/info/1244/13997.htm>

1.7 Imperial College London, the University of Tokyo, and Hitachi Explore Opportunities for a Carbon Neutral Future (The University of Tokyo; December 20, 2024)

In October 2024, a series of collaborative events, including interdisciplinary research workshops and a panel discussion on innovation and opportunities in the green economy, united participants from Imperial College London, the University of Tokyo, and Hitachi. These activities deepened the partnership between the three institutions, promoting stronger collaboration on addressing key challenges in the transition to carbon neutrality and beyond.

Source: https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/focus/en/articles/z1701_00050.html

2. Colleges and universities to develop formal inter-continental research collaboration arrangements

2.1 University of Macau and Konstanz University of Applied Sciences Sign MoU (University of Macau; October 22, 2024)

A delegation led by Sabine Rein, President of Konstanz University of Applied Sciences in Germany, recently visited the University of Macau. During the visit, both parties engaged in in-depth discussions on strengthening cooperation between the two universities. President Song and President Rein also signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU), which will serve as the foundation for establishing academic and cultural exchange programs. President Rein expressed enthusiasm for further leveraging the complementary strengths of both universities in key academic disciplines, aiming to deepen collaboration in scientific research as well as student and faculty exchanges.

Source: <https://www.um.edu.mo/news-and-press-releases/press-release/detail/59359/>

2.2 New International Research Laboratory to Address Treatment-Resistant Cancer (The University of Melbourne; November 7, 2024)

The University of Melbourne and France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) will establish a new International Research Laboratory in Melbourne, further strengthening their existing collaboration. The laboratory will expand upon the work of Professor Frédéric Hollande from the University of Melbourne and Dr. Patrick Mehlen of CNRS, Lyon, focused on cancer research. Led by Professor Hollande and based at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC), the joint laboratory aims to accelerate research discoveries and support clinical trials between the two countries. A *Letter of Intent* was signed at the VCCC. Professor Hollande highlighted that the lab will address key genetic and non-genetic mechanisms that enable cancers to adapt

continuously, driving treatment resistance in tumours with poor survival outcomes, such as metastatic colorectal and pancreatic cancers.

Source: <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/newsroom/news/2024/november/new-international-research-laboratory-will-tackle-treatment-resistant-cancer>

2.3 CityUHK and UNCTAD Sign MoU to Strengthen Partnership for a Sustainable Future (City University of Hong Kong; November 19, 2024)

City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) participated in the 29th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 14 to 16. During the event, CityUHK signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) with the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to promote sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region and globally. The MoU establishes a cooperative framework between CityUHK and UNCTAD in investment, finance, and sustainable development, enabling both parties to explore joint initiatives in research, training, community engagement, and international outreach to create synergy and impactful results in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/media/news/2024/11/19/cityuhk-and-unctad-sign-mou-enhance-partnership-and-cooperation-sustainable-future>

2.4 PKU-USYD International Joint Centre for Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development Officially Unveiled (Peking University; November 26, 2024)

Mark Scott, President of the University of Sydney (USYD), recently led a delegation to Peking University (PKU) for the unveiling ceremony of the PKU-USYD International Joint Centre for Food Security and Sustainable Agricultural Development. The Centre aims to drive innovation in research, talent development, and industrial transformation, with a focus on enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development in China, Australia, and other developing countries. Through this collaboration, both institutions seek to address critical global challenges and contribute to a more

sustainable and secure food system worldwide.

Source: https://newsen.pku.edu.cn/news_events/news/global/14597.html

2.5 France Joins Hyper-Kamiokande International Scientific Research Project (The University of Tokyo; November 26, 2024)

The National Institute of Nuclear and Particle Physics (IN2P3) in France, the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK), and the University of Tokyo (UTokyo) have signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) to advance the Hyper-Kamiokande (HK) international scientific research project. The HK detector, currently under construction in Kamioka, Hida City, Japan, is set to begin operation in 2027. France becomes the fifth nation to sign the MoU, following Poland, Spain, Italy, and Canada. French participation in the project is led by ILANCE (CNRS-UTokyo International Research Laboratory), LLR (Ecole Polytechnique), and LPNHE (Sorbonne Université).

Source: https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/focus/en/articles/z0208_00221.html

2.6 Peking University Guanghua School of Management and Carnegie Mellon Tepper School of Business Sign MoU (Peking University; December 17, 2024)

On December 12, 2024, Peking University's Guanghua School of Management and Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business officially signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU), marking the start of a significant and long-term academic partnership. This agreement reflects both institutions' shared commitment to advancing global education and fostering innovative management training approaches. Emphasizing the integration of cutting-edge technologies, both schools aim to develop globally competent leaders capable of navigating the fast-changing business landscape. By combining academic strengths and forward-thinking teaching methods, the partnership seeks to cultivate leaders who understand the intersection of technology and business, driving sustainable growth worldwide.

Source: https://newsen.pku.edu.cn/news_events/news/focus/14640.html

2.7 UCL and Tsinghua University Strengthen Partnership in Addressing Global Health Challenges (University College London; December 18, 2024)

On November 25, 2024, UCL President & Provost Dr. Michael Spence and Tsinghua University President, Professor Li Luming signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) to enhance collaboration in education, research, and innovation, with a focus on health-related areas. The meeting in Beijing highlighted both institutions' commitment to addressing global challenges through joint efforts in medical and clinical sciences, public health, and medical system development. The delegation also explored partnerships in digitally-driven healthcare and innovative medical service models. This MoU signifies a strengthened UK-China cooperation, leveraging the complementary strengths of both universities to advance global health initiatives.

Source: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2024/dec/ucl-and-tsinghua-university-deepen-collaboration-addressing-global-challenges>

3. Colleges and universities to make efforts for global challenges

3.1 LMU Launches International Research Center on Wealth Inequality (University of Munich; October 7, 2024)

University of Munich (LMU) has launched the Munich International Stone Center for Inequality Research (ISI), led by sociologist Fabian Pfeffer. The Center, funded by the James M. & Cathleen D. Stone Foundation, focuses on understanding wealth inequality, its causes, and its impact across generations. The Center aims to foster international collaboration, support young researchers, and enhance data infrastructure for inequality analysis. It will also explore alternative economic models and fairer societal structures, drawing inspiration from global perspectives.

Source: <https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/measuring-inequality.html>

3.2 BNU and UNESCO Collaborate to Advance Digital Education for Girls in Africa (Beijing Normal University; October 29, 2024)

On October 16, 2024, the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education award ceremony took place in Paris, France, with Yu Jihong, President of Beijing Normal University (BNU), in attendance. During the "Outlook: Strengthening Digital Skills for African Girls" session, she delivered a speech and announced a new cooperation project between BNU and UNESCO, titled "Closing the Digital Divide: Ensuring Gender-Transformative Digital Skills Education for Women and Girls." The initiative aims to enhance digital education for girls in Ghana and Tanzania by supporting teacher professional development, organizing digital education programs, and strengthening educational exchanges between China and Africa.

Source: <https://english.bnu.edu.cn/newsevents/latestnews/316ca9b726b241c9960cde90fe94b523.htm>

3.3 PolyU Research Team Investigates Marine Pollution and Sustainable

Seafood Challenges (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University; October 31, 2024)

A research team from the Department of Food Science and Nutrition (FSN) at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) is actively addressing pressing sustainability challenges, including marine pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Their research focuses on innovative marine pollution monitoring technologies and sustainable seafood solutions, including assessing the impacts of microplastics on marine ecosystems and human health, as well as efforts to restore pearl oyster reefs. This work aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, and 14, contributing to a healthier ocean and a more sustainable future.

Source: https://www.polyu.edu.hk/media/media-releases/2024/1031_polyu-researchers-advance-marine-conservation-and-sustainable-seafood-research/

3.4 The University of Melbourne and Peter Mac Launch Collaborative Centre for Genomic Cancer Medicine (The University of Melbourne; November 22, 2024)

The University of Melbourne and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (Peter Mac) have announced a new joint venture, the Collaborative Centre for Genomic Cancer Medicine, aimed at advancing genomics-driven cancer prevention, testing, and treatment. The initiative seeks to improve cancer outcomes and expand equitable access to precision technologies for Australians. This collaboration exemplifies the University of Melbourne's mission to benefit society through transformative research. By combining expertise and resources, the two institutions will drive innovation in cancer care and improve the lives of patients.

Source: <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/newsroom/news/2024/november/university-of-melbourne-and-peter-maccallum-cancer-centre-leading-genomics-driven-cancer-prevention>

3.5 Cambridge Researchers Develop AI to Think Like Scientists Using

Diverse Datasets (University of Cambridge; December 2, 2024)

Recently, a team of researchers, including those from the University of Cambridge, has made significant progress in training AI models to identify and apply transferable knowledge across disciplines to advance scientific discovery. The initiative, known as Polymathic AI, leverages technology similar to that behind large language models like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. However, instead of processing text, these models are trained using diverse scientific datasets spanning astrophysics, biology, acoustics, chemistry, and fluid dynamics. This approach equips AI with cross-disciplinary scientific understanding, enabling it to generate insights and solutions across multiple fields.

Source: <https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/new-datasets-will-train-ai-models-to-think-like-scientists>

3.6 Oxford and Edinburgh Researchers Develop Framework for Biodiversity Credit Markets (University of Oxford; December 12, 2024)

Ecologists from Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh have co-developed a new framework to classify how biodiversity credit operators define and measure units of nature. Their analysis highlights the challenges and risks of relying too heavily on biodiversity offsetting as a funding mechanism for nature recovery. The study examines how companies are quantifying biodiversity, detecting positive outcomes, and linking conservation actions to investment. This research is the first in a new series honoring Professor Dame Georgina Mace, whose work has been instrumental in shaping global conservation policy.

Source: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2024-12-12-new-framework-shows-challenges-involved-establishing-biodiversity-credit-market>

3.7 University of Queensland Licenses Ultrasound Therapy for Alzheimer's to New Startup (University of Queensland; December 17, 2024)

A groundbreaking ultrasound therapy with the potential to restore brain

function in people with Alzheimer's disease has been licensed to Ceretas, a new startup spun out of the University of Queensland (UQ). Developed by Professor Jürgen Götz at UQ's Queensland Brain Institute, the technology will be advanced toward clinical application. The therapy harnesses targeted sound pressure waves to enhance neuronal signaling and clear harmful protein build-up associated with Alzheimer's. Ceretas aims to validate the system for treating Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases, bringing this innovative approach closer to real-world medical use.

Source: <https://www.uq.edu.au/news/article/2024/12/uq-ultrasound-treatment-alzheimers-licensed-new-startup>

4. Colleges and universities to promote people mobility including scholar or student mobility

4.1 Université PSL Launches Global University Academy as Part of New International Solidarity Action Plan (Université PSL; September 12, 2024)

Université PSL has launched the Global University Academy, an international training program aimed at supporting refugee and displaced students near conflict-affected regions. This initiative is part of PSL's broader international solidarity action plan, which includes a dedicated solidarity fund to assist students, teachers, and researchers impacted by conflicts. The Global University Academy, a collaboration among European, African, and American universities, seeks to enhance refugees' access to higher education by offering bridge and undergraduate courses within 18 months. PSL is the sole French member of this consortium, working to develop locally relevant courses, establish mutual recognition of credits, and ensure long-term financial support for participants.

Source: <https://psl.eu/en/news/launch-global-university-academy-universite-psls-new-international-solidarity-action-plan>

4.2 AI Summer Program for Social Projects at LMU (University of Munich; October 10, 2024)

LMU Munich's AI summer program, part of the University of Chicago's Data Science for Social Good initiative, invited global fellows to work on social impact projects. In 2024, they assisted the Bavarian Forest National Park in managing visitor flows sustainably and helped the International Organization for Migration predict refugee movements. These data science teams utilized machine learning to address societal challenges. Fellows from diverse backgrounds collaborated to develop solutions, demonstrating the power of AI in resolving environmental and humanitarian issues.

Source: <https://www.lmu.de/en/newsroom/news-overview/news/ai-sum>

mer-program-for-social-projects-at-lmu.html

4.3 Black Hole Physics Workshop Brings Together Students from Across Pakistan (King's College London; October 14, 2024)

Students from across Pakistan gathered for an intensive, week-long workshop on black hole physics, led by Dr. Damián Galante, a Research Fellow in the Department of Mathematics (King's College London), and hosted at Fatima Jinnah Women University in Rawalpindi. The workshop was part of the "Physics Without Frontiers" program, run by the UNESCO-funded International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), which aims to train and inspire physics and mathematics students in the Global South. This initiative connects over 100 researchers with young talent worldwide, providing free courses that have reached more than 10,000 students. Each program is designed to offer hands-on training, lectures, and industry engagement, fostering diversity in physics and mathematics research. Throughout the week, Dr. Galante and Dr. Tibra Ali from BRAC University in Bangladesh delivered lectures and problem-solving sessions on general relativity and quantum mechanics to a group of undergraduate and master's students, helping to nurture future scientific leaders.

Source: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/physics-without-frontiers-takes-kings-physicist-to-pakistan>

4.4 Tsinghua and Finnish Universities Forge Stronger Educational Partnership (Tsinghua University; October 29, 2024)

Finnish President Cai-Göran Alexander Stubb visited Tsinghua University and attended the signing of a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between Tsinghua and the China-Network of Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences (UAS). The agreement aims to enhance Sino-Finnish academic collaboration, fostering student exchange and knowledge-sharing. President Stubb emphasized the transformative power of education in societal development and highlighted the MoU's role in expanding academic mobility. The

agreement is expected to create more opportunities for Finnish students in China and increase the number of Chinese students studying in Finland.

Source: <https://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/en/info/1245/13882.htm>

4.5 CityUHK and Lucy Cavendish College Launch Pioneering Scholarship Program (The City University of Hong Kong; October 31, 2024)

The City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK), in collaboration with Lucy Cavendish College at the University of Cambridge, has introduced a pioneering five-year scholarship program—the first of its kind among Hong Kong universities. The CityUHK-Lucy Cavendish College Scholarships are designed to attract top master’s degree students from CityUHK and around the world to pursue their studies at the University of Cambridge. The scholarships will provide funding of HK\$10 million (GBP one million) annually, supporting up to 20 students each year. Each recipient will be awarded a full scholarship to pursue a one-year, full-time master’s program at the University of Cambridge.

Source: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/media/news/2024/10/31/cityuhk-and-cambridges-lucy-cavendish-college-launch-first-university-wide-scholarship-programme-hong-kong-nurture-future-global-leaders>

4.6 Nanjing University and Durham University Expand Collaboration with Student Exchange Agreement (Nanjing University; November 5, 2024)

On October 25, 2024, Wang Zhenlin, Vice President of Nanjing University (NJU), met with Claire O’Malley, Vice Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Durham University, and her delegation to strengthen academic ties. The two universities formalized their collaboration by signing a student exchange agreement. Wang Zhenlin emphasized NJU’s commitment to expanding cooperation in astronomy, business studies, and archaeology. O’Malley provided an overview of Durham University, underscoring its research focus on new energy, the green economy, sustainable development, soil science, and cultural heritage. She expressed hope that the visit would mark the beginning

of deeper collaboration between the two institutions.

Source: <https://www.nju.edu.cn/en/info/1026/13671.htm>

4.7 KCL Opens Applications for Sandbjerg Summer School in Global History (King's College London; November 29, 2024)

King's College London (KCL) is accepting applications for the Sandbjerg Summer School in Global History. This program offers PhD students an opportunity to present their research projects and engage in discussions with peers and senior scholars in a structured yet informal environment. Organized by a consortium of six leading European universities – Aarhus, Bern, KCL, Oslo, Paris Cité, and Tübingen – the Summer School aims to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of global history and familiarize them with recent developments in the field. The initiative fosters interdisciplinary exchange and networking among scholars from diverse backgrounds.

Source: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/applications-open-for-sandbjerg-summer-school-in-global-history>

5. Non-university organizations to promote global common good

5.1 2024 World Vocational Education Conference Unveils Global Initiatives for Skills Development (Ministry of Education of China; November 22, 2024)

The 2024 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference, themed “Innovation Empowers the Future, Skills Enlighten New Lives,” commenced on November 21 in Tianjin, China. A key highlight of the event was the establishment of the World Vocational and Technical Education and Training League. The conference brought together leaders from education and related sectors across 32 countries for a ministerial roundtable, where they discussed and adopted the *Tianjin Consensus on the Development of World Vocational and Technical Education: A Declaration of 32 Ministers*, outlining a shared global vision for vocational and technical education. The conference aimed to provide six key international public goods: hosting the global conference, launching the education league, presenting the World Vocational Education Awards, organizing the World Vocational College Skills Competition, holding a thematic exhibition, and introducing an international journal focused on vocational education.

Source: http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202411/t20241123_1164312.html

5.2 National Smart Education Platform Launches Special Education Section for Inclusive Learning (Ministry of Education of China; December 4, 2024)

On December 3, 2024, the National Smart Education Platform introduced a Special Education section to mark the 33rd International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This initiative aims to provide high-quality digital resources tailored to the diverse needs of students with disabilities across all educational levels. Recognizing special education as a crucial step toward social justice, the platform seeks to bridge the digital divide and create inclusive learning opportunities. By expanding access to specialized educational resources, the

new section ensures that every student, regardless of ability, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and succeed.

Source: http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202412/t20241210_1166463.html

5.3 4th China-Africa Future Leaders' Dialogue Strengthens Youth Cooperation and Development Insights (CPAFFC; December 11, 2024)

The 4th China-Africa Future Leaders' Dialogue was held from December 7 to 11, 2024, in Hubei Province, China. Youth representatives from 14 African countries visited Wuhan and Yichang, gaining firsthand experience of Chinese modernization in practice. Through discussions and exchanges with local Chinese youth, they expressed admiration for China's development model, recognizing its potential as a valuable reference for Africa's independent development. Many participants pledged to apply the insights gained in Hubei to contribute to modernization efforts in their own countries, aiming for progress that benefits a wider population. Established in 2021 by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) under the framework of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, the China-Africa Future Leaders' Dialogue has evolved into a significant institutional platform for strengthening youth exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa.

Source: <https://cpaffc.org.cn/index/news/detail/id/9617/lang/2.html>

5.4 YTL Foundation and Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Partner to Sponsor Chevening Scholarships for Malaysian Students (The UK Government; December 31, 2024)

YTL Foundation and Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad have become corporate partners of the UK's Chevening Scholarship program in Malaysia. Announced at the Chevening 40th Anniversary Reception in Kuala Lumpur, this collaboration aims to enhance educational opportunities for Malaysian students. YTL Foundation will offer one scholarship for the 2025/26 academic year in fields such as construction and project management, while Bank

Pembangunan Malaysia Berhad will provide a three-year scholarship for studies related to finance, environmental, social, and governance (ESG), or sustainability. This partnership underscores a commitment to nurturing future leaders by providing access to world-class education in the UK.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ytl-foundation-and-bank-pembangunan-malaysia-to-sponsor-chevening-scholarship-for-malaysians-to-study-in-the-uk>