

Higher Education for Global Common Good

Policy Briefs

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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, Lingnan University, 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 second 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 second issue and collecting information on the UK, Switzerland, the EU countries 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 The Co-Created Global Leadership Program Aims at Societal Transformation (Karolinska Institutet; January 15, 2024)

The newly launched global training program, Leadership for Transformative Change, brings together 22 leaders from all over the world who are dedicated to driving transformative social development in their countries. This program is offered by Uppsala University in partnership with Karolinska Institutet, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The current cohort, initiated in September 2023, comprises high-level executives from various regions such as India, Egypt, Tanzania, Sweden, and Ukraine, representing diverse sectors. Participants are paired up, and each group has a specific “change project” aimed at transforming an aspect of their organization or local community, with the ultimate goal of creating societal impact.

Source: <https://news.ki.se/co-created-global-leadership-programme-aims-to-transform-society>

1.2 The Unveiling Ceremony of the Lumen, Université Paris-Saclay’s New Learning Centre (Université Paris-Saclay; January 22, 2024)

On Thursday, January 18, Université Paris-Saclay unveiled its new learning center, the Lumen. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Estelle Iacona, President of Université Paris-Saclay, and Sylvie Retailleau, the French Minister of Higher Education and Research. Functioning as more than just a library, the Lumen is open to the local community and serves as a multifunctional space for teaching, research, culture, science outreach, and innovation. It officially opened its doors on September 18, 2023, becoming a central hub of activity on the Plateau de Saclay. Accessible to all, the Lumen

offers millions of books, journals, and articles in both print and electronic formats to students, academics, researchers, members of the local economic and industrial ecosystem, and the general public. Its extensive collection includes materials from Université Paris-Saclay, CentraleSupélec, and ENS Paris-Saclay. Source: <https://www.universite-paris-saclay.fr/en/news/inauguration-lum-en-universite-paris-saclays-new-learning-centre>

1.3 2024 Milan Academic Week & China-Italy Design Innovation Hub (Tsinghua University; January 29, 2024)

The 2024 Milan Academic Week & China-Italy Design Innovation Hub commenced on January 20 in Milan, Italy. During his speech, Professor Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, highlighted the strategic partnership between Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Milano in establishing the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub, which marks Tsinghua University's first education and research platform in Europe. Under the theme "Dialogue for Innovation between Civilizations", this Academic Week serves as a vital platform for discussing pressing issues such as addressing common challenges faced by humanity, fostering cross-cultural exchanges, enhancing high-level scientific research collaboration, and nurturing globally competent young talents from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Source: <https://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/en/info/1245/12704.htm>

1.4 Fudan-Vienna Workshop Advances Frontiers in Mathematics and Data Science (Fudan university; February 28, 2024)

On February 26, within the framework of a strategic partnership between Fudan University and the University of Vienna, the Joint Fudan-Vienna Workshop on Applied Mathematics and Data Science commenced at Fudan University, hosted by the School of Mathematical Sciences. This three-day workshop marks the first onsite international conference jointly organized by the two universities since the COVID-19 pandemic. With 24 presentations covering three main domains—applied mathematics, data and optimization,

and finance and statistics – scholars from both institutions utilize this platform to enhance collaboration and pave the way for mutual advancement.

Source: <https://www.fudan.edu.cn/en/2024/0303/c344a139361/page.htm>

1.5 Cambridge Librarians’ Day Forum Held at UM (University of Macau; March 5, 2024)

The 10th Cambridge Librarians’ Day Forum, co-organized by the University of Macau Library and Cambridge University Press, convened at the University of Macau (UM). Attended by over 70 librarians and experts from Singapore, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Mainland China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan Province, the event focused on discussions surrounding library development and related topics. The forum’s theme “The Future of Research and Learning: Influence, User Support, and Opportunities in AI”, prompted participants from diverse backgrounds to explore strategies for meeting the needs of future researchers and learners, including enhancing influence, supporting users, and capitalizing on opportunities in the field of artificial intelligence.

Source: <https://www.um.edu.mo/news-and-press-releases/press-release/detail/57827/>

1.6 Third IAfP Africa-Japan University Education Exchange Meeting (Kyoto University; April 8, 2024)

On February 16, Kyoto University and the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) co-hosted the “Third IAfP Africa-Japan University Education Exchange Meeting” (12th Committee for Japanese Universities’ International Exchange Program) in a hybrid format. The event drew participation from 30 universities – 14 in Japan and 16 in Africa – along with four other organizations, totaling 105 attendees. IAfP stands for “Innovative Africa: Educational Networking Programs for Human Resource Development in Africa’s SDGs”, a program implemented by the two Japanese universities since 2020 with support from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and

Technology (MEXT) of Japan. The meeting provided a platform for participants from Africa to gain insights into university admission processes and career development opportunities in Japan.

Source: <https://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/news/2024-04-08>

1.7 Open Science: A Global Endeavor (Utrecht University; April 15, 2024)

In early April, approximately 20 international colleagues visited Utrecht with the International Association of Universities (IAU) to observe Utrecht University's efforts in the realm of open science. Experts specializing in various aspects of open science, such as fair data, open access, public engagement, recognition & rewards, and open education, delivered presentations during a two-day program, showcasing the university's initiatives to implement open science practices. The visiting international delegates are actively engaged in open science at universities across the United States, Canada, Thailand, South Africa, and various European countries. As part of Utrecht University's commitment to open science, regular opportunities for international exchange are incorporated into its mission. The shift towards practices like recognition & rewards and open access, coupled with a reduced reliance on external university rankings, holds significant promise for the global adoption of open science principles.

Source: <https://www.uu.nl/en/news/open-science-an-international-effort>

1.8 UG Signed *Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information* (University of Groningen; April 16, 2024)

In a significant step towards advancing responsible research assessment and open science, the University of Groningen (UG) has formally endorsed the *Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information*. Released on April 16 with an initial roster of over 40 signatories, the *Declaration* represents a collective initiative aimed at fostering openness in all facets of research information usage and impact. It serves as a testament to the academic community's shared vision for a more inclusive and equitable research environment. Co-authored by over

25 research information experts, the *Declaration* seeks to underscore the imperative for research information to be openly accessible.

Source: <https://www.rug.nl/about-ug/latest-news/news/archief2024/nieuwsberichten/0416-barcelona-declaration>

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

2.1 Universities of São Paulo and Groningen Strengthen Partnership (University of Groningen; January 29, 2024)

The Universities of São Paulo (USP) and the University of Groningen (UG) have entered into a cooperation agreement aimed at enhancing and broadening their longstanding and successful collaboration. This agreement was formalized during a recent visit by a large delegation from UG to USP, led by Rector Professor Jacquélien Scherpen. At the core of the shared goals of USP and UG are the promotion of high-quality international research, the encouragement of interdisciplinary approaches, and the alignment of educational programs with societal needs and the labor market. Specifically, both universities will prioritize expanding the double degree PhD program, exploring collaborative Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, innovating doctoral training programs, and facilitating exchanges of staff and students.

Source: <https://www.rug.nl/news/2024/01/universities-of-sao-paulo-and-groningen-strengthen-partnership>

2.2 KU Leuven and UCLouvain Deepen Collaboration with Congo (KU Leuven; March 13, 2024)

In 1954, the Catholic university 'Lovanium' was established in the former Belgian Congo—a diverse campus featuring professors from Leuven and a student body comprised of both Congolese and European students. In commemoration of Lovanium's 70th anniversary, KU Leuven and UCLouvain have made a significant commitment to jointly provide 70 scholarships for doctoral projects and research residencies, among other initiatives. These scholarships aim to facilitate collaboration between Congolese researchers and their Belgian counterparts, fostering partnerships in both Congo and Belgium. Additionally, research residencies will be utilized to involve Congolese

colleagues in educational programs at Leuven whenever feasible. Furthermore, the partnership is dedicated to fostering extensive collaboration in research, education, and capacity-building across various fields such as climate change, biodiversity, health, digitalization, cultural heritage, and international relations. Source: <https://nieuws.kuleuven.be/en/content/2024/70-years-of-lovanium-70-scholarships-ku-leuven-and-uclouvain-strengthen-collaboration-with-congolese-universities>

2.3 President of Hokkaido University Visited University College Dublin (Hokkaido University; April 3, 2024)

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the partnership between Hokkaido University (HU) and University College Dublin (UCD), President Kiyohiro Houkin and his colleagues visited UCD on February 20–21. Over the past decade, HU and UCD have bolstered their inter-university collaboration through joint appointments of academics and collaborative research and educational endeavors at institutions such as the Global Institute for Collaborative Research and Education (GI-CoRE), Institute for Vaccine Research and Development (IVReD), and HU Public Policy School. During the visit, the two universities renewed their *Memorandum of Understanding for Institutional and Academic Cooperation between UCD and HU*.

Source: <https://www.global.hokudai.ac.jp/blog/president-houkins-visit-to-university-college-dublin/>

2.4 King's College London and McMaster University Forge Partnership to Advance Nuclear Medicine (King's College London; April 8, 2024)

The School of Biomedical Engineering & Imaging Sciences (BMEIS) of King's College London (King's) and McMaster University have joined forces to drive forward nuclear medicine research and education. This collaboration aims to advance both research and training in the field of nuclear medicine, with both partners utilizing their cutting-edge nuclear research facilities and expertise to develop innovative production methods for radionuclides and

radiopharmaceuticals. These advancements will be instrumental in supporting the discovery and development of new health interventions. Researchers and students from King's and McMaster will have the opportunity to visit each other's institutions, collaborating on research projects at world-class nuclear facilities and engaging in joint training programs and skills-building workshops.

Source: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-and-mcmaster-university-partnership-to-advance-nuclear-medicine>

2.5 A Biotech Alliance Aims to Address Global Challenges (The University of Edinburgh; April 17, 2024)

The University of Edinburgh has initiated a 10-year strategic partnership with Gujarat Biotechnology University (GBU), India's first biotechnology university. This collaboration aims to bolster biotechnology research across both institutions, with a particular emphasis on leveraging entrepreneurship to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. The launch of the *Collaboration Agreement* took place in Gujarat, a state on India's west coast. As part of this partnership, Edinburgh academics have developed a tailored curriculum for GBU's inaugural Master's in Biotechnology program, which focuses on utilizing technological solutions to address critical global issues such as climate change, cancer therapy, antimicrobial resistance, and crop resilience. Additionally, Edinburgh staff will provide training and facilitate research collaborations between the two institutions, offering academics valuable insights into India's burgeoning science and technology landscape. Furthermore, 12 GBU students will have the opportunity to conduct three-month research placements at Edinburgh as part of their postgraduate studies.

Source: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2024/indian-biotech-alliance-to-tackle-global-issues>

2.6 University of Bonn Joined Global U7+ University Network (University of Bonn; April 19, 2024)

The U7+ Alliance of World Universities is a global network comprising over 50 universities from 20 countries across all five continents. During the G7 summit held in Italy in April, the U7+ Alliance urged heads of state, government officials, and over 80 university leaders from 18 countries to enhance global access to higher education, viewing it as a means of accelerating economic growth and fostering societal stability. The University of Bonn was represented at the summit by its Rector, Professor Michael Hoch, and its Vice Rector for International Affairs, Professor Birgit Ulrike Münch. At the summit, themed “Inclusive Education for Inclusive Societies”, U7+ members pledged to facilitate access to higher education for individuals at all stages of their academic journey, both within and beyond their respective institutions. This commitment extends to fostering an inclusive and supportive campus culture conducive to the success of all students, faculty, and staff members.

Source: <https://www.uni-bonn.de/en/news/082-2024>

3. Colleges and universities to make efforts for global challenges

3.1 Tianjin University and ISMC will Host the 4th ISMC Conference (Tianjin University; December 9, 2023)

Tianjin University and The International Soil Modeling Consortium (ISMC) are set to host the 4th ISMC Conference from May 7 to 10, 2024, at the Pan-Pacific Hotel in Tianjin, China. The conference is dedicated to integrating and advancing soil system modeling and Earth system science. Recognizing soils as essential resources that must be protected and managed to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ISMC strives to elevate soil modeling as a crucial tool for disseminating knowledge and addressing global challenges, while also promoting the development of translational research activities.

Source: <https://www.tju.edu.cn/english/info/1010/7721.htm>

3.2 HKUST Hosted AUA Youth Forum to Foster a Sustainable Future (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; January 12, 2024)

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), serving as the Executive Presidency of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) for 2023–2024, hosted the AUA Youth Forum 2024 from January 6–12, 2024. This 7-day forum, themed “Building a Better Future: Inspiring Youth for Sustainable Habitat”, brought together 45 students from 14 esteemed AUA member universities across Asia to address the challenges, opportunities, and necessary actions for a sustainable future. The event offered a rich program, including insightful talks, interactive workshops, engaging panel discussions, and sharing sessions. These were led by HKUST professors, sustainability experts, and young entrepreneurs, focusing on pressing environmental issues such as climate change, solid waste management, and carbon neutrality. The goal was to inspire the next generation of leaders to take proactive steps and contribute to the creation of a sustainable living environment.

Source: <https://hkust.edu.hk/news/internationalization-and-partnership/hkust-hosts-aua-youth-forum-build-sustainable-future>

3.3 Oxford Launched Updated Carbon Offsetting Principles (University of Oxford; February 28, 2024)

An interdisciplinary team of researchers from University of Oxford has released an updated version of their flagship guidance on credible and net zero aligned carbon offsetting, initially published in 2020 and widely used by hundreds of organizations. The revised “Oxford Offsetting Principles” incorporate the latest scientific findings, call for significant changes in carbon markets and offsetting practices, and provide a framework for achieving a net zero society. Co-author Professor Nick Eyre from Zero-carbon Energy Research Oxford (ZERO) stated, “The revised Principles emphasize the importance of reducing emissions, in line with recent global agreements to enhance the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency as part of the transition away from fossil fuels. For organizations aiming to meet a net zero standard, this should be their main focus.”

Source: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2024-02-28-oxford-researchers-launch-updated-carbon-offsetting-principles>

3.4 Imperial Aims to Scale Up Convergence Science to Boost Economic Growth (Imperial College London; March 5, 2024)

Imperial College London has unveiled a new strategy aimed at maximizing the university’s potential as a force for global common good. Professor Hugh Brady, President of Imperial College London, stated, “Since our founding in 1907, Imperial has aimed to be not only a world-leading university but a world-changing one.” This ambitious strategy leverages the university’s strengths in research and education excellence, its focus on science, technology, engineering, medicine, and business (STEMB), its culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, and its prime London location. The strategy is designed to navigate an unpredictable world facing unprecedented challenges and to accelerate the impact of new discoveries and ideas. It particularly emphasizes building and harnessing multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on an unprecedented scale to drive innovation,

entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth.

Source: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/251840/imperial-targeting-convergence-science-scale-drive/>

3.5 The Inaugural Hong Kong Climate Forum (The University of Hong Kong; March 25, 2024)

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) held its inaugural Hong Kong Climate Forum on March 25, marking a significant milestone that highlights Hong Kong's pivotal position as a hub for climate change research, green innovation, and finance. The forum served as a platform to connect the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area with the global community, bringing together experts, policymakers, business leaders, and stakeholders from both the United States and China. Participants included representatives from bay areas such as the San Francisco Bay Area and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Source: https://hku.hk/press/news_detail_27174.html

3.6 Researchers Move Closer to HIV Cure (University of Bristol; March 26, 2024)

By 2030, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund, and UNAIDS aim to eradicate the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS epidemic. A team of international researchers, led by Professor Eric Arts from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in Canada, and Dr. Jamie Mann, Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol, has made significant progress towards achieving this goal. Their study has identified an effective and affordable targeted treatment strategy for an HIV cure. The research demonstrates that a virus-like particle (HLP) can effectively “shock and kill” the latent HIV reservoir. If successful in clinical trials, HLP could potentially be used by millions of people worldwide to eliminate HIV from their bodies.

Source: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2024/march/hiv-study.html>

3.7 “Beyond GDP”: How Universities Can Foster Sustainable Prosperity in Society (Erasmus University Rotterdam; April 15, 2024)

A conference held in Brussels on March 21–22, titled “Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity: Re-thinking the Role of Universities”, hosted by Erasmus University Rotterdam, highlighted the importance of sustainability on the European agenda. Speakers emphasized the need for better ways to measure productivity, noting that conventional measures such as gross domestic product (GDP) do not adequately account for environmental costs, inclusiveness, or societal well-being. It was argued that Europe requires more comprehensive metrics to assess its prosperity and societal well-being, and universities are pivotal in developing and promoting these new, sustainability-conscious measures.

Source: <https://www.eur.nl/en/news/beyond-gdp-how-universities-can-help-society-drive-sustainable-prosperity>

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

4.1 “Una Europa” Universities Convened in Helsinki to Explore Shared Values (University of Helsinki; December 28, 2023)

In November 2023, 64 students representing 11 European universities convened at the annual Una Europa Student Congress in Helsinki. Una Europa, comprising 11 member universities such as the universities of Helsinki, Edinburgh, and Zurich, aims to leverage the strengths of its partner institutions and facilitate the exchange of Europe’s leading expertise across various disciplines. The alliance’s impact is evident in the daily lives of students and researchers, as well as in university administration. Una Europa coordinates courses and training programs for students, researchers, and staff, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing. Furthermore, it facilitates the dissemination of best practices and facilitates networking opportunities, enabling researchers from diverse fields to jointly pursue opportunities such as EU research funding. Una Europa also provides seed funding for early-career researchers, supporting long-term collaboration initiatives among partner universities.

Source: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/news/culture/community-11-european-universities-una-europa-students-met-helsinki-consider-shared-values>

4.2 University of the Basque Country Rector Eva Ferreira Visited Tokyo Tech (Tokyo Institute of Technology; January 11, 2024)

On November 1, 2023, a delegation led by Rector Eva Ferreira of the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) visited Tokyo Institute of Technology. During the visit, the two universities reached agreements to establish an *Institutional-Level Agreement* and a *Student Exchange Agreement*. With the *Institutional-Level Agreement* starting from November 2023, joint research efforts and student exchanges are anticipated to increase. Both

universities will benefit from the mutual dispatch of faculty members for educational and research activities, enhancing collaboration. Additionally, the *Student Exchange Agreement*, which includes a tuition waiver, will enable students to study abroad for up to a year, broadening their options for international study experiences.

Source: <https://www.titech.ac.jp/english/news/2024/068179>

4.3 XJTU Made Cooperation Agreements with Two Uzbekistan Universities (Xi'an Jiaotong University; January 23, 2024)

The Chinese-Uzbek Forum of One Hundred Universities commenced on January 22 in Beijing. During the signing ceremony held at the forum, Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU) inked cooperation agreements with Tashkent University of Information Technologies and Tashkent State Technical University of Uzbekistan. These agreements signify XJTU's commitment to enhancing international collaboration in the energy sector, with a focus on joint graduate training, exchange of research personnel, and reciprocal visits between the institutions.

Source: http://en.xjtu.edu.cn/2024-01/23/c_959381.htm

4.4 UCL Enhances Collaborations with France in Doctoral Research and Artificial Intelligence (University College London; March 1, 2024)

Sylvie Retailleau, French Minister of Higher Education & Research, and Her Excellency H el ene Tr eheux-Duch ene, French Ambassador to the UK, alongside Professor Alain Fuchs, President of Universit  Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL), and other academics, convened to meet with PhD students from University College London (UCL) and PSL. During the meeting, UCL President & Provost Dr. Michael Spence signed two agreements. The first agreement outlines a framework with PSL aimed at expanding mutual research links, including the UCL-PSL doctoral research internship program. Supported by the Embassy of France in the UK starting from April 2024, this program enables UCL doctoral students from various disciplines to undertake short-term

research stays at PSL, fostering international research experience and collaboration. The second agreement was a *Letter of Intent* between UCL and INRIA, France's National Institute for Digital Science and Technology, laying the groundwork for the establishment of a Joint Centre on Artificial Intelligence later in the year.

Source: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2024/mar/ucl-strengthens-collaborations-france-doctoral-research-and-ai>

4.5 Sorbonne University and NKUA Forge New Agreement (Sorbonne University; March 11, 2024)

Sorbonne University and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) have entered into a memorandum of cooperation, uniting two distinguished public universities with shared values. The agreement aims to foster fruitful scientific collaboration and exchanges among researchers and students. Discussions during the meeting encompassed various fields including French language and philology, history, archaeology, physics, chemistry, computing, and medicine. The framework encompasses all academic activities in research and teaching, including the establishment of double or joint degrees, joint research, and publication initiatives. Both universities will dedicate resources to develop concrete projects, such as a master's program featuring mandatory student mobility for one semester at each institution and internships at research facilities within the partner's hospital.

Source: <https://www.sorbonne-universite.fr/en/news/new-agreement-university-athens>

4.6 Una Europa Joint Bachelor's Degree Program Expands Opportunities for UZH Students (University of Zurich; April 11, 2024)

Since 2022, the University of Zurich (UZH) has been a member of Una Europa, a leading alliance of European universities. Collaborating in teaching, research, and administration, the alliance aims to enhance student mobility

among partner institutions. Through Una Europa, UZH students gain access to courses offered by other member universities. One notable program facilitated by Una Europa is the Bachelor of Arts in European Studies (BAES), initiated by eight of the 11 member universities two years ago. UZH is poised to become the ninth university to join this program, with preparations currently underway. From 2025 onward, UZH students will have the opportunity to pursue this unique joint Bachelor's degree program. Additionally, a joint Bachelor's degree program in sustainability is slated to launch in 2026. Committed to fostering diversity within the UZH community and promoting student mobility, UZH is dedicated to providing enriching educational experiences for its students.

Source: <https://www.news.uzh.ch/en/articles/news/2024/una-europa-join-t-bachelor.html>

5. Non-university organizations to promote global common good

5.1 CDRF Held the 8th International Symposium on Child Development (China Development Research Foundation; December 16, 2023)

The China Development Research Foundation (CDRF) hosted the 8th International Symposium on Child Development in Beijing on December 16, 2023. The symposium aimed to foster international exchanges of research and practices in the field of child development. With the theme “Promoting Child Development for Quality Population Development”, the event attracted nearly 300 participants from government departments, universities, international organizations, social organizations, as well as experts and scholars from the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, South Korea, South Africa, and China.

Source: <https://cdrf-en.cdrf.org.cn/jjhdt/7009.htm>

5.2 2024 World Digital Education Conference Launched in Shanghai (Ministry of Education of China; January 30, 2024)

The 2024 World Digital Education Conference (WDEC), organized jointly by the Ministry of Education of China, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, and the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government, commenced in Shanghai on January 30. Themed “Digital Education: Application, Sharing, and Innovation”, the conference highlights various topics, including enhancing teachers’ digital literacy, fostering a learning society through education digitalization, assessing global trends in digital education, exploring artificial intelligence and digital ethics, addressing challenges and opportunities in digital transformation for basic education, and implementing digital governance in education. During the meeting, it was emphasized that China will continue supporting UNESCO’s leadership in global education transformation and will advance STEM education worldwide by developing the UNESCO International Institute for STEM Education (IISTEM).

Source: http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202401/t20240131_1113

[592.html](#)

5.3 Transformational Gift Redefines Global Development Research for the 21st Century (Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation; March 12, 2024)

The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation has made a transformative donation of £2 million to the Global Development Institute (GDI) at the University of Manchester. This generous contribution will support an ambitious program aimed at redefining the role of global development research in the 21st century. The initiative aligns with GDI's overarching mission of addressing global inequalities and fostering a socially just world for all. GDI aims to set a new standard and lead by example in how universities in the Global North collaborate with partners in the Global South, ensuring that knowledge creation is a collaborative effort. Activities supported by the donation include the establishment of a new policy lab, which will focus on translating academic research into tangible policy changes. Additionally, the donation will fund the creation of new PhD studentships that will concentrate on addressing climate change and poverty reduction.

Source: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/transformational-gift-set-to-redefine-global-development-research-for-the-21st-century-at-university-of-manchester/>

<https://www.rebrooksfoundation.org.uk/news/university-of-manchester>

5.4 Technical Workshop on SDG4: A Collaborative Endeavor in the Gulf Region (UNESCO; March 20, 2024)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a guiding framework for global initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable growth, ensuring well-being, economic development, and progress. SDG4 specifically targets the provision of high-quality education for all individuals throughout their lives, serving as a cornerstone of the 2030 Education Agenda. In a collaborative endeavor, the UNESCO Regional Office for the Gulf States & Yemen, the Arab

Bureau for Education in the Gulf States (ABEGS), and the Regional Centre for Education Planning (RCEP) have united to strengthen SDG4 monitoring efforts in the Gulf Region. Through a series of country-level technical workshops, these organizations seek to enhance national capacities in education data and statistics, as well as support the preparation of SDG-related reports. This initiative aims to improve regional and national policies, planning, and monitoring strategies in education.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/technical-workshop-sdg4-progress-gaps-and-challenges-data-driven-approach>

5.5 BEAR III Project Commenced in four African Countries (UNESCO; April 16, 2024)

The Better Education for Africa's Rise (BEAR III) project, a collaborative effort between UNESCO and the Republic of Korea, is embarking on its new phase in four beneficiary countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The launch of this phase was commemorated with an event held in Abuja, Nigeria, on April 16 and 17. The primary objective of the BEAR III project is to enhance Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) systems, ultimately bolstering the skills and employability of young people across Africa. Throughout the four countries, the project aims to support a minimum of 16 TVET centers, provide capacity-building for 1,000 stakeholders, train 400 instructors, and implement 20 initiatives to improve the perception of TVET.

Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/new-phase-better-education-africas-rise-project-begins-four-countries>