

The Belt and Road Exchange Project

(November 27-December 9, 2025)

Concept Note

Project Title: The Belt and Road Exchange Project - Professional
Development for Secondary and Primary Educators (2025)

Places: Education Administrators, Teacher Educators, Researchers,
Secondary and Primary Principals

Candidates: 40 candidates

Time: November 27 to December 9, 2025

Language: English

Organizer: Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO; Research Institute for
International and Comparative Education, SHNU

Sponsor: Department of Teacher Education, MOE; Shanghai Municipal
Education Commission

Schedules: In the Attachment

Open to application: From September 20 to October 31, 2025

Contact person: Mr. GUO Xuan

Address: Guilin Road 55, Shanghai, China

Tele: 86-021-64321029 **Email:** guoxuan@tec-unesco.org.cn

1. Project Overview

The Belt and Road Shanghai Exchange Project, funded by Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO; Shanghai Normal University; Research Institute for International and Comparative Education from Shanghai Normal University, aims to facilitate the exchange of educational ideas and experiences among education administrators, teacher education researchers and primary and secondary school principals. Starting in 2017, it serves as a platform at Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) to welcome international candidates. Due to international travel restrictions, the Project was conducted through a series of online activities in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In 2023, the Organizer resumes on-site activities and seminars in Shanghai. Interested colleagues are encouraged to send us their registration form as attached for this project.

Year	Topic	Participants
2017	China Education Overview: An International Perspective	14 government officials from 7 countries
2018	PISA, TALIS and Reforms in Basic Education	22 government officials and researchers from 15 countries
2019	Policy and Practice: Teacher Professional Development	35 government officials and researchers from 22 countries
2020	Schools and Teachers during and after the Pandemic	2,000 online participants
2021	Evaluation on Teacher Professional Development	18,368 online participants
2022	World Teacher Education Expo	5,688 online participants
2023	Integrated Training of Teachers before and after Service	33 government officials and researchers from 17 countries
2024	Teachers for STEM	27 government officials and researchers from 13 countries
2025	STEM Teachers in the AI Era	35 government officials and researchers from 24 countries
	Social and Emotional Learning of Teachers and Students in the AI Era	Pending (Oct.26-Nov.11)
	Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators	Pending (Nov.27-Dec.9)

The theme of this year's project is ***Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators***, which specifically covers the following four aspects:

(1) Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS);

- (2) Teachers & AI;
- (3) STEM Teachers;
- (4) Teachers' Social-Emotional Development & Support for Students.

This project is co-hosted by educational administrators, primary and secondary school principals, and educational experts from universities and research institutions. Centering on the theme, all participants will conduct discussions on relevant issues through a combination of communication seminars, on-site visits, and observations (see Attachment for details) . It is expected that this project will promote the professional development of teachers in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, advance the reform and development of basic education in these countries, and drive the continuous realization of educational modernization in BRI partner countries.

2. Introduction to the organizer



The UNESCO Teacher Education Centre (TEC) is a dedicated institution within the UNESCO network, established to advance global excellence in teacher development. Following its approval at the 39th UNESCO General Conference in November 2017, the Centre was officially headquartered in Shanghai. In April 2019, the State Council of China formally certified the UNESCO TEC's establishment, and in September 2020, the Chinese government and UNESCO solidified their collaboration through a foundational agreement outlining the Centre's governance framework. Mandated to serve as a “global hub” for teacher education, the UNESCO TEC operates across three core pillars: 1) Service provision, delivering innovative solutions to address global educational challenges; 2) Standard-setting, establishing benchmarks for teacher training and professional development; 3) Research and resource leadership, curating knowledge, managing resources, and fostering international dialogue. Additionally, the Centre undertakes a strategic mandate to strengthen global teacher education systems through knowledge production, capacity-building initiatives, technical support, and the

dissemination of best practices. By bridging policy, research, and practice, the UNESCO TEC aims to empower educators and institutions worldwide to meet evolving educational demands.



Shanghai Normal University (SHNU), founded in 1954, is a comprehensive university with salient features of teacher education and particular strength in liberal arts. SHNU manifests a high-quality academic staff of 2,915 teachers and researchers, including 1,831 full-time teachers, among which there are 300 professors (or equivalents) and 667 associate professors (or equivalents). Located in the metropolis Shanghai, SHNU boasts special features and strength in international cooperation and exchanges. By March 2021, the University has established links with 405 universities and educational institutions in 40 countries and regions. Every year, more than 2,000 foreign students choose to study at SHNU, and a large number of SHNU teachers and students visit and study in universities abroad.



The Research Institute for International and Comparative Education (RIICE) is an important branch of Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) and the founding team of UNESCO TEC. It is also the University Think Tank of Shanghai Municipal Government for Global City Education, the International Education Research and Consultation Centre Education Policy Research Unit affiliated to MOE, and the MOE Base for International Education Studies. RIICE is also the Shanghai organizer of several international large-scale educational surveys, including Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2009 & 2012, Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2013 & 2018, TALIS 2018 Video Study, and Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2014.

3. Notice to this project

- This is a non-profit annual project for international professionals in education and

social affairs held by the Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO and the Research Institute for International and Comparative Education, Shanghai Normal University.

- To respect diverse cultural contexts, the Project will accept a maximum of three registered participants from each country. For applicants with similar professional backgrounds, the Organizer will follow a “first come, first served” policy.
- The registration fee and tuition for the Project are waived. The Project organizer will cover local accommodation, breakfast and lunch, and transportation between the hotel and workshop venues during the project. Participants are responsible for their round-trip tickets.



Attachment: Project Schedules (in pending)

Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators		
Date	Morning (9:00-11:30)	Afternoon (14:00-16:30)
Nov. 27 (Day 1)	Registration day	
Nov. 28 (Day 2)	Opening Ceremony Welcome Speech: Prof. Minxuan Zhang, Director of UNESCO TEC Leading speech: The Current Status of Global Teacher Education from the Perspective of TALIS Speaker: Prof. Minxuan Zhang, Director of UNESCO-TEC Forum: The Current Situation and Challenges of Teacher Education Development in your own country Speaker: Representatives from universities, research institutes and enterprises	School Visit: TBD
Nov. 29 (Day 3)	Forum: The professional standards for teachers, the relevant systems, policies, and innovative measures for teacher cultivation and the promotion of teachers' professional development in your country Speaker: Participants	School Visit: Shanghai Teacher Institute
Nov. 30 (Day 4)	Workshop: Modern methods and strategies for mathematics teaching Speaker: Participants	School Visit: Observe the activities of primary school teaching and research groups
Dec. 1 (Day 5)	Lecture: Scientific Modern Teaching Methods and Strategies, Application of Innovative Teaching Tools and Resources (e.g., AI), and In-School Teacher Professional Development Initiatives Speaker: Experts from international organizations and universities	School Visit: Observe the activities of secondary school teaching and research groups



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Dec. 2 (Day 5)	Lecture: Methods and Strategies for the Development of Teachers' Social-Emotional Support Competence Speaker: Experts from Shanghai Normal University/Middle School Educators	School Visit: Observe the after-activities of primary school
Dec. 3 (Day 6)	Visit: Shanghai Science & Technology Museum	Explore Shanghai Freely
Dec. 4 (Day 7)	Explore Shanghai Freely	
Dec. 5 (Day 8)	Lecture: The Development of Educational Digitalization and Modern Teaching Methods Speaker: Experts from Shanghai Normal University	School Visit: Observe the Application of Digital Technology in Secondary School Teaching
Dec. 6 (Day 9)	Lecture: The Development of Educational Digitalization and Modern Teaching Methods Speaker: Experts from Shanghai Normal University	School Visit: Observe the Application of Digital Technology in Primary School Teaching
Dec. 7 (Day 10)	Visit: Shanghai Astronomy Museum	Visit: Youth Activity Center
Dec. 8 (Day 11)	Roundtable: Reflection and Summary Speaker: Participants	Closing Ceremony
Dec. 9 (Day 12)	Participants return to their countries	



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**Better Teacher
Better Education**

01 Overview

In November 2017, the 39th General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) approved the establishment of “Teacher Education Centre under the auspices of UNESCO” (hereinafter referred to as the “Centre”) in Shanghai, China. Following approval from the State Council of the People's Republic of China, an agreement was signed between the Shanghai Municipal Government and UNESCO in September 2020. The Centre commenced its official operations in October 2021, following the inaugural session of its Governing Board.



Under the auspices of UNESCO, the Centre is dedicated to the field of teacher education and development. It operates within a framework that encompasses four pivotal functions: knowledge production, capacity building, technical support, and information sharing. The Centre aspires to emerge as a preeminent global entity in the realm of teacher education, fulfilling the roles of service provider, standard setter, and research and resource management centre. It is instrumental in propelling the objectives of the Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

02 Core Functions



Knowledge Production:

The Centre engages in scholarly research pertaining to the advancement of basic education and teacher education, encompassing assessments of administrative management and educational innovation. It is committed to the global dissemination of research outcomes.



Capacity Building:

The Centre executes multi-tiered training programs designed to bolster the competencies of entities engaged in basic and teacher education. It orchestrates training workshops and seminars targeting policymakers, teacher educators, pivotal school administrators, and educators from UNESCO Member States and affiliated institutions.



Technical Support:

Utilizing information and communication technologies in conjunction with expert networks, the Centre extends specialized services in the domains of basic and teacher education to the least developed countries, with a particular focus on regions such as the Asia-Pacific and Africa.



Information Sharing:

The Centre fosters collaborative efforts with UNESCO headquarters, field offices, regional bureaux, National Commissions, Category 1 institutes, and other Category 2 Centers. This collaboration aims to exchange best practices, cutting-edge theories, and methodologies concerning teacher policies, in-service training, and professional development.

03 Governing Board



The Governing Board is comprised of 11 members, including the Chairperson, and is tasked with providing strategic direction and oversight of the Centre's operations. It also approves the Centre's medium- and long-term plans. The Board convenes annually to review the Centre's annual report and approve the work plan for the upcoming year.



◇ Mr. CHEN Qun ◇

Vice Chairman of Shanghai Municipal CPPCC
(the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference)
Former Deputy Mayor of Shanghai Municipal Government



◇ Mr. Borhene CHAKROUN ◇

Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO,
Director of Policies and Lifelong Learning
Systems Division at UNESCO-HQ



◇ Prof. DING Gang ◇

Domestic Expert Representative from
East China Normal University



◇ Prof. Getachew ENGIDA ◇

Representative from UNESCO
Member State (Ethiopia),
Former DDG of UNESCO



◇ Prof. HAN Soonghee ◇

Representative from UNESCO
Member State (South Korea)
College of Education,
Seoul National University



◇ Mr. LI Yongzhi ◇

President of China National Academy of
Educational Sciences,
Former Deputy Director-General of
Shanghai Municipal Education Commission



◇ Mr. QIN Changwei ◇

Representative of Ministry of Education of
the People's Republic of China,
Secretary-General of the UNESCO
National Commission of the People's
Republic of China



◇ Andreas SCHLEICHER ◇

Representative from UNESCO
Member State (Germany),
Director for the Directorate of
Education and Skills, OECD



◇ Prof. YUAN Wen ◇

Representative of
Shanghai Normal University,
President of
Shanghai Normal University



◇ Prof. ZHOU Zuoyu ◇

Domestic Expert Representative
Director of the UNESCO International
Research and Training Centre for Rural Education;
Deputy Director of the University Committee of
Beijing Normal University



◇ Prof. ZHANG Minxuan ◇

Director for Teacher Education Centre,
Former President of
Shanghai Normal University

04 Expert Advisors

The Centre's expert advisors are appointed globally by the Director, with nominations submitted to the Governing Board for approval. These advisors provide expert guidance on the Centre's operational strategies and long-term development plans.



◇ CHENG Kai-Ming ◇

Emeritus professor and honorary director of the Education Policy Unit in the HKU
Faculty of education,
former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of HKU



Linda DARLING-HAMMOND

Emeritus professor at Stanford University,
founding president of the Learning Policy Institute,
2022 Yidan Prize Winner in education research



Mmantsetsa MAROPE

Botswana researcher,
PhD holder from University of Chicago,
UNESCO IBE former director



◇ YUAN Zhenguo ◇

Professor, Director of Faculty of Education at ECNU,
Former deputy director of the Department of
Teacher Education in the Ministry of Education

05 Main Activities

The Centre's operations are anchored in its four core functions: knowledge production, capacity building, technical support, and information sharing. A holistic strategy has been meticulously crafted to integrate these functions with regional and project-specific initiatives.

Knowledge Production

The Centre's research team is actively engaged in conducting foundational research in the fields of international and teacher education, thereby continuously augmenting its scholarly expertise. It also actively participates in global research collaborations and international projects, thereby contributing to the global advancement of teacher development.



Publication of high-level academic papers in journals globally



Publication of academic monographs and translations

Capacity Building

Over the years, the Centre has implemented a series of capacity-building workshops and training programs. These initiatives target teacher educators, primary and secondary school teachers, and education administrators across diverse regions, including Africa, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, Latin America, as well as the central and western regions of China.



| Shanghai-Tanzania Mathematics Teacher Professional Development Programme |



| The Teacher Capacity Building Programmes for the Belt and Road Countries |



| The Teacher Capacity Building Programmes for ASEAN Countries |



| The Shanghai Learning Events for Brazilian Mathematics Olympiad Teachers |

| Capacity Building Programmes for Rural Teachers in China |

Technical Support

Bolstered by a network of regional and national experts, the Centre offers professional guidance and services to international partners seeking collaboration and exchange within the educational domain.



March 2023, the Joint Education Centre for the East African region was inaugurated in Dar es Salaam.



November 2023, the Joint Education Centre was established with Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta in Indonesia



'Skilled Teachers-Skilled Nation' Project for Central Asia Teachers



Promoting the China's best practice for international organisations

Information Sharing

The Centre leverages both traditional media outlets (such as journals and conferences) and digital platforms (e.g., WeChat public accounts) to facilitate the dissemination of the latest trends and developments in teacher education and international education. It provides a platform for knowledge exchange and supports the professional growth of educators.

Journal



Conferences:



Global Forum for Teacher Professional Development



2023 ASEAN Education Officials Vocational and Digital Education Study Trip to Shanghai



Seminar on 'Teacher Development in the Digital Era'



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