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NEWSLETTER

January - April 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office

Cluster Office to the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea, Japan,
Mongolia, the People's Republic of
China, and the Republic of Korea

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From Director's Desk

Dear readers,

I'm pleased to present to you the first issue of our office's newsletter in 2022, which covers our work from January to April, the spring season.

As a famous Chinese saying goes, "the whole year's work depends on a good start in spring." A good start will indeed lay a good foundation for the year to come. We also believe that "well begun is half done", which is why we have developed yearly work plans of each sector and pushed forward with these plans vigorously in this period. Our plans and progress are featured in this issue.

Additionally, this newsletter adopts a fresh structure of country by country highlights, aiming to showcase our close connection with 5 cluster countries and to provide readers with information of our focus in each country. Readers can easily refer to this open information and potential collaborations are cordially welcome.

As guided by UNESCO Headquarters' strategic priorities specified in the 41st session of General Conference at the end of 2021 and our work plans, we have advanced towards our goals progressively during these four months. A number of achievements were made, including but not limited to: SDG 4 monitoring and implementation, ESDfor2030 Roadmap promotion at all levels, new partnerships with Gansu Province and the World Bank to support Gansu's Cultural and Creative Industries, and continued leadership the UN Theme Group on Disability (UNTGD) in China. Going forward, the Office will maximize its capacity as the Secretariat of East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) to support our member states for trainings of biodiversity conservation, ecotourism development, among others. The office will also support regional strategies and activities on AI ethics, bioethics, ethics of science and technology, and climate change ethics.

There are more in the newsletter for you to explore. Happy reading!



Shahbaz Khan

Director and UNESCO Representative to
the People's Republic of China,
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,
Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea

41st Session of General Conference Snapshot

The General Conference, attended by Member States representatives and other observers every two years, determines the policies and the main lines of work of the Organization, including discussing all the issues concerning the general policy of the Organization, and by focusing on certain major themes to lead the way forward:

- **New UNESCO flagship report calls for reimagining the futures of education**

During the 41st session of the General Conference, UNESCO launched its latest global report on education, titled *Reimagining our Futures Together: A New Social Contract for Education*. More than a million people – experts, young people and teachers but also civil society, government and economic actors – were tapped in the global consultation that informed it.

The report recommends an urgent, sweeping reform of education globally to repair past injustices and enhance our capacity to act together for a more sustainable future.

Looking to 2050 and beyond, the report considers the impact of digital technologies, climate change, threats to democracy, growing social inequalities and the uncertain future of work. It examines three critical questions on education: “What should we continue doing? What should we abandon? What needs to be creatively reinvented?”

- **UNESCO adopts first global standard on the ethics of artificial intelligence**

In November 2021, the 193 Member States at UNESCO’s General Conference adopted the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the very first global standard-setting instrument on the subject. This landmark text defines values, principles and policies that will guide countries in building legal frameworks to ensure that AI is deployed as a force for the common good.

The text seeks to promote AI’s promise and reduce its risks. It addresses transparency, accountability and privacy in action-oriented policy chapters on data governance, education, culture, labor, healthcare and the economy.

UNESCO’s work on AI spans standard setting, policy advice and capacity building. As part of it, UNESCO has launched guidance for policy-makers in AI and education, developed training for youth on AI and human rights, and in 2022 will be training over 2,000 judicial operators worldwide on AI and the rule of law.

[Read more: General Conference : 41st session](#)



General Policy Debate
© UNESCO/Christelle ALIX



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Our Focus and Progress

The People's Republic of China

UNESCO Beijing Office's support to UNSDCF ^[1]

UNESCO Beijing Office contributed to the [UN in China 2021 Annual Country Results Report](#), provided inputs to update the 2021-2022 Joint Work Plan (JWP), and chaired the first UN Theme Group on Disability (UNTGD) meeting of 2022 on 25 March.

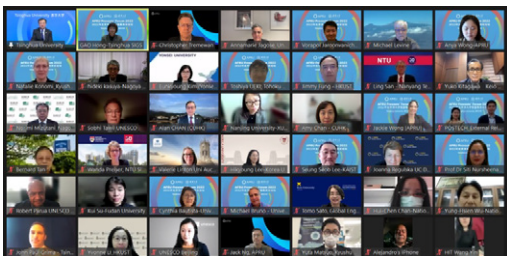
Education Work Plan 2022

In 2022, strategic priorities for UNESCO Beijing Education programme in China are to promote and scale up the ESDfor2030 Roadmap, Global Citizenship Education and Monitoring progress of SDG4, promote inter-university collaboration, recognition of qualifications in higher education and sharing best practices in digital skills and platforms. Aligned with the Government's education 2035 strategic plan for the modernization of education system, UNESCO will at the same time work closely with education stakeholders and institutional partners to scale up and promote and leverage partnership with UNEVOC Centres in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and green skills and health education. In addition, UNESCO will continue strengthening Adult Learning and education and Lifelong Learning in China in 2022.

Education Progress January-April 2022

- United Nations consultation with Diplomatic Missions in China on UNSDCF updated and focused on TVET and Skills Development in China. China's experience in UN Programmes was shared with the Embassies.

Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Provost Forum 2022



UNESCO participated in the APRU Provosts' Forum 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office supported the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Provost Forum 2022 organized by Tsinghua University on 20 April. The UNESCO global report *Futures of Education* was introduced with a keynote presentation to the provosts and experts from universities and research institutes all over the world, with a particular entry point of higher education. The Assistant Director General of UNESCO delivered an opening speech at the forum.

International Seminar on Inter-sectoral Collaboration for Community Learning Centers (CLCs)



The workshop of international seminar on education for intangible cultural heritage, sustainable development and ecological civilization

On 25 January 2022, the International Seminar on Inter-sectoral Collaboration for Community Learning Centers (CLCs) was held in Ningbo under the theme "Promotion of Education for Intangible Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development, Ecological Civilization and Rural Revitalization". The major outcome is the adoption of "Ningbo Recommendations" which is an overall guiding framework to promote and strengthen integration of education and culture joint actions at local levels in CLC programmes in China. A total of almost 1000 participants, including managers and personnel from CLCs all over China, education and culture officials and experts from UNESCO, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), Ningbo Government, as well as Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO (ACCU) in Japan and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat in Thailand attended the seminar.

ED-CLT
intersectoral
event

[1] [The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\)](#), previously known as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), is an important instrument for planning and implementation of the UN development activities at country level in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

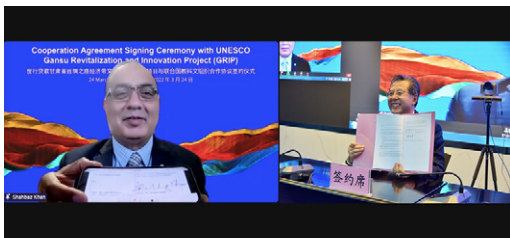
Culture Work Plan 2022

In 2022, UNESCO Beijing office will continue to support Member States capacities to be strengthened to identify, protect and manage tangible heritage and civil society capacities to be strengthened to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions through dynamic and inclusive cultural and creative industries.

- The *1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* marks its 50th anniversary. UNESCO Beijing Office will organize events, campaigns, and initiatives in East Asian countries to provide a platform of conversation and enhance the understanding of Universal Outstanding Values of World Heritage Sites in the face of the global health crisis.
- In line with the *2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*, UNESCO Beijing office will continue to plan strategies and implement programmes.
- With the World Bank - China "Gansu Revitalization and Innovation Project" (GRIP) for China, UNESCO will support Gansu in harnessing the transformative potential of cultural and creative industries through policies at the local level and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Within the framework of UNESCO - China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund "Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China" Project Phase IV (2021-2024), UNESCO Beijing Office will work closely with Chinese counterparts to progress in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the China UNSDCF (2021-2025) and UNESCO's cultural instruments, and along the strategic priorities in China's 14th Five-Year Plan on rural revitalization and carbon neutrality.

Culture Progress January-April 2022

Partnership with Gansu Province and the World Bank to support Gansu's Cultural and Creative Industries



The Signing Ceremony

On 24 March 2022, UNESCO and the Gansu Provincial Government announced a new partnership to integrate cultural and creative assets into Gansu's development frameworks, leveraging culture and creativity for economic, social, cultural and environmental gains. This partnership is part of the World Bank's US\$180 million Gansu Revitalization and Innovation Project (GRIP) for China. UNESCO will provide technical assistance in the design and development of Gansu's cultural policies and programmes, to help build the institutional capacity and skills. It is the first time that the three lead organizations - World Bank, UNESCO, and UNWTO - come together to support one province. It is also the first time a project at this scale supports cultural and creative industries in Gansu, China and worldwide.

"Heritage So Young" field excursion of university students to Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site



The excursion team with local stakeholders in the Balang Mountains, core zone of the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site
© He Yujie

The "Heritage So Young" initiative, jointly launched with Communication University of China, enhances youth participation in communicating heritage value. Through field activities at World Heritage sites, students create and share stories and establish people-to-people connections with local communities and living heritage bearers. From 13 to 19 March, a team of 8 students and faculty (88% women) conducted a field excursion to Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site to visit living heritage bearers of tea-making, film iconic sites and traditional villages, and interact with local beekeeping cooperatives. The excursion yielded a pairing between university students and the **Wolong Panda Community Nature Centre** to enhance local capacity in communicating heritage values and the practice of beekeeping as a sustainable source of livelihood, and produced a series of short videos and mini-documentaries that will enable more young people on social media to learn about the culture and values of the site.

“Panda Ambassador” heritage education lecture and community workshop



Primary and middle school students in Wolong participating in the “Panda Ambassador” heritage education lecture
© Ming Meng

The “Panda Ambassador” initiative on heritage education and sustainable livelihood, jointly organized with the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO Designated Sites at Sun Yat-sen University, highlights the connection between human and nature. On 18 March, the “Panda Ambassador” heritage education lecture for youth and community workshop for beekeeping cooperative members reached out to 144 local primary and middle students (50% women) and 27 teachers (93% women), for a half-day lecture on the Giant Panda and natural World Heritage, and **28** cooperative members (**50%** women) for a sharing session on the challenges and good experiences of honey product marketing. These young people and local villagers shall become the future “ambassadors” of the World Heritage site to promote heritage values and the harmonious coexistence of human and nature.

“Creative Guizhou - Songtao Gift” open call for creative cultural designs



Activity poster for “Creative Guizhou - Songtao Gift” open call for creative cultural designs

Songtao Miao Autonomous County in Guizhou Province, blessed with the natural resources of Mt. Fanjingshan World Heritage site, is home to abundant living heritage such as Miao embroidery, silverware-making, Miao batik, etc. To encourage professionals in design as well as the civil society to find sources of inspiration from the cultural heritage of Songtao and to contribute to building a cultural brand for Songtao, UNESCO Beijing launched the “Creative Guizhou - Songtao Gift” open call for creative designs in packaging, souvenirs and guesthouses jointly with Suzhou Art and Design Technology Institute and Songtao County and Tongren Municipal Counterparts. The open call continues from 1 April to 31 December 2022. Submission form can be downloaded [here](#)  (access code: bhp6).

Second workshop on Chishui bamboo weaving in the “Bamboo for Carbon Neutrality in Rural Areas” Decent Employment Workshop Series



In follow up to the first workshop on Chishui bamboo weaving in the “Bamboo for Carbon Neutrality in Rural Areas” Decent Employment Workshop Series in December 2021, through which 40% of the workshop participants subsequently found employment as bamboo weavers in local workstations, UNESCO Beijing organized the second workshop in the Series from 13 to 27 April 2022 for 25 participants (92% women), including persons with disabilities. While continuing to enhance capacity of participants on bamboo weaving techniques, the workshop also addressed promoting traditional handicrafts through new media. During the workshop, participants learned skills and at the same time worked for the bamboo weaving workstation on procurement orders. This mode of synergizing capacity building and income activity achieved a win-win between living heritage transmission and community livelihood enhancement.

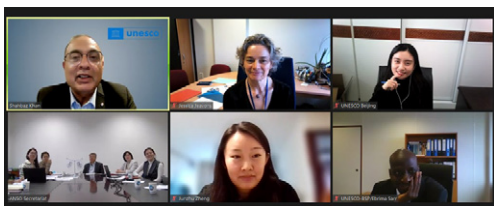
image: Workshop participants presenting the bamboo lanterns that they made
© Chishui Fusion Media Center

Natural Sciences Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office works to reinforce China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mainly through strengthening and promoting the inclusive knowledge and capacities to advance and apply science for climate action, biodiversity, water and ocean management, and disaster risk reduction. In this regard, the Office will continue to support China through the following projects:

• Contributions to COP 15

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP15) Part 2 will be held in Kunming, China in 2022. Taking this opportunity, the Office will develop events, forums, campaigns, initiatives, trainings, especially Youth-related activities to support **Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)** in China for conserving biodiversity, restoring and enhancing ecosystem services, and fostering the sustainable use of natural resources; facilitating biodiversity and sustainable science, education for sustainable development and capacity building.



Meeting with ANSO on Collaborative Research Project

• UNESCO-ANSO “Sustainable Economic Development of Local Communities of Biosphere Reserves through Local High-Quality Ecological Products” Project

Within the framework of this project, the Office will work in close collaboration with researchers and biosphere reserves to investigate that aims to build sustainable, healthy, and equitable societies, economies and thriving human settlements in harmony with the biosphere.



The 2nd Great Rivers Forum cohosted with Changjiang Civilization Museum in Wuhan, 2018

• The 3rd Great Rivers Forum 2022

In line with the **Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)** Strategic Plan covering 2022-2029, the Office will coordinate collaborations with the Changjiang Civilization Museum to continue co-hosting the 3rd Great Rivers Forum 2022 in Wuhan, aiming to provide an international exchange platform for experts and managers in various disciplines to bring together the wisdom of the world and the experience of different river basins.

• Eco-civilization and Sustainable Management of the Hongfeng Lake

UNESCO Beijing Office will be dedicated to “Promoting Best Practices of Eco-civilization and Sustainable Management of the Hongfeng Lake Ecohydrology Demonstration Site and Setting Up of Environmental and Integrated Water Resources Management Education Centre” Project for local communities’ achievements in sustainable development.

• Accelerating Carbon Neutrality: Innovative Actions for Sustainable Development Project

To support the mitigation and adaption to climate change, this project seeks to facilitate sustainability science, education for sustainable development and capacity building, and provide stakeholders especially youth with knowledge, skills, values and attitudes matching climate change response, including carbon footprint reduction, ecological protection and biodiversity conservation.

Social and Human Sciences Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office will focus on promoting the co-creation and utilization of social and human scientific frontier knowledge with relevant partners, key actors and stakeholders to reinforce China's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and support China's pursuit of high-quality development under its 14th Five-Year Plan. In this regard, the Office will enhance and expand analysis of, support for, and capacity building on policies for inclusive development, with particular attention on issues such as gender equality, sport for development, the social impact of climate change, and the participation of groups that are left behind, vulnerable or excluded, including youth, women and girls, and persons with disabilities. The Office will also contribute to China's international engagement to accelerate the SDGs across the world, and to build a culture of peace. As such, the Office will continue to support China this year through but not limited to the following activities:



The 2020 Nanjing Peace Forum held in Nanjing, China
© Information Office of Nanjing Municipal Government

- Co-organizing the annual International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (IYF), and support youth-led projects and initiatives as a follow-up to the IYF.
- Co-organizing the annual Nanjing Peace Forum (NPF), and support pilot projects and initiatives, such as the "Design for Peace" Global Initiative as a follow-up to the NPF.
- Enhancing the generation and use of evidence-based knowledge for, as well as capacities on, inclusive policies related to gender equality and persons with disabilities, including through participatory data methodologies.



The International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads supports youth participation for inclusive development
© Changsha Development Center of Media Arts

Furthermore, in light of the emphasis on scientific and technological innovations as part of China's pursuit of high-quality development, as well as the awareness of the crucial importance of ethical values and norms in this context, the Office will provide support to China in strengthening ethics and governance of science and technology, drawing upon UNESCO's global leadership and extensive work on ethics of science and technology, ethics of artificial intelligence and other frontier technologies, bioethics, and climate change ethics.

Communication and Information Work Plan 2022

In the area of Communication and Information (CI), UNESCO Beijing Office will continue focusing on its mandate pertaining to media capacity building, media and information literacy including digital illiteracy. UNESCO Beijing will continue to champion disability inclusion in its capacity as the Chair of the UN Theme Group on Disabilities in China, paying particular attention to supporting the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities. These will be achieved through the following activities related to capacity building, policy consultation and advocacy with an inter-sectoral approach working with key stakeholders in China:

- Capacity building for media professionals and practitioners on reporting on issues related to diversity, equality, and inclusion, with a focus on disability inclusion.
- Consultation and localization of the 2nd edition of UNESCO's model Media and Information Literacy curriculum for educators and learners, and explore innovative adaption of the resources to Chinese teachers and youths.
- Promote inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities through the coalition of Disability Inclusive Cities including in UNESCO heritage sites, with a focus on digital inclusion harnessing Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and engaging young people.

First UN Theme Group on Disability (UNTGD) meeting in 2022

The first UNTGD meeting in 2022 was held on 25 March 2022 in Beijing to review progress made in 2021, introduce the 2022 UNTGD Work Plan, and explore collaboration opportunities among stakeholders on promoting disability inclusion in China. Dr. YUAN Yuan from the Institute for Accessibility Development at Tsinghua University gave a detailed presentation on the accessibility baseline assessment on UN premises in China in 2021 followed by practical suggestions. A total of 12 UN agencies present at the meeting welcomed the suggestions and expressed their willingness to adjust and adapt. Mr. LI Qingzhong, Chairperson of the China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments, highlighted that the construction of a barrier-free environment is also becoming increasingly important in China and expressed his hope for closer collaborations between the UN and China. A total of 45 participants from 29 key entities attended the meeting and shared their initiatives for potential collaboration opportunities. Prof. Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office and Chair of the UNTGD in China, acknowledged the importance of all initiatives and reassured that the UN in China will further collaborative efforts with China and Chinese partners on disability inclusion.

“Disability Inclusion in the Forbidden City” knowledge sharing session



Participants (including persons with physical disabilities and volunteers) during the knowledge sharing session

On 23 April 2022, Beijing Enable Sister Center (BEST) organized a knowledge sharing session as part of their “Disability Inclusion in the Forbidden City” initiative, which aims to enrich the cultural lives of persons with disabilities and raise awareness on disability inclusion in cultural institutions and heritage sites in collaboration with the Palace Museum and with special support from UNESCO Beijing Office. Through an introduction presentation by Ms. Gao Sijia, Project Assistant for Culture at UNESCO Beijing Office, a total of 20 participants, including persons with disabilities and volunteers, were sensitized on knowledge on key concepts concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO’s culture Conventions, and Culture’s role as both an end and a cross-cutting means of achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda which promises to leave no one behind, including persons with disabilities. Click [here](#) for more information.

CI-CLT
intersectoral
event

Introduction meeting on the Report of Open Science and Digital Inclusion in China

An introduction meeting on the “Report of Open Science and Digital Inclusion in China” was held on 22 April 2022 online. A total of 18 experts from UNESCO, the Chinese research team at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Renmin University, and Nanjing University, as well as peer reviewers from the Beijing Academy of Science and Technology, the Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO), and the ECO Science Foundation Pakistan attended the meeting and exchanged their views and suggestions on the report. Prof. Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, together with all participants, recognized the report as an important and fundamental step towards the implementation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science in China, which aims to ensure inclusive and open digital transformation in science and technology.

CI-SC
intersectoral
event

Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

UNESCO Beijing Office's support to UNSDCF

UNESCO Beijing Office actively contributed inputs to the formulation of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and continues to support the process for the preparation of the DPRK's UNSDCF.

Education Work Plan 2022

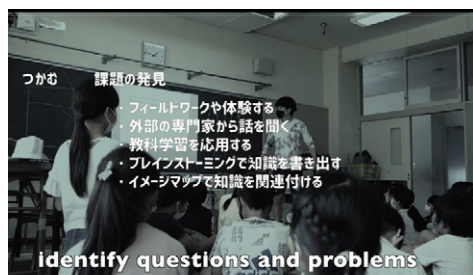
In 2022, the strategic priorities in DPRK are to strengthen SDG4 Localization and monitoring the progress of SDG4 and build on the previous capacity building workshops in SDG 4 indicators and statistics and SDG 4 Benchmarking. Engage and facilitate DPRK to participate virtually and in person in sub-regional consultations in SDG4, ECCE, ESD, and recognitions of qualifications in higher education.

Japan

Education Work Plan 2022

In 2022, strategic priorities for UNESCO Beijing Education programme in Japan are to promote and scale up the ESDfor2030 Roadmap implementation, Global Citizenship Education and Monitoring progress of SDG4, promote inter-university collaboration, recognition of qualifications in higher education, ratification of the global convention on recognition of qualifications and sharing best practices in digital skills and platforms. Aligned with the Japanese Government's Sustainable Development Policy for the mainstreaming of ESD at all levels of the education system, UNESCO will at the same time work closely with education stakeholders and institutional partners to scale up and promote ESD, green skills and climate change education in ASPnet schools and UNESCO Chairs. In addition, UNESCO will continue to share best practices in CLCs in close partnership with Okayama University and ACCU in 2022.

Education Progress January-April 2022



video "how to promote ESD", [click to watch](#)

Capacity building in ESDfor2030 Roadmap

Capacity building in ESDfor2030 Roadmap: Schools and educators will be equipped (Skills & knowledge) with step by step process on incorporating ESD in school curriculum, lesson plans, teaching-learning and assessment with the on-going production of promotional videos of "how to promote ESD" (vol. 2 & vol. 3). The videos will be completed later this year.

Enhanced networking of the UNESCO ASPnet schools in Japan and Asia-Pacific region

Enhanced networking of the UNESCO ASPnet schools in Japan and Asia-Pacific region: In close collaboration with Asia-Pacific Culture Center of UNESCO (ACCU), UNESCO focuses on an online Youth Dialogue with youth participants from ASPnet schools in Japan and the Asia-Pacific (AP) region.

UNESCO global report on the Futures of Education

Facilitated the dissemination of the UNESCO global report on the *Futures of Education - REIMAGINING OUR FUTURES TOGETHER: A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR EDUCATION*: There will be Report launches with various institutional partners in Japan, focused on different education themes.

Culture Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office will work with stakeholders on new or revised policies, regulatory frameworks, measures and/or initiatives to strengthen cultural and creative industries, including in the digital environment, in line with the 2005 *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*.

Mongolia

UNESCO Beijing Office's support to UNSDCF

As a non-resident agency, UNESCO Beijing Office provided Self-Assessment and participated actively in the formulation of Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UNSDCF Mongolia (2023-2027). The first draft of UNSDCF Mongolia is now under review and will hopefully get signed in Q2.

Education Work Plan 2022

In 2022, the strategic priorities for UNESCO Beijing Education programme in Mongolia will constitute of scaling-up of ESDfor2030 Roadmap as an ESD pilot Country, Monitoring the progress of SDG 4, and provision of technical support and advice to the implementation of education reform and restructuring in Mongolia aligned with the Government's 10-year education sector. UNESCO will at the same time continue its efforts in strengthening institutional capacity in higher education focusing on accreditation, quality assurance and recognition of qualifications and ratification of global convention. Based on TVET and skills sector review, UNESCO will contribute to strengthening institutional capacity in TVET and skills development, sector-wide planning, health education, education statistics and promote Global Citizenship Education. UNESCO will strengthen institutional capacity in Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) in Education, Policy development, ICT Master Plan, teacher ICT competencies and capacity development in digital skills, which shall be the focus of UNESCO's work in Mongolia in 2022.

Education Progress January-April 2022

ICTs in Education Master Plan

With UNESCO's support and guidance in 2021, Mongolia worked towards the country's first ICTs in Education Master Plan. In 2022, with the amendment of the Mongolia's Law on Development Policy and Planning, which includes a strategy in e-transition in education, the ICT in Education Master Plan will be upgraded to a medium-term plan for e-transition of education in Mongolia. UNESCO Beijing continues with support in the process.

National Consultation on Transforming Education Summit (TES)

The preparation for the National Consultation on Transforming Education Summit (TES) in close collaboration with the UNCT, UNICEF and the Mongolian National Commission and other stakeholders. The Concept Note was finalized for the TES National consultation that feeds into the UN Transforming Education Summit to be hosted by the UN Secretary-General in September 2022.


launch of the UNESCO Futures of Education Report

The preparation and launch of the UNESCO *Futures of Education* Report in Mongolian language is in progress. Education officials, policy makers, education experts and researchers and partners from relevant stakeholders will be informed of the important Report and to explore the alignment of the report to the Mongolian context which will contribute to the education reform and achievement of SDG 4 in Mongolia.

ESD 2030 Roadmap



ESD 2030 Roadmap – Mongolian version launches online

With UNESCO Beijing Office's support, the ESD 2030 Roadmap reaches more readers in Mongolia with the document translated into Mongolian. The Roadmap sets out the urgent challenges globally and underlines the implementation of the new ESD for 2030 Framework, which aims to increase the contribution of education to building a more just and sustainable world. The Mongolian version can be accessed [here](#)  in UNESCO digital library.

Culture Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office will support and promote the *1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*, the *1972 Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage* and the *2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*.

- Translation of the basic text of the 1954 Convention and the Executive Summary of the third edition of the Global Report “Re-shaping Cultural Policies”.
- Organizing capacity building workshops and national conferences.
- Completing online survey of UNESCO Global survey on 1980 Recommendation on Status of the Artist.

Culture Progress January-April 2022



National Launch of the UNESCO Global Report
Re|Shaping Policies for Creativity

World Art Day 2022 in Mongolia: National Launch of the UNESCO Global Report *Re | Shaping Policies for Creativity*

Every year, the World Art Day is observed on 15th April to help reinforce the links between artistic creations and society, encourage greater awareness of the diversity of artistic expressions and highlight the contribution of artists to sustainable development. On April 15 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office in collaboration with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO has translated the Executive Summary of the third edition of the UNESCO Global Report *Re | Shaping Policies for Creativity – Addressing Culture as a Global Public Good* in Mongolian language and launched the report in Ulaanbaatar on the World Art Day.

Representatives from civil society organizations, small-medium enterprises, government and international organizations in the cultural and creative sector have all gathered together to discuss the key trends and highlights of the third global report, ways and possibilities to develop Mongolia’s cultural and creative industry further, and socio-economic status of artists and culture professionals.



Opening remark by Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and
Representative of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office

Natural Sciences Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office aims to strengthen Mongolia's capacities to advance science, technology, innovation, research, and engineering to address contemporary environmental and societal challenges and enhance knowledge sharing for inclusive development towards the SDGs and its 2030 vision for sustainable development. In this regard, the Office will continue to support Mongolia this year through but not limited to the following activities:



*UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science
published in 2021*

• **Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI) Policy Evaluation and Recommendation**

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and international scientific experts, UNESCO Beijing Office provided technical supports to evaluate and review **the SETI Master Plan (2007-2020)** which was successfully implemented as an essential and integral part of the broader national development strategies and policies all over these years. In 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office will continue our assistance to undertake the evaluation of **the SETI Master Plan (2007-2020)** and aid with the development and adoption of the **Post-2020 STI Master Plan for Mongolia**.

• **The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science**

The UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science provides an international framework for open science policy and practice that recognizes disciplinary and regional differences in open science perspectives. In this regard, UNESCO Beijing Office is working on the translation of the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science into Mongolian, contributing to reducing the digital, technological and knowledge divides existing between and within countries.

• **Groundwater Management Studies**

Within the framework of **International Hydrological Programme (IHP)** and its focal areas "Enhancing sustainable groundwater resource management" and "Promoting groundwater quality protection", UNESCO Beijing Office will support this project "Groundwater Management Studies on Investigating the Gaps and Water-Related Issues in the Southern Gobi Regions" to advance the effective implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

Social and Human Sciences Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office will focus on strengthening Mongolia's capacities in co-creating and applying social and human sciences knowledge and tools for inclusive development, including through the promotion of human rights, scientific freedom, intercultural understanding and by tackling all forms of discrimination. The Office will collaborate with relevant partners to bolster social inclusion in Mongolia's progress towards the SDGs and its 2030 vision for sustainable development. Attention will be given to addressing the discrimination, exclusion and associated inequalities exposed and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as challenges related to gender equality, the social impact of climate change, and the participation of vulnerable populations, including youth, women and girls, and persons with disabilities. Particular attention will also be given to the humanities and philosophy as essential intellectual and practical contributions to understanding of the contemporary world.



Panel discussion on UNESCO Art Lab on the occasion of the 2022 World Art Day in Mongolia
© Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

In this regard, on 15 April 2022, in conjunction with the World Art Day celebration in Mongolia, the Office provided financial and technical support in the organization of a webinar to introduce the UNESCO Art Lab for Human Rights and Dialogue initiative, and to promote discussion about the transformative power of the arts to advance human rights and enhance social inclusion, especially with people who have been left behind.

Some key activities in Mongolia supported by the Office this year include but are not limited to the following:

- A social media campaign to raise public awareness on gender equality that engages men and boys as positive role models in this regard, designed within the framework of the UNESCO "Transforming MEN'talities" initiative.
- A Youth Voices Survey designed to provide important data and information on youth perspectives on social issues, the needs and challenges faced by youth, as well as entry points for further initiatives and interventions related to youth in Mongolia. This project will also strengthen the capacity of youth researchers to conduct credible youth-related research and increase youth engagement in Mongolia.
- Enhancing the generation and use of evidence-based knowledge for, as well as capacities on, inclusive policies related to gender equality and persons with disabilities, including through participatory data methodologies.
- A study on the implementation of the 2017 UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers in Mongolia.

Communication and Information Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office will focus on strengthening Mongolia's capacities in media development and journalism education, media and information literacy including digital literacy and competencies, as well as inclusion of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, and applying UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators in building an inclusive digital environment. Some key activities in Mongolia supported by the Office this year include but are not limited to the following:

- Capacity building on ICT Competency Framework for Teachers harnessing open educational resources (OER) to assist the Mongolian Ministry of Education and higher education institutions to develop comprehensive national teacher ICT competency policies, standards, courses and open materials.
- Promote the UNESCO Guidelines on the Inclusion of Learners with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning for supporting inclusive distance learning.
- Conduct Mongolian National Assessment of UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators to advise Internet related policies in support to the Mongolia Digital Nation Strategy and address digital divide.
- Organize the 4th National Media and Information Literacy Multi-stakeholder Forum to reinforce national capacity on media and information literacy and digital literacy and the adaption 2nd edition of UNESCO's model MIL curriculum for educators and learners.
- Advocacy on the following international days but not limited to: World Press Freedom Day (3 May), International Day for Universal Access to Information (28 Sept), International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (2 Nov).

Communication and Information Progress January-April 2022

Journalism Training on Investigating Sustainable Development

Upon request from the Media Council of Mongolia, UNESCO Beijing Office, together with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Mongolia, supported the organization of the Journalism Training on Investigating Sustainable Development held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 29 April and 6-7 May 2022, targeting twenty journalists from across Mongolia. Based upon the UNESCO publication *Story-based Inquiry: A Manual for Investigative Journalists* and the UNESCO Course on *Investigating Sustainable Development*, the training focused on equality issues, including gender equality, equal access to social services, social protection, education and health services, as well as other broader concept related to leaving no one behind. Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office delivered opening remarks at the training, highlighting the importance of investigative journalism to the public discourse and calling for journalists' actions to contribute more credible investigative stories about SDG-related issues. Mr. Robert Parua, Programme Specialist for Education, was invited to the training and delivered a comprehensive introduction on the SDG 4 - Education with reference to the Mongolian context, providing insights on how media can function as partners in education for sustainable development.



The Republic of Korea (ROK)

Education Work Plan 2022

In 2022, strategic priorities for UNESCO Beijing Education programme in Republic of Korea are to promote and scale up the ESDfor2030 Roadmap, Peace education and Global Citizenship Education with APCEIU and Monitoring progress of SDG4, promote inter-university collaboration through UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN, strengthen recognition of qualifications in higher education, ratification of global convention, Open and Distance Learning and sharing best practices in digital skills and platforms. Aligned with the Government's education strategic plan, UNESCO will at the same time work closely with education stakeholders and institutional partners to scale up and promote Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and UNEVOC Knowledge network for TVET and green skills and health education. In addition, UNESCO will continue to strengthen and leverage collaboration in Learning Cities, Adult Learning and education and Lifelong Learning in Republic of Korea in 2022.

Education Progress January-April 2022



ROK 2021 SDG 4
National Monitoring Report

The localization and monitoring of SDG 4 is on track

The localization and monitoring of SDG 4 is on track: ROK completed its 2021 SDG 4 National Monitoring Report that reviewed ROK's progress, achievements and challenges in overall situation and target by target of the SDG 4. The Government has committed with UNESCO to produce the SDG 4 national review reports annually so as to keep tracking the localization and implementation of SDG 4 at national level.

Common Curriculum Guide for Peace Education in Northeast Asia

With UNESCO Category II Center Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) and other partners, UNESCO starts in 2022 to support the development of a "Common Curriculum Guide for Peace Education in Northeast Asia". The guide will serve as an educational tool for the peace educators in the vision and definition of peace education, the key learning contents and teaching-learning methods. The curriculum guideline is expected to complete in Oct 2023.

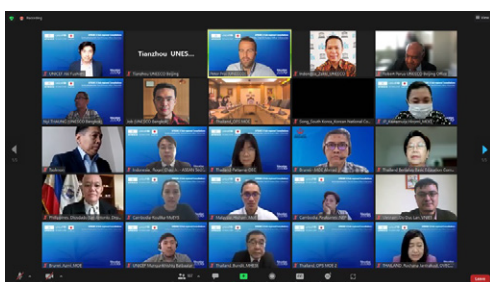
Futures of Education

UNESCO global report on the *Futures of Education - REIMAGINING OUR FUTURES TOGETHER: A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR EDUCATION* promoted through the translation of the report into Korean Language. Several launch webinars are being planned with various partners.

Region wide

Education Progress January-April 2022

Sub-regional Consultation of East Asia and Southeast Asia

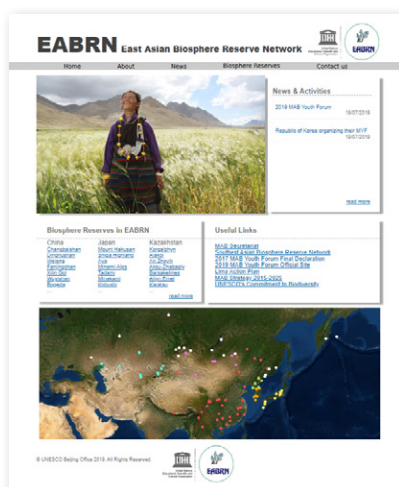


East Asia and Southeast Asia Regional Consultative Meeting in preparation for the 2nd Asia-Pacific Education Minister's Conference (APREMC II)

On 19 April, UNESCO organized a Sub-regional Consultation of East Asia and Southeast Asia. The consultation is an important milestone in preparation for the Second Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister's Conference (APREMC II), which is taking place from 5 to 7 June 2022 under the theme "Education Recovery and Transformation towards more Responsive, Relevant and Resilient Education Systems: Accelerating progress towards SDG 4-Education 2030". More than 150 senior government officials, civil society representatives, and development partners joined the consultation virtually from 11 East and Southeast Asian countries.

Natural Sciences Work Plan 2022

UNESCO Beijing Office's international science activities have long-standing experience in mobilizing the best available fundamental and applied science in respective fields to serve Member States through international cooperation, networking, and knowledge-sharing, which include but not limited to the following activities:



EABRN Website



Opening ceremony of the "Beauty of Life on Earth" Exhibition in Beijing
© ANSO

• East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN)

To advance the implementation of **the MAB Strategy 2015-2025** and **the Lima Action Plan 2016-2025**, UNESCO Beijing Office will continue to support Member States and stakeholders, especially through the EABRN to strengthen international cooperation between UNESCO Member States in the Asia Pacific region. The office will organize **the 16th EABRN meeting** and following **back-to-back trainings** for all EABRN colleagues in late August 2022. Following up the recommendations of the 15th EABRN meeting, this meeting will complete the joint research on ecotourism development in Biosphere Reserves (BRs) and the production of related guidelines.

• MAB Exhibition from EABRN Perspectives

UNESCO's **Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)** celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2021. In 2021-2022, UNESCO's multimedia exhibition "**It's About Life**" to be displayed in urban centers around the world will provide a window onto biosphere reserves, the communities who live in them and the ongoing work of the MAB Programme. Taking the opportunities of CBD COP15 Part 2, UNESCO Beijing Office will also contribute to the Exhibition from EABRN perspectives.

• Empowerment Training Activities in Member Countries

To advance and apply science for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and restoration, UNESCO Beijing Office will organize the capacity development sessions on peer-to-peer learning for management of geoparks in North-Eastern Asia and professional workshops on mangrove-related topics (e.g. mangrove plantation, conservation and restoration; carbon flux; Community Outreach for Planting Mangroves; etc.)

• Publication of the River Culture Book

UNESCO Beijing Office will conduct the finalization and publication of the River Culture Book, which aims to deal with biological and cultural diversities altogether, depict the bio-cultural diversities, historical human-river relationships, threats, and practical examples of how to mitigate the crisis in riverscapes. More than 120 authors present interdisciplinary studies from river systems all over the world and explore overarching issues on river management in the Anthropocene.

Social and Human Sciences Work Plan 2022

Regional focus on the implementation of the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence



Ethics of Artificial Intelligence is a priority area for UNESCO
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The implementation of the [2021 UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), led by the Social and Human Sciences Sector, is a priority for UNESCO. In this regard, UNESCO Beijing Office will be leading the coordination of the Asia Pacific regional strategy on AI ethics, while also supporting specific activities for countries in East Asia. The objective of this workstream is to promote advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building, research, and implementation of AI ethics approaches based on the Recommendation, including the deployment of tools such as the ethical impact assessment and the readiness assessment methodology developed within the framework of the Recommendation. At the regional level, UNESCO Beijing Office will be working on building partnerships in order to leverage the expertise based in the region for this purpose. At the same time, the Office will also work with countries in East Asia to design and deploy interventions to support the implementation of the Recommendation at the national level.

Regional focus on bioethics, ethics of science and technology, and climate change ethics



UNESCO Beijing Office will focus on strengthening bioethics, ethics of science and technology, and climate change ethics in Asia Pacific
© Gettyimages/ ipopba

While frontier technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for human empowerment towards an equitable, fair and sustainable future, these technologies also pose significant challenges. UNESCO Beijing Office will support both the regional strategy for UNESCO's actions in bioethics and ethics of science and technology for Asia Pacific, as well as actions that specifically benefit countries in East Asia, with the following objectives:

- Support advocacy, awareness raising, and capacity building in bioethics and ethics of science and technology, building on previous achievements in the region, including through strategic partnership with networks such as the Asian Bioethics Network, the network of Asia-Pacific National Bioethics/Ethics Committees (APNEC), etc.
- Support advocacy, awareness raising, and capacity building in climate change ethics based on the Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change, and the work of UNESCO's global advisory bodies.

Within this framework, UNESCO Beijing Office will be supporting and coordinating regional activities to build national capacities in bioethics and ethics of science and technology (workshops, needs assessments, etc.), in collaboration with relevant partners. The Office will also be leading the development of a capacity building module/tool for climate change ethics.

In terms of activities targeting countries in East Asia, over the next two years, the Office is planning to organize two Ethics Teacher Training Courses (ETTCs) and support the development of country-specific ethics education materials.

Director's Video Messages

► Digital Transformation of Engineering Ecosystem

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office's opening address to **ASEAN Engineering Digital Transformation Summit 2022** on 18 March 2022 (Organized by the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) and ASEAN Engineering Register (AER) in celebration of the World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development 2022)



Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Engineering plays a vital role in addressing basic human needs by improving our quality of life and creating opportunities for sustainable growth on a local, national, regional and global level. This holds true as well for the digital revolution which is transforming our society at its roots and reshaping our lives in the most fundamental ways. It naturally leads to the conclusion that the global engineering ecosystem needs to adapt accordingly to the new digital context.

At the dawn of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it's worthy noting that the current technological advances in Artificial Intelligence, big data and the Internet of Things are changing the way we live and interact with our physical, biological and digital space. These transformations can be seen in every field of engineering, profoundly affecting industrial systems, production and governance.

In today's presentation, it is my pleasure to introduce to you the key findings in the most recent UNESCO Engineering Report on Big Data, AI, and Smart cities as well as how to harness the power of engineering to achieve sustainable development in these fields.



[Read the full speech here](#)



► Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office's opening address to **Webinar on Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible** on 30 March 2022 (Organized by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Groundwater accounts for approximately 99% of all liquid freshwater on earth. It provides almost half of all drinking water worldwide, serving 38% of the world's irrigated land and about 1/3 of water supply required for industry.

It sustains ecosystems, maintains the baseflow of rivers and prevents land subsidence and seawater intrusion. Groundwater is an important part of climate change adaptation and is often a solution for people without access to safe water.

It is central to the fight against poverty, to food and water security, to the creation of decent jobs, to socio-economic development, and to the resilience of societies and economies to climate change.

Reliance on groundwater will only increase, mainly due to growing water demand by all sectors combined with increasing variation in rainfall patterns.

It is a key resource for achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 — but is still weakly conceptualized in the SDG 6 (water and sanitation for all by 2030) indicators or insufficiently known to

provide a reliable indicator value.

Professional assessment of groundwater status, trends and risks is required to interpret the state/ condition of the groundwater resources, whose sustainability is essential for achievement of SDG-6 Targets.

Beside SDG-6, groundwater directly contributes to poverty eradication (Goal 1), food security (Goal 2), gender equality (Goal 5), sustainability of cities and human settlement (Goal 11), combating climate change (Goal 13) and protecting terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15).



[Read the full speech here](#)

Focus on UNESCO Centres & Chairs

| UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres

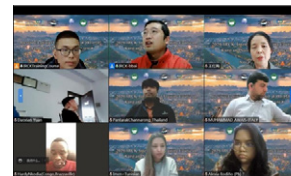


International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK)

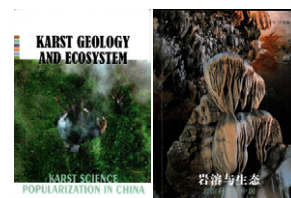
On December 15, 2008, the International Research Center on Karst under the Auspices of UNESCO (hereinafter as IRCK) was formally established in Guilin, China. It is also the first category II center concerning geosciences. Since its foundation, it has organized 11 international symposia, attracted over 200 foreign scientists from more than 40 countries for academic exchange, signed 16 international cooperation agreements with 14 countries. It has played an active role for international exchange, set firm foundation for cooperative projects. In Nov.2013, it passed the first six-year evaluation by the Experts Panel of UNESCO, who agreed that IRCK was an efficient category II center under UNESCO. On May, 12, 2016, the Renewed Agreement of IRCK was signed in Langfang, Hebei Province, indicating phase-II operation of IRCK started.

The objectives of IRCK shall be to:

- advance knowledge on karst dynamic systems;
- advance international cooperation to provide a platform for the exchange of scientific information about karst dynamic systems and the sustainable utilization of karst resources and environmental protection;
- provide advisory activities, technical information, training, and raise social awareness;
- develop a network of demonstration sites for the implementation of karst dynamic systems theory;
- promote monitoring, modeling and mapping systems on karst dynamic systems.



The 14th IRCK International Training Course held virtually (Attracting 41 participants from economic disadvantaged countries)



Edit a popular science reading titled as *Karst Geology and Ecosystem: Karst Science Popularization in China* by cooperation with Chinese National Committee for MAB

| UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme

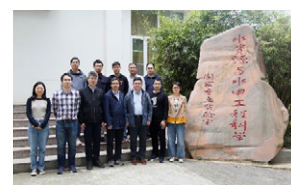


UNESCO Chair for Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment Nexus for Wuhan University, China

The UNESCO Chair on Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment Nexus was established in March 2022 at Wuhan University, China. Wuhan University, the host institution, is a comprehensive and key national university directly under the administration of the Ministry of Education, China. The Chair holder is Professor Jingwei Wu, who is the Vice director of the Professional Committee on agricultural water and soil Engineering, Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering. He is also a member of the Working Group on irrigation development and management (WG-IDM), the International Commission on irrigation and drainage (ICID).

The Chair intends to recognize the complex relationship in WFE Nexus in Asia-Pacific Region, provide a platform for cooperation among members from Asia-Pacific Region in research and educational activities; strengthen and sustain institutional capacities and develop tools, case studies, and insights that foster knowledge on integrated WFE management. To achieve these goals, the project will:

- provide domestic flexible-learning courses;
- initiate a student exchange program;
- support web-based learning modules;
- create interactive, flexible learning modules;
- develop internship programs for water professionals from the least developing countries.



Research group of the State Key Laboratory of Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Science in Wuhan University



Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development of Water Saving Irrigation in Asia and the Pacific held by Wuhan University

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