NEWSLETTER
February 2023

UNESCO Beijing Office
Multisectoral Regional Office to East Asia
(the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,
Japan, Mongolia, the People’s Republic of China,
and the Republic of Korea)

Inside this issue
From Director’s Desk
Feature Report: Missions
to Japan, Mongolia and the
Republic of Korea
Our Focus and Progress
Focus on UNESCO
Centres & Chairs
Celebrate UNESCO
International Days in
September-December in 2022

Cover Photo: At the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), visitors to UNESCO’s exhibition booth learn about Yi (Sani) embroidery as a sustainable source of livelihood from living heritage bearers from Shilin, Yunnan Province of South China Karst World Heritage site ©UNESCO
Dear readers,

I’m pleased to present to you the latest edition of our office’s newsletter.

This shows a number of exciting highlights among all our work areas. First and foremost, I would like to specially mention a UNESCO exhibition the office hosted at the 2022 China International Fair for Trade (CIFTIS) in Services in September, where milestones of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its adoption were showcased. This newsletter also spotlights me and the team’s missions to Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea during September and October. This was the first time since the global outbreak of COVID-19 that the office had such face-to-face exchanges with the three East Asian countries it covers. Partnerships among the countries were further strengthened.

Furthermore, in the education arena, the fundamental UNESCO Futures of Education Report has been launched in Chinese, Monglian and Korean, which will provide future impetus to transform education. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Convention, the office held the “New Horizons of Heritage Conservation” Webinar Series successfully, and also supported the third activity under the “Disability Inclusion in the Forbidden City” initiative. The 16th Meeting of The East Asian Biosphere Reserves Network (EABRN) and 2022 International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (2022 IYF) also successfully concluded, as major achievements of the sciences sectors.

Please enjoy reading some more updates and news in the newsletter!

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
**Feature Report:**

**Missions to Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea**

During September and October 2022, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office, Ms. Junzhu Zheng, Partnership Officer, Ms. Shiyi Lu, Programme Assistant for Natural Sciences and Prof. Yufeng Luo, Consultant for Natural Sciences conducted missions to three countries of the office: Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. This was the first time since the global outbreak of COVID-19 that the office had such face-to-face exchanges with the three East Asian countries it covers. During the mission, Prof. Khan and the team met with key UNESCO partners, and the relationship among the countries was further strengthened.

### Mission to Japan

Prof. Khan participated in the state funeral of the former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on behalf of UNESCO Director General on 27 September 2022 at the Nippon Budokan venue in Chiyoda, Tokyo and offered his condolences.

On 29 September, upon the invitation of the Kyoto University, Prof. Khan gave a lecture on “Youth Leadership in UN and UNESCO for Peace and Sustainable Development”. This lecture event was organized by the UNESCO Chair on Water, Energy and Disaster Management for Sustainable Development (WENDI) which works on SDGs for resilient societies through education and research.

He also made courtesy visits to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japanese National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), and the International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICARM) under the auspices of UNESCO Public Works Research Institute (PWRI).

### Mission to Mongolia

The 16th Meeting of the East Asian Biosphere Reserves Network (EABRN) was held on 3 Oct – 7 Oct, in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in close coordination with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, the Mongolian National Committee of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the EABRN Secretariat, and other related organizations. Around 50 representatives from the MAB National Committees of the 7 member countries, the EABRN Secretariat and local authorities participated in this meeting.

During the mission, Prof. Khan also met with a number of ministries, development partners, private entities, academic institutions, including Ministry for Education and Science (MoES), Ministry of Culture, Ministry for Digital Development and Communications (MDDC), Embassy of Japan, Embassy of China, EU, ADB, GIZ, KOICA, JICA, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolian State University of Arts and Culture, Mongolian University of Science and Technology, Rio Tinto, Faro Foundation, Huawei, Mongolia National Broadcaster, and more. The discussion topics covered educational and cultural programmes, climate change and digital literacy, etc.

### Mission to the Republic of Korea

Prof. Shahbaz Khan and the team continued the mission to Republic of Korea, where they met with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Environment, the Secretariat of the Korea International Water Week (KIWW), and three Category 2 Centers under the auspices of UNESCO: the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC) and the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU).

This mission to the three countries proved meaningful and effective in linking more closely with relevant stakeholders to better deliver UNESCO’s programmes and activities.
Our Focus and Progress

In the Spotlight

UNESCO at the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services

The China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS), jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Beijing Municipal People’s Government since 2012, is the largest comprehensive exhibition in the field of service trade in the world, and has become a major exhibition platform for China’s opening-up. The 2022 CIFTIS on the theme of “Cooperate for Better Development, Innovate for a Greener Future”, which took place from 31 August to 5 September, attracted 250,000 on-site visitors and over 10,000 on-site and online exhibitors.

Upon the invitation of the CIFTIS, UNESCO hosted an exhibition to introduce the work of UNESCO program sectors in China, and to showcase the milestones of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its adoption. On 2 September, a special event dedicated to the 15-year collaboration between UNESCO and China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund was organized to promote the multi-dimensional actions and achievements in heritage conservation for sustainable development in China.

In the special 15-year event, the living heritage performances and hands-on experience activities on Sani Embroidery of Shilin were highlighted as solid achievements of heritage safeguarding under the cooperation framework.

Read more
On 20 September 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office supported a special event – the third activity under the “Disability Inclusion in the Forbidden City” initiative carried out by Beijing Happy Inclusion Social Work Center (Beijing Enable Sister Center), an organization dedicated to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities, in collaboration with the Palace Museum. The event was organized with the aim to enrich cultural lives for persons with disabilities, reduce and remove barriers at heritage sites, at the same time raise awareness on the necessity of accessible facilities in cultural institutions and heritage sites, and promote disability inclusion.

The event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, which ensures that cultural heritage is protected, creativity is fostered, and everyone in the world, regardless of their cultural and religious backgrounds, their sex, age and abilities, to be able to safeguard their own cultural heritage and identity, to nurture their cultural creativity, and to fully participate in the cultural life.

Around 40 participants (more than 80% of participants are women), including 14 persons with hearing impairments and 12 volunteers, joined the activity where they explored the Forbidden City and took part in a special knowledge sharing session on key concepts concerning Intangible Cultural Heritage and UNESCO’s Cultural Conventions, highlighting 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.

As part of the Competition, a series of open lectures are held featuring experts and professionals sharing knowledge and expertise on relevant topics throughout the competition process, aiming to provoke thoughts for actions of participants. Mr. Ang Tee Wee, Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences, and Ms. Qingyi Zeng, National Professional Officer for Communication and Information from UNESCO Beijing Office co-hosted one of the open lectures in September to share knowledge on disability inclusion and equality, accessible communication, and its significance in building inclusive cities.

UNESCO Beijing Office and Wuhan University of Technology in China is currently co-organizing the International Student Competition on Green and Accessible Cities, aiming to promote the construction of an accessible environment and advocate for the development of inclusive cities while taking into consideration of environmental impact.

The competition is held against the background that an accessible and inclusive environment is the foundation for all people, including persons with disabilities, to participate fully and equally in society. UNESCO is committed to promoting the construction of an accessible information and physical environment for all, including the construction of inclusive cities.

Read more in English, Chinese
Our Focus and Progress

Education

Asia-Pacific Region

The 2022 East and Southeast Asia UNEVOC Network Consolidation Workshop concluded successfully

The UNEVOC network regional workshop was organized virtually over two consecutive days, September 28-29, 2022. This year’s theme is “Beyond New Normal, Towards the Transition: TVET for Resilience”. The four major thematic sessions covered at the UNEVOC regional network workshop were: (1) Innovation and Future of TVET, (2) Linking Skills Development and Labor Market, (3) Lifelong TVET, and (4) Green TVET.

The UNEVOC network workshop was organized by Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education & Training (KRIVET) in close consultation and partnership with UNESCO Beijing Office and UNEVOC International Centre in Bonn, Germany. KRIVET as a UNEVOC regional cluster coordinator had successfully organized several UNEVOC workshops and consultations in the past few years.

Mr. Robert Parua, Education Specialist from the UNESCO Beijing Office, participated in the various round-table discussions at the UNEVOC network regional workshop.

Read more

China

UNESCO 2022 (International) Seminar on the Urban Community Learning Center (CLC) and launch of Capacity Building Project & 2022-2025 Session II Kick-off Workshop hosted in Nanjing

China’s urban CLCs play a critical role in skills development, empowering urban communities and promoting sustainable development initiatives. A capacity building project had been jointly initiated with UNESCO to strengthen the institutional capacity of urban CLCs in China aligned to UN Sustainable Development Cooperation framework (2021-2025) in empowering urban communities.

From 21 to 23 September 2022, the UNESCO 2022 (International) Seminar on the Urban Community Learning Center (CLC) Capacity Building Project & 2022-2025 Session II Kick-off Workshop took place in Nanjing city.

The event under the theme “Digital empowerment for better senior living”, was organized by China Adult Education Association (CAEA) and Nanjing Municipal Education Bureau in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office, Department of Vocational and Adult Education of Ministry of Education, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the general project management team of the Urban CLC Capacity
Building Project, and supported by Nanjing Education Bureau, Suzhou Education Bureau, the Education Bureau of Jianye District and Nanjing Mochou Vocational School and the Community Education Research and Training Center of MOE.

The conference took a hybrid format with off-line and on-line events and activities held in Beijing, Nanjing and Suzhou with a total of over 300 participants.

**UNESCO Sub-forum held at the 2022 International Higher Education Forum**

On 26 Nov 2022, the UNESCO Sub-forum was held in Wuhan City in a hybrid format at the 2022 International Higher Education Forum. The UNESCO Sub-forum was organized by UNESCO Beijing Office and China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) and hosted by Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

The forum was a joint initiative of the China Association of Higher Education (CAHE) and UNESCO to promote the global higher education agenda and vision to establish a long-term strategic partnership and platform for institutional cooperation in higher education in China and beyond. This first joint collaboration will lay the solid platform to contribute to intensive dialogue on higher education reform agenda in China and beyond. UNESCO and CAHE are firmly committed to continue this bi-lateral institutional cooperation mechanism and to further expand the partnership in advancing higher education reform agenda in China as well as in the region, to be guided by the broad themes captured in the 2030 roadmap for higher education, advocacy for the ratification of the 2019 Global Convention on Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, accreditation, quality assurance in higher education, student mobility, digital transformation, and the role of Higher Education in Lifelong Learning and sustainable development to ensure no child is left behind.

*Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education*
Workshop on Lifelong Learning Policy Development in Mongolia, 14-16 October 2022

Policy-makers and researchers from the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia and other education stakeholders participated in the three-day workshop (14-16 October 2022) to discuss the new framework for the Lifelong learning policy to be developed in Mongolia. At the formal request of the Government through the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the experts from the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong learning (UIL) facilitated the policy workshop in Mongolia.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia, education experts and representatives from Civil Society Organizations – shared current situation, challenges, discussed best policy practices, framework for a new policy on lifelong learning and examined the challenges of implementing lifelong learning policy and programmes. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen participants’ knowledge and skills in policy-making in lifelong learning and assess the feasibility of developing lifelong learning policy in Mongolia. 32 education stakeholders participated in the national workshop on Lifelong learning policy with the two international experts from UIL.

UNESCO 2021 Futures of Education Global Report - Mongolian version launched in Ulaanbaatar

On 10 October 2022, UNESCO 2021 Futures of Education Report Mongolian version, “Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education”, was officially launched in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

This event took a hybrid format and was livestreamed with free access, aiming to provide the policymakers, government officials, education researchers, and education sector specialists and organizations with the key recommendations of the report policy and strategic alignment to establish solid platform for transformation of the education sector in Mongolia. The launch event took place after the successful conclusion of the Transforming Education Summit at the UN Headquarters held in September. Mongolia’s vision to transform education had been clearly articulated in the national outcome statement presented at the Transforming Education Summit. The Minister of Education and Science highlighted in his speech during the launch of the global report that Mongolia is at the final stages of approving the revised education law that will lay the solid foundation to transform education in Mongolia. Among the others, H.E. Mr. Enkh-Amsgalan Luvsantsen, Mongolian Minister of Education and Science, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office and Ms. Undram Chinbat the Member of the State Great Khural /Parliament attended the launch.
The “New Horizons of Heritage Conservation” webinar series was launched in May 2022 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) and in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It aims to provide World Heritage site managers, intangible cultural bearers, local communities, culture experts and practitioners, youth and interested public with up-to-date knowledge and good practices in the context of China on how to effectively manage and utilize culture and heritage for sustainable socio-economic and environmental development, and create an exchange platform on how to respond to challenges and develop innovative solutions.

Following the first webinar that explored the role of new media in shaping the understanding and extending the outreach of heritage values in the contemporary society, on 28 September 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office and the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism at UNESCO Designated Sites, Sun Yat-sen University, jointly organized the second webinar of the series on “World Heritage Education in Global and Local Context: The Role of Sustainable Tourism”.

This webinar gathered stakeholders to reflect on new horizons of heritage conservation by means of heritage education and tourism and to seek the transformative potential of culture and heritage in sustainable development. Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing Office, stressed the importance and mutually beneficial dynamics of heritage education and sustainable development, and encourage stakeholders to strengthen collaboration to leverage tourism in sustainable way for delivering quality education in the context of World Heritage.

On the occasion of the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP27) that was opened on 6 November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, the webinar on the theme of “Bamboo for Carbon Neutrality in Rural Areas: New Pathways for Carbon Reduction and Low Carbon Development in World Heritage Sites” jointly organized by UNESCO Beijing Office and the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) took place on 8 November 2022 within the framework of the second Global Bamboo and Rattan Congress (BARC). This session was also the third and last webinar of the “New Horizons of Heritage Conservation” webinar series.

As UNESCO’s Strategy for Action on Climate Change 2018-2021 pointed out, it is important to draw on cultural heritage and cultural diversity to find appropriate responses to climate change. UNESCO’s “The Next 50” initiative, marking the 50th celebration of the World Heritage Convention, encourages the global society to reflect on the potential of World Heritage as a source of humanity, resilience and innovation.

In “The Next 50”, we look forward to
Mongolia Advances to Prevent Crimes and Offenses against Cultural Property

To end the illicit trafficking of cultural objects through high-level political will and the capacity at the operational level, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO with support from the UNESCO Beijing Office organized the “National Consultation on Prevention of Crimes and Offenses against Cultural Property” on 10-11 November 2022, in partnership with Culture and Arts Authority of the Implementing Agency of the Government of Mongolia and Ministry of Culture.

This national consultation held discussions on Mongolia’s past and present efforts in combating crimes against cultural heritage, as well as the future measures and policies that need to be taken. The consultation was opened by greeting messages from Mr. U.Khurelsukh, President of Mongolia, N. Munkhzul, Director of the Government Implementing Agency Culture and Arts Authority, and Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office.

More than 100 representatives from 20 organizations, including the Ministry of Defense, the National Security Council of Mongolia, the General Intelligence Agency of Mongolia, the National Police Agency, and the Mongolian Academies of Archeology and Paleethnology actively have participated in the national consultation. In addition, representatives of the Department of Culture and Art, museums, cultural centers, and the police of 21 provinces have participated online. As a result of the consultation, a list of 10 recommendations on administrative and legislative activities that need to be taken to enhance the protection of cultural property have been proposed and shared with key government organizations.

Read more: 
- First Session of “New Horizons of Heritage Conservation” Online Webinar Series: “Communicating Heritage Value Through New Media”
The 16th Meeting of The East Asian Biosphere Reserves Network

The Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the Secretariat of the East Asian Biosphere Reserves Network (EABRN) at UNESCO Beijing Office, the Ministry of the Environment and Tourism, Mongolia, the TNC Mongolia office and the related national and local organizations organized the 16th meeting of the EABRN in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 3-7 October 2022, with the theme of “Sustaining Biosphere Reserves for SDGs in the post pandemic period”. The aims of the 16th EABRN meeting are to 1) exchange information and experiences on recent conservation and management efforts in the Biosphere Reserves in the East Asian countries; 2) introduce actions taken by the EABRN Secretariat and the member countries since the last meeting and the plan for the coming 2 years, especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis and its impacts; 3) carry out a field evaluation for the Toson-Khulstai Biosphere Reserve as a newly designated area; and 4) elaborate an activity plan for EABRN for 2022-2023 including the next EABRN training course.

The event consisted of two parts, a 2-day meeting in Ulaanbaatar and a field trip to the Toson-Khulstai Biosphere Reserve, which consists of the 5 sub-provinces of Dornod province and the Khentii province. Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office, Mr. H.E. B. Bat-Erdene, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, and Mr. S. Boldsaikhan, Secretary-General of Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, delivered opening remarks. Director also handed over the approval of the Uvs Lake Depression TBR (2021) and Khuvsgul Lake BR (2022) to the representatives of relevant authorities. A total of 63 delegates from the EABRN member countries and 30 national and international organizations attended the meeting. Among all participants, 40.3% are female and 59.7% are male.

Visit to UNESCO Category 2 Centre, the International Centre on Global Scale Geochemistry (ICGG)

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office made a visit to the International Centre on Global Scale Geochemistry (ICGG), a Category II Centre under the auspice of UNESCO on 7 September 2022. During his visit, Director met and discussed with the centre’s research and management team, as well as the evaluation consultant who was conducting the on-site evaluation of ICGG to prepare for the final evaluation report to be submitted to UNESCO to consider the possible renewal of the agreement between UNESCO, ICGG and the Chinese government.

Prof. Khan participated in the meeting with ICGG’s leadership team and observed the online interview session organized by the evaluation consultant with members from the centre’s governing board and scientific committee. As a result, Director has offered
concrete advice to the ongoing evaluation work and valuable suggestions to the centre's operation and management, reforms of its governing board and scientific committee, improvements to be made in terms of international exchange and cooperation as well as scientific popularization. During this visit, Director also examined the centre's new experimental building and facilities, and had a field trip to one of the centre's experimental sites in the local community in Hebei, Langfang, where the centre's work in geological mapping has been used to offer technical support to the local vineyards to promote healthy organic farming and sustainable livelihoods.

Technical Workshop On Carbon Neutrality In Water Management

On 13 Dec, UNESCO Beijing Office and Sichuan Agricultural University jointly organized a technical workshop on carbon neutrality in water management. 5 experts from China, Pakistan and Australia attended the workshop and provided insightful inputs. The panel reviewed the synthesis report of Carbon Neutrality in water management and the published research studies which are related with the carbon neutrality in water resources management from the standpoint of different professions. During the meeting, Dr. Yinhong Kang introduced the key terminology, soft and hard option, and agricultural vs other water sectors. Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office moderated the panel discussion on key areas on merits and demerits of different options, examples from China and other countries.

A final report will be compiled based upon the literature review, outcomes of panel discussion and synthesis of carbon neutrality solutions, which will provide the conceptual framework, summarize the research trends and hot topics, and recommend the pathways and future perspectives of carbon neutrality in water management.

Social and Human Sciences

Asia-Pacific Region

3rd International Workshop on Cross-cultural Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics and Governance

Mr. Ang Tee Wee, Social and Human Sciences Specialist, introduced the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of AI and related developments during the 3rd International Workshop on Cross-cultural AI Ethics and Governance on 9 December 2022. The workshop is co-hosted by the Center for Long-term AI, the Center for AI Ethics and Governance of the Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Intelligent Future Research Center of Cambridge University and the International Cooperation Network on AI for Sustainable Development, and supported by the Institute of International Governance of AI of Tsinghua University. The workshop was organized in conjunction with the 2022 International Conference of AI Cooperation and Governance and International Conference Series of AI Ethics and Sustainable Development.
Climate Change Ethics

UNESCO Beijing Office has been raising awareness about the UNESCO Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change in Northeast Asia and the Asia Pacific region. Hardcopies of the brochure on the Declaration is now available in English and Chinese through the Office, and will be widely disseminated at major events in 2023. Furthermore, UNESCO Beijing Office also supported the development of a preliminary concept of a capacity building tool to help guide policymakers and other relevant stakeholders on translating the articles of the Declaration into concrete policy considerations and related possible implementation actions. This preliminary concept document will also provide the basis for further inclusive consultations with relevant experts worldwide to further refine its design, structure and content.

China

2022 World Artificial Intelligence Conference

UNESCO Beijing Office participated in the AI Governance Forum of the 2022 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) in Shanghai on 1 Sep 2022. The AI Governance Forum was attended by around 100 representatives from international organizations, governmental entities, private sector, public policy institutions, universities, media, etc. Participants shared their insights into topics such as AI governance, AI cooperation, and AI ethics, and discussed possible solutions for addressing pressing challenges in the AI field. Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO (ADG/SHS), delivered a video message during the opening session of the Forum, highlighting ongoing work and achievements around the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence. Mr. Ang Tee Wee, Social and Human Sciences Specialist at UNESCO Beijing Office, provided an in-depth introduction of the Recommendation during the Forum’s High-end Dialogue on AI Governance session.

9th Peace Garden Peace Festival and 2022 UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest Award Ceremony

UNESCO Beijing Office participated in the 9th Peace Garden Peace Festival in Beijing on 21 September 2022, organized by the Beijing International Peace Culture Foundation and the China World Peace Foundation. Leaders, personalities, diplomatic envoys to China, government officials and youth representatives from international organizations and 160 countries attended the event online and offline.
Our focus and progress

Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General of Social and Human Sciences (ADG/SHS), transmitted a video message during the festival, congratulating the Beijing International Peace Culture Foundation on becoming an official partner of UNESCO, thanked the Foundation for its generous and continuous support of the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme, and emphasized the need to re-prioritize investment in the social drivers of peace. During the festival, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office, introduced the winners of the 2022 UNESCO Youth Eyes on the Silk Roads Photo Contest. This annual photo contest is designed to promote photography as a tool for encouraging cultural interaction, helping build mutual understanding, and promoting peace amongst the people living in the regions connected by the Silk Roads.

2022 International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (2022 IYF)

UNESCO Beijing Office, in collaboration with the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the Changsha Municipal Government, and the Nanjing Municipal Government, organized the 2022 IYF on 15 December 2022, which took place online and on-site in Beijing (online only), Changsha and Nanjing simultaneously. In her opening video message, Ms. Gabriela Ramos, ADG/SHS encouraged youth actions and underlined the importance of youth power, emphasizing UNESCO’s commitment to providing support for global youth-led solutions, listening to youth voices, and promoting youth participation. In his opening remarks, Mr. Tian Xuejun, the Vice Minister of Education and the Director of the National Commission of China for UNESCO, encouraged youth to enhance mutual understanding, mutual respect and mutual trust with an open and inclusive attitude, and to break down barriers and build a bridge of peace. The overarching theme of this year’s Forum was “Youth creativity to promote intercultural dialogue and tackle global challenges”, with two parallel sessions focusing on the sub-themes of “Promoting Youth Development for a Bright Future” and “Creativity and Heritage for Sustainable Urban Development”. Around 90 youth (48% female) from 44 countries participated in the Forum to share and exchange their thoughts, stories and actions on the topics of the Forum.

Mongolia

Transforming Mentalities in Mongolia

Within the framework of the “Transforming Mentalities” initiative, UNESCO Beijing Office provided support to the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO to implement a public awareness campaign advocating for gender equality and addressing harmful gender norms, stereotypes and bias by engaging men and boys as positive role models. Under this activity, boys, men, and women from diverse backgrounds were selected to prepare written and video testimonials. With the hashtag #TransformingMentalities, these testimonials were posted on the National Commission’s Facebook page between September and December 2022. A booklet of the testimonials was also published in English and Mongolian, and distributed to various organizations within Mongolia.
2022 World Philosophy Day

On the occasion of the 2022 World Philosophy Day, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Institute of Philosophy of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, with support from UNESCO Beijing Office, organized a scientific conference on “Science and Knowledge: Theoretical and Methodological Problems” on 18 November 2022. The conference was attended by over 80 participants from the Institute of Philosophy, the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the National University of Mongolia, the Mongolian University of Life Sciences, the Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture, and the University of Internal Affairs.

Communication and Information

2022 Asia-Pacific Communication Forum (APCF) Sub-forum on UNESCO and Media Reporting for Promoting Disability Equality Successfully Held

On 22 October 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office, the Asia-Pacific Communication Exchange Association and the Asia-Pacific Communication Forum Alliance (Macao) jointly organized the online sub-forum on UNESCO and Media Reporting for Promoting Disability under the Asia-Pacific Communication Forum.

Around 50 participants including media researchers, media professionals and practitioners, journalism school students, representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Asia-Pacific Region, attended the event.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office opened the Sub-forum. In his remarks, Prof. Khan pointed, “Social stigma, compounded by a lack of understanding of rights and the value of persons with disabilities among the public, continues to fuel systemic discrimination against them.” He thus stressed the great potential of the media to serve as a powerful force to help change societal misconceptions against persons with disabilities by presenting persons with disabilities as individuals who are part of the human diversity.

Read more

Download the UNESCO Handbook on Media Reporting for Promoting Disability Equality in China: Chinese, English
UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Induction Workshop in China Kicked Off in Beijing

On 15-18 November and 8-9 December 2022, the Induction Workshop under the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Fourth Funding Call Inception Phase was held at the UN Compound in Beijing and online.

With full support from the China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF), this Workshop is jointly organized by UNESCO Beijing Office together with the ILO, UNFPA, UN Women, and WHO offices in China, under the coordination by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in China.

The Workshop is held on the basis of the shared vision of ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities are fully respected, protected and fulfilled, and all persons with disabilities can fully and equitably participate in society.

With a localized programme and an all-round coverage on key elements such as the connection between the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and SDGs, equality and non-discrimination, accessibility, meaningful participation, inclusive data, and gender equality, this workshop aims to provide national stakeholders with crucial and foundational knowledge on the implementation of the CRPD and disability inclusive SDGs in practice, responding to China’s obligations.

Over 30 participants (around 80% female) representing UN agencies, government institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities, academia, and civil society organizations attended the workshop.

Read more in English, Chinese

Figure: Group photo of participants of the UNPRPD Induction Workshop
Figure: Participants at the Workshop
Figure: Prof. Shahbaz Khan delivering opening remarks to kick off the Workshop
Mongolia Celebrated Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week 2022 - Four Years of Progress Now Newer Than Ever

Mongolia celebrated Global MIL Week 2022 by successfully organizing the 4th National Stakeholder Forum on MIL and the 1st National MIL - Youth Hackathon from 25-30 October 2022. With the support of UNESCO Beijing Office, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO co-organized the two events with the Press Institute of Mongolia and other prominent media and information NGOs and the Ministry of Digital Development and Communication of Mongolia.

The National MIL Stakeholder Forum kicked off the celebration on October 25th and was attended by 100 stakeholders online and offline including representatives from key Ministries, university and secondary school educators, librarians, journalists, stakeholder NGOs (i.e. Faro Foundation, Mongolian Education Alliance and Digital Era), Human rights activists, and Youth Hackathon participants.

The forum was broadcast on the Mongolian National Broadcaster, Mongolia’s official, state-funded television channel that reaches audiences all over the country. The events highlighted the progress Mongolia has made over the years and further projects a positive outlook in the advancement of Media and Information Literacy.

Read more

Mongolian Media Trained in Integrating MIL into Practices

On 4-5 November 2022, 15 journalists and editors from print, broadcast and online media in Mongolia participated in a Media and information literacy (MIL) workshop organized by the Press Institute of Mongolia with the support of UNESCO Beijing Office. The workshop conducted under the UNESCO Multi-Donor Programme on Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists aims to strengthen the capacities of media organizations to develop and integrate MIL in their operations.

The workshop for media professionals addressed among others the role of MIL in building trust in media and democratic institutions, the issues professional ethics of journalists in times of disinformation and mistrust. The participants also discussed examples and cases of how the media can contribute to enhancing the media and information literacy in Mongolia.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office opened the workshop, stressing the importance of the collaboration between MIL and media for strengthening democracy citizen participation.

Read more
Focus on UNESCO Centres & Chairs

| UNESCO Category 2 Institutes and Centres |

Category 2 Institutes and Centres under the auspices of UNESCO are a global network of institutions of excellence in the Organization’s domains of competence. Given their expertise, these institutes and centres contribute to the implementation of UNESCO’s strategic priorities, programmes, and global development agendas, through international and regional cooperation, research, knowledge production, policy advice, and capacity development.

There are currently 26 Category 2 Centres in the East Asian countries, 5 in Education, 7 in Culture, 11 in Natural Sciences, 2 in Social and Human Sciences, and 1 in Communication and Information sector.

_officially established in January 2022, the WHIPIC aims to promote the understanding and protection of heritage through the inclusive interpretation and presentation of heritage around the world.

The WHIPIC is established to promote reconciliatory cultural dialogue and to contribute to the sustainable development of humanity by identifying various values and meanings of World Heritage sites through research, capacity building, informatization, and networking while sharing the results with the general public.

- **Research**
  - Policy research on heritage interpretation and presentation per subject and region
  - Create international standards and principles for the interpretation and presentation of World Heritage
  - Support reconciliatory plans for heritage with conflicting interpretations

- **Capacity Building**
  - Build capacity for the design and implementation of national heritage interpretation strategies
  - Develop and operate a customized curriculum for different stakeholders on heritage interpretation
  - Raise awareness of heritage interpretation

- **Informatization**
  - Establish a platform for heritage interpretation and presentation as well as an international information archive
  - Utilize digital technology to explain properties effectively
  - Raise awareness of heritage interpretation through information technology

- **Cooperation and Networking**
  - Establish an international network of World Heritage stakeholders
  - Reinforce comprehensive global cooperation partnerships

Figure: International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC, ROK)
**Focus on UNESCO Centres & Chairs**

| UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme |

Launched in 1992, the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs Programme, which involves over 850 institutions in 117 countries, promotes international inter-university cooperation and networking to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work. The programme supports the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and UNITWIN Networks in key priority areas related to UNESCO’s fields of competence – i.e. in education, the natural and social sciences, culture and communication.

There are currently 8 UNITWIN Networks and 38 UNESCO Chairs in East Asia, 21 in China, 11 in Japan, 4 in the Republic of Korea, and 2 in Mongolia.

**UNESCO Chair on Water, Energy and Disaster Management for Sustainable Development (WENDI), Kyoto University (2018)**

The UNESCO Chair WENDI aims to promote multi-disciplinary and holistic approach for research implementation, knowledge transfer and capacity building in the fields of water, energy and disaster management, and linkages to other sectors (bioresources and ecosystems, river basins from mountain to ocean, resilient societies, climate change and data science) in Kyoto University (KU) and partner organizations all over the world.

To achieve this aim, WENDI will organize education and training programme targeting students and practitioners mainly from developing countries, formulate related education and training materials and continue to contribute to the activities in the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), especially ones of the UNESCO IHP Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for Asia and the Pacific region, as well as UNESCO’s Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). It will also contribute to advanced and trans-disciplinary studies and scientific research projects in the fields mentioned above. WENDI will also align with IHP’s international initiatives such as the promotion of water-related studies in collaboration with FRIEND, IFI, IDI, and IIWQ by developing new theories and technologies for monitoring, assessing, predicting and managing global risks in the world including climate change. Furthermore, WENDI will contribute to the field of data science which is inseparable from the practical implementations of the above activities.

Overall, the Kyoto University UNESCO Chair WENDI will emphasise on the involvement of policy makers and practitioners to foster science- and technology-based decision-makings to build a sustainable, resilient and survivable society.

---

**Figure: Objectives, goal, rationale and impact of this project**

**Figure: Implementation structure of the project**
UNESCO, UNAIDS, and UNFPA join hands to promote comprehensive sexuality education among persons with disabilities in China

On the occasion of the 2022 International Day of Sign Languages on 23 September 2022, UNESCO Beijing Office, UNAIDS China, and UNFPA China organized a Seminar on Promoting Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and HIV Prevention among Persons with Disabilities in China, with support from Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee, UN Resident Coordinator in China, the UN Theme Group on Disability, and the UN Thematic Group on Leaving No One Behind.

Nearly 50 participants (more than 60% are women), representing UN agencies, governmental institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, and bilateral organizations such as embassies, attended the event.

The event featured an overview on the status quo of sexual and reproductive health, and the importance, urgent needs, and challenges for CSE and HIV prevention among persons with disabilities in China, followed by an official launch of the AMAZE video series on CSE for adolescents with sign language targeting young adolescents, with the aim to enhance their sexuality education and improve their ability to protect themselves from HIV and have better health.

This event is also a timely celebration for the UNESCO proclaimed International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2022 on 28 September, which is another important reminder that equal and universal access to information is essential to promote human rights and dignity and to build inclusive knowledge societies, where persons with disabilities have equal access to information as a public good in accessible formats and appropriate technologies.
A Digital Nation’s Right to Access Information – Mongolia celebrated IDUAI 2022

On 28 September 2022, in celebration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2022, with the support of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Globe International Center partnered with the Open Society Forum and hosted a discussion event on the topic “A Digital Nation’s Right to Access Information”.

During the event, representatives from the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia, the Independent Authority Against Corruption of Mongolia, the Globe International Center, journalists, and researchers gave presentations in line with the central topic. The various presentations touched on the legal landscape and current activities on improving citizens' access to information, the freedom of acquiring information, and the policy implementation of making information transparent and accountable. The final presentation on the discrepancies of the right to access information further emphasized governments' role in making information transparent and more accessible. The discussion session was engaging and focused mainly on the digital systems that enable access to information.

Read more

International Day for Biosphere Reserves

Guanshan Biosphere Reserve launched the First International Day for Biosphere Reserves Campaign with the theme “Biosphere Reserves: A Place for Harmonious Coexistence between Man and Nature”. On 24 Oct, Guanshan Biosphere Reserve launched the “Ten Thousand Signatures in Ten Schools in Two Counties” campaign at the same time in ten schools in Yifeng and Tonggu counties. More than 10,000 students and teachers solemnly signed their names on the large spray-painted cloth painted with “2022 International Biosphere Reserve Day: A Place for Harmonious Coexistence between Man and Nature”. On 30 Oct, a nature education activity entitled “Autumn in Guanshan - a place where people and nature live in harmony” was held at Donghe Conservation Station in Guanshan Biosphere Reserve. The activities included a class on the science of macaques, an autumn fruit exploration on the ecological trail, and a nature note on ginkgo leaves. Children from Yifeng elementary school actively participated in the activities by designing their own questions and answering them, picking up fallen leaves and fruits to identify species, and experiencing the bark and leaves of different plants with their five senses.

Read more
For the celebration of the 2022 International Day of Persons with Disabilities, UNESCO and UNFPA presented via social media a selection of photos capturing the authentic life stories of persons with disabilities – not as objects of pity or role models, but as wonderfully ordinary individuals, focusing on the wonderful moments of persons with disabilities in the workplace, sports activities and daily life.

The celebration is organized against the background that people with disabilities, despite the large number, are one of the most marginalized groups in our society. The lack of understanding of the rights and values of persons with disabilities among the public continues to fuel the attitudinal barriers in society represented by stereotypes and social stigma. Persons with disabilities are often being stuck with the “disability” label. Their other “labels” and qualities that are commonly shared with people without disabilities, are rarely made the center of discussion.

The photo campaign has gained in total of more than 1.6 million views on social media, with over 60 posts and sharing from more than 10 entities, including various UN agencies, bilateral organizations, and media organizations.

Read more
Cover Photo: A sign language interpreter explaining to the participants with hearing impairments of a guided tour organized under the UNESCO-supported Disability Inclusion in the Forbidden City Initiative. ©Beijing Happy Inclusion Social Work Center

For more news and the latest updates, follow us on

WeChat: UNESCO_China
Weibo: 联合国教科文组织
Website: www.unesco.org/beijing

UNESCO Beijing Office
Multisectoral Regional Office to East Asia
(the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea)

Floor 15, Building 5
Jianguomenwai Diplomatic Residence
Compound Beijing, 100600 China
beijing@unesco.org