Inside this issue
From Director’s Desk
Our Focus and Progress
Feature Report on the 60th Anniversary of Mongolia’s Accession to UNESCO
Focus on UNESCO Centres & Chairs
Celebrate UNESCO International Days in May-August in 2022
Dear readers,

I am pleased to present to you the second issue of our office's newsletter in 2022, which covers our work from May to August, the middle of the year.

The feature report in this edition is on the 60th anniversary of Mongolia's accession to UNESCO in 2022. On July 10-14, to commemorate this great occasion, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay paid a visit to Mongolia. During her stay in Ulaanbaatar, she met with the President of Mongolia, and held bilateral meetings with Ministers, exchanging views on further cooperation in the fields of education, sciences, culture and information communications of Mongolia. Moreover, a renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mongolia and UNESCO on cooperation in 2022-2029 was signed. With the signing, Mongolia and UNESCO agreed to cooperate in establishing a Geopark for the first time in Mongolia to support geological science and eco-tourism.

Guided by the workplans set out at the start of this year, the Office have advanced towards our goals progressively during these four months. A number of fruitful achievements were made, including but not limited to:

National Consultations for UN Transforming Education Summit (TES) were held in China and Mongolia as a national preparatory step for the overarching TES to be held in September 2022 in New York. Two important education publications: UNESCO 2021 Futures of Education Report and Making every school a health-promoting school: global standards and indicators also released their Chinese versions, which you can easily access to via the links provided hereinafter.

The UNESCO - China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund “Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China” Project Phase IV (2021-2024) continued to take solid steps. Within the project framework, a five-day heritage education workshop was held from 19 to 24 August 2022, as part of the “Panda Ambassador” pilot initiative on heritage education and sustainable livelihood in Wolong, Sichuan Province. Besides, the second-year “Capacity Building Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Youth” was successfully concluded, with the involvement of almost 150 young participants and observers aged between 18 and 28, coming from 32 universities in China, Japan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea.

It is noteworthy that in the Natural Sciences sector, a new UNESCO Chair on Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment Nexus at the Wuhan University was established. The Social and Human Sciences sector has excelled in many events in their focus areas of artificial intelligence and youth development, and the Communication and Information sector continued its efforts in constructing a green and accessible environment for all.

There are more in the newsletter for you to explore. Enjoy your reading please.

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
On 27 May, the China's Ministry of Education held the National Consultation for Transforming Education Summit (TES), as a national preparatory step for the TES to be held in September 2022 in New York. Mr. Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education and Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing Office jointly opened the consultation. Representatives from central, provincial and local government offices, academia, institutes and schools, private sector and media shared their perspectives, aligned with key themes such as revitalization of education, education reform, and investment in education. It was reiterated by many speakers that China is fully committed to building an inclusive quality education system that leaves no child behind. China will continue the modernization path of its education system, and maximize education’s key role in contributing to the country’s socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. China is willing to share its success stories and experiences with the world and promote international exchanges on best practices. The China TES National Statement was approved and presented at the UN Transforming Education Summit, 16-19 September 2022.

From 3 to 4 September, the International Symposium on the Futures of Higher Education was organized by Zhejiang University in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing Office and UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, and UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurship Education and UNESCO Research Center at Zhejiang University. Focused on the theme “the Future Roadmap of Higher Education”, this meeting accelerated the deepening and implementation of the consensus and decisions reached at the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC 2022), and consolidated the new roadmap for the future development of higher education towards 2030 and beyond.

The Launch of the Chinese Version of the UNESCO 2021 Futures of Education Report, “Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education”, was officially launched in Beijing on 6 September 2022. The launch event was co-hosted by UNESCO, the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the China National Academy of Educational Sciences, and organized by Educational Science Publishing House. The report provides platform for dialogue on the future of education at all levels. Scholars and experts from education stakeholder institutions reflected on and took stock of the key highlights and findings of the Report. The recommendations of the report were discussed in alignment with China’s education policies, strategies and practices and China’s on-going education modernization and reform. Mr. Tian Xuejun, Vice Minister of Education of China, and Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO jointly opened the launch. Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office unveiled the new report in Chinese.
The Chinese version of “Making every school a health-promoting school: global standards and indicators” has recently been co-published by UNESCO and WHO. The publication is the first of a series: Making every school a health-promoting school. The three volumes are Volume 1-Global standards and indicators, Volume 2-Implementation guide, Volume 3-Country case studies. The series adopts the concept of health-promoting schools (HPS), which means “a school that constantly strengthens its capacity as a safe and healthy setting for living, learning and working”. The Chinese version of the publication is now freely and openly accessible at: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000382588.

UNESCO Beijing Office, in close collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) and Okayama University, organized the International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Mongolia 2022 and the Third Asian Teacher Education for Climate Change Education (ATECCE) Meeting in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from May 3-5, 2022. The major outcome of the conference was to exchange best practices in CCESD[1] projects at country level. During the conference, over 33 speakers representing 17 institutions from the network of Asian Centres of Excellence on ESD in 9 countries (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines) discussed current practices and future prospects of CCE in teacher education, including the development of modules, training programs, courses and workshops. In addition, students and faculty from a local institution presented posters on activities related to ESD.

On 6 July 2022, the 2021/2 Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) was officially launched in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. More than 110 participants representing the MoES, state and non-state education stakeholders, international development partners in Mongolia, the UNESCO GEMR Team at UNESCO HQ, UN Agencies, education experts and policy makers attended the launch. The launch was opened by Ms. Udram Chinbat, Member of the State Great Khural, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office, and Mr. Boldsaikhan Sambuu, Secretary General of Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and Mr. Tapan Mishra, the UN Resident Coordinator closed the launch.

[1] CCESD: Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development
On 5 July, the Mongolia National Consultation of the UN Transforming Education Summit was held. Over 130 participants representing 44 state and non-state actors and international organizations have participated and endorsed Mongolia's strong commitment, and proposed policy recommendations to transform the country's education system based on strategic priorities linked to labour market demands. Prior to the national consultation, a series of national dialogues and consultations were organized under the leadership of Mongolia's Education Minister, H.E. Mr. Enkh-Amgalan. The consultations gave voice to youth, educators, policy-makers, private sectors and civil society organizations, urban and rural dwellers, children and parents, boys and girls, women and men from 10 to over 60 years old, representing a whole range of social groups. The TES National Consultation was led by the UNRC in Mongolia with the support of UNESCO and UNICEF.

**Republic of Korea (ROK)**

UNESCO is a member of the technical team led by Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) to develop a joint project among peace education experts and institutions in Northeast Asia in the development of a **Common Curriculum (Guide) for Peace Education**. This common curriculum aims to provide peace educators with the common goals, meanings, contents, methods, and learning outcomes of peace education pertinent and responsive to the needs and contexts of Northeast Asia while being faithful to UNESCO’s vision. The common curriculum will ultimately contribute to the strengthening and enhancement of peace education in Northeast Asia. The project will be implemented in the period from March 2022 to Dec 2023, under the coordination of APCEIU.

**Asia-Pacific Region**

All the five cluster countries participated in the **2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Minister’s Conference (APREMC-II)**, organized in Bangkok, from 5 -7 June 2022. The Ministers of Education from the Beijing Cluster countries contributed to the meeting with either pre-recorded statements or on-site participation. The meeting gathered over 30 ministers and vice-ministers from the region, and over 470 additional parties collectively expressed the strong will of political leaders and education stakeholders in Asia and the Pacific to jointly discuss, identify solutions to, and commit concrete actions towards addressing the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on learners in the region, as well as to the current learning crisis and the urgent need to collectively accelerate SDG 4 implementation. The “Bangkok Statement 2022” adopted at the Conference sends a powerful message pertaining to the recognition of the need to take urgent collective action and expresses the commitment of Member States and education stakeholders in the region.
Raising youth’s awareness on heritage conservation and nature conservation through UNESCO 2022 “Panda Ambassador” Initiative

From 19 to 24 August 2022, 40 (67.5% women) middle school and university students participated in a five-day heritage education workshop in Wolong, Sichuan Province. The workshop, co-organized by UNESCO Beijing Office and Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU), with support from the Sichuan Forestry and Grassland Administration, local authorities and academic partners, is part of the “Panda Ambassador” pilot initiative on heritage education and sustainable livelihood at the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries World Heritage site within the project framework of UNESCO - China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund “Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China” Phase IV (2021-2024). This pilot initiative aims to promote heritage education and sustainable development of Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries, to encourage young people to engage in heritage conservation, and to contribute to the harmonious coexistence of nature and communities.

Building upon the solid progress made since 2007 under the UNESCO projects, the “Panda Ambassador” initiative highlights the iconic image of the Giant Panda as one of the core values of the site, drawing attention and attracting participation of young people. “Ambassador” also symbolizes the connection between human and nature. Four areas of activities are planned, including establishing/improving a rigorous heritage interpretation system, capacity building to enhance local livelihood options, awareness-raising/communication through multi-channel media, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships on heritage education.

Building capacity for youth to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (ICH)

Youth plays an important role in safeguarding their own heritage, heritage of others and of the humanity. In 2021, UNESCO Beijing Office and the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP) launched a three-year training program to equip youth from the Northeast Asian cluster countries with capacity to embark on an inspiring journey to safeguard living heritage and mobilize its contribution for sustainable development. The second-year “Capacity Building Workshop on Intangible Cultural Heritage for Youth” just successfully concluded, with the involvement of almost 150 young...
participants and observers aged between 18 and 28, coming from 32 universities in China, Japan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea. Mongolia National Commission to UNESCO, the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP) and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) participated as workshop’s co-organizers.

The participants benefited from technical guidance and expertise of international facilitators, as well as support from local coordinators. After the fieldwork, the participants submitted 50 videos, covering important themes under the 2003 Convention such as ICH and transmission, ICH and creative industries, ICH and education, and ICH and new media.

As youth remains an important target group for the work of the United Nations in general and UNESCO in particular, future capacity building opportunities will be organized by CRIHAP and UNESCO Beijing during the last few months of 2022, including an ICH safeguarding workshop in Mongolia and an ICH and climate change workshop at the Asia-Pacific region.

Read more

Mongolia

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Convention in Mongolia

“Mongolia and the World Heritage Convention: the Next 50 Years” national stakeholders’ meeting were organized by the Mongolia National Commission on 5 August, to review the results achieved to date on protecting and managing World Heritage and to discuss priority actions for the future. The meeting was organized within the context of the 50th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. Participants coming from a wide range of national stakeholders identified a number of priorities for the next stage in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, including i) nomination of new sites to the World Heritage List; ii) efficient protection of the existing sites; iii) attracting more funding and investment for World Heritage sites; iv) ensuring the participation of diverse stakeholders and better coordination among the ministries; v) enhancing capacity and training of young human resources, especially at sub-governmental level; and vi) increasing public awareness especially through integrating heritage in schools.

As an immediate step, the Bukhan Khaldun Administration Office will collaborate with the Ministry of Culture and the National Commission on a project to improve the management of the World Heritage site of Burkhan Khaldun mountain and its sacred surrounding landscape through three specific actions: i) strengthening the monitoring of the state of conservation, ii) carrying out an inventory of the cultural and historical features in the property, and iii) raising awareness for local communities and international tourists. This project will be carried out under the framework of the 1972 Convention International Assistance Fund.

Read more
A new UNESCO Chair on Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment Nexus at the Wuhan University Established

On 12 July, 2022, the Unveiling Ceremony of UNESCO Chair on Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment Nexus at Wuhan University was organized and the MoU between UNESCO Beijing Office and Wuhan University was signed during the ceremony. Prof. Tang Qizhu, Vice President of Wuhan University attended the ceremony and signed the MoU. As per request by Wuhan University, a lecture on Leadership in UN and UNESCO for Peace and Sustainable Development was prepared by Prof. Shahbaz Khan to introduce UNESCO and its internship programme to the students. In the afternoon, Prof. Khan met the chairholder, Prof. Wu Jingwei, and co-chair holder, Prof. Luo Yufeng, and colleagues from the School of Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering of Wuhan University to discuss the work plan of the Chair in terms of research, education, training and capacity-building, exchanges and knowledge transfer.

Read more

Courtesy Visit to the Institute of Hydrobiology (IHB) of Chinese Academy of Sciences

On July 13, 2022, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Office, was invited to visit the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Mr. Wang Ding, the Secretary General of the Chinese National Committee for the Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Deputy Director of Division of International Organization Affairs of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. Liu Ning, Director of the Secretariat Office of the Chinese National Committee for MAB, and Mr. Hao Yujian, Associate Researcher of IHB, participated in the reception of Prof. Shahbaz Khan and discussed the further development on the MAB Programme in China.

Read more

Partnership with the Changjiang Civilization Museum on the Great Rivers Forum

On 14 July, UNESCO Beijing team visited the Changjiang Civilization Museum (Wuhan Natural History Museum) and met with Mr. Qinghua Wang, Vice Mayor of Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, and colleagues from Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, Wuhan Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism, Wuhan Urban Construction Group to discuss the preparation of the Great Rivers Forum 2022, and to propose Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Changjiang Civilization Museum (Wuhan Natural History Museum) and Wuhan Municipal People’s Government, and other strategic collaboration in Wuhan. The meeting confirmed the thematic focus, structure and proposed experts and implementing partners of the form. It will kick off the new chapter of collaboration between UNESCO Beijing and Wuhan stakeholders in promoting water sustainability.
Collaboration on the project of groundwater issues in the Southern Gobi regions

UNESCO Beijing Office and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO launched a project supporting the research of groundwater issues in the Southern Gobi regions, Mongolia. In June 2022, the progress report focusing on “Realizing the Gaps on Groundwater Resource Management in the South Gobi Region” has been compiled by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO. And it has made periodic progress including having identified the implementing partners, necessary information and technology required for groundwater management in Southern Gobi regions, the gaps in information, implementation, knowledge and technology, etc..

Social and Human Sciences

Asia-Pacific Region

Priority action: Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence

UNESCO Beijing Office has been raising awareness about the Recommendation in Northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region. Hardcopies of the brochure on the Recommendation is now available in English and Chinese through the Office, and was widely disseminated at several major events in China, including at the 2022 World AI Conference in Shanghai and the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing.

Click here to read: English version, Chinese version

UNESCO Beijing Office was also invited to participate in the launching ceremony and workshop of the “Principles on AI for Biodiversity Conservation” on 25 August, jointly issued by the International Research Center for AI Ethics and Governance at the Institute of Automation of the Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing Representative Office of World Animal Protection, Institute of AI International Governance of Tsinghua University, AI4SDGs Cooperation Network, Center for AI Governance (Beijing), Institute for Ethics in AI of the Technical University of Munich, Centre for AI Research (South Africa), Centre for AI and Data Governance of the Singapore Management University, and Stanley Ho Big Data Decision Analytics Research Centre of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. During this occasion, the Office delivered a presentation on the Recommendation, highlighting the close alignment between the “Principles on AI for Biodiversity Conservation” and the Recommendation.

On 5 August, UNESCO Beijing Office, in support of UNESCO Bangkok Office, delivered an online lecture on the Recommendation and its synergies with the UNESCO Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change at King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok (KMUNTB).
2022 World Youth Development Forum (WYDF)

UNESCO, as part of UN China, supported the 2022 World Youth Development Forum, which was organized by the All-China Youth Federation in Beijing, 21-23 July, under the theme “For a Shared Future: Promoting Sustainable Development with Youth and for Youth”. The Forum aims to advocate for global youth development and promote youth participation to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by China. Topics discussed at the Forum include employment and entrepreneurship, climate change and green development, digital economy, and high-quality education.

On behalf of the Director-General, Ms Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for SHS, sent a video greeting for the Forum. She emphasized that the true strength of young people is in their resilience, creativity and ideas, building on shared values based on human rights, and underlined that we should leverage their contributions and invest in them.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office, delivered the opening speech at the thematic forum for Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education. He highlighted China’s amazing achievement of scoring 99.8% for literacy rate and 99.5% for lower secondary completion rate. He pointed out that China has demonstrated that quality education is the cornerstone for poverty alleviation through its significant progress in poverty eradication built on a sound education foundation.

UNESCO Beijing Office, in consultation with UNESCO HQ and partners, also recommended 5 youth delegates from Mexico, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Qatar and Japan to participate in all four thematic forums.

Visit to Changsha

From 16 to 19 August, UNESCO Beijing Office, led by the Director, undertook a mission to Changsha, the only UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts in China. The purpose of this mission was to 1) discuss with the Changsha authorities on the organization of the 2022 International Youth Forum (IYF), and 2) pay a courtesy visit to Changsha Normal University.

Discussions were held with the Mayor Mr. Zheng Jianxin, the Head of Publicity Department Mr. Chen Peng, and other colleagues from Changsha regarding fruitful past cooperation, preparation for this year’s IYF, and further collaboration opportunities. Sites visits to Changsha’s most iconic cultural and media art landmarks were carried out to better understand the city of Changsha with first-hand experience.

On the last day of the mission, the team visited Changsha Normal University, which hosted the Annual Conference of the Chinese Society for Science Education in July this year. Received by the Party Secretary, Ms. Luo Ting and the President of the University, Mr. Cao Xiaoxian, both sides exchanged ideas on the important part education can play for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and expressed the will for deeper collaboration in the future.

Read more:
- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)
- Third International Youth Forum (IYF 2019) on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads: Youth Creativity and Innovation in the Age of Media Arts
Communication and Information

UNESCO calls for youth participation in constructing a green and accessible environment for all

The International Student Competition and International Academic Conference on Innovation for Green and Accessible Environment, co-organized by UNESCO Beijing Office and Wuhan University of Technology, was officially launched on 17 June 2022 in Wuhan. Prof. Shahbaz Khan attended the ceremony and delivered opening remarks.

Under the theme “Green with Love, Smart without Obstacles”, the Conference invites university students around the world to participate and share their ideas on making cities more accessible and sustainable through innovative approaches at the theoretical and practical level.

As part of the Competition, a series of open lectures will be held featuring experts and professionals sharing knowledge and expertise on relevant topics throughout the Competition process, aiming to provoke thoughts for actions of participants.

The Competition has been open for application in July 2022. Participants are invited to prepare and submit their work in the format of a design project or research thesis by the end of October 2022. Winners will be selected and awarded at the International Academic Conference and Award-winning Ceremony in December 2022.

Read more
UNESCO Calls for Inclusive Development of Digital Accessibility at the 2022 Technology Accessibility Development Conference

The 2022 Technology Accessibility Development Conference was held on 15 June 2022 under the theme “Harmony, Creation, and Common Prosperity”, by Shenzhen Accessibility Research Association, with UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office as one of the guiding agencies.

The conference saw a successful exchange of ideas and good practices on the development of digital accessibility in China with a special focus on inclusive employment. Nearly 400 participants, representing China Association of Persons with Visual Impairments, China Association of Persons with Hearing Impairments, policymakers, technology companies, and other key stakeholders working towards disability inclusion in China, attended the conference and shared their expertise and valuable experience. Prof. Shahbaz Khan attended the conference and gave opening remarks.

Read more

Mongolia

Mongolia officially launches their national assessment of ROAM[2]

On 19 May 2022, UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office in collaboration with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, launched the ROAM project in Mongolia to conduct the assessment of the digital landscape, using UNESCO's Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators and principles. The project is supported by the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

Over 30 people representing the Mongolian Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, the Mongolian National Statistical Office, and other relevant government departments, academia, the technical community, private sector, media organizations, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as UN Resident Coordinator Office in Mongolia attended the meeting online and offline.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office opened the session. In his remarks, Prof. Khan expressed the hope that the findings from this assessment will help improve the quality of policy-making and practice in Mongolia to ensure that the benefits of the Internet are universally available to every individual.

Mongolian stakeholders all recognized the relevance of the study to grasp the complexity of the Internet's development, and its impact in effectively addressing the Internet for optimum contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNESCO reaffirms our support to Mongolia in developing and submitting Internet related policies based on the findings of the project in relations to the Mongolia Digital Nation Strategy and help in addressing digital divides to bring together a more inclusive Internet which leaves no one behind.

Read more

[2] R.O.A.M principles: The concept of Internet Universality summarizes UNESCO's updated positions in the digital age, pointing to the four fundamental R.O.A.M principles, according to which the Internet should be human Rights-based, Open, Accessible to all and nurtured by Multi-stakeholder participation.
UNESCO Beijing Introduces Digital Competency Tools and Open Educational Resources in Mongolia

On 20 May 2022, UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office’s Education Sector and Communication and Information Sector jointly organized the Webinar on UNESCO’s Digital Competency Tools and Open Educational Resources (OER), with support of the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO.


Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office commended the Mongolian Ministry of Education and Science's efforts to build a solid ICT platform in ensuring resilience of the Education Sector to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Against the backdrop of the ICT context in Mongolia, three important UNESCO documents were introduced during the Webinar: the Recommendation on OER, UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers (ICT-CFT) Version 3, and Learning for All: Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Open and Distance Learning.

Following the introduction sessions and discussion, participants of the Webinar suggested that in order to realize a transformative change to promote digital competency and open educational resources at the national level, efforts should be made to ensure the inclusion of the OER in Mongolia’s ICT Master Plan. UNESCO Beijing and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO reassured their commitment in supporting this effort.

Engaging with More Partners

Director’s mission to Guiyang, Guizhou Province 22-25 August

Major activities include:

1) attended the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW),

2) held the International Exchange Conference between Guizhou Tertiary Institutions and UNESCO,

3) visited China Railway Real Estate Group (CRREG) International Eco City Project Site

Read more:
Prof. Shahbaz Khan: China brings quality education resources to ASEAN countries -- Interview of Prof. Shahbaz Khan during the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW)
On the occasion of 60th anniversary of Mongolia’s accession to UNESCO, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay visited Mongolia on July 10-14, at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of the National Commission of Mongolia for UNESCO B. Battsetseg.

During her stay in Ulaanbaatar, Audrey Azoulay paid a visit to the President of Mongolia, held bilateral meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg, Minister of Education, Acting Minister of Digital Development and Communications L. Enkh-Amgalan, Minister of Culture Ch. Nomin, during which an exchange of views took place on further cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and information communications of Mongolia.

“I was so amazed to see how Mongolia preserves its cultural heritage and traditions in harmony with modern times”

President of Mongolia U.Khurelsukh received UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay for visiting Mongolia on occasion of its 60th anniversary of accession to UNESCO, and expressed commitment to expanding cooperation in all aspects to preserve the pristine natural beauty of Mongolia and protect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

In turn, Ms. Audrey Azoulay said that Mongolia is a country with unique geographical, historical and cultural features, and expressed satisfaction with the active development of bilateral cooperation. Ms. Audrey also handed a Certificate confirming the inclusion of Khuvsgul Lake Biosphere Reserve in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves over to the President of Mongolia.

The President expressed heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of the people of Mongolia, for the inscription of Khuvsgul Lake, which holds more than 70 percent of Mongolia’s freshwater resources and 2 percent of the world’s freshwater resources, on the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves. He also added that Mongolia would pay special attention to the preservation of humankind heritage and culture existing in the territory of Mongolia.

Moreover, Minister of Foreign Affairs B. Battsetseg and Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Mongolia and UNESCO on cooperation in 2022-2029. With the signing of the MoU, Mongolia and UNESCO agreed to cooperate in establishing a Geopark for the first time in Mongolia to support geological science and eco-tourism.

Ms. Audrey Azoulay also took part in the opening ceremony of the National Naadam Holiday, inscribed on the UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, and visited Khustain Nuruu National Park, which was registered in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and the Orkhon Valley cultural landscape, which was included in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List.

After taking part in the opening ceremony of the National Naadam Holiday, the UNESCO delegation visited the National Archery field and knuckle-bone shooting site where they enjoyed watching traditional archery ceremony and met with heritage bearers.
At Cultural Festival in Khui Doloon Khudag, the delegation became acquainted with the “Traditional technique of making Airag in Khokhuur and its associated customs” which was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2019, and visited the camp of a horse trainer Ts. Tsengel.

After becoming acquainted with the National Naadam Festival and other Mongolian cultural heritages, Ms. Audrey Azoulay said, “There was a huge difference between recording cultural heritage on paper and seeing it in person. It was an important thing. I am so proud to see how Mongolians are preserving and passing on their wonderful rich national culture and traditions to young generation. It is so amazing that Mongolia preserves its cultural heritage and traditions in harmony with modern times. Mongolia is a country with a wonderful rich history and cultural heritage. How well you have preserved your environment, nature, and culture is your valuable contribution to the world’s culture. That’s why we are so proud to have been cooperating with the Government of Mongolia for 60 years to safeguard the cultural heritage inscribed on the UNESCO List of Humanity. I am happy to attend the opening ceremony of the National Naadam Festival.”

Mongolia has 5 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and 12 properties registered in the Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. Moreover, since its joining in UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2005, the country's 15 cultural elements have been inscribed on the UNESCO heritage list in 2008-2019. It includes:

**On the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity:**
1. Traditional music of the Morin Khuur (2008)
2. Urtiin duu, traditional folk long song (2008)
5. Falconry, a living human heritage (together with 12 nations) (2016)
6. Traditional craftsmanship of the Mongol Ger and its associated customs (2013)
7. Mongolian knuckle-bone shooting (2014)
8. Traditional technique of making Airag in Khokhuur and its associated customs (2019)

**On the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding:**
1. Mongol Tuuli, Mongolian epic (2009)
2. Mongol Biyelgee, Mongolian folk dance (2009)
3. Traditional music of the Tsuur (2009)
5. Mongolian Calligraphy (2013)
7. Mongolian traditional practices of worshipping the sacred sites (2017)

---

Figure: Field trip to the Hustai Nuruu Biosphere Reserve

Figure: the Orkhon Valley, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004
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 cluster countries, 5 in Education, 7 in Culture, 11 in Natural Sciences, 2 in Social and Human Sciences, and 1 in Communication and Information sector.

International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG), (Langfang, Hebei Province)

The International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG) is one of the Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO that serve in their fields of specialization as international or regional centres and poles of expertise/excellence to provide services and technical assistance to Member States, cooperation partners and also internally to the network of UNESCO field offices. Under the provisions of the agreement signed between UNESCO and People’s Republic of China, the overall goal of the Centre is:

- to foster knowledge and technology of global-scale geochemistry for sustainable development in the field of natural resources;
- to document the global distribution of and changes in the Earth’s surface for discovering mineral resources;
- to improve the efficiency of agriculture;
- to provide training and technical assistance to developing countries;
- and to create a bridge between the scientific community, decision-makers and the general public in the field of geochemical data.

From 2016, ICGG has launched the “Chemical Earth” Big Science Program and has established the global geochemical baselines network covering 1/3 of the global land area. ICGG has compiled the first global geochemical map, provided 81 geochemical baselines indicator values, acquired the global distribution of elements in the completed area. Meanwhile, ICGG has completed geochemical mapping of 3.5 million square kilometers in 12 “Belt and Road” countries including Pakistan, Mongolia, Laos, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mexico, Cambodia to complete their national-scale geochemical mapping. These countries have obtained their first geochemical atlas of 69 elements through cooperation with ICGG.

Recent news

- Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office visited the UNESCO International Centre for Global-scale Geochemical Studies (ICGG) in Langfang, Hebei
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 the cluster, 21 in China, 11 in Japan, 4 in the Republic of Korea, and 2 in Mongolia.

UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO Designated Sites, (Sun Yat-sen University)

The UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism at UNESCO Designated Sites was established on 27 May 2020, with an aim to establish an integrated network and platform for research, capacity building, information sharing and normative instrument development in the field of sustainable tourism research, and to foster collaboration and exchange among researchers and practitioners in sustainable tourism development around the world. The current chairholder, Prof. Zhang Chaozhi is a professor of sustainable tourism at Sun Yat-sen University.

Mission

- Promote research and communication on sustainable tourism at UNESCO designated sites.
- Raise awareness of the civil society on sustainable tourism at UNESCO designated sites.
- Enhance management capacity of UNESCO designated sites.
- Establish an academic network on UNESCO designated sites and tourism development.

Recent activities

- Research and knowledge exchange through academic conferences, seminars and workshops;
- Heritage education and awareness raising targeting school children, students and the public;
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building through publication and development of indicators to monitor tourism impact at cultural World Heritage sites.
- Network building and international collaboration through joining the UNITWIN network “Culture, Tourism and Development” hosted by University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, and the network for China-ASEAN sustainable tourism education.

Figure: World Heritage Young Professionals Forum

Figure: UNESCO - SYSU joint initiative “Panda Ambassador” on heritage education and sustainable livelihood
Unite the communities around universal aspirations

UNESCO International Days are the international commemorations observed by UNESCO. The United Nations designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the Organization. Usually, it is the Member States that propose these observances and the General Conference establishes them with a resolution.

“Journalism under digital siege” discussed in Mongolia for the celebration of the World Press Freedom Day 2022

On 3 May 2022, on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, a celebratory event was held in Mongolia with support of the UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office.

Over 40 people coming from the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, Radio Frequency Regulation and Monitoring Department of Mongolian Regulatory Commission of Mongolia, Delegation of the European Union to Mongolia, and UN agencies, and representatives from the media sector participated in the event.

In line with this year’s global theme “journalism under digital siege”, the event featured discussions around the Mongolian media circumstances under digital siege and journalists’ safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Cluster Office and UNESCO Representative to China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, and Republic of Korea sent a video message to the event.

The Booklet on the highlights of the UNESCO’s Global Report on the World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development for 2021/2022 titled “Journalism as a Public Good” was distributed at the event, providing participants with key figures and challenges facing free, independent, and pluralistic media worldwide.

The full report is available here. Read more
Celebrating UNESCO International Days in May-August 2022

The International Youth Day 2022 falls on 12th August this year. The theme of this year is “Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages”, with the objective to amplify the message that action is needed across all generations to achieve the SDGs and leave no one behind.

A joint advocacy activity to celebrate the 2022 International Youth Day was conducted by the United Nations Theme Group on Youth (UNTGY), of which UNESCO Beijing is a member. In coordination with the United Nations Communication Group (UNCG) and dozens of UN Agencies in China, the output was a video product of intergenerational dialogue between young people and UN Representatives in China to promote intergenerational solidarity and leverage full potential of all generations for achieving SDGs. The video was released on Kuaishou and has generated over 16,000 views. Check it out here!

In addition to the joint video with other UN Agencies in China, a special video by UNESCO Beijing Office under this theme was also released on social media. In the video, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing Office and Mr. Wenlong Li, Intern for Natural Sciences sector, conducted an in-depth intergenerational dialogue, exchanging their experiences and discussing the importance of intergenerational solidarity for the SDG attainment. The detailed video is presented here. Check it out!

**Next international days**

- **United Nations Day**
  - 24 October

- **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**
  - 25 November

- **World AIDS Day**
  - 1 December

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
  - 3 December