

TSINGHUA NEWSLETTER



2024 ISSUE 1



P01 Tsinghua President Li Luming visits Switzerland, enhances global cooperation

P04 Tsinghua President Li Luming paves way for further collaboration with partners in Italy

P10 Qiu Yong leads delegation to Singapore to advance in-depth exchanges and cooperation

P13 Qiu Yong leads delegation to Vietnam to foster education exchanges

CONTENTS

FOCUS

- P01 Tsinghua President Li Luming visits Switzerland, enhances global cooperation
- P04 Tsinghua President Li Luming paves way for further collaboration with partners in Italy
- P07 2024 Milan Academic Week held
- P10 Qiu Yong leads delegation to Singapore to advance in-depth exchanges and cooperation
- P13 Qiu Yong leads delegation to Vietnam to foster education exchanges
- P15 Qiu Yong visits Thailand, strengthens international cooperation
- P18 Fourth Global Forum on the Development of Computer Science Held
- P21 Tsinghua announces third cohort of Distinguished Professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- P21 Li Luming elected Tsinghua Alumni Association council president

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- P23 The first China-Malaysia Youth Exchange Forum held

SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION

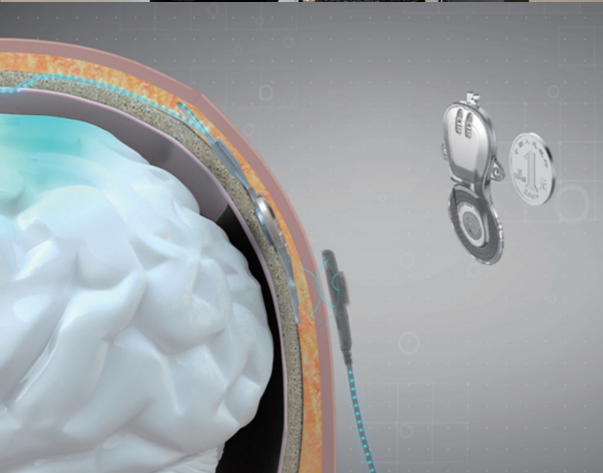
- P26 Wei Xie's group published research in Science on multifaceted SOX2-chromatin interaction driving pluripotency progression in early embryos
- P28 Minimally Invasive Brain Computer Interface helps tetraplegia restore hand functions

TSINGHUA COMMUNITY

- P29 Tsinghua professor awarded with James R. Rice Medal by Society of Engineering Science
- P30 Professor Gao Huajian named Chair Professor of Tsinghua University
- P31 Tsinghua team and 11 alumni receive National Engineering Award

DIVERSE CAMPUS

- P32 Seven masters' donated archives on display
- P33 Tsinghua New Year Gala held
- P35 "French Night" Cultural Salon: Building Bridges for Cross-Cultural Communication
- P36 US-China Youth Ping-Pong Exchange held
- P38 Competition promotes low-carbon development

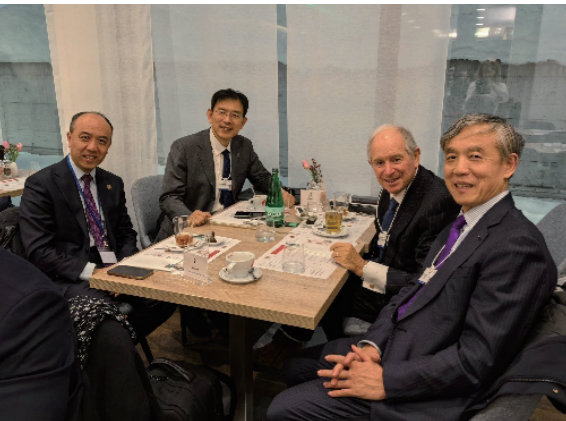


FOCUS

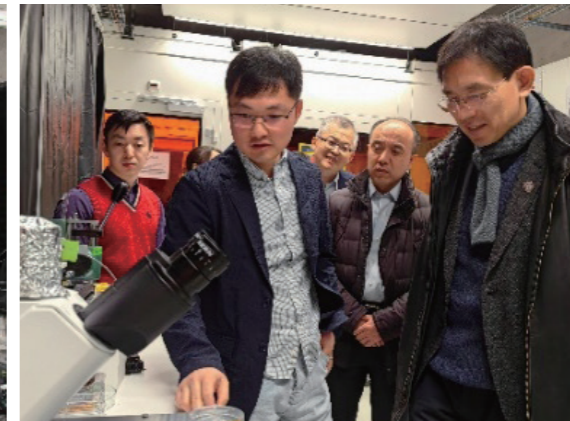
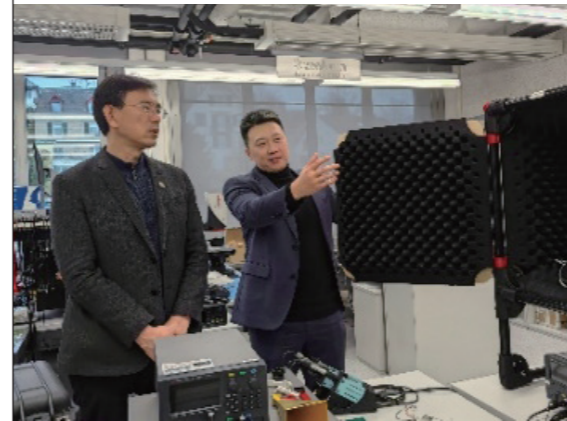
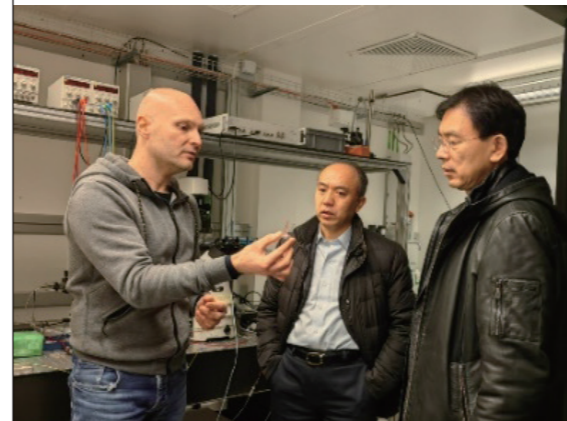
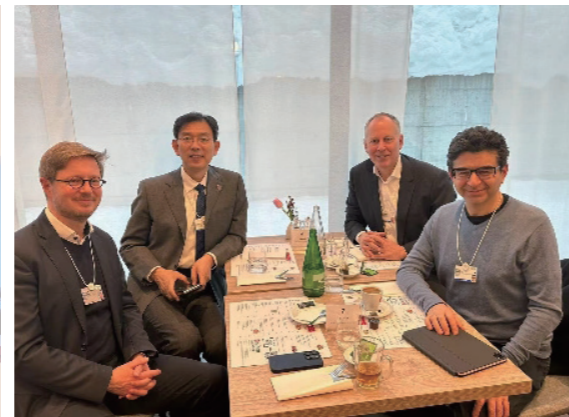
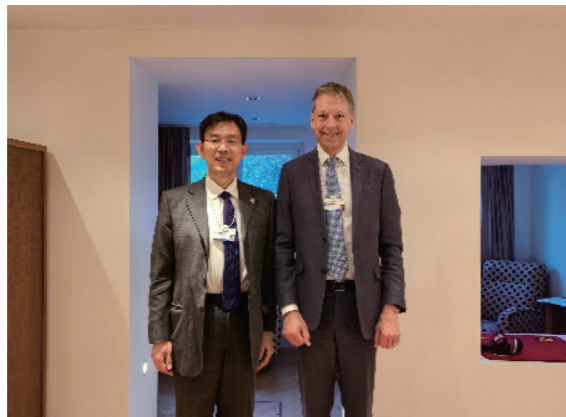
Tsinghua President Li Luming visits Switzerland, enhances global cooperation

Tsinghua University President Li Luming led a delegation to Switzerland from January 14 to 18, highlighted by their participation in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024 in Davos. The visit focused on dialogues regarding pressing global issues and advancing international cooperation in higher education, with Vice President Wang Hongwei attending select events.

A key engagement on January 16 was a meeting with Klaus Schwab, the founder of the World Economic Forum. The meeting underscored Tsinghua's dedication to an open and resilient higher education system. President Li advocated for enhanced cultural and educational exchanges worldwide, in line with the forum's goals.



Li Luming meets Stephen A. Schwarzman (top-left), Michael Spence (top-right), Jakob Stausholm (bottom-left), and Jan-Willem Scheijgrou (bottom-right).



Li Luming visits various laboratories at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich.

At the Global University Leaders Forum on the same day, Li interacted with counterparts from 19 leading institutions, including Oxford University and Peking University. Discussions revolved around the theme "Building Bridges: University Leaders Meeting on Research and Development Ecosystems", with Li sharing Tsinghua's innovative approaches and ideas.

Li's participation in the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting included significant meetings with company leaders like Jakob Stausholm, CEO

of Rio Tinto Group, Jan-Willem Scheijgrond, vice president of Global Government & Public Affairs (GPA), Philips, and Cherie Nursalim, vice chairman of GITI Group, and vice chair of the International Chamber of Commerce Merchants of Peace Fund.

These discussions emphasized Tsinghua's commitment to collaborative research and sustainable innovation in tackling global challenges.

A notable highlight was Li's meeting with Stephen A. Schwarzman, chairman, CEO and co-founder of Blackstone. Li thanked Schwarzman for his long-term support to the Schwarzman Scholars program. The two sides will continue to collaborate to nurture global young leaders and promote China-US educational cooperation based on the Schwarzman Scholars program at Tsinghua.

The delegation's visits to Swiss universities, such as Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, University of Zurich and Università della Svizzera

Li Luming (first from right) meets Lugano Mayor Michele Foletti.



italiana, fostered dialogues on innovative education and international partnerships. Lugano Mayor Michele Foletti also had exchanges with Li. These interactions aim to deepen bilateral relations in culture, academia, and education.

During the visit to Lugano, Li Luming and his delegation also toured the studio of Mario Botta, the architect behind the design of Tsinghua University's Humanities and Social Sciences Library and the Tsinghua University Art Museum. They held a discussion with the head

of the studio, focusing on cooperation in fostering student training in the field of architecture.

The visit was warmly received by the Swiss Tsinghua Alumni Association and included interactions with nearly 40 alumni. Li acknowledged the outstanding contributions made by the alumni in various industry sectors. The alumni expressed their commitment to inheriting and promoting the Tsinghua spirit, and striving tirelessly for the development of the country and their alma mater.

Rector of Università della Svizzera italiana gives souvenirs to Li Luming (one from left).



Li Luming (second from left) visits the studio of Mario Botta.



A group photo of Li Luming (middle of the first row) and Tsinghua alumni in Switzerland

Tsinghua President Li Luming paves way for further collaboration with partners in Italy



Tsinghua University President Li Luming led a delegation to Italy from January 19 to 21, participating in the 2024 Milan Academic Week, which was hosted by the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub of Tsinghua University. The delegation, including Vice President Wang Hongwei, engaged with local academic, research, and cultural leaders to foster humanistic exchanges, scientific innovation, and talent development.

The 2024 Milan Academic Week commenced on January 20, with Wang presiding over the opening ceremony. In his address, Li underscored the thriving partnership between Tsinghua and Politecnico di Milano, highlighting the role of the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub, Tsinghua's first European educational and research platform.

On January 21, Li attended a forum on Sino-European cross-cultural communication which was hosted by the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub and Tsinghua's School of Journalism and Communication.

Li emphasized the significance of Sino-European cultural exchange on the 20th anniversary of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Italy. He expressed hope for further strengthening academic exchanges and innovative practices in the field of cross-cultural communication, paving the way for a new chapter in Sino-European cultural exchange and communication.



Li Luming delivers a speech.

On the same day, Li met with over 40 Tsinghua alumni from countries like Italy, Germany, the UK, and Switzerland at the European Tsinghua Alumni Exchange Salon.

On January 19, the delegation's visit to Politecnico di Milano featured a constructive dialogue with Rector Donatella Sciuto, focusing on the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub's future prospects.

Li highlighted the Hub's role in elevating collaborative efforts in talent development, joint research, cultural exchange, and industrial innovation.

Sciuto indicated that the hub is a collaborative achievement signed under the joint witness of Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian President Sergio Mattarella. It stands as one of the significant milestones in the cooperation between the two

universities. As important universities in Italy and China, both institutions bear significant responsibilities to their nations and the world. There is an expectation for continued collaboration, expanding the fields of cooperation, furthering the journey of friendship, and enriching the experience of working together.

The visit culminated in the signing of two MoUs and a student exchange agreement, that solidified ongoing cooperation between the schools.

Li and his delegation visited the biomedical engineering laboratories of Politecnico di Milano and engaged in academic exchanges with faculty, students, and researchers.

The same day also saw the delegation exploring potential collaboration with the Milano Cortina

2026 Organising Committee. Li's discussion with Iacopo Mazzetti, head of Legacy of Milano Cortina 2026, reflected Tsinghua's commitment to contributing to the synergy between Olympic development and urban growth.

Mazzetti expressed his welcome, looking forward to further exchanges and cooperation between the two parties focusing on the sustainable construction of both the "tangible" and "intangible" legacies of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

On January 20, the delegation visited the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana, meeting with its director, Alberto Rocca. Li expressed his desire to continue collaboration with the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana in exhibition displays and art education, following their previous partnership on a Leonardo da Vinci manuscripts exhibition.

During his stay in Italy, Li also met Liu Kan, China's consul general in Milan. Li introduced the latest progress of Tsinghua University in continuously deepening reforms and advancing the implementation of its global strategy. He stated that the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub is an important component of Tsinghua University's global strategy and is also the first educational and research base established by Tsinghua in Europe. He expressed gratitude for the consul general's concern and support for the construction and development of the hub.

Liu welcomed the delegation and hoped that the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub would serve as a model for higher education cooperation between the two countries.



Li Luming (third from right) visits Politecnico di Milano.

Li Luming (second from left) visits the biomedical engineering laboratories of Politecnico di Milano.



Li Luming (second from right) talks with faculty, students and alumni at the 2024 Milan Academic Week.



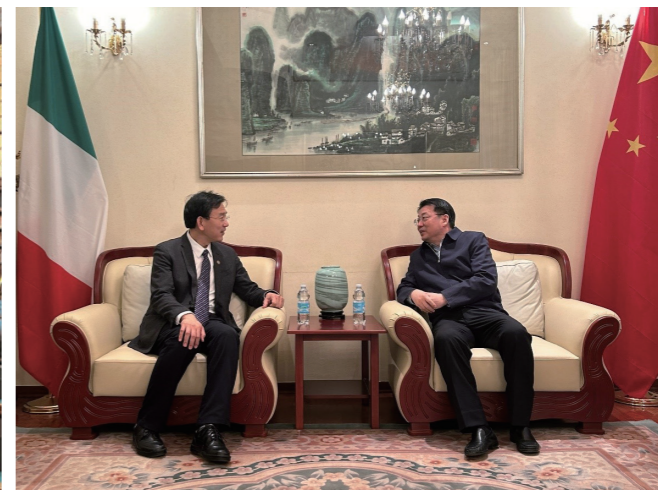
Li Luming (left) signs MoUs with Sciuto.



Wang Hongwei (left) signs a student exchange agreement with Giuliano Noci, Vice Rector of Politecnico di Milano.



Li Luming (left) visits the Pinacoteca Ambrosiana.



Li Luming (left) visits the Milano Cortina 2026 Organising Committee.

Li Luming (left) communicates with Liu Kan.



2024 Milan Academic Week held

The opening ceremony of 2024 Milan Academic Week, China-Italy Design Innovation Hub, Tsinghua University, themed "Dialogue for Innovation between Civilizations" commenced on January 20 in Milan. Professor Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mr. Liu Kan, Consul General of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Milan, professor Giuliano Noci, Vice Rector for Chinese Affairs of Politecnico di Milano, and Mrs. Maria Rosa Azzolina, President of Istituto Italo Cinese, attended the Opening Ceremony and delivered speeches. The opening ceremony was presided over by professor Wang Hongwei, Vice President of Tsinghua University and Director of the Management Committee China-Italy Design Innovation Hub.

During his speech, professor Li Luming said that Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Milano are strategic partners in building the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub, the first education and research platform of Tsinghua University

in Europe. With the theme of "Dialogue for Innovation between Civilizations", this Academic Week provides an effective platform for discussing important issues such as addressing common challenges of mankind, promoting cross-cultural exchanges, expanding high-level scientific research cooperation, and cultivating globally competent young talents from a multidisciplinary perspective. Citing the famous Italian proverb that friendships are not decided on by chance but by like-minded passions, professor Li Luming urged the young students to strengthen communication and enhance friendship among people of all countries, promote the progress of human society and safeguard world peace through civilization exchanges and mutual understanding.

Mr Liu Kan said that China and Italy are prominent representatives of Eastern and Western civilizations respectively, and both sides have carried out fruitful exchanges and cooperation. The year 2024 is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of China-Italy Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and the 700th anniversary of Marco Polo's



Professor Li Luming delivers welcome remarks.

death, and all walks of life are making use of this important opportunity to further promote common understanding and greater development of the bilateral relationship. Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Milano have carried out a large number of exchanges and co-operation in the fields of science and technology, culture and education, and have established an important platform, the China-Italy Design Innovation Hub. Mr Liu Kan hopes that the two universities will continue to give full play to their respective advantages and carry out more practical cooperation in the fields of joint cultivation of talents and establishment of joint scientific research platforms, so as to set an example for the cooperation between universities of the two countries.



Professor Giuliano Noci delivers welcome remarks.

Professor Giuliano Noci welcomed President Li Luming's visit to Politecnico di Milano, stating that Politecnico di Milano and Tsinghua University have had a foundation of cooperation for many years. In February 2017, the two universities cooperated in the construction of China-Italy Design Innovation Hub, under the joint witness of the heads of state of China and Italy. Professor Giuliano Noci anticipated the forum participants' active discussion and exchange of ideas. He looks forward to a closer cooperation between the two universities, which will become an important innovation hub in Europe and contribute to shaping a better future.

Ms Maria Rosa Azzolina said that the Istituto Italo Cinese has always followed the ideas of its first president, Victorinus Colombo, and has assisted the two governments and their citizens in developing a wide range of activities and co-operation. This event shows the results of the cooperation between the two countries in the fields of science and technology as well as art and culture, which will promote diversity, innovation and development between Italy and China in many fields, including design and architecture.

The 2024 Tsinghua Academic Week in Milan is entitled "Dialogue for Innovation between Civilizations", aiming to show and exchange the fruitful achievements of Tsinghua University and Italian universities in design, science and technology, education and other aspects, and to



Mr Liu Kan delivers welcome remarks.

promote the development and innovation through the exchange of Chinese and Western civilizations. During the Academic Week, there will be eight thematic academic forums, four Tsinghua University courses and five short-term study and practice programs for student detachments at the hub. The thematic academic forums will focus on the topics of civilization exchange and innovation in the fields of art, humanities, finance, management, architecture, urbanism, engineering, science and technology, etc., and will conduct academic reports, seminars and discussions, so as to build a platform for cross-cultural academic exchanges, global competence training, high-level scientific research cooperation, and international exchanges.



Professor Wang Hongwei presides over the opening ceremony.

The academic week is co-sponsored by Tsinghua University and Politecnico di Milano, hosted by China-Italy Design Innovation Hub of Tsinghua University, and co-organized by Academy of Arts & Design, School of Journalism and Communication, School of Economics and Management, Department of Electronic Engineering, School of Architecture, Xinya College, Youth League committee, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Office, Italian Alumni Association, Swiss Alumni Association, German Alumni Association, UK Tsinghua Association.

More than 200 people including teachers and students from Tsinghua University, Politecnico di Milano, alumni of Tsinghua University and guests from all walks of life attended the Opening Ceremony.



Ms Maria Rosa Azzolina delivers welcome remarks.



Group Photo of the Opening Ceremony

Qiu Yong leads delegation to Singapore to advance in-depth exchanges and cooperation

A delegation led by Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee, visited Singapore from January 25 to 27. This visit aimed to deepen cooperation between Tsinghua and Singapore in the fields of education, technology, humanities, medicine, and public health. Another objective was to contribute to the development of a comprehensive and forward-looking partnership between China and Singapore.

On January 25, Qiu met with National University of Singapore President Tan Eng Chye. Qiu stated that the leaders of both nations have elevated the China-Singapore relations to an all-around, high-quality and future-oriented partnership, setting a clear direction for cooperation in higher education. The National University of Singapore (NUS) is an important partner of Tsinghua and a founding member of the Asian Universities Alliance, initiated by Tsinghua. The two universities have enjoyed close interactions and a solid foundation for cooperation. Standing at this new starting point, Tsinghua looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the NUS, expanding and deepening cooperation in areas such as artificial

intelligence, medical and health care, energy materials, and advanced manufacturing. Tsinghua aims to fully leverage the platform of the Asian Universities Alliance to enhance the overall status and international impact of higher education in Asia, thereby contributing to the development of global higher education.

Tan acknowledged the achievements of the practical cooperation between the two universities and explained NUS' educational philosophy and talent cultivation. He expressed the hope that both sides would further strengthen communication and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, working together to create more landmark achievements.

The two universities signed a strategic agreement on research cooperation. Additionally, they engaged in in-depth discussions about the development of medical organizations and academic medical organizations at the National University of Singapore.

Qiu also visited the NEXt Search Center, a joint collaboration between the two universities on the



Tsinghua signs a strategic research cooperation agreement with the National University of Singapore.



Qiu Yong (second from left) visits NEXt Search Center.

fundamental theories and practical applications of artificial intelligence. NExT exhibited how they promote talent development, produce high-level scientific research results, and conduct joint innovative research.

On the same day, Qiu visited the SingHealth for research and discussion. He talked with the management team, relevant experts, and medical staff to gain a deeper understanding of the group's beneficial experiences and practices in medical talent training, public health and health discipline development, and healthcare service system construction.

On January 26, Qiu met with Singapore's Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing. Qiu introduced Tsinghua's latest developments and the implementation of its global strategy. He stated that the university has a solid foundation

and broad scope for cooperation with Singapore's higher education and academic institutions. Looking to the future, Tsinghua is keen to deepen practical cooperation with Singapore in areas such as talent cultivation, scientific research, medical discipline development, and healthcare system construction. This collaboration aims to enhance youth exchanges between the two countries and continuously advance China-Singapore relations.

Chan acknowledged Tsinghua's strong comprehensive academic strength and promising future in medical development. He expressed his willingness to deepen dialogue and communication in various fields with Tsinghua University, actively promote joint scientific research projects, and encourage more outstanding talents and top scholars to engage in exchanges and learning at Tsinghua, thereby enhancing understanding and mutual trust.

Qiu and his delegation visited the Port of COSCO-PSA Terminal for research. They exchanged views with executives from China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited on matters such as strengthening talent development and training, as well as industry-academia-research collaboration. Qiu emphasized that Tsinghua should continue to enhance its efforts in talent development to meet national strategic needs, striving to support the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the New International Land-Sea Trade Corridor.

During his time in Singapore, Qiu engaged in discussions with Tsinghua alumni. He briefed them on the latest developments of the university and learned about their work and study experiences. Qiu encouraged them to strive for self-improvement and innovation, and to let actions speak louder than words. He expressed his hope that they would take on greater

responsibilities and make significant contributions to deepening the friendship and cooperation between China and Singapore.

Qiu also met with representatives of Tsinghua University's Institute for Hospital Management students who are interning in Singapore. He encouraged them to fully utilize their overseas study opportunities to broaden their academic horizons. He motivated them to strive to become high-level talents with global competencies, to serve the broader national development agenda, and to inject youthful vitality into the efforts of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Vice Provost of Tsinghua University and Senior Vice Chancellor of Tsinghua Medicine Wong Tien Yin, along with heads of relevant departments participated in the related activities.



Qiu Yong (fourth from left) visits SingHealth.



Qiu Yong (the left) talks with Singapore's Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing.



Qiu Yong (third from right) visits the Port of COSCO-PSA Terminal.



A group photo with Tsinghua alumni in Singapore



Qiu Yong interacts with Tsinghua students who are interning abroad.

Qiu Yong leads delegation to Vietnam to foster education exchanges

Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua Committee Qiu Yong led a delegation to Vietnam from January 27 to 30, aiming to strengthen cooperation in education, technology, and humanities, contributing to the China-Vietnam community with a shared future.

On January 29, Qiu visited the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics, where he met with Nguyen Xuan Thang, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, president of the academy, and chairman of the Central Theoretical Council.

Qiu stated that Tsinghua places high importance on collaboration with Vietnamese educational institutions. Looking forward, Tsinghua expects to deepen cooperation with the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics in areas like talent cultivation, cadre training, student and faculty

exchanges, and theoretical research and academic exchanges between the two parties. Tsinghua aims to implement important consensus reached by the top leaders of both parties and countries, and strive to advance the China-Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership for a new era and the development of the socialist cause.

Nguyen Xuan Thang expressed his hope for further cooperation in various fields, contributing to the theoretical research and practical exchange in Party building and country governance between the two parties, injecting new energy into the development of Vietnam-China relations.

That afternoon, Qiu visited the century-old Vietnam National University, Hanoi, engaging in in-depth discussions with VNU President Le Quan.

Qiu emphasized that Tsinghua continuously delves into studying and implementing the guiding principles of General Secretary Xi Jinping's important speech, improving the academic structure, strengthening the integration of industry, academia, and research, and solidly advancing the implementation of global strategy, striving to construct a world-class university with Chinese characteristics. The friendship between China and Vietnam is long-standing and deep-rooted,

characterized by high mutual trust, close friendship, and mutually beneficial partnership. Standing at a new starting point, Tsinghua looks forward to working with VNU to enhance faculty and student exchanges, strengthen academic communication, and share experiences in university governance, elevating cooperation between two countries in fields like science, technology, and economy to new heights.

Le Quan expressed his desire for Tsinghua to share more educational development experiences and international cooperation achievements, looking forward to more VNU teachers and students having opportunities to study at Tsinghua.

On January 30, Qiu visited Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training, holding talks with Minister Nguyen Kim Son and Deputy Minister Nguyen Van Phuc. Qiu outlined Tsinghua's history, educational philosophy, and achievements in comprehensive reform. He mentioned that China and Vietnam share common goals and destinies, with increasingly close exchanges in various fields and immense potential for cooperation in higher education. Looking to the future, there will be an

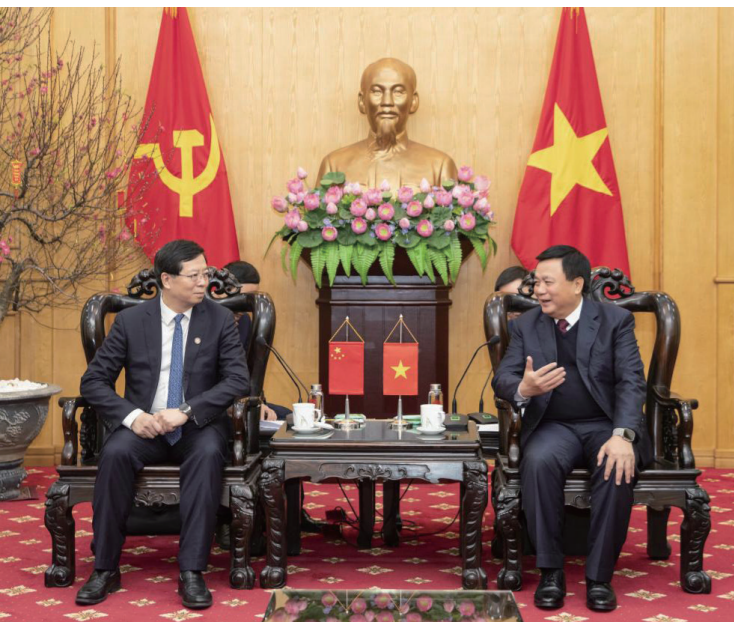
increased effort to support Vietnamese students and scholars in their studies and exchanges at Tsinghua. This initiative aims to effectively enhance cooperation in talent cultivation, technological innovation, and cultural exchanges between the two sides. Tsinghua will support talent cultivation for the joint development and prosperity of China and Vietnam and contribute to the inheritance and maintenance of the traditional friendship between the two nations.

Nguyen Kim Son expressed his willingness to act as a bridge, promoting educational and cultural cooperation between Vietnam and China, especially among the younger generations.

Qiu also met with leaders of the Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology and the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, discussing the expansion of cooperation areas.

During his stay in Vietnam, Qiu also met with Tsinghua alumni from Vietnam, expressing his admiration for their contributions to the friendly relations between China and Vietnam. He encouraged them to uphold the spirit of perseverance and virtue and to become inheritors and promoters of the China-Vietnam friendship.

Officials from Tsinghua's Office of International Affairs, School of Public Policy & Management, School of Social Sciences, and Institute for International and Area Studies participated in these events.



Qiu Yong (left) discusses education exchange with Nguyen Xuan Thang.

A meeting between Tsinghua and Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Qiu Yong (left) meets with Nguyen Kim Son.

A group photo with Tsinghua alumni from Vietnam

Qiu Yong visits Thailand, strengthens international cooperation

Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua Committee, led a delegation to visit Thailand from January 30 to February 3. Following an important consensus reached between the leaders of both countries, the visit aimed to deepen cooperation between Tsinghua and Thailand in education, science and technology, humanities, and other fields, contributing to the building of a more stable, prosperous and sustainable China-Thailand community with a shared future.

On February 2, Qiu met Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Princess of Thailand. Qiu expressed gratitude to the Princess for her longstanding care and support for Tsinghua. He said that the Princess has been a good friend of Tsinghua, demonstrating tremendous enthusiasm and making significant contributions to promoting friendly relations between the two countries. Tsinghua attaches great importance to cooperation with Thailand and looks forward to deepening friendship, enhancing exchanges, fostering closer interaction between young people of both countries and promoting closer Sino-Thai ties.

The Princess commended Tsinghua for its achievements in its development. She emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between Thailand and China in education, culture, youth exchange, technological innovation and agricultural development. She believed that the prospects for friendly cooperation and common development between Thailand and China are broad and bright, expressing confidence in Tsinghua's greater role in advancing Sino-Thai relations.

On February 1, Qiu visited Thailand Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, exchanging views with Minister Supamas Isarabhakdi. Qiu introduced the cooperation between Tsinghua and Thai universities, emphasizing the blueprint outlined by the leaders of both countries for the building of a China-Thailand community with a shared future. He stressed the proactive role universities must play in serving national strategies and the construction of a community of shared future for mankind. Looking ahead, Tsinghua looks forward to further cooperation with Thailand in talent cultivation,

engineering and technological innovation, green energy, and sustainable development, aiming to increase exchanges between teachers and students, and intensify the sharing of high-quality course resources. He also welcomes more outstanding Thai students to come to Tsinghua for study and exchange, injecting new vitality into the development of both countries and the region.

Isarabhakdi expressed that 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand and China, believing it will become a new milestone in the bilateral relationship. Tsinghua possesses robust research and innovation capabilities with significant achievements. They are

willing to closely communicate and collaborate with Tsinghua, expand cultural exchanges, work together to create more landmark achievements and promote better development of higher education in Thailand.

On January 31, Qiu held talks with President Kazuo Yamamoto of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). Qiu reiterated Tsinghua's commitment to deepening exchanges and cooperation with universities worldwide and expressed hope to establish closer ties with AIT to deepen academic exchanges and jointly contribute to the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Yamamoto highlighted AIT's advantageous geographical location and its commitment to further leveraging regional connectivity to promote deeper and higher-level mutual cooperation between the two universities.

During the meeting with Dhanin Chearavanont, the senior chairman of the Charlene Pokphand Group Company, Ltd. and Chairman Soopakij Chearavanont, Qiu expressed gratitude to the Charoen Pokphand Group Company, Ltd. for its support and discussed how to strengthen technological innovation to support rural revitalization and enhance the cultivation of high-level talents in the financial sector in line with national strategic needs.



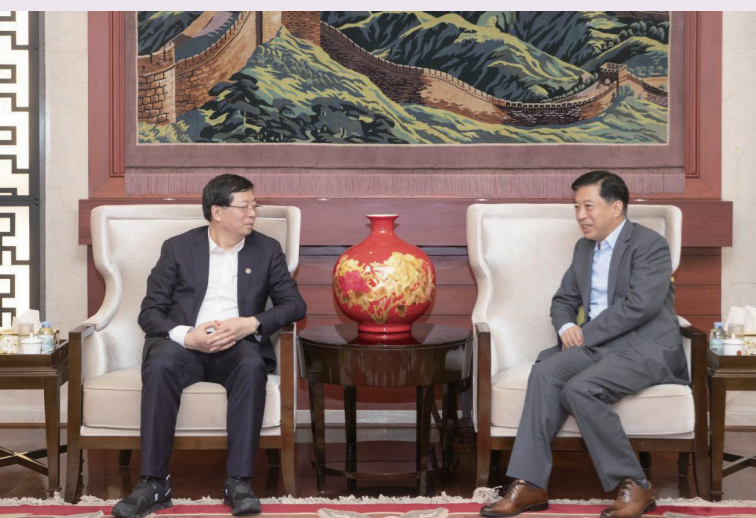
Qiu Yong (second from left) meets with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (center).

A meeting with Thailand Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

A meeting with Asian Institute of Technology



Qiu Yong (left) meets with Dhanin Chearavanont, the senior chairman of the Charoen Pokphand Group Company, Ltd.



Qiu Yong (left) meets with Han Zhiqiang, Chinese Ambassador to Thailand.



Qiu Yong (right) at the construction site of the China-Thailand Railway.



A group photo with Tsinghua alumni in Thailand

While in Thailand, Qiu also exchanged views with Han Zhiqiang, Chinese Ambassador to Thailand, on how to leverage the leading role of higher education institutions to achieve more concrete results through scientific and educational cooperation, benefiting the people of both countries.

The delegation also conducted a survey of the construction site of the China-Thailand Railway, a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, and interacted with related project executives to understand the project progress and the positive role played by Tsinghua in promoting high-quality construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During his stay in Thailand, Qiu also met representatives of Tsinghua alumni in Thailand, introducing the latest developments of the alma mater and urging them to become the successors of Sino-Thai friendship, contributing to the enhancement of friendly relations and deepening mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries.

Officials from the Office of International Affairs, the Alumni Association, and the School of Public Policy & Management also participated in the relevant activities.

Fourth Global Forum on the Development of Computer Science Held

The Fourth Global Forum on the Development of Computer Science (GFDCS) was held in a hybrid online and offline format at Tsinghua Sanya International Mathematical Forum on January 20, and was live-streamed worldwide in both English and Chinese. The livestream was watched by more than 10,000 viewers worldwide.

With the theme of "The Role of Computer Science in University Development Strategies", the forum invited Jack Dongarra, Turing Award winner and professor at the University of Tennessee, Arvind, Dean of the School of Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dame Wendy Hall, Regius Professor and Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton, Yannis Ioannidis, President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and Professor at the National and Kapodistria University of Athens, along with other deans and heads of computer departments from dozens of world-renowned universities such as the National University of Singapore, Yale University, University of Edinburgh, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Peking University, and Harbin Institute of Technology to gather together and discuss the nature and development of computer science.

This year's forum opened with a morning session followed by two parallel afternoon sessions. The morning session began with opening remarks by Chen Yuan, Vice Chairman of the 12th National

Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Li Luming, President of Tsinghua University, Zhou Hongbo, Secretary of Sanya Municipal Party Committee, and Andrew Chi-Chih Yao, winner of the Turing Award and Dean of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences at Tsinghua University, also attended the forum and delivered opening remarks. The forum was hosted by Andrew Yao and Yin Xia, Dean of the Department of Computer Science at Tsinghua University.

Chen Yuan pointed out that the world today has entered the era of university sciences, and universities should organize and promote strategically oriented systematic and cutting-edge exploratory basic research, optimize the layout of basic discipline construction, and build a high-quality discipline system with comprehensive and balanced development. It is hoped that this forum can explore new paths for computer science to empower high-quality development of universities, strengthen multi-disciplinary cross-integration innovation, and create new momentum and new advantages for the development of higher education.

Li Luming congratulated the successful convening of the 4th Global Forum on the Development of Computer Science. He said that the current strategic supporting role of computer science in scientific and technological innovation in other



disciplines has become increasingly prominent. The development of computer science requires global cooperation and joint efforts. He conveyed his hope that through the forum, participating experts and scholars will jointly discuss how computer science empowers the high-quality development of universities.



Zhou Hongbo extended a warm welcome to the forum on behalf of the Sanya Municipal Party Committee. He said that Sanya is making every effort to promote the formation of science and technology innovation, high-tech industry, and a modern service industry, and that computer science plays a crucial role in supporting these new industries. He welcomed suggestions from all academicians and experts attending the forum for the development of these industries in Sanya along with sharing their wisdom and academic achievements.

Andrew Yao congratulated the forum and elaborated on the challenges facing universities today. He noted that the pace of progress in computer science continues to accelerate, creating exciting prospects for deeper innovation and changes in the world but also leading to the need for universities to adapt to this new landscape. At the same time, computer science has matured from simply a tool for the sciences to a leading component, requiring a re-evaluation of the relationship between computer science and other fields, including industry.

Following the opening remarks, Professor Arvind, Jack Dongarra, and Professor Jane Hillston, Dean



of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Edinburgh, gave keynote speeches on the evolving nature of computer science research and the wide-ranging effects on computer science education and industry. Afterwards, the morning session concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Professor Yao and attended by Harry Shum, Council Chairman of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, in addition to the three keynote speakers.

The theme of the first afternoon session was "The Development Trend of Computer Science". This session was chaired by Professor Hillston and included keynotes by Professor Holly Rushmeier, Chair of the Department of Computer Science at Yale University, Professor Josep Fernandez, Dean of the School of Informatics at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Professor Asif Gill, Head of the School of Computer Science at the University of Technology Sydney, and Professor



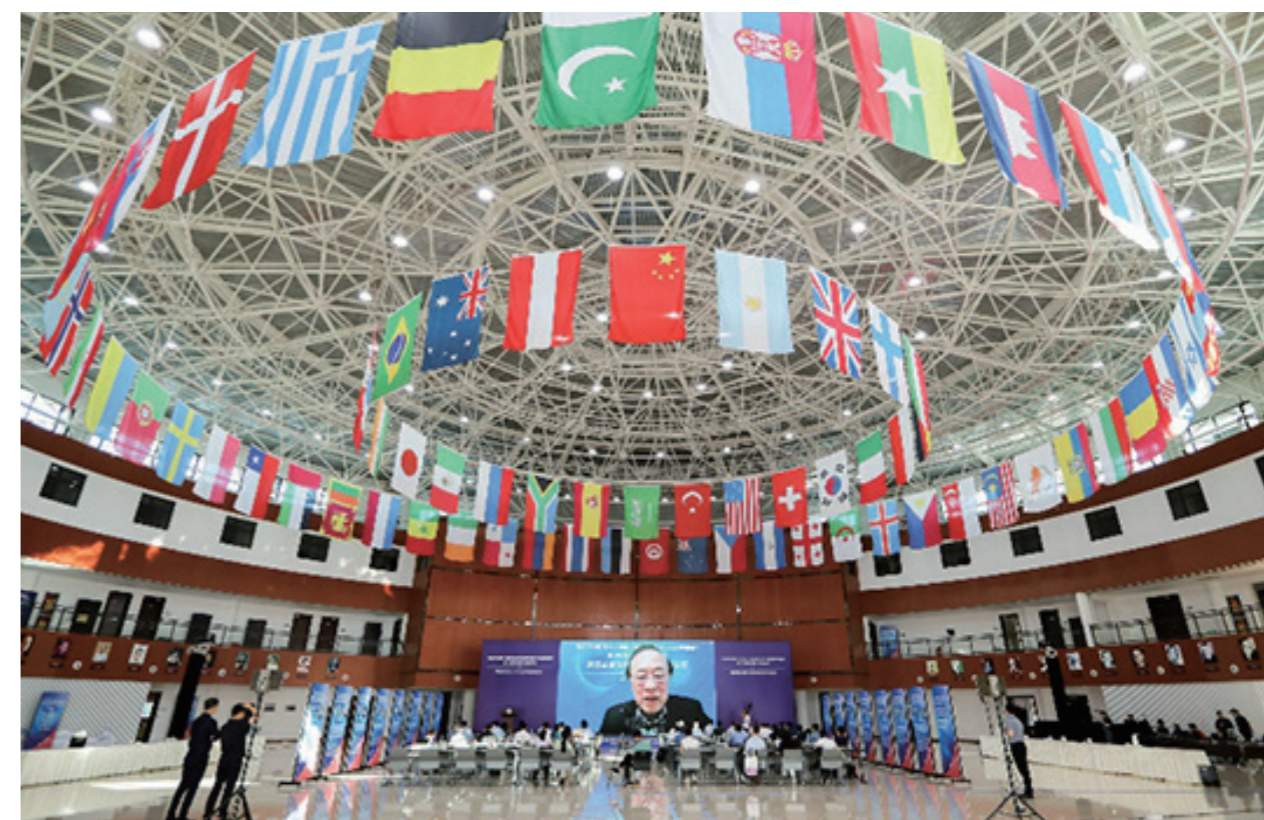
Xiaofang Zhou, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. A panel discussion followed the keynote speeches.

The theme of the second afternoon session was "Interdisciplinary Opportunities in Computer Science". This session was chaired by Professor Wenwu Zhu from Tsinghua University and included keynotes by Professor Kian-Lee Tan, Dean of the School of Computing at the National University of Singapore, Professor Amey Karkare, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Professor Zhenjiang Hu, Dean of the School of Computer Science at Peking University, along with two virtual keynotes delivered by Professor Dame Wendy Hall and Professor Yannis Ioannidis. A panel discussion was also held following the keynote speeches.

The Global Forum on Development of Computer Science is a high-level international forum on discipline development held by Tsinghua



University. The forum aims to explore the nature of the computer science discipline and promote its development worldwide. In 2018, the First GFDCS was initiated by Tsinghua University during the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Department of Computer Science and Technology. The Second and Third Global Forums were held in September 2021 and October 2022, respectively.



Tsinghua announces third cohort of Distinguished Professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

A symposium saw two professors awarded the title of "Distinguished Professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University" on January 24. The honorees are Bai Chong'en from the School of Economics and Management, and Li Xiangqun from the Academy of Arts & Design.



The symposium was chaired by Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua Committee Qiu Yong, President Li Luming, vice presidents Peng Gang, Zeng Rong, and Jiang Peixue, along with over 30 academicians and distinguished professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University, attended the event.

Bai, born in 1963, is an economist with PhDs from UC San Diego and Harvard. Currently serving as a chair professor and dean at the School of Economics and Management, he is recognized for his significant contributions to both economics and various national committees and academic societies.

Li, born in 1961, is an alumnus of the Lu Xun Academy of Fine Arts. Appointed as a professor at the Academy of Arts & Design in 2000, he has won prizes both domestically and internationally.

Li Luming elected Tsinghua Alumni Association council president

At the meeting of the Tsinghua University Alumni Association on March 18, Tsinghua University President Li Luming was elected as president of the Association council.

President Li Luming, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua Committee Xiang Botao, Vice Chairpersons of the University Council and Vice Presidents of the Alumni Association Jiang Shengyao, Ji Junmin, Wang Yan, along with Alumni Association Vice President Han Jingyang, attended the meeting. Vice Chairperson of the University Council and Vice President of the Alumni Association, Shi Zongkai chaired the meeting.



Li Luming delivers a speech.

During the meeting, Li outlined the university's accomplishments over the past year in areas such as talent development, scientific research, faculty building, global strategy implementation, campus construction and alumni relations. He emphasized the pivotal role of alumni work in strengthening the bonds and communication between the alumni and their alma mater, significantly contributing to the university's development. Expressing gratitude for the council members' trust, Li committed to working closely with them and the Alumni Association Secretariat to serve the alumni effectively, aiming to unite alumni in contributing to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through the Chinese path to modernization. He also encouraged the council members to offer suggestions and valuable feedback on the university's development and alumni activities.

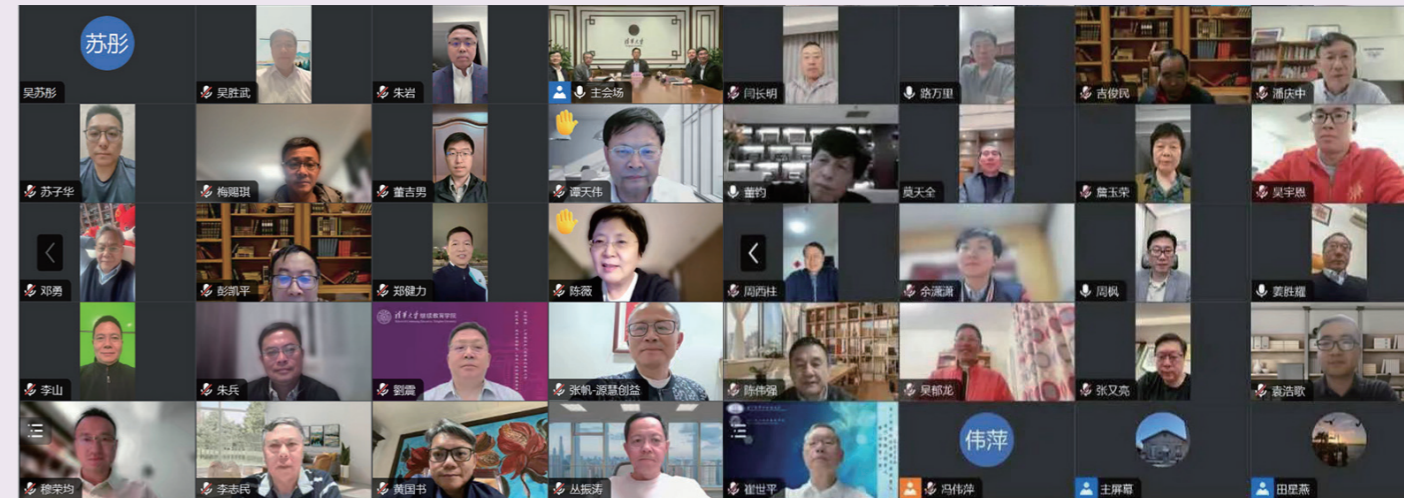
The meeting approved the appointment of Zhu Liang, nominated by Tang Jie, secretary-general of the Alumni Association and director of the Alumni Office, as Deputy Secretary-General of the Tsinghua University Alumni Association. Additionally, Wu Chunyan, vice president of the Tsinghua Alumni Association in Germany, will also serve as Deputy Secretary-General of the Alumni Association in a part-time capacity.



Shi Zongkai chairs the meeting.



Tang Jie reads the meeting draft resolution.



GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The first China-Malaysia Youth Exchange Forum held

On January 28, the first China-Malaysia Youth Exchange Forum was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Over 50 guests and representatives from academia, businesses, and youth organizations attended the forum, including Tsinghua University, the University of Malaya, TusStar Malaysia, GRADUAN Malaysia and Junior Chamber International Bukit Mertajam.

Wang Rui, the President of the Tsinghua University Youth League Committee extended his congratulations on the successful organization of the forum, noting that "2024 marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia. Malaysia has consistently been a pivotal partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative. Tsinghua University is always dedicated to cultivating talents with social responsibility and global competence. This Exchange Forum symbolizes one of the milestones of closer links between Malaysian and Tsinghua students, laying foundations for further interaction."

Alvin Yap, the President of Malaysian Young Graduates Association (Graduan Malaysia), warmly welcomed the arrival of Tsinghua University's "Zest" Social Practice Brigade on behalf of Malaysian youth organizations.



He emphasized that in this new era, youth are playing an increasingly important role in societal development. The friendly cooperation between the youth of both countries holds significant meaning for the further development of bilateral relations.

Nahrizul Adib Kadri, the Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Former Director of UM Corporate Communication Centre (CCC) articulated that the exchange between the youth of China and Malaysia would



infuse a renewed vigor into the international engagements of both nations. He expressed optimism that China-Malaysian youth would inscribe a new chapter in China-Malaysian friendship.



Ravenna Chen, the General Manager of TUS Star Malaysia, shared insights based on her own experiences and expressed optimism for the deepening development of youth relations between China and Malaysia. She hopes that the youth can harness the power of innovation and contribute to fostering friendly exchanges between the two countries through the strength of technology.

In the keynote speech session, Xing Yunxi, the leader of the Social Practice Brigade at Tsinghua University, and Chiang Kai Lin, a student representative from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, spoke on the current international



communication and cultural exchange in the context of the new media era.

After the opening ceremony, members of the Tsinghua University "Zest" Social Practice Brigade presented attendees with the China-Malaysian Youth Exchange Forum handbook and gifts.

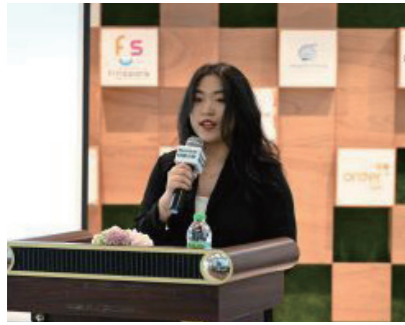
Professors Nurulaini Abu Shamsi from the University of Malaya's Science Communication and Public Engagement Program and Liu Shutian from Tsinghua University's Global Communication Office shared thematic academic reports during the exchange session, delving into the international communication



practices of Chinese and Malaysian universities, analyzing the opportunities and challenges that new media brings to youth cross-cultural exchanges.

During youth dialogue, students and youth from China and Malaysia shared their experiences on the importance of new media in current international exchanges. They discussed the role of youth in international communication and expressed their expectations of leveraging their strengths in the new media era to contribute to the deepening of China-Malaysian friendship.





Wang Zhongyu, a student from Tsinghua University, delivered a youth initiative on behalf of the youth participants from China and Malaysia. She conveyed that Generation Z from both countries are committed to actively taking the responsibilities and missions of cultural exchange and future development. The youth, she emphasized, should effectively utilize the media to contribute to the enduring friendship between China and Malaysia.

Youth constitutes a crucial component of international communication and understanding,

serving as a significant force in enhancing people-to-people exchanges. This forum, organized by Tsinghua University, TUS Star Malaysia, and the University of Malaya, and hosted by Tsinghua University's "Zest" Social Practice Brigade, aims to deepen friendly exchanges among Chinese and Malaysian youth. Taking place on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia, the forum seeks to contribute to the promotion of cultural understanding and forge a new chapter in the friendship between the youth of both nations.



At the closing ceremony of the forum, Ellie Soo, the Vice President of the Great Mountain International Youth Chamber of Commerce, expressed affirmation for the youth consensus and collaborative achievements reached during the forum.



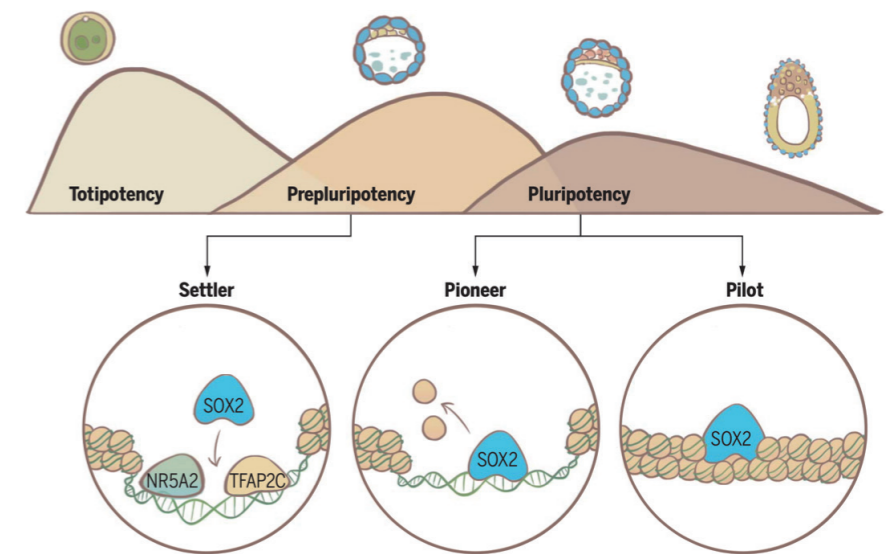
SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION

Wei Xie's group published research in Science on multifaceted SOX2-chromatin interaction driving pluripotency progression in early embryos

Pluripotency refers to the potential of a cell to differentiate into all cell types in a body. During early mammalian development, embryos undergo the first cell fate decision during the blastocyst stage, forming the inner cell mass (ICM) and trophectoderm (TE). The ICM will generate all embryonic lineage and the entire body. TE will primarily give rise to placenta. Pluripotency is believed to initially emerge in the ICM and gradually transits through several states: naive, formative, and primed pluripotency, ultimately giving rise to lineage differentiation. Pioneer transcription factors, such as OCT4 and SOX2, play crucial roles in the regulation of pluripotency. They are believed to bind and actively open closed chromatin to initiate gene transcription. Yamanaka and others demonstrated that by introducing the transcription factors OCT4, SOX2, KLF4, and MYC, terminally differentiated somatic cells can be reprogrammed into induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). However, how pioneer factors like OCT4 and SOX2 regulate pluripotency network was primarily studied using in vitro-cultured embryonic

stem cells. The precise mechanisms by which these factors regulate pluripotency programs in vivo remain elusive to date.

On December 15, the research group led by Professor Wei Xie from the School of Life Sciences at Tsinghua University published a research article in the journal Science, titled "Multifaceted SOX2-chromatin interaction underpins pluripotency progression in early embryos." This study revealed the regulatory mechanisms through which the pioneer factor SOX2 drives pluripotency progression in early mammalian embryos. The researchers discovered that in early mouse embryos, SOX2 does not simply function through the pioneer factor model by opening closed chromatin to activate pluripotency program. Instead, SOX2 exhibits multifaceted binding



SOX2 regulatory circuitry during pluripotency progression reveals multifaceted master TF-enhancer interaction.

modes with chromatin that includes "Settler," "Pioneer," and "Pilot" binding. An active role of SOX2 in establishing a pluripotency regulatory network begins to emerge in late blastocysts when SOX2 opens widespread naïve pluripotency enhancers through "Pioneer binding". Prior to this stage, a "Pre-pluripotency" cell state exists in early blastocysts when SOX2 primarily promotes gene expression through "Settler binding", as it binds pre-accessible enhancers that are opened by early-stage expressing TFs. Therefore, such multifaceted chromatin interaction modes allow SOX2 to connect early developmental program executed by upstream transcription factors (e.g., NR5A2 and TFAP2C) before it adopts a more proactive role in establishing the naïve pluripotency.

By optimizing CUT&RUN technology, the researchers first captured the chromatin binding of the pluripotency factor SOX2 in mouse embryos, from day 3.5 (E3.5) to day 7.5 (E7.5), covering the entire process of pluripotency program progression. Using Sox2 knockout embryos and embryonic stem cells, the researchers systematically investigated the role of SOX2 in gene expression and chromatin opening during the establishment and transition of pluripotency. Their results revealed that the interaction between SOX2 and chromatin during early development does not follow a simple pioneer factor model. Instead, SOX2 exhibits several distinct chromatin interaction modes, including "settler binding," "pioneer binding," and "pilot binding." In E3.5 ICM, SOX2 primarily binds to pre-opened enhancers ("settler binding") and promotes ICM-specific gene expression. These pre-accessible enhancers are partially opened by early-expressing transcription factors such as TFAP2C and NR5A2. NR5A2 was recently identified as a key TF regulator of early ICM and TE programs in totipotent embryos by the same group (Lai et al., Cell Research, 2023). These data suggest that E3.5 ICM is in a distinctive "pre-pluripotency" state between totipotency and pluripotency. During this period, the pluripotency regulatory network is primitive, and pioneer pluripotency factors have not yet taken a dominant role. However, through binding to pre-open chromatin, SOX2 facilitates a successful transition from upstream developmental programs to pluripotency program. Subsequently, E3.5 cells enter the naïve pluripotency of the epiblast at day 4.5 (E4.5) and the formative

pluripotency of the epiblast at day 5.5 (E5.5). At this point, SOX2 undergoes genomewide relocation and massively opens chromatin to initiate the naïve and formative pluripotency programs ("pioneer binding"). Additionally, SOX2 can also bind to a subset of enhancers without fully opening them. Instead, it prepares these enhancers for rapid opening for the next developmental stage ("pilot binding").

In summary, this study reveals how key transcription factors drive pluripotency programs in vivo and how pioneer factor exert their impacts through "settler-pioneer-pilot" chromatin interactions rather than a simple "pioneer" binding mode. A distinctive "pre-pluripotency" state was also identified in early blastocysts when the pluripotency network is still primitive and pluripotency key factors have not established dominant roles and their inter-dependency to maintain the pluripotency network. This data will lay the foundation for a better understanding of molecular control underlying pluripotency and cell fate determination, and the nature of in vivo and in vitro pluripotency models.

Prof. Wei Xie is the corresponding author of this paper. Ph.D students Lijia Li, Fangnong Lai, Xiaoyu Hu, and a postdoctoral fellow Bofeng Liu from the School of Life Sciences at Tsinghua University are co-first authors. This study also received support from the Animal Center and the Bioinformatics core facility at Tsinghua University. Dr. Bofeng Liu is a ShuiMu Scholar at Tsinghua University. Funding for this research was provided by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Key Research and Development Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Tsinghua-Beijing Life Science Center. Prof. Wei Xie is an HHMI International Research Scholar and a New Cornerstone Investigator.

Minimally Invasive Brain Computer Interface helps tetraplegia restore hand functions

An implanted brain-computer interface (BCI) can assist severely disabled persons in communication and active rehabilitation. Nevertheless, sustainable BCI implants require minimal invasiveness. A team led by Prof. Bo Hong from Tsinghua Medicine proposed the principle and design of a minimally invasive BCI in 2013. Over the past ten years, they have developed a miniaturized epidural BCI implant of 25mm-diameter size that can be fitted in the skull, with no battery included. Power was supplied remotely through inductive high-frequency antenna, and the epidural ECoG were transmitted wirelessly to the receiver attached outside the scalp. The NEO system has been tested on white pigs, demonstrating its capacity for stable long-term recording of epidural ECoG while keeping cortical neurons intact. Compared with BrainGate, Neuralink and other implanted BCIs, our NEO system has validated



Fig. 2 The patient grasps a bottle using the NEO wireless BCI system and a prosthetic hand. Electrodes were implanted over his primary sensory and motor cortex (S1 and M1) to collect ECoG signals above the dura matter, while he attempted to grasp the bottle.

a new approach to balancing intracranial BCI performance and invasiveness.

With ensured minimal invasiveness and long-term safety, the clearance of clinical trials has been received for first-in-human study early in 2023. The first implantation of the NEO system was completed on October 24, 2023, in Beijing Xuanwu Hospital, and the second on December 19, 2023, in Beijing Tiantan Hospital. Both patients with spinal cord injury are expected to improve the motor functions of their hands with the help of NEO BCI. The first patient became tetraplegic 14 years ago in a car accident. Implanted with NEO wireless BCI system, he has started BCI training at home and has been successful in grasping a bottle with a prosthetic hand. With the help of a machine learning algorithm, the patient can independently eat and drink by himself. With further development of the system, the patient will be able to restore multiple hand movements and functions. The next phase of the study is to develop a new protocol of BCI facilitated active rehabilitation to accelerate neural growth at the site of damaged spinal cord segments.

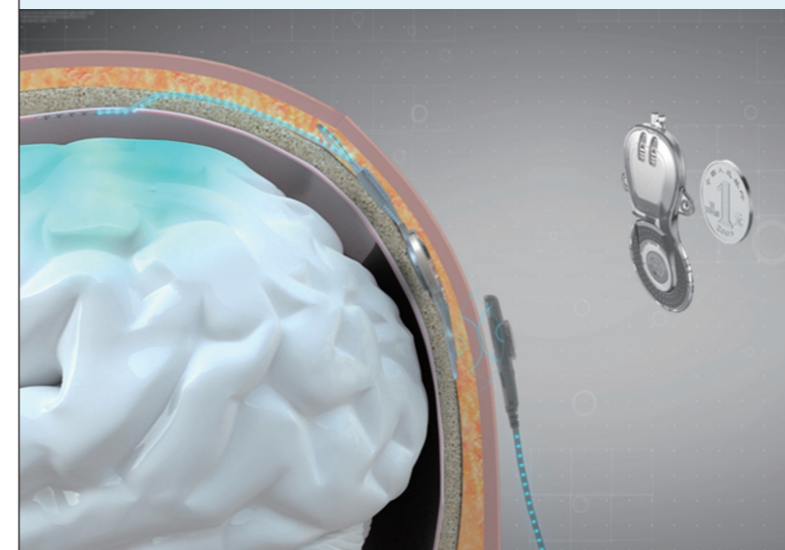


Fig. 1 Wireless minimally invasive BCI – NEO system. Epi-dural electrode array are implanted in the skull above the functional localized area, collecting local field potentials, which makes neural tissues intact. The chips buried in the skull enable wireless power induction and signal transmission, which makes a no-battery implantation.

TSINGHUA COMMUNITY

Tsinghua professor awarded with James R. Rice Medal by Society of Engineering Science



fields. He proposed creative uses of buckling mechanics for micro/nanoscale 3D assembly, and developed theoretical models of postbuckling analyses and inverse design methods of 3D assembly. These developments allowed establishment of a novel assembly methodology for complex 3D micro/nano-structures in a broad range of high-performance materials. Based on this methodology, his group has invented several unusual micro-devices and microrobots with new functionalities and/or capabilities. Zhang has also developed novel design concepts and methods of hierarchically architected soft network materials with biomimetic mechanical properties, which contributed to the development and application of bio-integrated devices.

The Society of Engineering Science (SES) recently announced the recipients of the 2024 SES awards. Professor Zhang Yihui from the School of Aerospace Engineering at Tsinghua University won the James R. Rice Medal.

The award is in recognition of his pioneering work on soft architected materials with unusual mechanical properties, rational three-dimensional (3D) assembly driven by controlled buckling, and reconfigurable 3D mesostructures and electronics.

Zhang's research focuses on solid mechanics, micro/nanoscale 3D assembly and other related

The James R. Rice Medal, established in 2015 by the SES, is named after Harvard Professor James R. Rice, a renowned mechanician and member of all three major academies of America: American Academy of Arts and Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Sciences.

The medal is awarded annually to a mid-career researcher in the field of engineering sciences who has had a substantial impact in his/her field. At the time of the nomination, eligible candidates must be within 10-20 years of earning their PhD or equivalent degree. Since its establishment, a total of eight scholars have been awarded this prestigious honor.

Professor Gao Huajian named Chair Professor of Tsinghua University



Professor Gao Huajian was appointed a Chair Professor of Tsinghua University on January 13. Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Party Committee Qiu Yong and President Li Luming attended the appointment ceremony, which was presided over by Vice President Zeng Rong.

At the ceremony, Qiu Yong warmly welcomed Professor Gao upon his joining Tsinghua University. In his remarks, Qiu Yong emphasized the university's prioritization of cultivating talent as the cornerstone of institutional development, and the University is committed to building a distinguished community of professionals and scholars. As 2024 marks a strategic year in Tsinghua's continuous pursuit of academic preeminence, Professor Gao's joining holds significant importance for the advancement of mechanics and related disciplines at Tsinghua University. Professor

Gao at Tsinghua University is poised to contribute to talent development, engineering innovation, and interdisciplinary studies.

University President Li Luming provided an overview of Professor Gao Huajian's acclaimed career and key contributions, and presented him with the appointment certificate for the Chair Professorship at Tsinghua University.

Professor Gao is a world-renowned scientist in mechanics, materials, and engineering science. He is a member of National Academy of Science of USA, National Academy of Engineering of USA, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the Royal Society, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and a foreign member of Academia Europaea. His career is marked by exceptional accomplishments, being the sole recipient of all three top honors in his field: the Rodney Hill Prize, Timoshenko Medal, and ASME Medal, a feat unmatched on the global stage.





Professor Gao underscored the fundamental role of mechanics in both engineering and applied sciences. With a strategic vision, he is poised to champion interdisciplinary synergy, fostering collaborations with leading academic teams globally. His goal is to catalyze the advancement of mechanics, weaving it into the fabric of various academic realms. Furthermore, Professor Gao is devoted to the mentorship of emerging scholars, dedicating himself to sculpting the next generation of scientific leaders.



Tsinghua team and 11 alumni receive National Engineering Award

Tsinghua's Atmospheric Pollutants and Greenhouse Gases Synergistic Control Team, along with 11 alumni received the National Engineering Award, the nation's highest honor in the field of engineering in a ceremony held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on January 19.

The team, led by Professor Li Junhua from the School of Environment and comprising 15 core members, was recognized as the National Outstanding Engineering Team. Their groundbreaking work in the advanced treatment and resource recovery of multi-pollutants in industrial flue and exhaust gases has set new standards in environmental engineering.

Adding to this honor, 11 Tsinghua alumni were bestowed the title of National Outstanding Engineer.

DIVERSE CAMPUS

Seven masters' donated archives on display

Tsinghua University recently inaugurated an exhibition, titled "A Showcase of Eminent Masters' Donated Archives" at the Tsinghua History Museum.

This unique event marks the first joint display of the Tsinghua University Archives and the Tsinghua History Museum, and features a collection of over 50 artifacts and documents donated by the families of seven masters.

The year 2023 coincided with significant anniversaries of these masters, who were civil engineering expert Wu Liusheng, experimental psychologist Zhou Xiangeng, physical educator Xia Xiang, hydraulics expert Xia Zhenhuan, diplomat Qiao Guanhua, metal physicist Ge Tingsui, and

mechanics and engineering educator Zhang Wei. These individuals, celebrated for their contributions to academia and beyond, either studied or taught at the University over the years.

The exhibition, located on the second floor of the Tsinghua History Museum, is a blend of simplicity and richness. It features nine informative panels and 23 display cases with 58 archival materials, including personal letters, manuscripts, and memorabilia, many of which are being publicly displayed for the first time.

Open for two months at the Tsinghua History Museum, this exhibition will then move to the University Library, integrating with the library's collection of works.



Tsinghua New Year Gala held



The 2024 Tsinghua New Year Gala featured an exhilarating countdown, heralding the onset of a promising new year. Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee Qiu Yong and Tsinghua University President Li Luming delivered New Year's speeches at the annual cultural event.

Qiu spoke of the achievements made in 2023 while eagerly anticipating the prospects of 2024. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation for the university community's unwavering commitment to nurturing a vibrant and ethically sound Tsinghua campus.

Remarkable strides were made in 2023, reflected in the breakthroughs in nuclear technology and chip development, accolades for innovative educational methodologies, and the establishment of new facilities like the North Sports Center, along with the restoration of the beloved Old Library. Noteworthy alumni achievements underscored

Tsinghua's commitment to fostering individuals with a resolute sense of purpose.

Qiu emphasized the significance of upholding Tsinghua's traditions and honoring pivotal figures in the university's history, emphasizing their dedication to national service. Anticipating an exciting 2024 expected to host significant milestones, he reiterated the university's commitment to exceptional development standards.

Li paid tribute to Tsinghua's robust growth, emphasizing its aspirations to build a world-class university with Chinese characteristics. Tsinghua ranked first among Chinese universities as six faculty members elected academicians of Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering and spearheaded pioneering projects like the ultra-deep underground laboratory and revolutionary advancements in internet



infrastructure, which underscored the University's dedication to innovation and national progress.

Looking ahead to 2024, Li urged unwavering dedication to education, science, technology, and talent cultivation, rallying the Tsinghua community to unite, innovate persistently, and confidently pursue global academic excellence.

The Gala commenced with the screening of "Endless Journey," a compelling real-life adaptation, and culminated with the screening of "If You're the One 3." Attendees immersed themselves in a diverse array of performances that seamlessly blended artistic genres and cultural influences. From the captivating fusion of ancient Chinese poetry and modern anime to the vibrant rhythms of the Cha-Cha ensemble in "Can't take my eyes off you", martial arts dance in "Strength and Flexibility" and the mesmerizing portrayal of modern dance in "Wild Ambition", each dance exemplified artistry and storytelling brilliance.

Musical narratives such as "Red Mane Hero" seamlessly blended traditional Peking Opera with modern melodies and ethnic instruments, while "Blossom" served as an anthem commemorating Tsinghua's 110th anniversary, symbolizing the institution's growth and spirit. Attendees engaged in the uplifting Mass Sing-Along, fostering unity through Tsinghua's anthem, and experienced the exceptional Music Medley "Singing 2024," featuring diverse vocal talents.



The Gala further delighted attendees with "Starting from 2024," a comedic portrayal revisiting Tsinghua's defining moments, and the enchanting "Homecoming" magic show. Cultural performances like the Twenty-Four Festive Drums and mesmerizing light show added depth with a symphony of color. Attendees witnessed innovation in the AI music interaction, fusing technology and creativity, and were treated to captivating and innovative spectacles, offering an unforgettable journey of laughter, wonder, and cultural exploration.

The Gala culminated with the announcement of the "Students of the Year 2023," a testament to the night's celebration of talent, cultural diversity, and shared accomplishments.



"French Night" Cultural Salon: Building Bridges for Cross-Cultural Communication



With the aim of fostering cultural exchange and mutual learning between students from China and France, as well as offering Tsinghua students a platform to delve into French culture, the "French Night" cultural salon was recently held at the Dongfeng Motor Hall of the Career Development Center. The event drew the participation of over 40 students from diverse backgrounds, representing more than 30 departments and various countries.

For this event, four specially invited guest students from France took the stage and shared their expertise on different facets, covering French history, landmarks, traditional festive culture, and insights into the Brittany region, which provided the audience with a profound understanding of the rich cultural heritage of France.

Following the sharing session, a lively French market unfolded on the scene. Each guest set up their own "booths", featuring a diverse array of activities and items such as French-themed Q&A sessions, maps, and souvenirs. This setup provided an opportunity for free-flowing interactions among participants. Participants actively engaged, immersed themselves in the market ambiance, and interacted with guests, thoroughly experiencing the distinctive charm of French culture.

The participants were brimming with enthusiasm. Zhang Wenjun, a master's student from the Schwarzman College, shared, "The guest shared with us the night market culture in France, which

allowed me to immerse myself in the winter atmosphere of France." Tang Yiying, a master's student from the School of Law, expressed, "I learned more about French history and status quo, and it gave me the opportunity to chat with students with different backgrounds, making friends beyond borders."

As an organizer of the event, Hu Xinqi, from Tsinghua University Student Association for Global Governance and International Organizations, remarked, "Seeing Chinese students engage in deep conversations with French students, I feel the boundless possibilities of cross-cultural communication. It strengthens my determination to continue promoting diverse cultures." Katherin Thouvenin, president of the Chinese-French Student Association, said, "I was thrilled for having the opportunity to share my own country. I hope that such events will allow Tsinghua students to maintain their curiosity and promote exchanges between Chinese and international students."

This event was organized by the Tsinghua University Student Association for Global Governance and International Organizations (THUIO) and Association Franco-Chinoise (Chinese-French Association). It is part of the IO Language Corner series, which invites guests with overseas work or study experience and proficiency in multiple languages to share experiences in cross-cultural communication, language learning, and communication skills. The aim is to deepen the understanding of international affairs and cross-cultural communication among students.



US-China Youth Ping-Pong Exchange held



In an event that exemplified the spirit of friendship and cooperation, Tsinghua University hosted the US-China Youth Ping-Pong Exchange on January 6. This gathering, featuring a delegation from the University of Virginia (UVA), marked a significant moment in the cultural exchange between the two nations.

The opening ceremony was graced by notable figures including Wang Hongwei, Vice President of Tsinghua University, Stephen Mull, Vice Provost for Global Affairs at the University of Virginia, Zhang Qian, Executive Vice President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, and David Meale, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Adding a historical touch to the ceremony, Liang Geliang, a world champion table tennis player and a witness to the original Ping-Pong Diplomacy of 1971, also attended the event.

In his address to the UVA delegation, Wang Hongwei remarked on the 45th anniversary of US-China diplomatic ties, emphasizing the deep cooperation between the two nations over four decades. Wang described the participating young athletes as "ambassadors who carry the dreams and aspirations of their nations on their paddles," highlighting their role in fostering lasting friendships and understanding. Wang also reaffirmed Tsinghua's dedication to its 2030 Global Strategy and Innovation Action Plan, aiming to

strengthen ties with global institutions, including UVA, to further cultural exchange and mutual global development.

Stephen Mull reflected on the event's broader significance as a bridge between cultures and a learning opportunity. "Our hearts are so full of the warmth and the hospitality that the Chinese people have," he said. "We are here to learn about China, its fascinating history, culture and people, and to build friendship."

The Ping-Pong Friendship Match was a highlight, showcasing the athletic prowess and sportsmanship of students from both institutions. Following the competitive yet friendly matches, the event transitioned into a series of academic and cultural activities. These included a lecture on the early buildings of the Tsinghua Campus and their relationship with UVA, a campus tour, and a photography exhibit on Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

The "sino-US Intercultural Communication and Challenges" seminar significantly contributed to fostering understanding and dialogue among students and faculty. Echoing the essence of this event, David Meale, Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, remarked during the opening ceremony, "People-to-people connections are the balance of our ties, and you students assembled here today are a central and important part of





that fact." His words encapsulate the overarching theme and impact of the exchange, highlighting the critical role of interpersonal connections in strengthening international ties.

The US-China Youth Ping-Pong Exchange exemplifies how sports can bridge divides and bring people closer, a sentiment echoed by Zhang Qian, the Executive Vice President of the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries in her address at the opening ceremony. This event was a remarkable showcase of the young athletes' competitive skills and their dedication to the sport. It highlighted not just their talent but also the spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect between the participants from China and the United States, marking a memorable chapter in this sporting exchange.



Competition promotes low-carbon development

The 4th "THU-PKU Low-Carbon Campus Design Game" was recently held at Peking University on January 6, with the theme "Healthier Planet, Healthier People".

The event displayed the outcomes of two courses - Tsinghua University's "Handmade Innovation Practice" and Peking University's "Sustainable Campus Practice".

In the speech titled "How Design Contributes to the Dual Carbon Goals", Professor Liu Xin from the Academy of Arts & Design at Tsinghua University

said that change begins with small individual actions. Through collective efforts, the vision of a "Healthier Planet, Healthier People" will eventually be realized.

During the courses, students from the two universities formed 12 groups. They conducted research and practical activities to promote the recycling of paper and books, renovate toilets and design therapeutic gardening activities.

In the "Handmade Innovation Practice" course, Tsinghua students engaged in hands-on learning at the iGarden, where they learned about soil and composting, planting and maintenance, garden design, construction techniques and intelligent garden management.

Tsinghua University and Peking University will carry out sustained cooperation based on curricula and spatial design, and hold a series of activities to promote low-carbon and sustainable development.





清華大學
Tsinghua University



www.tsinghua.edu.cn

©2024 Global Communication Office, Tsinghua University. All Rights Reserved

