



Science, Technology and Education News from China

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Introduction

The newsletter of this month will start with the main objectives for educational development 2010 that the new education minister, Mr. Yuan Guiren will have to prioritize. It includes the educational development with strategic importance in accordance with the development plan for national economic and social progresses, to further advance the reform on educational system, to optimize the structure of education, to improve education quality and efficiency so that educational development will adapt to the social and economic development.

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¹ Please click on the blue texts to activate the hyperlinks to either email addresses or related websites.



Policies

The Guidelines for Educational Development in 2010

The main objectives for educational development 2010 that the new education minister, Mr. Yuan Guiren will have to prioritize are the educational development with strategic importance in accordance with the development plan for national economic and social progresses, to further proceed the reform on educational system, to optimize the structure of education, to improve education quality and efficiency so that educational development will adapt to the social and economic development. Echoing growing public dissatisfaction, the education system implemented in the past had failed to meet the demands of social and economic development, according to Premier Wen Jiabao. While Mr. Zhou, former education minister who stepped down in October 2009, had hailed the country's achievements in making nine years of compulsory education accessible to all and widening access to higher education, the government has failed to meet a target set 10 years ago: to spend the equivalent of 4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product on education each year. It has only reached 3.48 per cent of GDP in 2008. Education Minister Yuan Guiren said at a press conference that the top task in the coming ten years was to guarantee equal access to education while enhancing the quality of education.

The new objectives for 2010 according to the Ministry of Education are:

1. To implement **national mid-long term education reform and development plan**;
2. To develop vocational education, support agricultural-related specialties and vocational education in rural areas.

While efforts are devoted to degree education, non-degree education should also be developed with commitment. The development of cultural and vocational training centres at country level and townships level will be strengthened and secondary vocational schools should open to the society and offer various training programmes. Adult education should focus on in-service training and further education for adults. By the end of this century, 50% of the graduates in rural areas who have completed junior secondary education but do not continue their education further should receive various training. In urban areas, this ration should reach 70%.

3. To reform higher education (HE) system.

Among every group of 100,000 population, the number of students in HE will be increased to 500 and 85% of the people aged 18-21 will be enrolled in HE. In terms of the level and structure of HEIs, the emphasis will be placed on tertiary short courses of 2-3 years, especially the tertiary vocational programmes and regular sub-degree programmes targeted at rural areas, small and medium sized enterprises, enterprises in townships, and the third industry in townships and counties.

4. To improve the legal system for education to strengthen the supervision and evaluation of education.

The promulgation and implementation of Law on Compulsory Education, Law on Teachers and Law on Education provide a solid foundation for administrating education in accordance with laws. More efforts will be intensified to disseminate and implement the promulgated laws and regulations so that all the behaviors of governments at all levels, all social sectors and schools will meet the requirements set up by laws and regulations

5. To further promote international education exchange and communication. Assign some model international cooperation & exchange programs through evaluation.



News

1. **ICME – International Conference on Manufacturing Efficiency and the official opening of the Sino-Swiss_swissnex Center (Guangzhou, Guangdong, P.R.China)**

(Sino-Swiss_swissnex Center, Guangzhou)

On November 16th, 2009, the State Secretary for Education and Research Mauro Dell’Ambrogio attended the opening ceremony of the 1st International Conference on Manufacturing 3*Efficiency at Guangdong University of Technology (GDUT) in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. He also delivered a speech starting with: “...Indeed, in today’s turmoil we know how crucial it is to improve the efficiency of the manufacturing sector, yet respecting sustainable principles. Quickly said 3Es... but immense are the challenges, opportunities and constraints they encompass! Ecology, Economy, Equity...each reminds us that the relation between science and technology, and the human and natural environment is an ambiguous and not always and simple one. We have therefore to cooperate, to debate solutions and to take responsibility for our accomplishments as well as for our fallouts...”. The Swiss General Consulate in Guangzhou organized the visit of the SS. [...] At the same time and to mark the strong cooperation between Switzerland and the Guangdong Province, the number one province in term of production output with over 1/8th of the total GDP of China, a “Sino-Swiss_swissnex Center” was officially opened by the President Zhang Xiangwei and vice-President Zhang Li of GDUT together with Director of swissnex-Shanghai Flavia Schlegel. The two main partners of the center are GDUT and SUPSI – the University of Applied Science of Southern Switzerland but the center will enlarge its partnership to other universities and companies.



2. **China’s High-Speed Railways Hit 3,300 km**

(CAS, 21-02-2010)

China’s operational high-speed railways have exceeded 3,300 kilometers, leading the world in both length and technologies, the Ministry of Railways said on its official website Thursday. Last year China finished two high-speed railways between Wuhan-Guangzhou and Zhengzhou-Xi’an, with an operating speed of 350 km/h. Before that, China had built high-speed railways between some of its major cities, including Beijing-Tianjin, Shijiazhuang-Taiyuan, Qingdao-Jinan, Hefei-Wuhan and Hefei-Nanjing. A number of new high-speed railways are being built and will be finished in the coming few years, of which the Beijing-Shanghai line has a length of 1,318 km and a designed travel speed of 350 km/h. Construction of the line started in April 2008 and would finish in around five years. It would cut travel times between the two cities to only five hours from about 12 hours. China’s railway links had expanded to 86,000 kilometers by the end of 2009, the world’s second longest only after the United States. Railway passengers topped a record 1.53 billion last year. Cargo transportation hit 3.32 billion tonnes, according to the ministry. Railway investment surged 80 percent to 600 billion yuan in 2009 boosted by the 4-trillion yuan stimulus package. The government has planned a record 823.5 billion yuan for 2010 to extend the network to 90,000 kilometers by the end of this year.

http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201002/t20100221_50931.shtml

3. **Record Volume of Water Flows out of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau**

(CAS, 11-02-2010)

Source of China’s three main rivers, Yangtze, Yellow and Lancang rivers, last year recorded the largest volume of water outflow from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in three decades, according to local hydrological authorities. According to the provincial hydrological bureau of the northwestern Qinghai, the outflow of



three rivers' headwaters, called Sanjiangyuan in Chinese, amounted to 77.63 billion cubic meters last year, a record high over the past 30 years or 26.6 percent more than the average level. The total included 29.74 billion cubic meters through the Yangtze River, 16.62 billion cubic meters through Lancang River, and 31.27 billion cubic meters through the Yellow River, said Li Qijiang, deputy director of the bureau. Gao Gui'en, an engineering official with the provincial Sanjiangyuan administration office, attributed the significant increase of water outflow to more rainfalls and ecological conservation efforts, including returning grazing land to grassland and artificial rainfall. Sanjiangyuan, known as the "water tower of China" with an altitude of 4,000 meters, is an important ecological conservation area in China, influencing a large territory of the country.

http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201002/t20100211_50908.shtml

4. Boom for Provincial Sustainable Development Demo Zones

(MOST, 05-02-2010)

To put the Scientific Outlook on Development into practice, the provinces have made great efforts to facilitate the local sustainable development demo zones (SDDZ). In July, 2009, the Science and Technology Bureau of Hubei Province clarified the organization, management and liability of SDDZ, worked out the application and ratification procedures, and improved the management mechanism of SDDZ. Jiangsu Province optimized the resources of sustainable development within the province in accordance with its real situations, and facilitated the work on a gradual basis. In December, 2009, the Gulou District and Jiangning District of Nanjing City and Wujiang City were confirmed as the SDDZ of Jiangsu. The Science and Technology Bureau of Jilin Province organized a seminar on the application of national SDDZ at the end of 2009 to better learn the working mechanism and management of SDDZ. Besides the three provinces, other cities and provinces, including Beijing, Fujian Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province and Hunan Province, also made great efforts to combine the work with their own characteristics, prioritize the key points, and score practical achievements.

http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/pressroom/201002/t20100203_75797.htm

5. China sets up Permanent Tide-examination in Antarctica

(CAS, 23-02-2010)

China's 26th Antarctic expedition team has set up a permanent, real time data transmission tide-examination station in waters close to China's Antarctic Zhongshan Station to monitor the change of the sea level, a Chinese scientist said. The new monitoring station will also provide frequently-updated data for the analysis of the global climate change, said Huang Jifeng, a team member in charge of the program. It will not only help China's research program on the change of the sea level, but also accumulate data which could be shared with other countries for the analysis of the change of the global sea levels and facilitate China's research of the global climate change, Huang said. The station is mainly made up of a set of automatic tide-examination instrument system on the seabed, including a seabed water level meter, terrestrial data recording and processing equipment, and data transmission cable connecting marine and terrestrial equipment. China set up the first permanent tide-examination station near the Zhongshan Station in 1999, but difficulties in data transmission have impeded the current research, said Huang, a researcher from Wuhan University's Antarctic center. The new station's real time data transmission supported by the cable connection could facilitate research institutions' monitoring and analyses, said Huang. It will help provide timely tide forecast for polar region icebreakers, which transport materials to the Zhongshan Station each year, Huang added.

http://english.cas.ac.cn/Ne/CN/201002/t20100223_50955.shtml



6. Severe drought worsens in China

(People's daily, 28-02-2009)

A severe drought has affected 69.6 million Mu (about 4.64 million hectares) of arable land and left 12.7 million people and 8.4 million livestock short of drinking water, said China's drought relief authorities Saturday. The figures nearly doubled the average level for corresponding periods over the past years, according to the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters. The drought had caused huge losses and serious drinking water shortages in the affected areas, said Liu Ning, vice minister of water resources. Local governments have put 750 million yuan (110 million U.S. dollars) and mobilized nearly 9 million people to cope with the draught, which temporarily helped 7.4 million people and 3.6 million livestock out of drinking water shortages, Liu said. He called for prompt allocation of more relief funds from the central government and more efforts to ensure drinking water safety and spring irrigation. The dry spell started last autumn and has hit southwest, south and part of north China. The seriousness, duration, areas affected and losses are rarely seen in history, said the Ministry of Civil Affairs Friday. Severe drought would continue to ravage the already hard-stricken southwest China as no major rainfalls are expected in the next three days, the China Meteorological Administration warned Saturday.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/6904284.html>

7. Anchiornis Huxleyi Reconstructed

(MOST, 04-02-2010)

Not long ago, scientists from Peking University, the University of Yale, and the University of Texas, reconstructed *Anchiornis huxleyi*, a small ancient four-wing dinosaur. The simulated bird dinosaur, appeared in the February 4, 2010 online issue of journal *Science*, has feathered wings with mixed black and white colors, donning a reddish brown crown. Researchers rolled out 29 images of reconstructed *Anchiornis huxleyi*, based on the fossilized *Anchiornis huxleyi* unearthed in China. They picked out the shape and density of the colors hidden in the fossils using scanning electron microscope, and reconstructed the bird dinosaurs accordingly. The reconstructed dinosaur that lived some 155 million years ago has a beak quite like a woodpecker. It has a reddish brown crown with a spotted face. Its four wings are mixed with black and white colors, with the tip of the wings being black. Researchers believe that *Anchiornis huxleyi*'s feathers are more symbolic than flying, mainly for attracting the opposite gender or scarring away the enemy. The feathered wings may help the dinosaur to slide between tree branches, though a springboard for building up the flying capability in the future.





Events (March– April– May 2010)

March 2010

Education Expo Mongolia 2010

Date: 27-28 of March
Place Ulaanbaatar
Contact: Christine.kyburz@eda.admin.ch

Chengdu Int'l IC-China Conference & Exhibition 2010

Date: March 8th
Place: Chengdu
Contact: Tel: 028-86669581

The 15th Annual Int'l IC-China Conference & Exhibition

Date: March 11th
Place: Beijing
Contact: xiaoah@chgje.com

The 3rd Int'l Conference on Engineering for Wast and Biomass Valorisation

Date: March 17th

Place: Beijing
Contact: Tel: 010-62551358

The 23rd China (Zhejiang) Int'l Sci., Education, Medical Equi., Supplies & Technical Exchange Exhibition

Date: March 18th
Place: Hangzhou
Contact: Fax: 0571-87054677

China Int'l Machine Vision Exhibition 2010

Date: March 31st
Place: Shanghai
Contact: Tel: 010-68594793

China Fashion Week 2009

Date: March
Place: Beijing
Contact: Tel: 010-64387199

April 2010

AIMUN Model UN 2010

Date: March 1st- 4th
Place: Peking University
Contact: zhaoyechao.mun@gmail.com

2010 China (Shanghai) Int'l Survey and Mapping Equi.&Tech. exhibition

Date: April 8th
Place: Shanghai
Contact: zhouyy@1525.sh.cn

The 17th China Int'l industry Fair

Date: April 22nd
Place: Chongqing
Organizers: Chinese Mechanical
engineering Scci.

The 27th China Int'l Screen Printing and Digital Tech. Expo

Date: April 27th
Place: Shanghai
Contact: Printing Equi. Indu. Asso

The 5th China Int'l Exhibition on Police Equi.

Date: April
Place: Beijing
Contact: Ministry of Public Security



May 2010

Int'l Solar Energy & PV Projects (Shanghai) Exhibition, SNEC Int'l Solar and PC Conference

Date: May 5th
Place: Shanghai
Contact: Shanghai S&T Development & Exchange Centre

2010 China (Beijing) Int'l Mining & Hosting Handling Machinery Exhibition

Date: May 10th
Place: Beijing
Contact: Chinese Mechanical Engineering Soci.

XIV Int'l Conference on Calorimetry in High Energy Physics

Date: May 10th
Place: Beijing
Contact: CAS

The 2010 Int'l Symposium on Financial Info. Processing

Date: May 18th
Place: Beijing
Contact: 010-68597749

2010 China Int'l Automobile Science and Tech. Exhibition

Date: May 21st
Place: Wuhan
Contact: China National Scientific Instruments & Material Import/Export Corp.

2010 (Guangzhou) Exhibition and Conference on Instrumental Analysis and Biotechnology

Date: May 24th
Place: Guangzhou
Contact: Guangdong Foreign S&T Exchange Centre

The 15th China Int'l Welding & Cutting Fair

Date: May 27th
Place: Beijing
Contact: Chinese Mechanical Engineering Soci.

2010 China Int'l Gas Tech. Equi. Exhibition

Date: May
Place: Beijing
Contact: China Gas Association

The 4th China (Beijing) Int'l Exhibition and Symposium on Police and Anti Terrorism Tech. and Equi.

Date: May
Place: Beijing
Contact: China Asso. For Sci. and Tech.
Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau

The 3rd Int'l Conference on Computational Sciences and Optimization

Date: May 28th
Place: Beijing
Contact: Academy of Mathematics and Systems Sci., CAS

SKLRB: Symposia: Frontiers in Perimplantation Biology

Date: May
Place: Beijing
Contact: Inst. of Zoology. CAS