

ECNU Newsletter



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EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY



Headline

Artificial Intelligence bringing education into digital age

The 2021 World Artificial Intelligence Conference (WAIC) opened on July 7 in Shanghai.

East China Normal University (ECNU) signed agreements with Microsoft and Lenovo at an education-themed forum during the event, which focused on how AI can empower the digital transformation of education.

The cooperation between the university and Microsoft Research Asia aims to advance research capabilities and conduct leading-edge research in academia and industry, as well as cultivate and attract high-end talent from across the world.

According to Microsoft Research Asia, the two parties have developed an intelligent Chinese writing assistance system previously, with which students can have their writings assessed and analyzed to improve writing skills.

In the future, Microsoft and ECNU will collaborate in research related to education and AI, such as

development of adaptive learning systems for Chinese and mathematics.

During the forum, the university also launched an intelligent education technology industrial park together with the government of Putuo district. The plaque of the Shanghai Intelligent Education Technology Industrial Park was also unveiled.

The industrial park will develop based primarily on the National Science and Technology Park of ECNU, and expand into the nearby Changfeng business area and the planned Jinsha Island Science City in Putuo.

The two parties aim to build the park into a highland for intelligent education to facilitate the development of other core industries, such as AI, biomedicine and integrated circuits.

ECNU deepens cooperation with Songjiang district

On August 13, ECNU held a signing ceremony to deepen educational cooperation with the Songjiang district government.

According to the cooperation agreements, the No.2 High School of ECNU will establish two new campuses located in Songjiang District: the Songjiang branch of No.2 High School of ECNU located in Jiuting Town and Songjiang Experimental School of No.2 High School of ECNU located in Dongjing Town.

Mei Bing, chair of the University Council, praised the cooperation agreement between ECNU and Songjiang district. Mei stated that, as a university in Shanghai, ECNU prioritizes serving the nation's strategic needs as a source of motivation for the university's development.

Moreover, ECNU has been conceiving of and planning on how to make full use of its discipline and talent advantages to facilitate the development of Songjiang district.

Mei Bing also pointed out that ECNU will establish the Songjiang Primary Education Group of ECNU. This group will promote the high-quality and balanced development of local education and dedicate itself to continuously satisfying people's expectation of high-quality education.

Cheng Xiangmin, party secretary of Songjiang district, thanked ECNU for its long-term unique contribution to social and economic development of the district. He declared that Songjiang district would further deepen the district-university cooperation with ECNU, while strengthening the connection and integration of higher education and basic education and building Songjiang into a place with science and innovation strength.



Focus

Figures of importance

China will enhance the quality of math teachers both in urban and rural areas, make study fun, and strengthen academic exchanges with the world for the development and progress of science, technology and civilizations, according to Weng Tiehui, vice-minister of education.

Learning math will deepen children's knowledge of basic science and help them explore possible relationships among abstractions, which will improve brain power for lifelong benefits, said Weng at the opening ceremony of the 14th International Congress on Mathematical Education held at East China Normal University in Shanghai on July 12.

To inspire students' interest in math, we should make math classes fun, while avoiding repetitive, excessive training, she suggests.

Mathematics is the common scientific language of the world, and mathematics education is a cause that requires the dedication of global practitioners. In addition, skilled teachers are at the heart of excellent math education, she adds.

Weng took Shanghai as an example. According to Weng, local teachers there have been engaging in teaching groups and research activities for personal professional development. Over 20,000 math teachers in primary and secondary schools from Shanghai and the United Kingdom have taken part in a China-UK math teacher program, jointly launched by both countries in 2014 to observe classes and share experiences. In 2018, a teacher education center was established in Shanghai, supported by UNESCO, aimed at fostering international teacher training exchanges.

We're aware that the country still faces the

challenge of inadequacy and inequality of education resources, and we will be dedicated to improving children's access to quality education in remote areas, says Weng, adding that a national training mechanism has been established to train around 618,000 math teachers in rural areas.

Weng expects that experts participating in the congress will offer advice on the training of teachers in China and accelerate long-term global cooperation for the progress of science, technology and civilization.



Shanghai Party Secretary Li Qiang points out the crucial role of mathematics in driving the city's scientific and economic development.

For instance, the development of artificial intelligence is mainly data-driven, which is inseparable from the work of mathematicians, Li says.

The city will provide more solid support for the application of mathematical sciences and the development of related industries, especially integrated circuits, AI and biomedicine, for the city's digital transformation and a better life through innovation led by mathematics, he adds.

Cedric Villani, director of Institut Henri Poincare in France and 2010 recipient of the Fields Medal, the highest scientific award for mathematicians, stresses the role of mathematics as an art as old as civilization in his keynote speech.

Mathematicians have always had a privileged role in society, as problem solvers, guardians of an art, deeply attached to values of intellectual freedom and the challenging of opinion, Villani says.

He also accentuates the most important characteristics of a mathematician—persistence, imagination and rigor—which would facilitate a successful career in the subject.

As the largest international conference on math education, the event, organized by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, was held from July 12 to 18.

Over 2,200 experts and teachers in mathematics from 129 countries including the United States, France and Canada, present at the meeting.

This is the first time the ICME has been held in China. Activities, such as plenary lectures and workshops, are available to participants, covering topics including challenges of math teaching amid the COVID-19 pandemic, math education for children under 7, and math textbooks for primary and secondary schools in China.

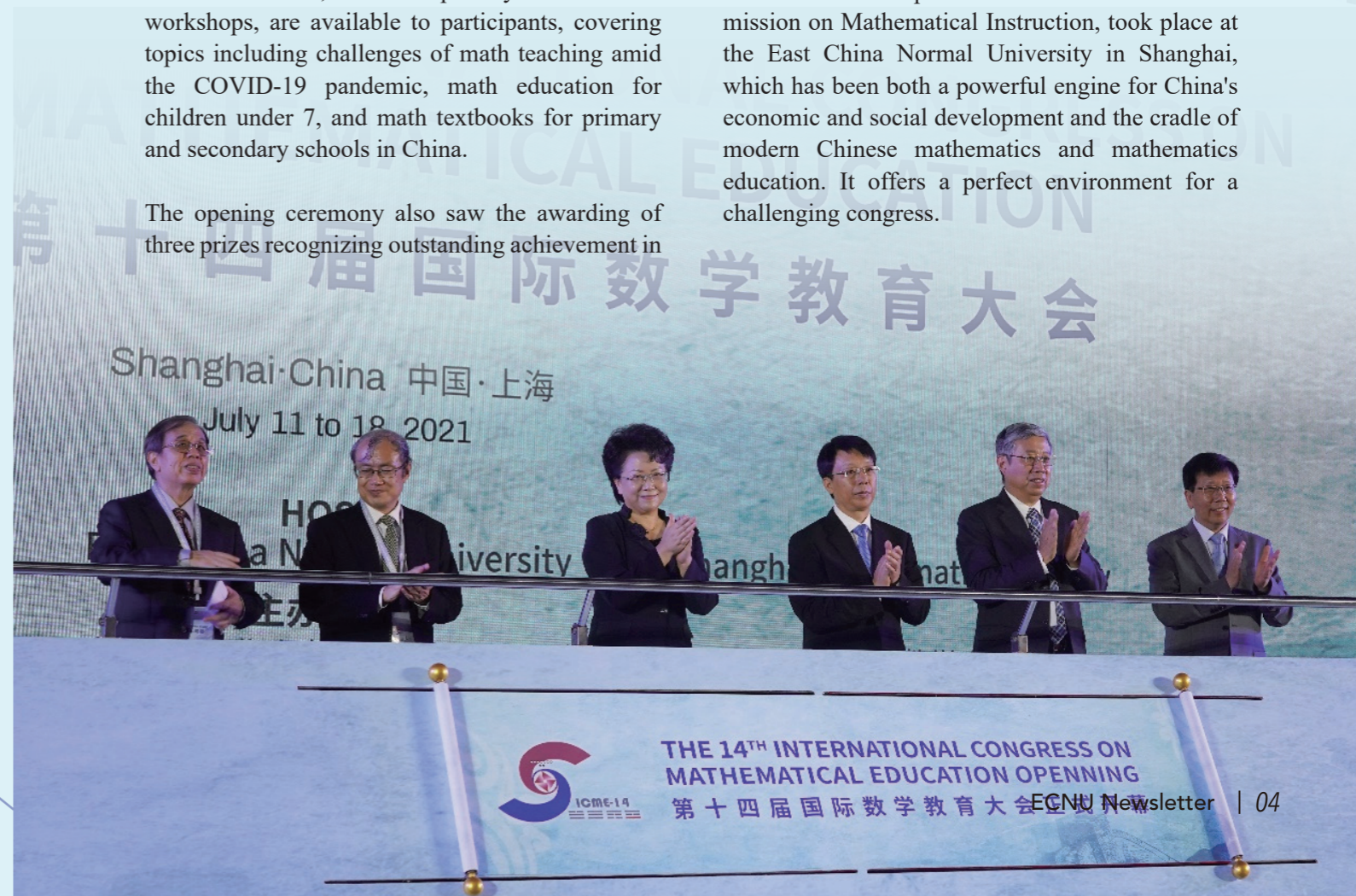
The opening ceremony also saw the awarding of three prizes recognizing outstanding achievement in

mathematics education research and practice. Deborah Ball, professor of education at the University of Michigan in the US, and Tommy Dreyfus, professor Emeritus of Mathematics Education at Tel Aviv University, Israel, were the 2017 and 2019 laureates of the Felix Klein Award, respectively, for their lifetime achievements in math education.

The Hans Freudenthal Awards for 2017 and 2019 were respectively given to Terezinha Nunes, professor of educational studies at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom, and Gert Schubring, a long-time member of the Institut für Didaktik der Mathematik at Bielefeld University in Germany, for their innovative and highly influential programs of mathematical research.

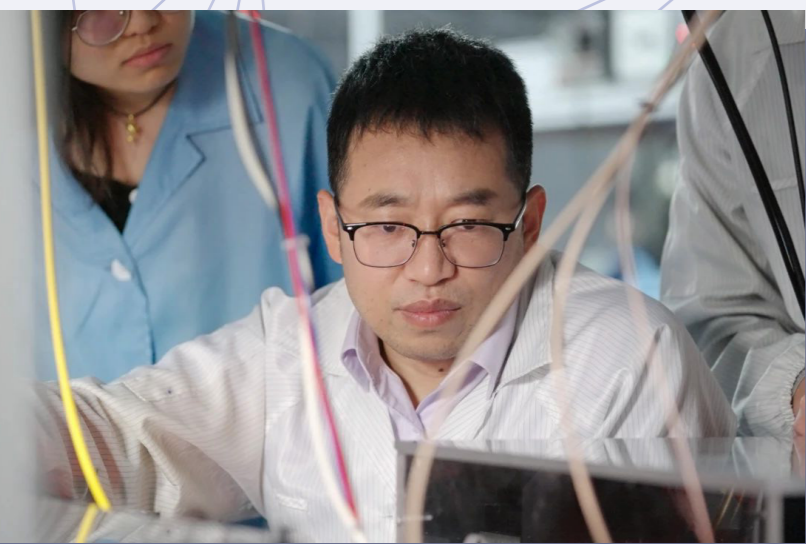
The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, based in the US, won the Emma Castelnuovo Award in 2020, in recognition of its achievements in supporting teachers in ensuring quality mathematics learning for students.

The Chinese Mathematical Society has the pleasure of hosting the 14th International Congress on Mathematical Education in 2021 in China. The congress, held under the auspices of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, took place at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, which has been both a powerful engine for China's economic and social development and the cradle of modern Chinese mathematics and mathematics education. It offers a perfect environment for a challenging congress.



Research

ECNU publishes important Fermi gas research in *Science*



The latest progress achieved by Prof. Haibin Wu's research team from the State Key Laboratory of Precision Spectroscopy (SKLPS) of East China Normal University (ECNU) was published in *Science* as the "First Release" on Aug 26. The article is titled "Observation of a superradiant quantum phase transition in an intracavity degenerate Fermi gas."

This is the second time that Haibin Wu's team's achievement was published in *Science* with ECNU as the first affiliation. They published "Observation of the Efimovian Expansion in Scale Invariant Fermi Gases" in *Science* in 2016.

Coupling Bose-Einstein condensates to optical cavities has enabled the study of many-body states with long-range interactions. However, equivalent experiments with ultracold Fermi gases have remained largely unexplored. Prof. Wu's group reports an experimental realization of a superradiant quantum phase transition of a degenerate Fermi gas in a transversely pumped optical cavity. The self-ordering checkerboard density pattern of Fermi gases and superradiant transitions of the cavity field spontaneously emerge by increasing the pumping intensity above a threshold value. The effects of Fermi statistics are manifested by an inverse square root scaling of the threshold with atom number and the slow dynamics of low atomic momentum states. This work provides an ideal platform for studying nonequilibrium dynamics of many-body states for long-range interacting Fermi gases.

Xiaotian Zhang, a PhD student, is the first author of the paper. Prof. Haibin Wu is the corresponding author. ECNU is the first affiliation.

In 2012, Haibin Wu was supported by the "youth high-level talent program" of ECNU and was selected into the "overseas high-level talent program" of the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee.

With the support of the university, Prof. Wu has established an experimental platform for precision control of ultracold atoms and molecules, organized a team to continuously tackle key problems and studied the experimental research of strongly interacting ultracold quantum gases. In 2019, he was supported by the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars.

This work has been supported by the National Key R&D Program of China, the Major Program of the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, the Key Projects in the Science and Technology of Shanghai and the Shanghai Major Fundamental Research Program.

Researchers make progress in synthesizing methanol by carbon dioxide hydrogenation

The research team led by Professor Lu Yong of the School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of ECNU achieved a breakthrough in the research of efficient synthesis of methanol by carbon dioxide hydrogenation. The title of their work is "Oxygen-deficient metal oxides supported nano-intermetallic InNi_3Co_5 towards efficient CO_2 hydrogenation to methanol". It was published in *Science Advances* (2021, 7(32), eabi6012).

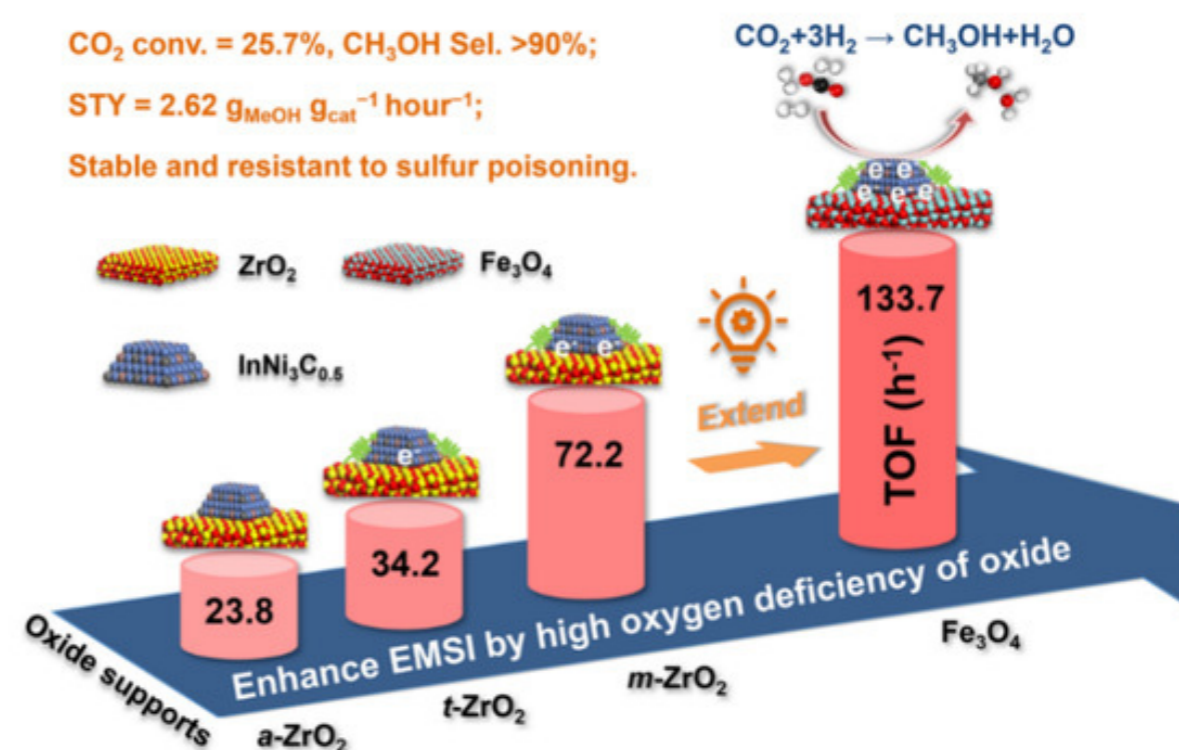
Meng Chao, a doctoral student, is the first author of the paper, and Professor Lu Yong and Associate Professor Zhao Guofeng of East China Normal University (ECNU) with Associate Professor Shi Xuerong of Shanghai University of Engineering and Technology are the paper's co-correspondents. ECNU was granted the first completion unit.

Direct CO_2 hydrogenation to methanol using renewable energy-generated hydrogen is attracting intensive attention, but qualifying catalysts represents a grand challenge.

For instance, the pure-/multi-metallic systems used for this task contain low catalytic activity. The researchers tailored a highly active and selective $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{ZrO}_2$ catalyst by tuning the performance-relevant electronic metal-support interaction (EMSI), which is closely linked with the ZrO_2 type-dependent oxygen deficiency. Highly oxygen-deficient monoclinic- ZrO_2 support imparts high electron density to InNi_3Co_5 because of the considerably enhanced EMSI, thereby enabling $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{monoclinic-ZrO}_2$ with an intrinsic activity two or three times as high as that of $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{amorphous-ZrO}_2$ or $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{tetragonal-ZrO}_2$.

Moreover, the EMSI-governed catalysis observed in the $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{ZrO}_2$ system is extendable to other oxygen-deficient metal oxides, in particular $\text{InNi}_3\text{Co}_5/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$, achieving 25.7% CO_2 conversion with 90.2% methanol selectivity at 325 C, 6.0 MPa, 36,000 $\text{ml g}_{\text{cat}}^{-1} \text{hour}^{-1}$, and $\text{H}_2/\text{CO}_2 = 10:1$.

This affordable catalyst is stable for at least 500 hours and is also highly resistant to sulfur poisoning.



Scientists reveal the function and regulatory mechanisms of calmodulin acetylation in mouse brain

This week, the *Journal of Biological Chemistry* published two side-by-side papers, which revealed the function and regulatory mechanisms of Calmodulin acetylation in the mouse brain. In view of the exceptional contribution to the field, these two papers have been selected as one of JBC's "Editors' Picks", as introduced by the authors from East China Normal University.

Calcium (Ca^{2+}) signal is essential for almost all cellular processes. As an indicator of neural activity, Ca^{2+} signal plays important roles in the processes of axon guidance, synaptic plasticity, learning and memory. Calmodulin (CaM) is a ubiquitous Ca^{2+} sensor and has more than 300 target proteins including protein kinases, enzymes, cytoskeleton proteins, ion and water channels. CaM plays critical roles in synaptic plasticity such as long-term potentiation (LTP). During LTP induction, activation of NMDA receptor triggers Ca^{2+} influx, and the Ca^{2+} binds with CaM and activates Ca^{2+} -CaM-dependent protein kinase IIa (CaMKIIa).

Dong-Min Yin's group at the Key Laboratory of Brain Functional Genomics of the Ministry of Education, School of Life Sciences, East China Normal University, studies the function of protein acetylation in synaptic plasticity and learning. Previous studies in this area mainly focused on histone protein acetylation in the nucleus. By analyzing the results from the public databases and previous proteomics studies, the researchers found that the acetylation of CaM is very rich in the mammalian brain.

The researchers generated antibodies against acetylated CaM and found that neural activity rapidly (within 1 minute) increased the level of CaM acetylation, and this process depends on NMDA receptors. Next, the researchers calculated the stoichiometry of CaM acetylation in the hippocampal total lysates, and found the percentage of acetylated CaM after neuronal stimulation is about 6%-7%, which is close to the level of histone protein acetylation. Moreover, mutation of acetyllysines in CaM1 proteins disrupts synaptic plasticity and fear learning in a mouse model. The authors further demonstrate that acetylation of CaM reduces the binding free

energy and increases binding affinity toward CaMKIIa, a protein kinase pivotal to synaptic plasticity and learning.

This paper entitled "Acetylation of Calmodulin Regulates Synaptic Plasticity and Fear Learning" is published online in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Drs Hai-Long Zhang, Bing Zhao, and PhD student Han Wei are the co-first authors of the paper, and professor Dong-Min Yin is the corresponding author of the paper. Professor Jian Zhang from Shanghai Jiaotong University provided support in the calculation of molecular dynamics.

Since acetylation of CaM plays an important role in synaptic plasticity and learning, then how is acetylation of CaM regulated by neural activity? To answer this question, the researchers must identify the lysine acetyltransferase (KAT) responsible for acetylation of CaM. Toward this goal, the researchers overexpressed various KAT proteins in HEK293 cells, and found that Steroid Receptor Coactivator 3 (SRC3) was most potent to acetylate CaM.

The authors further demonstrate that SRC3 interacts with and acetylates CaM in a Ca^{2+} and NMDA receptor-dependent manner. They also show that pharmacological inhibition or genetic downregulation of SRC3 impairs CaM acetylation, synaptic plasticity, and contextual fear learning in mice. Moreover, the effects of SRC3 inhibition on synaptic plasticity and fear learning could be rescued by 3KQ-CaM, a mutant form of CaM which mimics acetylation. Together, these observations demonstrate that SRC3 acetylates CaM to regulate synaptic plasticity and memory in mice.

The second paper entitled "SRC3 Acetylates Calmodulin in the Mouse Brain to Regulate Synaptic Plasticity and Fear Learning", was published online in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Dr. Hai-Long Zhang (currently a postdoctoral fellow at Soochow University), PhD student Wei Han, and master student Yin-Quan Du are the co-first authors of the paper, and professor Dong-Min Yin is the corresponding author of the paper. These two papers revealed the function and regulatory mechanisms of CaM acetylation, which may bring new perspectives to the study of Ca^{2+} signal transduction.

Dong-Min Yin's group studies the mechanisms of synaptic plasticity and schizophrenia. This work was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Shanghai Eastern Scholars, the State Key Laboratory of Neuroscience of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and the Shanghai Key Laboratory of Severe Psychiatry.

ECNU Mega-Delta Programme to enhance coastal resilience

The 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ("The Ocean Decade") has endorsed three transformative programmes developed by global partnerships of ocean scientists, governments and industry to enhance coastal resilience, for both humans and ecosystems.

The Mega-Delta Programme is one of the three programmes. The other two are the Global Estuaries Monitoring (GEM) Decade Programme, led by the City University of Hong Kong, and the Ocean Cities Network Programme led by Mediterranean Center for Marine and Environmental Research.

The Mega-Delta Programme, led by the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC) of ECNU, intends to build up a comprehensive picture of delta dynamics to inform human development, and conservation strategies.

On August 13, the 1st Mega-Delta Programme Workshop was held, with 26 scientists from more than ten countries participating online. Ms Chloe Nunn from IOC-UNESCO also joined this workshop on behalf of the Ocean Decade Team.

Professor Li Xiuzhen from the State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC) welcomed all the participants, and gave a brief introduction about the background of the Mega-Delta Programme, the partners and the locations of the deltas.



MEGA-DELTA

Deltas associated with large rivers: Seeking solutions to the problem of sustainability



The Implementation Plan for the Mega-Delta Programme was enthusiastically discussed, including Aims, Research Objectives, Work Plan for the Next Ten Years and Activities in the First Two Years. Participants all showed confidence in carrying out the Mega-Delta Programme successfully, and looked forward to working together for solutions to common problems faced by world deltas.

The three programmes have been endorsed as part of the first set of flagship Actions of the Decade that will contribute to achieving the vision of the Decade of the 'Science we need for the ocean we want'.

ECNUers

ECNU volunteers sow seeds of love in Chinese rural areas



During this summer, ECNU staff and students sowed seeds of love in regions all over China. They spent their summer holiday volunteering to teach in primary and middle schools around the country.

ECNU volunteers from the School of Physical Education and Health of ECNU visited Xinglong Primary School in Guizhou Province and offered football training for the local students, knowing that there are nearly 300 students but only 2 young and inexperienced P.E. teachers in the school.

Yuan Chun, a teacher from the School of Physical Education and Health, taught four professional courses to local teachers, including “KDL Sports and Health Course”.



“We also organized a football carnival where we played football with local teachers and students to develop a closer relationship with them. This is the first football carnival of Xinglong Primary School and we can see that the students had great fun.”

“In the future, we hope to have more opportunities to help the local teachers learn to organize school-wide sports activities, let children fully enjoy the fun of football, and make the football dreams of left behind children come true in Yuanshan Village,” said Yuan Chun.



Habibur Rahman, a Bangladeshi student from ECNU’s School of Advanced International and Area Studies, also volunteered to teach English in Wuyishan Central Primary School at Jiangxi Province with other ECNUers. The event was organized by the ECNU Education Development Foundation.

“I feel lucky to be here, doing a little bit of work to help poor areas and experience the local culture. Wuyishan is not a developed town, but the people are welcoming,” said Habibur.

Habibur taught students oral English through expressions about nature, Bangladesh, sports, Chinese culture and foreign festivals. “Initially, the children were afraid to speak English, but as they became more familiar with and received more encouragement from the volunteer teachers, they gradually opened up their hearts in class.”

Habibur saw the same resilience and intelligence among students as those in big cities. He also saw the rural children’s uniqueness. “One thing that impressed me most during this activity is that when a child found me eating with chopsticks, he worried it might be difficult for me, so he ran over and gave me a spoon. I was so moved by him.”

This experience also contributed to his overall thoughts on volunteering. “I believe that helping others by volunteering changes you. It can be one small thing that completely changes your outlook or a series of moments that shape you into a different person. Whether you volunteer for a few hours a week or decide to take the leap and dedicate your life to helping others, I promise it will change your life in a way money or other material objects never can.”

To help rural students with their computing skills, 13 students from the School of Computer Science and Technology of ECNU offered a summer camp for the students of Yancheng Experimental Senior High School of ECNU in Jiangsu Province.

“The children here are sincere, kind and steadfast. Since they lacked knowledge of computing, I tried to deliver the lessons step by step. I felt a great sense of satisfaction being able to use what I had learned to help other people’s growth,” said Wu Xingjiao.

Dr. Wu Xingjiao showed a Raspberry Pi-based Python Programmable Car to the students. He encouraged the students to acquire a working knowledge of Raspberry Pi and to use it for coding. The students were also taught how to write basic programs in Python.

Wu hopes this experience can encourage some of the students to dream of new possibilities, both academically and for other purposes in their life.

ECNUers are basking in the great love of the university, but they never forget to pass on this great love to others.





ECNUer Ge Manqi--flying girl runner makes history at Tokyo 2020

This is the second time the Chinese team entered the women's 4x100m relay final of the Olympic Games after an interval of 21 years.

In Tokyo 2020, Ge also competed in women's 100m race. On July 30, she finished at an astonishing 11.20 run in the women's 100m preliminaries, and landed her spot in the semi-final.

Ge became the first Chinese athlete to enter the Olympic Games in the history of China's women's 100m semi-final since 1984.

In the women's 100m semi-final, Ge ranked seventh in the group. Although she missed the final, Ge has created a new breakthrough for Chinese women's sprint.

Ge Manqi, born in Sanming, Fujian province, in 1997, was admitted into the ECNU School of Physical Education and Health in 2017. This is the second time she represented China in the Olympic Games.

After enrolling at ECNU, she participated in Shanghai and national college students' track and field competitions, winning the championship many times.

At the IAAF Diamond League in July 2019, Ge ran out of the women's 100m personal best score of 11.04 seconds. This score enabled her to successfully enter the Tokyo Olympic Games, which made her the fourth fastest 100m flying woman in China.

On June 24, 2021, in the women's 100m final of the national track and field championship and national games qualification, Ge Manqi won the championship by 11.15 seconds and ranked first in Asia this year.

August 6, Ge Manqi, an undergraduate student from ECNU School of Physical Education and Health, competed in women's 4x100m relay final on behalf of the Chinese team with 3 other Chinese women's relay team members: Huang Guifen, Wei Yongli and Liang Xiaojing.

They won the 6th place in the final, which is the best result of the Chinese track and field team in this event.

Early in their preliminary heat of the women's 4x100m relay on August 5, the Chinese women's relay team led by Ge Manqi won the third place in the group by 42.82 seconds and cruised into finals.

Global Elites Academic Program sparks ECNUers' reflection

East China Normal University (ECNU) and University of Connecticut (UConn) held the online academic program themed "Global Elites in Humanities and Social Sciences" this summer. It creates a multiple platform for ECNU undergraduates to look into the frontiers of disciplines, expand their research ideas and methods and strengthen awareness of interdisciplinary research without going abroad during the pandemic.

From July 12 to 30, the program was successfully held online. Based on the international cultivation of undergraduate talents specializing in Humanities and Social Sciences at ECNU and supported by the high-end teaching resources at UConn, this program covered lectures, introductions to classics reading, workshops, seminars, group collaborations, teacher-student interactions and other varied forms of communication and learning.

A total of 50 outstanding undergraduates specializing in Chinese Language and Literature, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Law, English and other majors participated in the program.

Themed on "Critical Thinking, Academic Research and Global Citizenship in the 21st Century", this program consisted of three thematic modules -- humanities, social sciences and research.

This program also offered distinctive courses, such as Comparative Study in Chinese and Western Philosophical Thoughts, Introduction to Classics Reading: Classics and Intercultural Understanding, Critical Thinking in Contemporary Society, Globalization and Global Governance, International Cooperation in Academic Research, and Interdisciplinary Studies--Interdisciplinary Thinking and Research Approaches, thus introducing cutting-edge academic research achievements in combination with the current social focuses.

In order to provide the students with an immersive learning experience and an enhanced process evaluation, UConn has equipped the program with HuskyCT, a teaching assistance system used by its full-time students. This platform, with the curriculum at its core, integrates online teaching, learning and curriculum management to build an individualized learning space for the students.

In recent years, ECNU, adhering to its intensive development of undergraduate international exchanges, has encouraged its students to go deep into the world's forefront of disciplines and cultivate critical and creative thinking.

"I have benefited a lot from this program. Whether in comparative philosophy, consumer society, or global governance, I can feel the importance of the cross-cultural perspective. Since even the same phenomenon may have different manifestations in other cultures, it is of critical significance to take into account cultural factors, which can not only broaden our horizons, but also enhance our ability to analyze problems."
--By Wang Huan majoring in Sociology (Class of 2020)

"Individually speaking, interdisciplinary learning can broaden our horizons and enable us to think from multiple perspectives, instead of confining us to a single one. Besides, it can better promote the academic cooperation between individuals and scholars of different majors from other countries to jointly explore problems. To sum up, interdisciplinary academy contributes more to the training of new talents adaptable to the 21st century."
--By Wu Fei majoring in Philosophy (Class of 2019)

"This exchange program has promoted my understanding of humanities and social sciences to a new level. Through the exploration of humanities, we can learn how to think creatively and critically, so as to make inferences and ask questions. All these skills access us to a new insight into everything. More importantly, the humanities science has opened up more possibilities for us to understand the world in which we live."
--By Fang Chenchen majoring in English (Class of 2019)

"Interdisciplinary learning and cross-cultural collaboration should be a concept itself. The citizens worldwide in the 21st century are the subject of modern governance. What I gained most from this program is my awareness of the global citizenship, and I can change the society with my own actions."
--By Han Ze majoring in Journalism (Class of 2020)



On July 5, ECNU officially re-opened its gate at No. 3663, North Zhongshan Road. The gate, which was built in 1994, had remained unrenovated since then.

Now



Campus

ECNU re-opens its gate at No. 3663, North Zhongshan Road

The gate had been on this site since the founding of the Great China University, one of the precursors of ECNU. ECNU, which was founded in 1951 on the site of the Great China University, retained the original style of the gate at first, but moved it 20 meters northwards and enlarged it to ensure it is located on the university's axis and match the breadth of the main road.

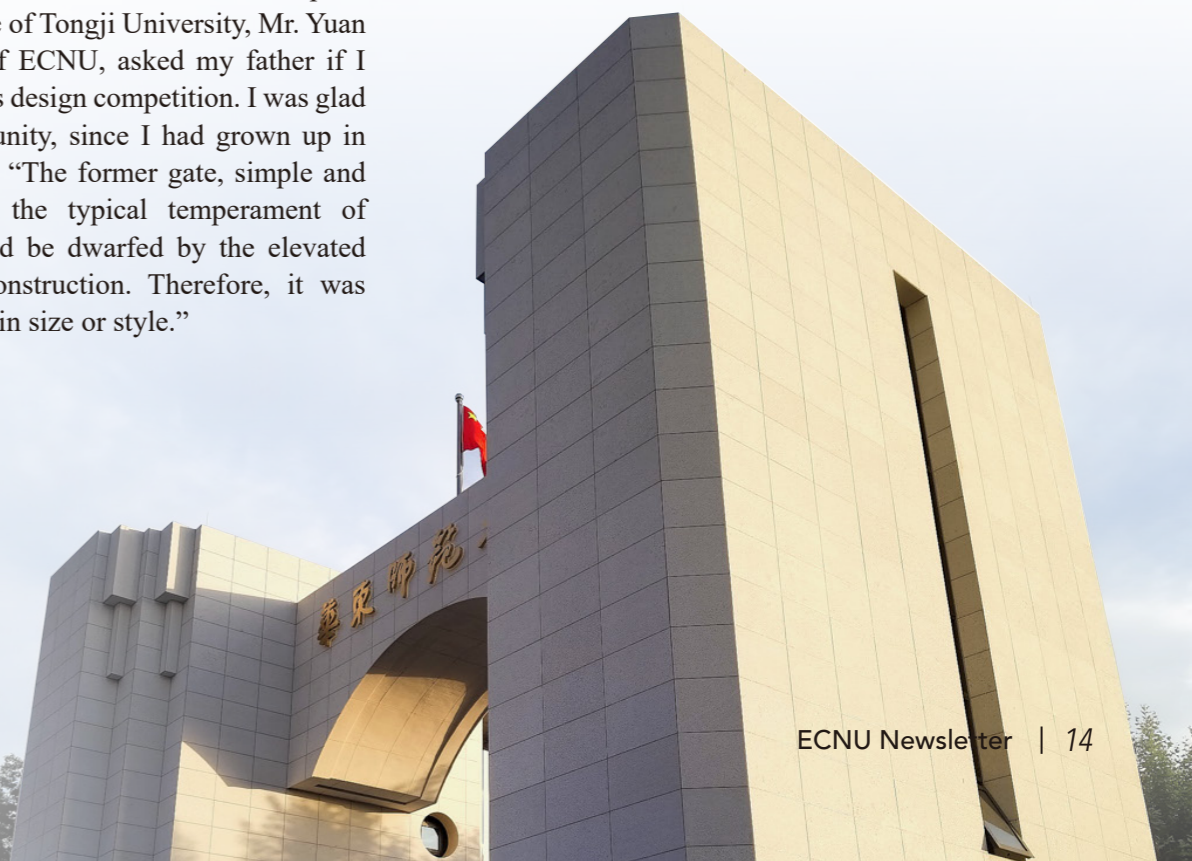
The new gate on North Zhongshan Road was built in May 1994, featuring a steel-concrete composite structure cased in granite. It is 15 meters in height and 12 meters in width, with a total width of 22 meters. The university name on the lintel was written by Shu Tong, a well-known calligrapher.

Chen Ying, the gate designer who is now a renowned architect, recalled how ECNU solicited proposals for the design of the gate in an interview.

“Knowing that I was then a student in the Department of Architecture of Tongji University, Mr. Yuan Yunkai, president of ECNU, asked my father if I was interested in this design competition. I was glad to have this opportunity, since I had grown up in ECNU.” Chen said. “The former gate, simple and elegant, represents the typical temperament of ECNU, but it would be dwarfed by the elevated road then under construction. Therefore, it was inappropriate either in size or style.”

Thus, she proposed to make the gate taller and wider, retain the red brick facade, and add to it a decorative arch. “This not only increases the size of the gate, but also makes it look simple and dignified.” The renovation this time is also recognized by Chen Ying. According to her, since the adhesion method adopted in constructing the gate at that time may result in water marks and stains, it is wise to choose the new light-colored granite with relatively fine-grained texture, which prevents the penetration of rainwater. She also loves the new color used, as it matches the overall style of the gate.

According to the Office of Construction of ECNU, the renovation this time aims to retain the original style of the gate and be simple and innovative at the same time. It inherits the profound history and culture of ECNU and demonstrates its innovative spirit and cultural vitality.



Past

Creativity
Character
Community

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