

ECNU Newsletter



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Editorial office:

Publicity Department
East China Normal University
(华东师范大学宣传部)

Tel:

Ms. Xu
(86-21)62232226

Email:

internationalpr@admin.ecnu.edu.cn

Designers:

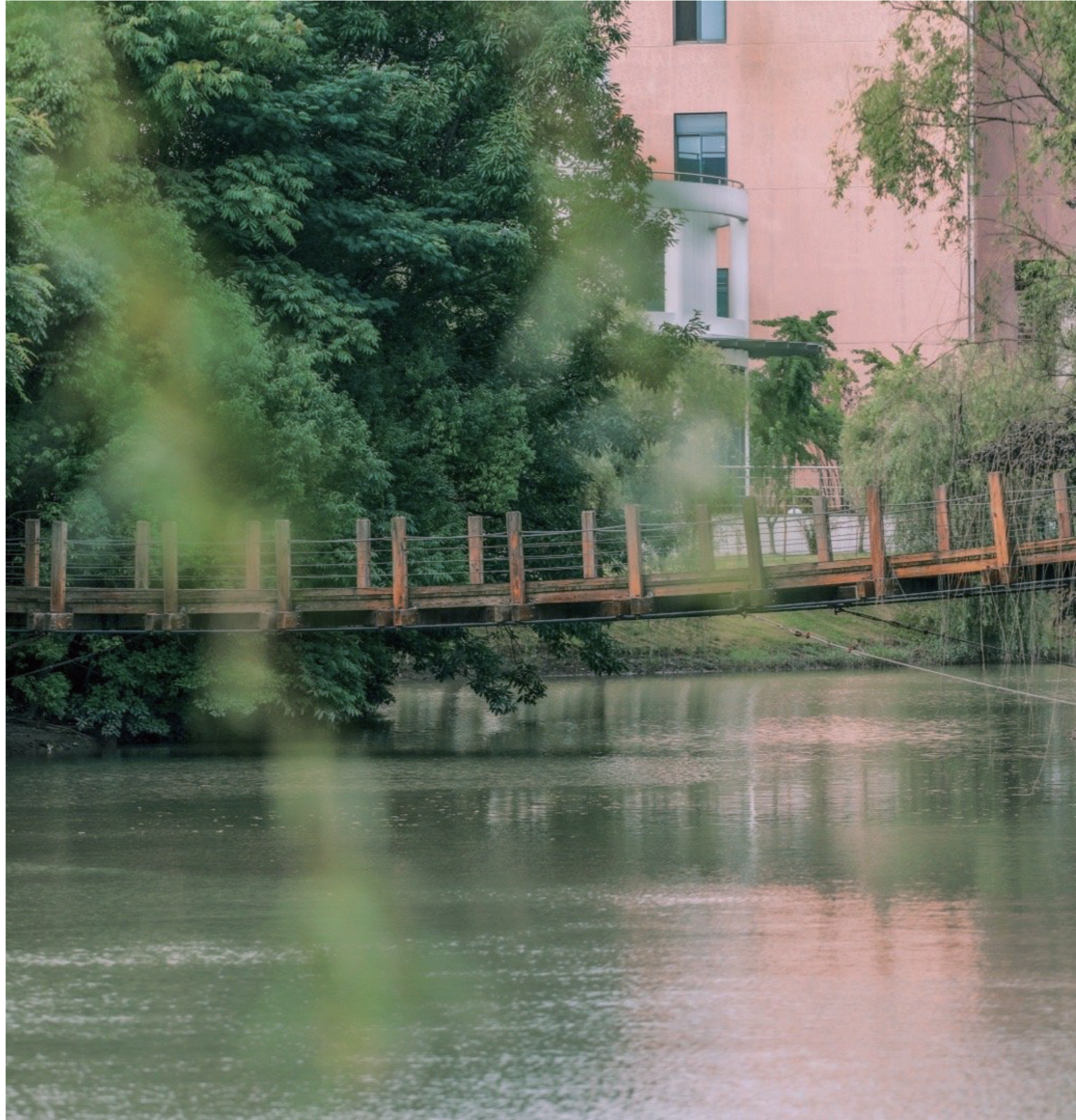
Chen Ming, Xu Tingyuan, Zhen Tongyue

Editor:

Li Mengjie, Yuan Yiwei

Proofreader:

Xu Xincheng



Headlines

ECNU signs strategic cooperation agreement with Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

June 21, ECNU signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. Both sides agreed to focus on basic theoretical research and basic software and hardware ecological construction in the field of “education + artificial intelligence”. The purpose is to make breakthroughs in key technologies and industrial applications and gather and cultivate high-level innovative researchers on a global scale.

Mei Bin, Chair of University Council, said that the agreement highlights a milestone in the interdisciplinary development of ECNU and will start a new chapter in intelligent education in Shanghai and the whole country.

According to Yuan Zhenguo, Dean of Lab for AI Education of ECNU, in order to promote the in-depth integration of artificial intelligence and education, both sides will deepen cooperation in the field of “education + artificial intelligence” from multiple aspects, including basic theoretical research, breakthroughs in core technologies, translation of industrial application into productivity, talent training and mutual employment of high-end talents.

Tang Xiao’ou, Director of Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, pointed out that Shanghai is one of the first cities to make AI a priority in its development strategy and that Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory is the new research and development institution fully supported by the city of Shanghai.

ECNU President Qian Xuhong believes that the in-depth integration of AI and education will exert a revolutionary impact on the traditional educational mode. Meanwhile, using as an example the ECNU research project of “the mind and brain mechanism of music painting and the practical approach to its effect on children’s art education”, Qian clarified the profound impact of using new technologies on traditional learning methods and results.

Jiang Hong, Deputy Director of the Learning Committee of Shanghai Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, said that the cooperation between Shanghai Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and ECNU will promote the application of artificial intelligence within the context of higher education and will provide a model for the digital transformation of Shanghai Municipality.

ROK Consul General in Shanghai Kim Seung-ho visits ECNU

On June 22, ECNU President Qian Xuhong met the delegation led by Consul General of Republic of Korea (ROK) in Shanghai, Kim Seung-ho.

ECNU’s President Qian extended a warm welcome to Consul General Kim Seung-ho. He pointed out that as a comprehensive research university featuring teacher’s education, ECNU has given full play to its disciplinary advantages and international characteristics, attracting many overseas students, among which those from the ROK make up the highest proportion.

In addition, ECNU has conducted student exchange programs with many universities in the ROK and has reached a scientific research cooperation agreement with the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute. President Qian stated that ECNU hopes to deepen its cooperation with universities from the ROK and make joint efforts to promote the cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Mr. Kim Seung-ho said that the responsibility of the consulate in Shanghai is to promote and strengthen exchanges between China and the Republic of Korea comprehensively. He also noted that the ROK Consul General in Shanghai will continue to strengthen its ties with ECNU and promote educational and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

ECNU and SAGE to publish *Asian Journal for Mathematics Education*

ECNU and SAGE Publishing signed a contract online on June 18 to jointly publish an English-language research journal titled *Asian Journal for Mathematics Education*, which will be the first journal to be published in Asia in collaboration with the world’s leading independent academic publisher.

Prof. Fan Lianghuo, Director of the Asian Centre for Mathematics Education, will serve as the founding editor-in-chief, and more than 20 well-known scholars from around the world (including the winners of Felix Klein and Hans Freudenthal Medals) will serve on the editorial board of the journal.

Asian Journal for Mathematics Education aims to publish high-quality original research and scholarly articles in various areas of mathematics education, including (but not limited to) teaching and learning of mathematics, mathematics curriculum and textbook research, mathematics teacher education and professional development, international and comparative study of mathematics education, use of modern technologies in mathematics education, and cross-disciplinary research involving mathematics education.

Focus

GRADUATION DAY: Class of 2021 embraces new future

ECNU hosted the commencement of the Class of 2021 on June 16. The commencement was attended by more than 8,000 teachers and students on the Minhang Campus of ECNU. The ceremony was preceded by live coverage of the launch from China's seventh manned spaceflight: Shenzhou-12.

The successful launch of the Shenzhou-12 spacecraft ignited the enthusiasm of the audience, who waved the national flags and cheered. Just as the rocket carries the hope of Chinese astronauts into space, so the graduates will embrace a greater future. Therefore, the class of 2021 earned the nickname: "Class of the Rocket".

According to Yang Changli, Vice Chair of University Council, there were 8,114 ECNUers graduating from the university this year. Among them, 594 are PhD-holders, 3,849 MA-holders, and 3,671 BA-holders. Nearly one third of this year's graduates work in the field of education. More than 20% of them will continue their studies.

At the ceremony, the outstanding honors and awards were handed out to 913 excellent graduates and four teachers were recognized by the students as the best teachers of 2021.

ECNU President Qian Xuhong gave the graduates "the last lesson". He spoke about the unpredictability of post-graduation life and advised the graduates to seize whatever opportunities they might meet in the future.

You should not only act as the builders and leaders of the new civilization, but also be the creators and providers of new job opportunities for the public. You have to learn from your predecessors, focus on your dreams across boundaries and stand up to realize your dreams,

President Qian also encouraged graduates to inherit the great love of ECNU.

Love in ECNU is to emphasize that ECNU is a place of great love. What we call 'great love' will provide solutions to happiness for every individual, every family and the country's development.



President Qian ended the speech by inviting all the graduates to come back "home" to celebrate the 70th anniversary of ECNU on October 16 this year.



Representatives of teachers, alumni and graduating students also delivered messages at the ceremony.

Professor Nimazaxi, an alumnus of the 1983 class from the School of Computer Science and Technology, reflected on his experiences at ECNU by highlighting the profound impact ECNU has had on his life and urged all the graduates to forge ahead.

Guan Yuanyuan, a graduate of the School of Life Sciences, thanked ECNU for the academic atmosphere it offers. She believes that this generation of students will be responsible for the mission of rejuvenating the country, but the future hinges upon individual efforts.

Zhou Jie, a graduate of the School of Computer Science and Technology, said that ECNU is a magical place. It is the love from the university that enables me to face the difficulties of scientific research. I hope that the AI in future will not only have IQ, but also EQ, so that the love of ECNU can be transplanted in the heart of robots.

Anna, a Russian graduate from the History Department, said that looking back on her study and life in the past three years, she is most impressed by the university's teachers and the friends she made along the way. Although we will embark on different life journeys after graduation, we have gained valuable knowledge and broadened our eyes in ECNU. All these will make us stronger and braver!

After the graduation ceremony, President Qian, dressed in the graduation robe, took photos with graduates.

The commencement was livestreamed worldwide, bringing together ECNUers from around the world for interaction and celebration.

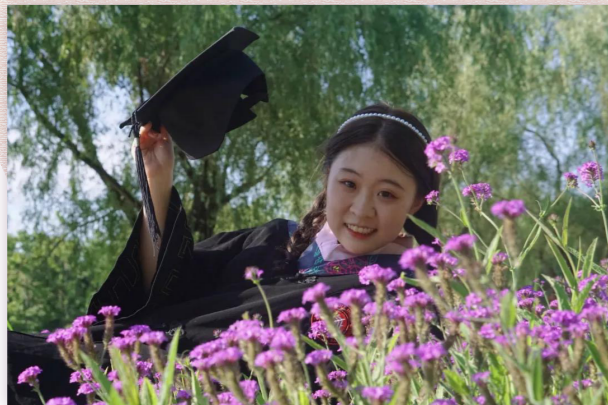
In addition, a series of other activities were held in conjunction with the graduation ceremony, including a graduation party on the evening of June 16.

Class of 2021 graduates reflect on warm memories at ECNU

ECNUers of the Class of 2021 will receive their diplomas tomorrow. Graduates are to pose for graduation photos in their cap and gown on campus.

Each ECNUer has a memorable and unique story to tell about the journey that brought them to graduation day. They may tell us about a professor who changed their lives, a challenge they overcame, an experience that solidified their passion, or a memory that would never fade.

We celebrate the success of all our graduates and encourage you to read their stories to inspire your own journey of education.



Zhu Linran
Faculty of Economics and Management

During my four years at ECNU, I met many kind and knowledgeable teachers. Because of them, I'm no longer afraid of mathematics and finance, and become skilled in analyzing and solving professional problems. They are willing to communicate with students, they work hard to answer their questions after class, and they listen patiently to what students think.

I have met many classmates and have become close friends with many of them. I will never forget the days when we studied together in the library, watched the sunrise and sunset together, and walked on the playground under the stars. I believe these memories will always shine in my mind.



Masou
International College of Chinese Studies

In the past four years, I have had successes, setbacks, and regrets. It is these failures that make me mature and brave. From unfamiliar to familiar, from youth to maturity, I have reaped unforgettable experiences and precious friendship in ECNU.

I thank the school and the teachers for training and caring for me! After graduation, I will use what I have learned at work, keep my feet on the ground, and be careful with each step I will take. Let us pluck up the courage and set off hand in hand!



Bake Seohui
International College of Chinese Studies

My four years of school have brought me countless warm and precious memories. The exchanges and interactions with my classmates and teachers, the learning gains, and the experiences in various activities have all impressed me deeply. My thanks go to the school for providing us with opportunities to participate in various academic and cultural activities. I love ECNU.



Lu Mengjie
School of Computer Science and Technology

It has been a great pleasure to spend my four years' undergraduate life at ECNU. Here, I gained knowledge from professional and talented teachers. They inspired my academic thinking and taught me how to question and innovate. Here, I participated in various activities. I hosted many large-scale events such as the opening ceremony of the university.

Under the guidance of the School of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, I won the national championship in the Service Outsourcing Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition. These experiences not only broadened my horizons, but also enriched my after-school life. I will remember all these ECNU has brought to me.



Zha Jinyin
School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering

It is time to say farewell, to every moment that I care. Hardly can I forget my walk along the Liwa River after a perfect dinner, from golden summers to silver winters. Never will I forget every tree or flower on campus, from hydrangea to verbena. I will always remember the edification from well-read professors; they have educated us, inspired us and fulfilled us.

The deepest impression is the LOVE here. ECNUers never mind giving a hand when others are in need, from finding a card to saving a life. This great love has impressed me for the past four years. I will spread it wherever I go.

Research

SKLEC's Mega-Delta Program endorsed by UN Ocean Decade



On June 8, State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research (SKLEC)'s Mega-Delta program was listed as one of the first round of the 65 programs endorsed under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. It is the only program that has been currently accepted from the Chinese mainland.

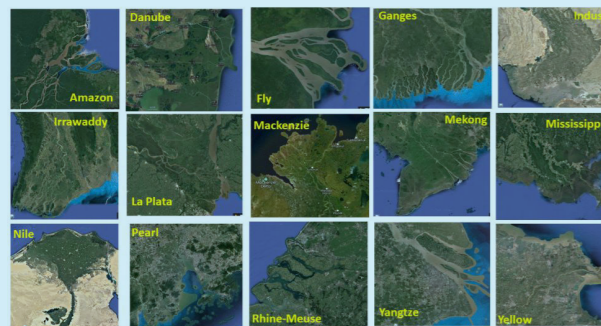
The Mega-Delta program is based on the "Mega-Delta Workgroup" of Future Earth Coasts. It aims to provide solutions to the problems faced by different types of deltas in different regions with different levels of social-economic development. All the deltas are faced with challenges caused by climate change and human activities. Thus, combined efforts from different organizations and multi-disciplines are required to fulfill the task.

Proclaimed in 2017 by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) ('the Ocean

Decade') and knowledge generation against the declining status of the ocean system and catalyze new opportunities for sustainable development of this massive marine ecosystem. The vision of the Ocean Decade is 'The Science We Need For The Ocean We Want'.

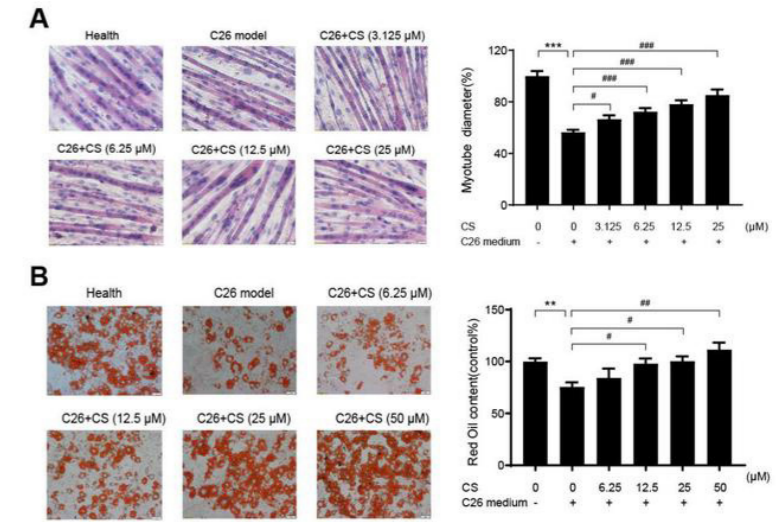
The Ocean Decade provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to develop the scientific knowledge and the partnerships needed to accelerate and harness advances in ocean science to achieve a better understanding of the ocean system, and deliver science-based solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Mega-Delta Program: Partner deltas



Researchers make crucial progress in study of cancer cachexia

Cancer cachexia, a major complication in patients with malignant tumors, is a wasting syndrome characterized by systemic metabolic disorders, progressive muscle and fat wasting, weight loss, and systematic progressive organ failure. The cancer cachexia occurs in as high as 50%-80% of patients with advanced tumors and is responsible for about 20% of death of the cancer patients. At present, there is still a lack of clinically effective treatments available, and thus it is of vital significance to develop new medications against cancer cachexia.



Based on their systematic research of cancer cachexia therapy, a research team led by Professor Xiongwen Zhang in Shanghai Engineering Research Center of Molecular Therapeutics and New Drug Development of School of Chemistry and Molecular Engineering of ECNU found that Carnosol (CS) and its analogs could alleviate the muscle atrophy and fat lipolysis caused by cancer cachexia effectively, with the relevant works published online in *Journal of Cachexia, Sarcopenia and Muscle* (2021, 10.1002/jcsm.12710).

Last but not least, the team also found that cancer-derived exosomes and their miRNAs secreted by colon tumor cells could stimulate apoptosis of myotube cells by inhibiting Bcl-2 and thus induce skeletal muscle atrophy (*Mol. Ther. Nucleic Acids*, 2021, In press).

This study makes CS and its analogs the possible drug candidates for the clinical treatment of cancer cachexia. The related work has applied for three national invention patents (202010089693.1, 202010088733.0, 202010088747.2). Meanwhile, the mechanism study of the active compounds provides the basis for further drug development and clinical treatment.

Founded in 2006, the Shanghai Engineering Research Center of Molecular Therapeutics and New Drug Development has long been committed to developing key generic technologies in translational medicine and pharmaceutical research such as the treatment of cancer cachexia, reversal of drug-resistance in cancer chemotherapy, targeted anticancer therapy, cancer immunotherapy, antibody-drug conjugate, targeted drug delivery and other cutting-edge technologies. The center has been strongly supported by the university and the school since its establishment, and has made remarkable achievements in scientific research, including winning the excellence award during the evaluation by the Science and Technology Commission of Shanghai Municipality for two consecutive times.

ECNUers

Guo Dali, Alumnus of Da Xia - the predecessor of ECNU - translated first Chinese version of Marx's *Das Kapital*

Das Kapital is hailed as the greatest theoretical work of Karl Marx and a scientific masterpiece within the discipline of Marxist theory. The first full Chinese translation of *Das Kapital* was published in 1938, which has greatly promoted the spread of Marxist theory in China.

Due to Guo Dali's hard and persistent work, the alumnus of The Great China University—predecessor of ECNU—Marx's masterpiece played a guiding role in the Chinese revolution, construction, and reform as led by the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Guo Dali published the first full Chinese version of *Das Kapital* when he was only 33 years old. How was it possible for the young Guo Dali to translate *Das Kapital* into Mandarin Chinese?

In April of this year, ECNU teachers, students majoring in Chinese who enrolled in 2017 went to Ganzhou, Jiangxi Province, in order to visit the former residence of Guo Dali. They explored Guo Dali's deeds in translating *Das Kapital*.

During his study at The Great China University, Guo Dali majored in philosophy while studying English, Japanese, German and many other foreign languages. During his studies he met many progressive people who were also influenced by the revolutionary ideas of the time, especially the philosopher Li Shicen. Guo Dali came into contact with Marxism and tried to translate *Das Kapital*. The failure of the first domestic revolution caused Guo Dali to become more aware of the significance of Marxist theory to the Chinese revolution, and thus he set out to fully translate and introduce Karl Marx's important masterpiece *Das Kapital* to the Chinese people.



Guo Dali faced great hardships and sufferings through the course of his translation of *Das Kapital*, enduring suppression by the Nationalist Party authorities, homelessness, poverty and disease, and the calamity of the translation burned by artillery fire.

In the end, however, he finally accomplished the translation of *Das Kapital*. From August to September 1938, the first full Chinese version of *Das Kapital* translated by Guo Dali and Wang Ya'nian, was published in Shanghai. *Das Kapital*, the classic masterpiece of Marxism, was finally presented to the Chinese people in its entirety.

ECNUers grow ecological rice on Mangzhong

Mangzhong, or Grain in Ear, falls on June 4th this year. It is the ninth solar term on the Chinese lunar calendar. A busy period for farmers sowing seeds, Mangzhong signifies the ripening of crops and the end of sowing activities.

June 4, led by Deng Hong, an associate professor with School of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, ECNUers arrive at the Chongming Island to plant the seeds and start another year of research on land improvement, soil modifiers and solutions.

Meng Yongqi, a student from the School of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, said that as a student, there are not many opportunities to plant seeds in the scientific research field. This is a great opportunity for her to personally experience how ecological knowledge is applied to real-world situations.



Last year, the ecological rice grown by ECNU researchers on the Chongming Island saw a bumper harvest in autumn. Their research findings helped raise the per unit yield of rice in the experimental group of ameliorated paddy fields by 16-128 percent, compared with the control group by increasing soil fertility, minimizing pest and disease threat, and reducing pesticide use.



Campus

New exhibition to explore experimental psychology

The life of a university student is an exciting and transformational experience. However, some of the academic, financial and personal challenges they face can have a negative impact on their mental health and well-being.

The School of Psychology and Cognitive Science of ECNU held a Psychology Science Exhibition from May 17 to June 6 to bring together the university community to pay attention to the mental health and well-being of university students. Visitors can learn about experimental psychology and expressive art therapy courses through immersive experience and interaction.

The science popularization exhibition of experimental psychology divides the rich discipline content into four major themes: perceptual phenomena and principles, emotional experience and control, brain and consciousness, and development and society. The exhibition consists of the video area, the display area and the experience area.

In the exhibition area, visitors can experience the classic psychological experimental instruments and the vivid psychological experiments while viewing the posters and stationary display of instruments. The instruments on display include both modern and ancient instruments, such as the electrocardiography device, etc.

In the experience area, visitors can feel the mind-body feedback relaxation system, the emo-

tional management system, and the multi-dimensional guidance system of learning quality.

They combine psychology with computer technology to create an immersive psychological instrument experience process, instead of confining themselves to traditional psychological research methods. This area was set up to enhance the visitors' feelings for emotional experiments.

"Psychological Voice-over -- Curriculum Construction of Expressive Art Therapy" is divided into three parts: the work exhibition area, the art activity experience area, and the viewing area. The exhibition is intended to increase people's understanding of expressive art therapy, so that they can maintain and improve their mental health through expressive art therapy.

In the work exhibition area, six major techniques of expressive art therapy are introduced, including the painting therapy, the music therapy, the dance movement therapy, the sand-play therapy, the writing therapy, and the psychodrama therapy.



ECNUers celebrate Dragon Boat Festival

Falling on the fifth day of the fifth month of the lunar calendar, the Dragon Boat Festival, also known as the Duanwu Festival, is one of the four major traditional Chinese festivals, the other three being the Spring Festival, the Qingming Festival, and the Mid-autumn Festival.

With a history of more than 2,000 years, the Dragon Boat Festival commemorates Qu Yuan, a patriotic poet and well-known politician during the Warring States Period (475BC-221BC) who, in despair, drowned himself in the Miluo River in today's Hunan province. The festival then originated as a search for the poet's body.

This year's Dragon Boat Festival falls on June 14. During the festival, Chinese people will perform various activities, including dragon boat racing, eating sticky rice dumplings (zongzi), hanging auspicious leaves, etc.

ECNU held a number of activities for students to experience traditional customs of the Dragon Boat Festival. ECNUers made rice dumplings and scented sachets and tied five-color silk thread by themselves. They also created collages and had a quiz to test the traditional practices of the Dragon Boat Festival.





Creativity
Character
Community

Tel: (86-21)62233333
Web: <http://english.ecnu.edu.cn/>

Minhang Campus: 500 Dongchuan Rd., Shanghai 200241
North Zhongshan Road Campus: 3663 N. Zhongshan Rd., Shanghai 200062

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