

ECNU Newsletter



ECNU 70th anniversary



ECNU holds 70th Anniversary Gathering



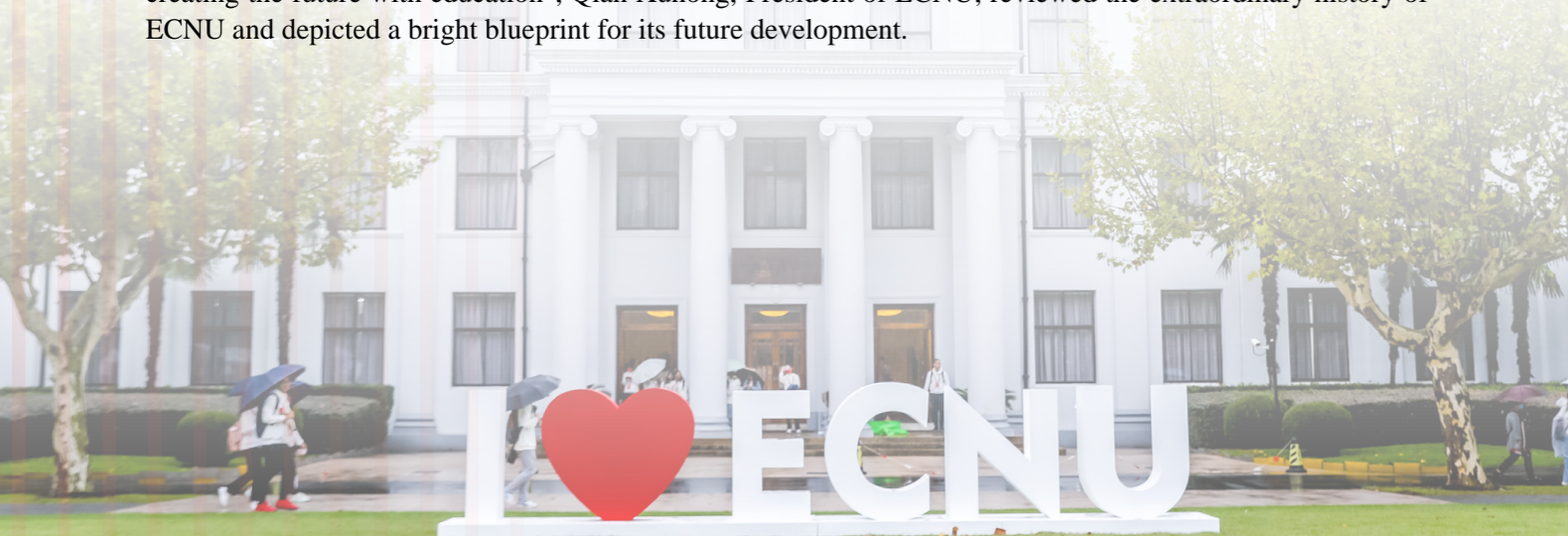
On October 16, ECNU held the 70th Anniversary Gathering at the gymnasium on its Putuo Campus. Leaders at all levels, guests, alumni from home and abroad, and all teachers and students participated in the gathering online or offline. The celebration was broadcasted live through ECNU's new media, so that ECNU alumni and friends could share in the joy of the celebration.

"The celebration is a warm-hearted and inspiring event to mobilize alumni, gather resources and provide momentum for ECNU's future development; it is also a good ideological lesson to university students, faculty, and staff, inspiring them to forge ahead courageously." The gathering was presided over by Mei Bing, chair of university council.



Mei Bing said that on the occasion of this celebration, ECNU leaders and alumni have expressed their congratulations on and expectations for the future development of ECNU in different ways. Until now, over 200 congratulatory letters, messages, and videos from Chinese and overseas universities, partners, and the wider community, have been received. These messages inspire ECNU to keep its original mission and continue to forge ahead.

The anniversary is a moment for ECNU to review its history, conclude its experience, reflect on critical points for development, and make plans for a more promising future. In his speech titled "Seeking truth for excellence, creating the future with education", Qian Xuhong, President of ECNU, reviewed the extraordinary history of ECNU and depicted a bright blueprint for its future development.



"The past 70 years have witnessed our painstaking efforts and steady progress, and our pursuit of educational excellence, cultural deposits, and unremitting love for the country and people." Reviewing the school's history, President Qian Xuhong noted that ECNU still remains committed to serving the nation with education by nurturing talented people who seek truth, creation, and excellence. "Over the past 70 years, every member of the university deserves to be remembered, every bit of their efforts is worthy of respect, and every piece of their support merits gratitude. Together they have constituted the history of ECNU"

This year also marks ECNU's launch of its "14th Five-Year Plan". To renew its efforts for the "Double-First Class" initiative, it has taken the anniversary as an opportunity to launch three programs: Excellence in Education Program, Excellence in Academics Program, and Liberal Studies Program". These programs will start ECNU on a new journey and with a new vision for the future.

Spoken with force and heartfelt love, student and teacher representatives voiced their love and best wishes for ECNU.



庆祝华东师范大学建校70周年大会
Celebration for the 70th Anniversary of East China Normal University

2021年10月16日

Celebrating 70 years of ECNU history and glorious achievements

ECNU celebrated its 70th anniversary, themed “**Truth-seeking Produces Excellence, Education Builds the Future,**” on October 16. On the evening of the anniversary day, a grand musical performance was held on Minhang campus.

Thousands of ECNU faculty, students and staff took part in the memorable performance which attracted hundreds of thousands of students, alumni and others to watch both on campus and online through live broadcasting.

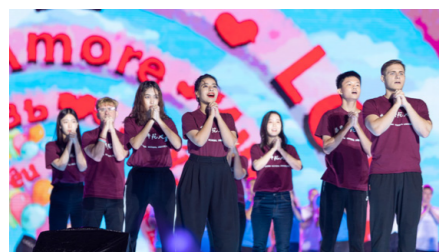
To celebrate ECNU’s 70th anniversary, the stage was designed in the shape of “70”. The number “70” and the curved screens on both sides of the stage were made to appear like flowing water slowly merging into the future.

Laser projections and 800 drones lit up the sky above the campus, outlining the university gate, Qunxian hall, the 70th Anniversary Logo, lotus and other elements.

The performance consisted of two parts. The first part featured traditional and popular songs and dances while the second part featured the university’s development and achievements during the past seven decades.

For the anniversary day, the university had been decorated with flowery art works, and outdoor display signs expressing love!

Alumni had the chance to meet with their school mates far and near. Every college and department made special preparations for the alumni and held various activities for them to participate in.



Landmark lighting for ECNU 70th anniversary

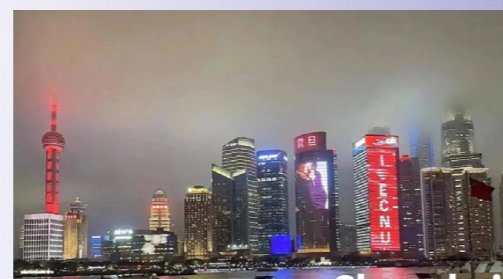
Famous landmark buildings all over China were lit up on October 16 to celebrate the great achievements of ECNU during the past seven decades.

ECNUers shared snippets of videos featuring themselves shouting for joy and exuding warm appearances. Pictures on their social media platforms celebrated the gesture, which was proudly supported by these alumni and social enterprises—Focus Media, Greenland Group, Global Harbor and Guangdong Runping Law Firm.

With inscriptions of ‘I love ECNU’ and ‘Happy Birthday ECNU’, many light projection designs had flowery symbols representing love and joy. ECNU alumni shared their deep love and proud moments of their school days after seeing these lighting celebration videos.



Although many ECNU alumni couldn't come to the university for the 70th anniversary celebration, the joy captured from the landmark lighting achieved its purpose of bringing the 70th birthday to their hearts.



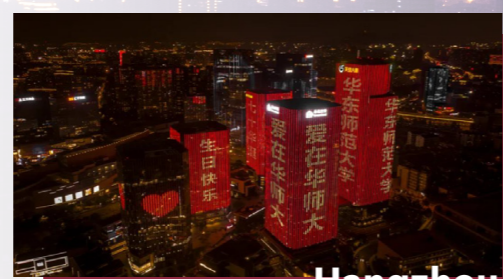
Shanghai



Jinan



Guangzhou



Hangzhou



Nanchang



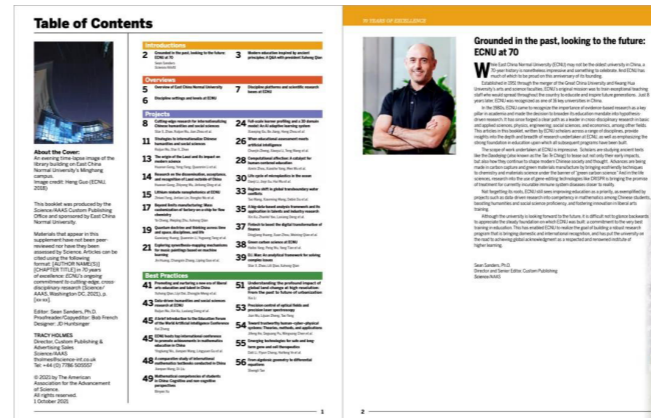
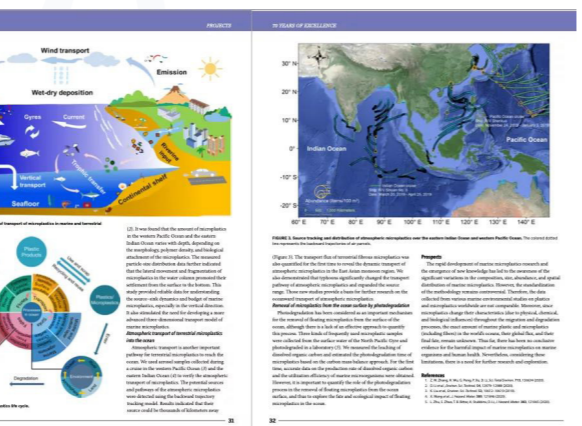
Science releases special issue of ECNU 70th anniversary



On October 1, the world-class scientific journal *Science* released a special issue titled “70 Years of Excellence: ECNU’s ongoing commitment to cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary research”, introducing ECNU’s achievements to the world over the last seven decades.

This special issue of *Science* celebrating the 70th anniversary of ECNU introduces the university over three sections covering 60 pages.

Section I comprehensively summarizes university profiles, disciplinary development and scientific research platforms. Section II is centered around characteristic disciplines and projects, showcasing a number of pioneering and leading research projects that feature an international perspective. Section III shares practices and achievements in Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and other disciplines.



The senior editor of *Science/AAAS* Sean Sanders launches this special issue with an editorial introduction entitled “Grounded in the past, looking to the future: ECNU at 70.”



President Qian Xuhong was interviewed on the topic of “Modern education inspired by ancient principle.” The full interview is shared as follows:

Xuhong Qian is not your average chemistry professor. When he sat down with *Science* for a virtual interview, he quoted renowned Chinese philosopher Laozi and spoke about his obsession with traditional wisdom.

In 2018, at the age of 56, Qian became president of East China Normal University (ECNU). Now, 3 years later and in the middle of his term, he celebrates the university’s 70th anniversary and reflects on his governing principles and visions for the future. The interview was edited for clarity and brevity.

Modern education inspired by ancient principles: A Q&A with president Xuhong Qian

Science: Established in 1951, East China Normal University is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. How would you summarize the history and spirit of ECNU?

Xuhong Qian (XQ): East China Normal University has played a vital role in the development of Shanghai from an ancient port city to a tech-savvy municipality. Its research, with a focus on river and coastal as well as ocean studies, has benefited generations of people, animals, and plants in the area.

Sitting at the delta where the Yangtze River meets the East China Sea, ECNU has cultivated knowledge and expertise in ecological engineering. In the 1990s, when Shanghai was suffering from a drinking-water supply crisis, engineers from ECNU found the optimal location within the estuary for a reservoir, which went on to serve 10 million people.

Around the same time, Shanghai was planning to build a new airport. ECNU provided a cost efficient plan to build on tidal flats rather than using valuable farmland. To compensate for the environmental impact, a nearby wetland was enhanced, becoming a natural habitat for migrant birds. The airport, now known as Shanghai Pudong International Airport, has become the second largest in China.

Mathematicians at ECNU are moving the university into the future, designing automation models and technologies used at Yangshan Port—one of the world’s biggest deep-water ports—that allow it to run with little need for human involvement.

Today, ECNU cares not only about local development but, increasingly, about development of the world.

Science: How has ECNU grown since it was opened in 1951?

XQ: When ECNU was established, over 80% of China's population was illiterate. The university's mission was to train as many teachers as necessary.

Today, ECNU is a comprehensive research-oriented university excelling in many fields, from mathematics to green science to quantum optics. But education is still its top priority. The university's success lies in its philosophy of education: Treat students as individuals and help each achieve their full potential, and believe that every student has promise.

Science: What have been your leadership priorities at ECNU?

XQ: As president, my priority is to set up an academic governance framework that is formal, reliable, and executed on a daily basis.

One of my first actions was to remove myself as chair of the University Academic Committee. This was to guarantee that the committee could be independent in its decision making. With independent financial support and an elected board, it has the power to support, challenge, or veto my decisions.

Furthermore, instead of putting the university's administrative body in charge of academic goal setting and evaluation, I assigned one professor in each academic discipline as chair advisor. They are in charge of planning, tracking, and evaluating the development of their discipline. This allowed more autonomy in academic affairs.

Finally, I set up rules for evaluations based on the principle of "more pay for more work." The definition of work, however, is not limited to the number of papers published. It also includes the number of patents filed, the quality of student education, and many other factors. Additionally, the evaluation is not only about results, but also about the process, which encourages long-term thinking.

Science: When you became the president of ECNU, what was your vision for the university? Three years on, how would you rate your performance?

XQ: My primary goal was to make the university more competitive.

[To cite] one example, when I took office in January 2018, ECNU ranked only 90th among Chinese universities in the category of mass entrepreneurship and innovation education, and in the 501 to 600 range worldwide. This had to change.

We started by boosting innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, as I believe that hands-on abilities are important for teachers, scholars, and engineers—the jobs that the majority of our students take after graduation.

For a university and its students to excel, they must develop both imagination and logic as well as critical and creative thinking skills. These four factors are like the four bases of DNA: They ultimately create life. In general education, reading the classics like the *Tao Te Ching* and Euclid's *Elements* is very important. They inspire one to think, to ponder.

ECNU is now between 351st and 400th in the world in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings. In the past 3 years, it has also won several gold medals in the national entrepreneurship contest for college students and was ranked one of the top universities in mass entrepreneurship and innovation in China.

That said, awards and rankings are not what I care most about. What is important is that scholars are excited about their research, and that students are passionate about being adventurous, taking risks, and overcoming failures. I am glad to see that this is happening at ECNU.

Science: Interdisciplinary research is an important part of major scientific innovations today. What are your thoughts on cross-disciplinary studies?

XQ: Disciplines are artificial divisions. They are an efficient system for categorizing knowledge, but we should not think of them as permanent and absolute.

Exploring the unknown and solving the concerns of humanity are what drive our thirst for knowledge. We need interdisciplinary research to make up for the insufficiencies of the current education system and to introduce new ways of thinking.

I set up funding to promote cross-disciplinary studies through investments from academic institutes and private companies. Aside from financial support, I recommended that scholars from different disciplines move their offices into the same building, for example, to share our state key lab. That way they will be able to bump into each other every day, and maybe one of these casual interactions will spark new research ideas.

Our "Beyond Limits Manufacturing" project is one plan of which we are particularly proud. Established in 2020 and based on the ultrafast laser technology developed at ECNU, this project has the goal of overcoming the limits of traditional manufacturing in industries as diverse as fine chemicals, biomedicine, and precision medical equipment.

Science: What are your expectations for ECNU in the next 5 to 10 years?

XQ: My goal is to establish a legacy that will remain even after my 5-year tenure is over.

Laozi once said that "the greatest carver does the least carving." Similarly, a great administrator knows when to act and when not to act.

The key is to follow the rules of nature, employing effort at the proper time and with proper force. As educators, we should aim to improve the knowledge and discipline system and its contribution to the world and to the sustainable development of human society. Only through these actions can we promote social development and foster exceptional talent.

China Daily reports on ECNU's decades of exchange

As ECNU celebrates its 70th birthday, *China Daily*, on October 11 featured ECNU under the theme 'Decades of Exchange' (Life, p.17). The decades of achievement were described by Shanghai reporter Zhou Wenting.

East China Normal University is ranked among China's top 10 higher education institutions with the most overseas students due to its dedication to fostering international exchange and collaborations, Zhou Wenting reports in Shanghai.

Around 3,000 Chinese students enrolled in 10 United States universities, which East China Normal University has partnerships with, have chosen to participate in the partner programs offered by ECNU in Shanghai over the past academic year when they were unable to travel abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The US schools include University of Connecticut, Syracuse University, Rutgers University and Tulane University.

For ECNU, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, the act of receiving students from schools overseas dates back to 1965. A total of 210 students from Vietnam arrived at the school to study Chinese that year.

Over the past decades, the number of international students pursue studies at the university has grown to around 6,000. The school said it is among the country's top 10 higher education institutions in terms of receiving overseas students.

Winning the trust of these US schools to have their students study at ECNU shows that the university's progress in internationalization and academic excellence over the years has been recognized, said Zhang Lu, assistant to the director of the Global Education Center of ECNU.

Our school has been active in fostering international exchanges, especially with educational institutions in North America and Europe, and has accumulated credibility among our Western peers.

Before the pandemic, South Korea, the US, France, Italy and Russia were the top five sources of international students for ECNU, according to the school, which has distinguished alumni that includes Cui Tiankai, the former Chinese ambassador to the US from 2013 to 2021.

The school's advantage in international communication originated from its strength in teaching Chinese as a foreign language to foreigners. It was one of the four earliest universities in the country to establish such a discipline in the 1980s.

The world started to become increasingly curious about China when the country accelerated its development. The first step was to learn our language, said Tang Tao, curator of the ECNU archives.

The course China stories is one of the highlights in the curriculum for international students at the school. Professors from departments such as environmental science, geography, sociology and history are invited to give classes to help foreign students understand China from different perspectives.

Students also get to go on field trips to learn more about Chinese society. Some have gone to mountainous, rural regions to work as volunteer teachers in primary schools. Some have even boarded the Chinese icebreaker Xuelong to learn about the country's results in polar expedition research.

International students have also visited Shanghai's garbage disposal plant to witness the municipality's efforts in environmental protection. They also visited local neighborhoods to learn about the refined neighborhood management in the metropolis of nearly 25 million permanent residents, said Zhang.

The gradual progress of the school across all disciplines has boosted its collaborations with overseas universities. The school has signed more than 300 partnerships related to scientific and technological development, service and research with institutions around the world.

The partnerships include that with Ecoles Normales Supérieures in France. The two institutions, which have been collaborating for the past 19 years, have established the Program of Sino-French Education for Research (PRoSFER), the Sino-French Joint Graduate School and the Joint Research Institute for Science and Society to explore ways of cultivating doctoral students. ECNU has also made continuous innovations in student selection, talent cultivation, scientific research training and program management.

Since 2002, the PRoSFER program has recruited 578 master students and 172 PhD students. More than 300 papers by PhD students have been published in world-class journals.

Graduates from these programs have enjoyed good career prospects. They have been employed by either ECNU or other domestic universities and scientific research institutions, obtained job offers from multinational companies, or have gone on to further their studies abroad.

Jean-François Pinton, president of Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, said ENS Lyon's partnership with ECNU is set to grow in the coming years since our institutions actually share similar initiatives in the strategic plans.

In 2015, the Asia Europe Business School was founded jointly by ECNU and the Emlyon Business School with the goal of cultivating entrepreneurs and cross-industry talents for the Belt and Road Initiative.

The business school has taken the lead in establishing a master's degree for high-end brand management and its featured discipline brand strategy and enterprise growth has grown in reputation and influence at home and abroad. AEBS currently has 268 full-time students, with international students

accounting for nearly half of them.

Another major milestone in ECNU's history is its co-founding of NYU Shanghai with New York University in 2012. NYU Shanghai is the first Sino-US research university in China and the third degree-granting campus of NYU.

During a visit to NYU Shanghai on Sept 16, Li Qiang, Party secretary of Shanghai, said that the municipality's quest to become an international metropolis with world influence is gathering pace.

I hope that NYU Shanghai will better play up its advantage of operating in an open manner and its role of connecting China and the US and beyond, said Li.

I look forward to seeing the school introduce more international resources, gather talent, bear innovation fruits, and provide intelligence support for Shanghai's growth.

Zhu Huili, assistant director of the research center at the NYU Shanghai Scientific Research Office, said that the joint-venture university has facilitated the formation of joint research centers dedicated to areas like mathematical sciences, brain and cognitive science, physics, computational chemistry and social development.

Over 1,000 original scientific research papers from these centers were published in leading journals over the past five years, said Zhu. In addition, more than 40 percent of the current population of professors are international scholars.

The joint research institutes have grown into magnets to gather the world's top scholars. For example, Nobel laureate in economics Thomas Sargent joined the research institute of mathematical sciences in September, she said.

专题论坛二 新时代中外合作办学的挑战与机遇

Panel Forum II
Challenges and Opportunities in Sino-foreign
Cooperative Education in the New Era



Forum on Sino-Foreign Cooperative Higher Education Institutions and Education for Excellence in the New Era successfully convened

On October 15th, the Forum on Sino-Foreign Cooperative Higher Education Institutions and Education for Excellence in the New Era was jointly held by ECNU and NYU Shanghai on ECNU's Putuo Campus. Nearly 80 experts and scholars from 23 colleges and universities (including 2 overseas universities) gathered at the meeting venue by the Liwa River to discuss the development plan of educational internationalization in the new era, presenting a wonderful feast of academics.

With events held in two venues in ECNU and NYU Shanghai respectively, this forum consisted of keynote speeches, thematic reports and panel discussions, covering topics including joint-venture university practices, outstanding talent cultivation, opportunities and challenges faced by education internationalization in the new

era, etc. The opening ceremony was chaired by GU Hongliang, Vice President of ECNU, and the opening remarks were delivered by YAN Bingchen, Deputy Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, LI Yongzhi, Deputy Director of Shanghai Municipal Education Commission, and MEI Bing, Secretary of the CPC Committee of ECNU.

YAN Bingchen pointed out that we should think deeply about the development path of China's educational internationalization amid momentous changes not to be seen in the whole century. With talent cultivation as the core, we should continue to take China's fundamental conditions into consideration, introduce high-quality educational resources, deepen reform and transformation, and effectively improve the quality and scale of China's education openness.

LI Yongzhi stressed that Shanghai supports its world-class universities to run joint schools locally, which has encouraged colleges and universities to fully conduct important functions in fields of education for excellence, cultural exchanges and international understanding education. In this process they can constantly improve their ability to serve global education governance and raise the standard of global education governance at the same time.

According to MEI Bing, it has become a consensus among the world higher education community to carry out international cooperation and cultivate global talents. ECNU will work with other colleges and universities to explore a new mechanism of Sino-foreign cooperation in running schools, so as to cultivate outstanding talents with global visions on a larger arena, produce leading research results, and provide ECNU solutions to global education governance at the height of the community with a shared future for mankind.

The keynote speeches were delivered by QIAN Xuhong, Academician and President of ECNU, and Jeffrey Lehman, Vice Chancellor of NYU Shanghai. QIAN, in a speech titled with *Exploring the Internationalized Path for Education for Excellence in Higher Education Institutions in the New Era*, comprehensively analysed the characteristics, new requirements and challenges in education for excellence in the new era for colleges and universities, and introduced ECNU's exploration and experience in Sino-foreign cooperative institution and education for excellence.

QIAN believed that the traditional educational concept dominated by the classical thinking is no longer suitable for cultivating new talents with the ability to cope with globalization challenges. Instead, the educational concept should be profoundly transformed through the integration of

Chinese culture and Western culture, traditional ideas and contemporary thoughts, classical thinking and quantum thinking, and arts and sciences. He also proposed that based on the operation strategy of international institutions that focuses on thinking, cutting-edge dynamics, research and outstanding talents, ECNU has adhered to the principle of focusing on itself and seeking for practicability, actively explored the localization of global education governance, and constantly improved the efficiency of international education in serving education for excellence and outstanding academics. In this way, it has made its contribution to the construction of the community with a shared future for mankind.

Under the topic of *The NYU Shanghai Experiment: Lessons from the First Decade*, Jeffrey Lehman shared NYU Shanghai's construction experiences since its establishment as the first Sino-US joint-venture university in aspects of teaching and research. According to Lehman, NYU Shanghai has been adhered to the spirit of combining inheritance and innovation, and has explored a new educational path that features innovation, openness and tolerance on the basis of US's education operation traditions and China's local conditions. As a joint university, NYU will continue to fulfil its mission of bridging China and world, so as to cope with new challenges in higher education amid the tide of globalization.

In the thematic report session, XU Yangsheng, Academician and President of CUHK, Shenzhen, Jean-François PINTON, President of ENS Lyon, FENG Youmei, Chancellor of DKU, and RONG Yuhang, alumnus of ECNU and Associate Vice President for Global Affairs of UCONN, respectively delivered speeches titled *Academic College System and Training of Talents with International Orientation, Practices and Experience in International Cooperation for the Purpose of Education for Excellence, Adhere to the Original Aspiration of Education and Cultivate Outstanding Talents and The Four Dimensions of Global Partnership Building: Student*



Focused, Multi-Disciplinary, Inclusive, and Transparent. Chaired by DAI Liyi and ZHOU Aoying, both Vice Presidents of ECNU, the reporters introduced their universities' unique edges in joint institution operation and characteristic modes of talent cultivation, shared their talent cultivation practices, and put forward the most up-to-date ideas on joint venture universities.

The two panel forums in the afternoon were presided by HE Lianzhen, Vice President of ZJU and Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Committee of ZJU and Secretary of the CPC Committee of ZJU International Campus, and YU Lizhong, Chancellor Emeritus of NYU Shanghai respectively. In the first panel forum, HE Lianzhen delivered an academic report titled *Enrich Connotation, Shape the Future: The Practice of ZJU International Campus, and conducted in-depth discussions on Improving Quality and Efficiency in Sino-foreign Cooperative Education in the New Era* with ZHU Baoting, Associate Vice President of CUHK, Shenzhen, YU Xinguo, Dean of Wollongong Joint Institute, Central China Normal University, LI Xiaorong, Director of Office of International Cooperation and Exchanges, NJU, LI Xiaoshu, Director of Office of International Affairs, WHU, HE Jiayun, Chinese Co-dean ECNU-EMLYON Asia Europe Business School, and other guest speakers.

The second panel forum discussed topics including The Significance of Joint-venture Universities, Opportunities and Challenges Faced by Education Opening and Integration amid Global Great Changes, and The Trends in Joint-venture Universities in the Post-pandemic Era, on which YU Lizhong, GONG Siyi, Vice President of SHU, CHEN Li, Director of International Exchange and Cooperation Office, TJU, ZHANG Jingping, Director of Division of International Cooperation and Exchange, NENU, LI Hong, SUFE International Exchange & Cooperation Office, WANG Jing, Party Secretary of Westa College, SWU, LI Mei, Professor of ECNU Institute of Higher Education and other guests proposed inspiring opinions.

As GU Hongliang pointed out in the closing remark of ECNU event, based on the national strategies for education opening-up and development, and the goal of constructing world-class universities, ECNU will take this forum as an opportunity to actively participate in the establishment of the cultivation system for excellent global talents, engage itself in global education governance, and expand the global influence of international education.

NYU Shanghai, one of the co-sponsors of this forum, held an academic panel forum later that evening. TANG Tao, Academician and President of BNU-HKBU United International College, and TONG Shijun, Chancellor of NYU Shanghai, made special speeches respectively on Sino-foreign cooperative higher education institutions and shared values of the mankind, in an effort to point directions and draw a blueprint for the transformation and development of educational internationalization in the new era.



ECNU International Cultural Festival celebrated in grandeur!

On October 17th, the corridors in front of the Physics building were full of color, vibrancy, and rhythm. ECNU celebrated the 15th International Cultural Festival, a mini expo organized by ECNU to showcase the diversity and beauty of international cultures from all over the world.

Gu Hongliang, vice president of ECNU, addressed the visitors in an opening speech declaring a multicultural exhibition would be the sincerest gift presented by international students for the 70th anniversary of ECNU. In the past five decades, ECNU has been like a second home to over 70,000 overseas students. In the future, ECNU expects international alumni to become the messengers for promoting exchanges and cooperation between China and the rest of the world.



On behalf of international students, a Tajik undergraduate foreign student, Ilyosov Zuhalliddin, shared his memories about ECNU International Cultural Festival. In his own words, the International Cultural Festival has now become one of the most expected activities on campus, which has not only brought together different cultures but also deepened students' understanding of ECNU's love beyond boundaries and enriched their life experience.

Different nations had booths, decorated with their country's paraphernalia in the form of flags, posters, handmade traditional bags, ancient Egyptian artefacts, embroideries and brightly colored clothes.

Some of the highlights of the day were long lines of people waiting to get their passports signed by as many

booths as they could possibly visit to receive a reward from the organizers, and to learn about and admire the nations' artefacts on display.

Participants were invited to dance, and savor mouth-watering treats, and they were finger-licking good! Spectators were further treated to stunning displays of talent on the big stage, from singing to traditional dances, recitation and modeling, among others.

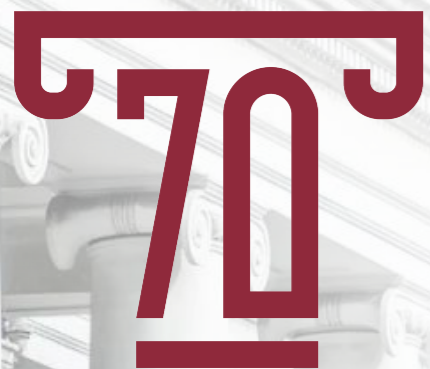
This year's performances captured the true essence of belonging and the atmosphere created at ECNU in accommodating foreign students.



Celebrating 70 years! Tell ECNU Stories from A to Z

Founded on October 16th, 1951, East China Normal University (ECNU) is celebrating its 70th anniversary on October 16. There have been a variety of memorable moments about ECNU during the past 70 years.

Today, we're going to share 26 stories, from A-Z, to honour ECNU's past, celebrate its present, and look into its future.



華東師範大學
ECNU
1951-2021

A

In 2017, ECNU was selected as **Class A** in the national Double First-Class Program, embarking on its journey towards a world-class university with first-class academic disciplines. This program, launched by the Ministry of Education, aims to transform elite Chinese universities into world-class institutions by the end of 2050.

B

'**Basking** in the great love of ECNU' is a popular phrase among ECNUers. It is the university's effort to fulfil its social responsibility. While ECNU students reap the bliss of the day, they are expected to extend such great love to society.

C

ECNU has made great strides in talent training, scientific research, community service, and international exchange over the past few decades, in an effort to fulfil its vision of "**creativity, character, and community**", which was proposed by ECNU's first president Meng Xiancheng.

D

ECNU is ranked among China's top 10 higher education institutions in terms of the number of overseas students, due to its dedication to fostering international exchange and collaborations. The university is committed to fostering **diverse**, inclusive, and equitable living, learning, and working environment for everyone, and helping students to develop an international outlook. Every year, the university holds a Mini Expo to celebrate cultural **diversity**.

E

The theme of ECNU's 70th anniversary is "Truth-Seeking Produces **Excellence**, Education Builds the Future."

F

ECNU offers a distinct and high-quality catering service to every student living on campus. Each canteen offers a variety of **food** from traditional Chinese cuisine to trendy light meals. Besides, ECNUers can always find creative food at the canteens, some of which, such as fried grapes with corns, even became popular on social media.

華東師範大學
求真成就卓越 · 教育創造未來
Pursuing Excellence, Education Builds the Future



ECNU has long been known as a **Garden** University for its beautiful campus. Cherry blossoms and a variety of graduation flowering shrubs and trees are found on campus.

ECNU's national strategic goals are encapsulated in the "Flower of **Happiness**" program. The five action plans—Education+, Ecology+, AI+, Internationalization+, and Health+—are akin to the five petals of a flower. With this program, ECNU hopes to bring happiness to humanity by offering solutions that serve people's fundamental needs.

By addressing major challenges to the education system confronting China as well as the rest of the world, ECNU has made advances in many fields by implementing reforms aiming at developing **interdisciplinary** systems. ECNU has contributed to cutting-edge research and the expansion of new fields in intelligent education by integrating interdisciplinary fields of pedagogy, computer science, software engineering, data science, psychology, mathematics, and other fields.



Over the past decades, ECNU has signed more than 300 **joint** partnerships related to scientific and technological development, service and research with institutions around the world. Among the joint programs is New York University Shanghai (NYU Shanghai) **jointly** established in October 2012 by ECNU and New York University; it is the first independent Sino-US research and degree-granting university in China.

Established in 1951 through the merger of the Great China University and Kwang Hua University's arts and science faculties, ECNU has its original mission of training exceptional teaching staff who would educate and inspire future generations all across the country. In a short span of 8 years after its founding, ECNU was recognized as one of the 16 **key** universities in China.



The **library** is an indispensable part of students' daily life on campus. ECNU libraries house an extensive collection of books, journals and other materials, covering a wide range of subjects including humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and applied technology. They also offer a powerful digital catalogue system where academic materials can be easily accessed.



Located in **Putuo** district, ECNU has integrated well with the Putuo district, laying a solid foundation for in-depth cooperation. In recent years, they have implemented strategic cooperation, explored key areas of development, and accelerated industry-university-research collaborative innovation.

ECNU is based in **Shanghai**, a city featuring diversity, pursuit of excellence, open-mindedness, wisdom, generosity, and humility. Like the city of Shanghai, ECNU is renowned for its inclusiveness and pioneering innovation.

The scope of work undertaken at ECNU is impressive. Advances are being made in carbon capture and green materials manufacture by bringing ecofriendly techniques to chemistry and materials science under the banner of "green carbon science." And in the life sciences, research into the use of gene-editing technologies like CRISPR is bringing the promise of treatment for currently incurable immune system diseases closer to reality.

For 7 decades, ECNU has provided its **wisdom** not only to local development but increasingly more to world development.



In the past 3 years, ECNU has won several gold medals in the national entrepreneurship contest for college students and was ranked one of the **top** universities in mass entrepreneurship and innovation in China.

Since January 2021, the two campuses of ECNU have been connected by the **underground** Line 15, making it more convenient for ECNUers to commute.

ECNU is not only an institution of higher learning focusing on high-level education and research, but also a place of **vitality**. There are over 110 student clubs catering for different interests. In addition, the university holds a variety of sporting activities, with a wide range of campus-based indoor and outdoor facilities.

In algebra, the letter "**x**" means an unknown value. The unknown world is waiting for ECNUers to explore.

The progress ECNU has made during its development is inseparable from each and every ECNUer's efforts. The university's achievements are all made by **you**.

Striving to become a world-class higher education institution, ECNU has never forgotten where it is rooted. It is always ready to serve China, or **Zhōngguó**.

In 2006, the majority of ECNU faculties and departments began to move from the Putuo campus to the newly-constructed campus in the **Minhang** district, turning ECNU into a university with two campuses.

The word "normal" originates from the Latin word "**normalis**"—a word commonly used to describe something as fitting a pattern, standard, or norm. It is now associated with teacher training in the norms of pedagogy. Focusing on teacher education and education research, ECNU aims to promote innovation in Chinese education today and in the future.

ECNU was founded on **October** 16, 1951. The university is now celebrating its 70th anniversary which falls on October 16th, 2021. As the big day is approaching, we wish all ECNUers to be part of the celebration, either online or in person.

ECNU has always strived to improve the **quality** of education and research. For example, it offers a wide range of high-quality courses. It also provides many opportunities for ECNUers to carry out scientific research and conduct their own innovation projects while encouraging students to think creatively in their pursuits.

ECNU has two **rivers** on campus: the Liwa River on the Putuo campus, and the Yingtao River on the Minhang campus. Both rivers have become well-known scenic spots on campus. Along the rivers are oleanders, willows, plane trees, and cherry trees. As seasons change, ECNUers can appreciate different views along the rivers.

— 1951-2021 —

Celebrating the 70th anniversary of ECNU



Creativity
Character
Community

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