



Teacher Education Centre  
under the auspices of UNESCO

unesco 联合国教科文组织教师教育中心

## The Belt and Road Exchange Project

(November 27-December 9, 2025)

### Concept Note

Project Title: The Belt and Road Exchange Project - Professional  
Development for Secondary and Primary Educators (2025)

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**Places:** Education Administrators, Teacher Educators, Researchers,  
Secondary and Primary Principals

**Candidates:** 40 candidates

**Time:** November 27 to December 9, 2025

**Language:** English

**Organizer:** Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO; Research Institute for  
International and Comparative Education, SHNU

**Sponsor:** Department of Teacher Education, MOE; Shanghai Municipal  
Education Commission

**Schedules:** In the Attachment

**Open to application:** From September 20 to October 31, 2025

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## 1. Project Overview

The Belt and Road Shanghai Exchange Project, funded by Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO; Shanghai Normal University; Research Institute for International and Comparative Education from Shanghai Normal University, aims to facilitate the exchange of educational ideas and experiences among education administrators, teacher education researchers and primary and secondary school principals. Starting in 2017, it serves as a platform at Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) to welcome international candidates. Due to international travel restrictions, the Project was conducted through a series of online activities in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In 2023, the Organizer resumes on-site activities and seminars in Shanghai. Interested colleagues are encouraged to send us their registration form as attached for this project.

Year	Topic	Participants
2017	China Education Overview: An International Perspective	14 government officials from 7 countries
2018	PISA, TALIS and Reforms in Basic Education	22 government officials and researchers from 15 countries
2019	Policy and Practice: Teacher Professional Development	35 government officials and researchers from 22 countries
2020	Schools and Teachers during and after the Pandemic	2,000 online participants
2021	Evaluation on Teacher Professional Development	18,368 online participants
2022	World Teacher Education Expo	5,688 online participants
2023	Integrated Training of Teachers before and after Service	33 government officials and researchers from 17 countries
2024	Teachers for STEM	27 government officials and researchers from 13 countries
2025	STEM Teachers in the AI Era	35 government officials and researchers from 24 countries
	Social and Emotional Learning of Teachers and Students in the AI Era	Pending (Oct.26-Nov.11)
	Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators	Pending (Nov.27-Dec.9)

The theme of this year's project is ***Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators***, which specifically covers the following four aspects:

(1) Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS);

- (2) Teachers & AI;
- (3) STEM Teachers;
- (4) Teachers' Social-Emotional Development & Support for Students.

This project is co-hosted by educational administrators, primary and secondary school principals, and educational experts from universities and research institutions. Centering on the theme, all participants will conduct discussions on relevant issues through a combination of communication seminars, on-site visits, and observations ( see Attachment for details ) . It is expected that this project will promote the professional development of teachers in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) partner countries, advance the reform and development of basic education in these countries, and drive the continuous realization of educational modernization in BRI partner countries.

## 2. Introduction to the organizer



**The UNESCO Teacher Education Centre (TEC)** is a dedicated institution within the UNESCO network, established to advance global excellence in teacher development. Following its approval at the 39th UNESCO General Conference in November 2017, the Centre was officially headquartered in Shanghai. In April 2019, the State Council of China formally certified the UNESCO TEC's establishment, and in September 2020, the Chinese government and UNESCO solidified their collaboration through a foundational agreement outlining the Centre's governance framework. Mandated to serve as a "global hub" for teacher education, the UNESCO TEC operates across three core pillars: 1) Service provision, delivering innovative solutions to address global educational challenges; 2) Standard-setting, establishing benchmarks for teacher training and professional development; 3) Research and resource leadership, curating knowledge, managing resources, and fostering international dialogue. Additionally, the Centre undertakes a strategic mandate to strengthen global teacher education systems through knowledge production, capacity-building initiatives, technical support, and the

dissemination of best practices. By bridging policy, research, and practice, the UNESCO TEC aims to empower educators and institutions worldwide to meet evolving educational demands.



**Shanghai Normal University (SHNU)**, founded in 1954, is a comprehensive university with salient features of teacher education and particular strength in liberal arts. SHNU manifests a high-quality academic staff of 2,915 teachers and researchers, including 1,831 full-time teachers, among which there are 300 professors (or equivalents) and 667 associate professors (or equivalents). Located in the metropolis Shanghai, SHNU boasts special features and strength in international cooperation and exchanges. By March 2021, the University has established links with 405 universities and educational institutions in 40 countries and regions. Every year, more than 2,000 foreign students choose to study at SHNU, and a large number of SHNU teachers and students visit and study in universities abroad.



**The Research Institute for International and Comparative Education (RIICE)** is an important branch of Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) and the founding team of UNESCO TEC. It is also the University Think Tank of Shanghai Municipal Government for Global City Education, the International Education Research and Consultation Centre Education Policy Research Unit affiliated to MOE, and the MOE Base for International Education Studies. RIICE is also the Shanghai organizer of several international large-scale educational surveys, including Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2009 & 2012, Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) 2013 & 2018, TALIS 2018 Video Study, and Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) 2014.

### 3. Notice to this project

- This is a non-profit annual project for international professionals in education and



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social affairs held by the Teacher Education Centre, UNESCO and the Research Institute for International and Comparative Education, Shanghai Normal University.

- To respect diverse cultural contexts, the Project will accept a maximum of three registered participants from each country. For applicants with similar professional backgrounds, the Organizer will follow a “first come, first served” policy.
- The registration fee and tuition for the Project are waived. The Project organizer will cover local accommodation, breakfast and lunch, and transportation between the hotel and workshop venues during the project. Participants are responsible for their round-trip tickets.



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## Attachment: Project Schedules (in pending)

Professional Development for Secondary and Primary Educators		
Date	Morning (9:00-11:30)	Afternoon (14:00-16:30)
Nov. 27 (Day 1)	Registration day	
Nov. 28 (Day 2)	<p><b>Opening Ceremony</b>  <b>Welcome Speech:</b> Prof. Minxuan Zhang, Director of UNESCO TEC  <b>Leading speech:</b> The Current Status of Global Teacher Education from the Perspective of TALIS  <b>Speaker:</b> Prof. Minxuan Zhang, Director of UNESCO-TEC</p> <p><b>Forum:</b> The Current Situation and Challenges of Teacher Education Development in your own country  <b>Speaker:</b> Representatives from universities, research institutes and enterprises</p>	School Visit: TBD
Nov. 29 (Day 3)	<p><b>Forum:</b> The professional standards for teachers, the relevant systems, policies, and innovative measures for teacher cultivation and the promotion of teachers' professional development in your country  <b>Speaker:</b> Participants</p>	School Visit: Shanghai Teacher Institute
Nov. 30 (Day 4)	<p><b>Workshop:</b> Modern methods and strategies for mathematics teaching  <b>Speaker:</b> Participants</p>	School Visit: Observe the activities of primary school teaching and research groups
Dec. 1 (Day 5)	<p><b>Lecture:</b> Scientific Modern Teaching Methods and Strategies, Application of Innovative Teaching Tools and Resources (e.g., AI), and In-School Teacher Professional Development Initiatives  <b>Speaker:</b> Experts from international organizations and universities</p>	School Visit: Observe the activities of secondary school teaching and research groups





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Dec. 2 (Day 5)	<b>Lecture:</b> Methods and Strategies for the Development of Teachers' Social-Emotional Support Competence <b>Speaker:</b> Experts from Shanghai Normal University/Middle School Educators	<b>School Visit:</b> Observe the after-activities of primary school
Dec. 3 (Day 6)	<b>Visit:</b> Shanghai Science & Technology Museum	Explore Shanghai Freely
Dec. 4 (Day 7)	Explore Shanghai Freely	
Dec. 5 (Day 8)	<b>Lecture:</b> The Development of Educational Digitalization and Modern Teaching Methods <b>Speaker:</b> Experts from Shanghai Normal University	<b>School Visit:</b> Observe the Application of Digital Technology in Secondary School Teaching
Dec. 6 (Day 9)	<b>Lecture:</b> The Development of Educational Digitalization and Modern Teaching Methods <b>Speaker:</b> Experts from Shanghai Normal University	<b>School Visit:</b> Observe the Application of Digital Technology in Primary School Teaching
Dec. 7 (Day 10)	<b>Visit:</b> Shanghai Astronomy Museum	<b>Visit:</b> Youth Activity Center
Dec. 8 (Day 11)	<b>Roundtable:</b> Reflection and Summary <b>Speaker:</b> Participants	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>
Dec. 9 (Day 12)	<b>Participants return to their countries</b>	