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Expanding TCM Circle of Friends in Europe Through International Short-Term Training Programs

Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine (NJUCM), a WHO Traditional Medicine Collaborating Centre and an international acupuncture training center recognized by the Ministry of Health, has attracted students from five continents. Starting from 2024, the university has leveraged short-term training programs to accelerate international cooperation and exchange in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).



On August 20, 2024, NJUCM greeted 42 licensed Western physicians from the Association of Medical Acupuncturists of Bologna (A.M.A.B.) and the Sino-Italian Acupuncture School for a three-week acupuncture training program. At the opening ceremony, Professor Carlo Maria Giovanardi, President of A.M.A.B. and Principal of the Sino-Italian Acupuncture School, reviewed the history of cooperation with NJUCM. In tears on several occasions, he shared his excitement and joy at returning to Nanjing after the Covid-19.

The two parties renewed their educational cooperation agreement while looking forward to further expansion and deepening of their exchanges, determined to pass on this friendly relationship through generations of Italian physicians.

Dr. Dino, President of the Italian Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and a guest professor at NJUCM, has forged inseparable ties with China and Chinese medicine since his first visit to Nanjing in 1989. In June and October,

2024, he visited the university in Nanjing twice with 11 international students for short-term study, which further enhanced the medical exchange and cooperation between China and Italy.



On October 7, 2024, ten short-term students from Acupuncture Foundation Ireland and the Irish College of Traditional Chinese Medicine arrived in Nanjing. Guan Xiaowei, Dean of the International Education College and Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, stated that the three-year pandemic had not interrupted the friendly cooperation between the two sides; on the contrary, the cooperation had become stronger and more solid over time. This is the result of the unremitting efforts of generations from both sides. Concepta, a teacher representative of Acupuncture Foundation Ireland, could not hide her excitement. Having first been to NJUCM as a student in 2001, she was "astonished" by the changes of the city and the development of her alma mater. She expressed great pride in the university's achievements.

On October 21, 11 students from the London Academy of Chinese Acupuncture (LACA) and some other related medical and training institutions in the UK began their two-week study. Clinical teaching for the UK acupuncture training program was undertaken by Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital whose instructors, based on their meticulous preparations, familiarized the students with Chinese hospitals and provided detailed acupuncture lessons. Philip, a

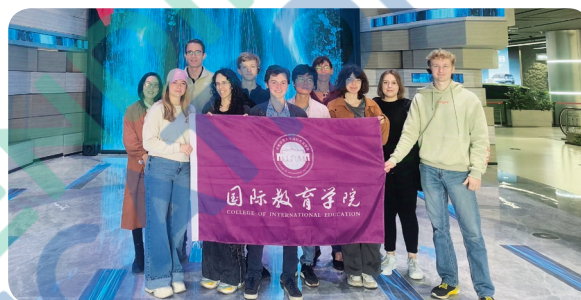
representative of the UK students, praised highly the organization of the program by the university and the hospital. He said emotionally, "As this was to be my first time in China, I had various concerns before coming. But after arriving, I realized that all my worries were unnecessary. I never expected to be able to study acupuncture in such a large Chinese hospital." He was amazed by the size of the Drum Tower Hospital and the modern healthcare conditions there. He was full of praise when visiting NJUCM's new campus in Xianlin.

On October 23, a 24-strong group from Cheltenham Ladies' College, the UK visited the Nanjing-based university for an exchange program. Both the teachers and students were fascinated by the Jiangsu Museum of Chinese Medicine and the NJUCM Medicinal Botanical Garden on the Xianlin campus. During the visit, they were captivated by the profound cultural pinnings of Chinese medicine and the remarkable efficacy of traditional Chinese health preservation methods. Maria, the teacher who led the visiting group from Cheltenham Ladies' College, remarked with excitement when receiving a Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine album, "There are many Chinese medicine clinics in the UK now and I also see a Chinese doctor myself. The efficacy is excellent. China's influence in the world is growing, and more and more students at Cheltenham Ladies' College are choosing Chinese as their first foreign language. When I return to the UK, I will definitely energetically promote Chinese medicine."



It is learned that since June 2024, NJUCM has hosted through its international short-term training programs 147 students from Europe, mainly from France, Italy, the UK, Portugal, Ireland, Czechia, Spain, and Bulgaria. As a result, international visits for TCM cooperation and exchange have surged and the university's "circle of friends" has expanded to cover most of Europe.

Driving into the Future Beyond National Borders—German Students Experiencing Chinese NEVs in Zhengzhou



From September 2 to 26, 2024, 14 students from the University of Hamburg, Germany visited China for an exchange program. During their 12-day journey, they joined the Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations and visited the Shaolin Temple with Chinese students, immersing themselves in traditional Chinese culture. To give the students a firsthand experience of China's technological innovation and growing modernization, Henan Normal University arranged for a visit to BYD's Di Space, the country's first museum dedicated to new energy vehicles (NEVs) in Zhengzhou. This unique opportunity brought these students from a renowned automotive nation into an international technology dialogue across national borders with China's leading business in the NEV industry.

► Sino-German dialogue that transcends automobiles and new energy

Germany, renowned as a global powerhouse

in car manufacturing, boasts a deep-rooted industrial tradition. On its part, China's BYD is a global pioneer in new energy, particularly with its remarkable achievements in core technologies such as batteries, motors, and electronic controls. What would come of an engagement between students from Germany's automotive industry and China's benchmarking enterprise in the NEV sector?

The Grand Canyon exhibition area on the first floor of the science museum, featuring a massive LED screen, immediately captured the students' attention. Museum docents walked them through BYD's journey, technological innovations, and market growth. Each and every engaging display and exhibit presented graphic pictures of how BYD had established itself as a key player in the global NEV sector, sparking the students' curiosity about the future of clean energy development in China.



► A Multi-sensory journey from technical insights to hands-on experiences

In the performance and technology exhibition area, the interactive zone became the highlight for the young visitors. Novel exhibits like the interactive simulated cockpit and AI car painting offered them great enjoyment. The docent's technical explanations combined with video demonstrations helped them quickly understand the principles and advantages of new energy technologies. The students started a heated discussion on NEVs' mode of operation and energy-saving features.

Their interest peaked when entering the real car display area. BYD's vehicles captured everyone's attention with their sleek designs, intelligent cockpits, and advanced new energy features. The students eagerly got into the cars to experience firsthand the modernity brought by cutting-edge technology. Vincent, a student from the University of Hamburg, expressed his excitement: "This car completely represents a product of the new era, full of futuristic vibes. The experience was amazing!"



► A bridge connecting technology and culture

This program not only offered the students from the University of Hamburg a deeper insight into China's innovations in the NEV sector, but also highlighted a modern China driven by sustainable development through advanced technologies. The students remarked that China's NEVs are not merely a technological achievement, but also a reflection of the country's commitment to a greener future.

As a core keyword in the transformation of the global automotive industry, NEVs are making leaps and bounds in China, setting industry trends. The immersive scientific experience of the program fostered mutual understanding and exchanges between Chinese and German youth through cultural and technological interactions, which has injected new vitality into the educational and technological cooperation between the two nations while adding more youthful elements to the enduring friendship and collaboration between China and Germany.

Exchange of Visits Between Tsinghua University High School and Manzoni Linguistic High School

On September 18, a delegation of 22 teachers and students from the Manzoni Linguistic High School of Italy arrived at Tsinghua University High School (TUHS), marking the beginning of a 13-day cross-cultural exchange program. During this period, 20 TUHS students were picked to pair with their Italian peers who had an immersive experience of the warmth and love of Chinese families and an in-depth exposure to Tsinghua high school's lively learning environment, open and inclusive teaching environment, and rich history of culture. The Italian students felt directly the unique charm of traditional Chinese culture and gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of China.



During the homestay, the active participation and warm hospitality of the hosting families impressed the Italian students and teachers deeply. The hosts thoughtfully arranged a series of activities that conveyed the warmth of a home away from Italy. They introduced the Italian students to traditional Chinese cuisine, taught them how to make dumplings, and treated them to iconic Beijing snacks such as tanghulu (candied hawthorn skewers) and zha guanchang (fried sausage). These welcoming moves enabled the visitors to feel the love and warmth of Chinese family life.

During this visit, the Italian students attended classes in pairs with their Chinese peers, shared campus life, and had a firsthand experience

of the school's vibrant energy and positive learning environment. They also toured the school's Newton Flight Academy, biological specimen collection, and the Wall of Honor in the gymnasium, gaining a panoramic view of the school's distinct educational offerings and supportive atmosphere for student development. They gained a deep appreciation for the School's unique charm.



Accompanied by members of the school faculty, the Italian students visited historic landmarks such as the Palace Museum, the Great Wall, and the Summer Palace, and they participated in traditional Chinese art activities, including Chinese printmaking and cloisonné painting. These activities not only fostered their understanding of traditional Chinese culture, but also sparked their interest in traditional Chinese art creation as they were developing a deep appreciation of China's rich and longstanding historical and cultural legacy.

In extending a warm welcome to the Italian teachers and students, Principal Fang Yan encouraged the Italian students to better experience and understand China and become good partners and friends with their peers at school. She also expressed the hope that students from both schools would become modern-day Marco Polos, serving as ambassadors for Sino-Italian cultural exchanges.

At the farewell party, the students from both schools reminisced about the moments they had shared in the program, exchanging happy

stories. When the soulful melody of *Bella Ciao* filled the air, all the students joined in a chorus, pushing the evening to a crescendo. As the curtain fell, the students found it difficult to part with each other. The deep sentiments of friendship were all the more treasured in a difficult parting moment like this.

Throughout this exchange, the faculty and students was committed to creating a broad platform for international engagement while promoting meaningful dialogue and collaboration between the two institutions. By sharing its progressive educational philosophy and practical experience, the school sought to broaden the global horizons of both its faculty and students. The school hopes to improve the composite capabilities of both its teachers and students amid globalization and contribute more Chinese strengthen to the development of a community with a shared future for humanity.



The year 2024 marked both the 20th anniversary of the establishment of a comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Italy and the 700th anniversary of the death of Marco Polo, the renowned explorer. In this historic context of double significance, maintaining deep and frequent cultural exchanges between the schools was undoubtedly the best means to honor this momentous occasion.

On February 15, 2024, TUHS and Manzoni Linguistic High School officially signed an agreement on establishing their twining relationship. During the winter break of 2025, students from the TUHS will visit Manzoni

Linguistic High School. By then, they will have the opportunity to experience Italy's family life, educational environment, and cultural glamour. The visit will serve to cement the friendly ties between the two schools.

Chinese and Italian Teachers and Students Join Hands to Build a Bridge of Friendship

On September 21, 2024, Suzhou Chien-Shiung Institute of Technology (SCSIT) welcomed a delegation of teachers and students from schools in Macerata, Italy by kickstarting a series of vibrant activities. This was the 5th face-to-face exchange since the Institute launched its cooperation with the Italian sister city of Macerata in 2020.



► Chasing dreams in the green field: a display of sport talents by both teachers and students

The Sino-Italian Friendship Football Match, meticulously organized by the Institute, kicked off in a lively atmosphere. The students' vibrant warm-up performances ignited the spectators' passion, setting the stage for an exhilarating event. With great enthusiasm, the players took to the field, their athletic figures shining under the sun. The players exhibited seamless teamwork, bold shots, and fierce competition, demonstrating their love for and dedication to football and embodying the true spirit of sportsmanship through relentless effort. Following the football match, other games including volleyball, table tennis, and badminton ensued in succession. On the

volleyball court, the Chinese and Italian teachers and students worked in perfect harmony, with the Italian students showing great enthusiasm and adapting quickly, enjoying the thrill of the game alongside their Chinese counterparts.

The table tennis arena was filled with the crisp sounds of paddles striking the ball, with both teams parallel in skills, each showing swift reflexes and exquisite techniques in brilliant returns that won rounds of loud applause. In the badminton court, the players displayed agility and precision, executing powerful smashes and showcasing their skills to perfection. These sporting activities not only contributed to communication between the Chinese and Italian participants through competition, but also highlighted the vibrancy of youth and the friendship between nations as a significant boost to bilateral cultural exchanges.



► A journey through history: cultural exploration at the Chien-Shiung Wu Memorial Hall

After the sporting events, the Chinese and Italian students visited the Chien-Shiung Wu Memorial Hall, embarking on a cultural journey that transcended time. The moment they stepped into the hall, it felt as if time had been reversed and they were immersed in the rich history of the institution, experiencing the depths of tradition and legacy. Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu's extraordinary contributions in the field of science made her a beacon of inspiration, with her life continuing to illuminate people's hearts. The Italian teachers and students listened attentively to the guide, their eyes filled with reverence and awe. The array of exhibits

and historical materials in the hall graphically recounted Dr. Wu's scientific journey and the magnetic charm of her character.

The students paused to read the display boards or quietly exchanged reflections. This visit provided an invaluable opportunity for the Italian guests not only to learn about the history and culture of the Institute, but more importantly, to explore in depth Dr. Wu's scientific spirit and academic pursuit. Her tireless search for truth transcended national and cultural boundaries, inspiring the Italian students to study in China as exchange students. They expressed the desire to engage in academic exchange and study on such fertile intellectual grounds and contribute to deepening Sino-Italian academic and cultural collaboration.

► Friendship strengthen: youth link through charity sale

The Chinese and Italian students gathered at a charity sale event. Language barriers did not hinder their collaborative efforts; united in spirit, they built a bridge of love that helped advance Sino-Italian exchanges. For the event, the Italian students had brought their national items such as Italian toothpaste, exquisite leather goods, and delicious local snacks. The Chinese students assisted enthusiastically by throwing themselves into the sales.

Using simple English and expressive gestures for communication and interaction, the students worked on writing product descriptions and setting fair prices and even engaged in a heated discussion on marketing strategies to attract customers. Throughout this process, the bond between the students grew stronger, with each exchange contributing to cultures and every collaboration deepening their friendship. The teachers and students alike became avid buyers to show with action their support for this cross-

cultural activity while taking the opportunity to learn more about each other's customs and campus life.

All the proceeds from this charity sale would be used to fund future exchange activities between Chinese and Italian students. This generous act further strengthened the friendship between the two countries' students, injecting strong momentum into the sustained development of Sino-Italian cultural exchange.

A single day's exchanges were akin to a colorful painting which shows the youthful energy of the Chinese and Italian students. In this cross-cultural interaction, the teachers and students broke down barriers by building bridges of friendship that went beyond language exchange and knowledge sharing. It also sparked new ideas, boosted emotional connections, and fostered mutual respect for each other's culture. This event has laid a solid foundation for Sino-Italian academic and cultural exchanges, planting seeds of friendship in the hearts of all participants. It is believed that in future, these seeds will sprout, grow, and blossom, continuing with new chapters of Sino-Italian friendship and taking the bilateral exchanges to greater heights.

Fudan University Affiliated High School Hosts a Delegation from Le Gymnase Jean-Sturm, France

From October 15 to 21, the High School Affiliated to Fudan University (HSAFU) welcomed a delegation of 22 students and teachers from its sister school Le Gymnase Jean-Sturm, Strasbourg, France for a week-long immersive educational exchange. The French visitors listened in to classes, joined the school sports meet, spent a weekend with their Chinese peers' families, experienced traditional Chinese craftsmanship, and explored the unique culture

of Shanghai. Through these activities, they gained firsthand experience of the urban charm and traditional culture of China.

On October 15, the students from Le Gymnase Jean-Sturm met and paired up with their Shanghai counterparts from grades 10 and 11 at the School. Warm smiles and friendly greetings quickly got them connected with each other despite the distance between their countries.



At a math lecture, the teacher introduced an intriguing mathematical theorem: in equal-area triangulations of a square, the number of triangles must always be an even number. This presentation left a deep impression on the French students, revealing insights they had not anticipated when they first approached the problem.

In a cutting-edge technology experience session, the students explored the wonders of electrostatic flocking in the world of statics. In the innovative lab, teachers of the affiliated high school introduced the principles, applications, and future development prospects of this technique and demonstrated the electrostatic flocking process while the students listened attentively and observed carefully, raising queries and making comments from time to time in an interactive discussion with the teacher. The students were given the chance to try their hands at the electrostatic equipment to embed fibers into an adhesive-coated fabric, feeling the allure of modern technology firsthand. They also experienced the traditional processes of

tofu-making and tasted this time-honored food imbued with Oriental wisdom.



At the high school's Joint Sports Meet 2024 held on October 18, the students from Le Gymnase Jean-Sturm competed with their Chinese counterparts in a 600-meter shuttle relay. The friendly competition not only promoted physical fitness, but also deepened the bonds between them.

The group also explored the *tuanshan* (round fan), aka, the "palace fan" or "silk fan", which is more a sophisticated art craft that symbolizes traditional Chinese culture than a practical tool. In the sinology classroom, the teacher introduced the historical and cultural significance of the round fan. He illustrated how to use Chinese brush and ink to depict the graceful charm and unyielding spirit of plum blossoms on the fan's limited surface, leading the students into the art of plum-flower painting.



The French students and teachers also visited places such as the Shanghai Museum, China Art Museum, and the Bund where they explored the cosmopolitan's rich cultural heritage and distinct spirit. In Nanxiang Ancient Street, they appreciated traditional garden craftsmanship

while learning about the history and making process of the century-old traditional snack "xiaolongbao" (soup dumplings).

Additionally, 20 French students spent the weekend at their Chinese peers' families. Through exchanges with their paired-up friends, they learned about each other's education, life, and cultural differences. Some learned to make dumplings at home while others savored Shanghai cuisine in the ancient town or toured attractions around Shanghai, including Zhujiajiao Water Town, City God Temple, Jing'an Temple, and Disneyland. Despite their different backgrounds, the students of similar ages found endless topics to talk about, enthusiastically sharing their lives in a joyful atmosphere.



Amidst laughter and cheer, the paired students reluctantly bade farewell to each other, having sown the seeds of friendship. Though separated by vast oceans, China and France are sharing the same sky. The students were making plans to meet again during the winter break the following year.

Tai Chi and Calligraphy—A Joyful Cultural Journey for French Friends

As the golden autumn brings cool breezes and bumper harvests, Xuzhou No.1 Middle School welcomed guests from afar. It was a delegation from Collège Saint-Paul (a middle and high school) in Saint-Étienne, France. From October 21 to 23, the teachers and students of the two schools went on a memorable journey of vibrant

cultural exchanges. They found every moment of this short three-day program fascinating and enjoyable, from a welcoming ceremony where participants were introduced to one another, to a campus tour and to various joint activities and exchanges, including Chinese calligraphic art sessions.



On October 21, the French visitors arrived to a warm reception, marking the inauguration of the exchange event. They explored their host school's rich history and heritage through a campus tour and diverse exhibits in the school showroom.

Zhang Yingzhen, the calligraphy teacher, introduced them to this ancient Chinese art form with his solid skills and unique teaching method, offering a door through his easily understood expression to the fundamental building blocks of calligraphy and its evolution over time. Leading them by the hand, he taught them individually how to hold and control the brush, along with descriptions of techniques for executing various strokes essential to forming Chinese characters. The French students listened to the presentation attentively and, captivated by this rare and immersive experience, eagerly tried their hands at this newfound art form.



The school's international faculty organized a series of thoughtfully designed interactive ice-breakers. Through engaging games and non-verbal interaction, the participants built connections and developed mutual understanding in a relaxed, entertaining environment. They also participated in Speaking and Social Study classes where diverse perspectives from various cultural backgrounds were shared, with discussions ranging from touching introductions to the culture of their hometowns to their visions of a future world. The exchange not only helped them practice their oral language skills, but also broadened their international outlooks and enhanced their understanding of and respect for other cultures.

The delegation also experienced the joy and challenge in basketball, badminton, and dodgeball contests held in the school gymnasium. These sports provided an opportunity for the faculty and students from both schools to demonstrate their outstanding reflexes and teamwork. The participants cheered each other on in a friendly spirit, sharing the joy of these games.

As part of the cultural exposure, the participants practiced Tai Chi and Ba Duan Jin (Eight Pieces of Brocade) in a group setting. To the gentle rhythm of music, the students followed the instructor's guidance, slowly unfolding in movements and immersing themselves in the charm of traditional Chinese wellness culture. In mixed groups, they also explored various traditional Chinese art forms. They learned how to combine metal foil and paint to produce artworks with unique textures and vibrant colors. In the Chinese printmaking or rubbing class, the students learn about this tangible cultural heritage through hands-on practice.



In the Luban Lock class, they applied their intellect to solve a set of seemingly complex but ingeniously crafted wooden puzzles needed to be unlocked. These cultural activities and experiences offered a glimpse into the breadths and depths of Chinese culture and ignited a passion to preserve and revive traditional art and heritage.

This cultural exchange between the two schools deepened their friendship and cooperation while providing the students with a valuable platform to showcase their talents and broaden their perspectives. The two schools will continue to work more closely in education, cultural exchanges, and mutual visits of faculty and students, jointly exploring new pathways for international education and contributing to the development of talented students with international competitiveness and cross-cultural communication abilities in the new era.

Entering Chinese Gardens to Appreciate Jiangnan Culture—SPIA Hosts Young French Ambassadors



At the invitation of Suzhou Polytechnic Institute of Agriculture (SPIA), a delegation comprising 9 students and faculty members from Le Campus Trades Nature Coutances, an

agricultural high school in France, participated in a 28-day vocational education exchange program in landscape architecture from October 22 to November 17, 2024.

► Fusion Garden—a joint landscape project symbolizing lasting friendship

From October 23 to 28, the faculty and students from both institutes worked together to craft Rong Yuan (Fusion Garden) - a garden of friendship between China and France on SPIA's Xiangcheng campus. Their collaborative efforts included discussing the layout design, constructing wooden pergolas and decorative lattice windows, laying brick paths, and planting and trimming the vegetation. The inauguration ceremony was held on the afternoon of October 28, with the attendance of Karen Saccardy, Principal of Campus Trades Nature Coutances, Kong Tingting, Vice President of Suzhou Polytechnic Institute of Agriculture, and all the teachers and students involved in the project. The completion of the Sino-French Friendship Garden is a lasting symbol of friendship between the two institutes, a foundation for professional cooperation in landscaping and horticulture, and a driving force for future exchanges and collaboration.



► A Tour of Classical Suzhou Gardens

For on-site teaching, the Institute's School of Landscape Engineering took their French guests to Suzhou, a city known for its classical gardens, including Tiger Hill, the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Lingering Garden, the Master-of-Nets Garden, and a nursery. The guests were

introduced to a variety of ancient aesthetics and techniques, such as "borrowing" (incorporating surrounding scenery), "screening" (hiding sights from viewers to create an intriguing viewing experience), "filtration" (allowing natural light to pass through intricate lattice windows for a dynamic visual effect), and "framing" (using doorways as if they were painting frames). They also visited a local nursery to study plant production and the art of styling potted miniature trees. The intertwined ancient trees at the Lingering Garden inspired them to name the joint gardening project with their Chinese host Rong Yuan (Fusion Garden), expressing the hope for everlasting friendship and cooperation between the two institutes.

The delegation also explored Suzhou's historic districts, including Shantang Street, Pingjiang Road, and Shiquan Street before visiting the promenade along the moat near the Grand Canal, modern urban landscapes around Jinji Lake, and a city park. The program also included field studies at Tongli National Wetland Park and visits to Taihu Snow Silkworm Cultural Base showcasing rural revitalization achievements and a hands-on silk tie-dyeing workshop. The cultural exploration extended to the Imperial Kiln Brick Museum and Suzhou Museum, providing an in-depth understanding of Suzhou's unique blend of classical heritage and modern development from different perspectives and offering a direct experience of traditional Chinese wisdom and contemporary life.



► Engaging and productive class sessions and workshops

The Principal of Campus Trades Nature Coutances and two visiting teachers engaged in comprehensive academic exchanges with SPIA's Landscape Techniques team. The discussion focused on curriculum development, apprentice programs, and industry-academic cooperation. The French students and teachers also actively participated in specialized courses alongside Chinese students, including landscape sketching and miniature garden modeling. Moreover, they attended various vocational practice sessions which covered traditional Chinese techniques of floral pavement design, mortise-and-tenon joint woodworking, and classical Chinese flower arrangement. These culturally rich landscaping courses not only enhanced their understanding of Chinese garden architecture, but also enabled them to create their own garden artworks. Complementing this cultural exchange, Houstin Michael, a French teacher, conducted an engaging lesson on French Gardens 101 for the Chinese students and faculty, introducing construction techniques and stylistic elements that captivated the Chinese students. This exchange program has greatly enhanced both sides' vocational competencies through inspirational interaction, collaborative learning, and cross-cultural engagement.

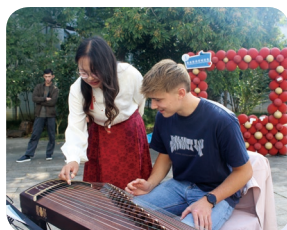
► Diverse campus activities contribute to friendship

During the visit of the French delegation, SPIA held its first international communication week, staging an array of cultural activities organized by different schools. The program included preserved flower fan-making by the School of Horticultural Science and Technology, small drone operation and maintenance workshops by the School of Smart Agriculture, and eco-friendly soap making by the School of Environmental Engineering. The painting of Chinese opera masks was conducted by the School of International Education, while

Chinese culinary arts were demonstrated by the School of Food Science and Technology. For its part, the School of Economics and Management presented traditional folk games. The closing ceremony showcased cultural performances including Aux Champs-Élysées by the French visitors and the Millennium of Chinese Elegance fashion show followed by a bilingual poetic recitation of Reading China by Chinese students, pushing the soiree to one new height after another.

In her reflection notes, Anais Lejuez wrote: SPIA provided us with a rich program combining professional courses and cultural immersion activities. Experiencing Chinese culture, interacting with Chinese faculty and students, and jointly exploring new ways of learning and practice have all left a deep impression on me. This experience has not only widened my horizon, but also strengthened my practical skills.

This exchange program has offered the French teenagers a valuable platform to gain an in-depth understanding of Chinese culture, experience Chinese landscaping skills, and explore the history behind them. It has promoted the mutual cultural appreciation and meeting of minds between teenagers from China and France, but also injected new vitality into the cultural exchanges and friendship between the two countries.



We are confident that Sino-French cooperation in vocational education will continue to boost the educational and cultural interaction between the two countries in depth, yielding

more fruitful results.

Culture Experience Camp for Young European Envoys at Wenzhou University of Technology

From October 22 to November 2, 2024, Wenzhou University of Technology (WUT) successfully held a 12-day European Youth Chinese Culture Experience Camp for 40 adolescents from France and Germany. The camp promoted youth exchanges by offering a variety of activities to immerse the European participants in China's rich culture.



► China-Europe youth concert

On the afternoon of October 24, the China-Europe Youth Exchange Concert was held in an auditorium. Jonathan Claier from France opened the show with a hip-hop dance number and won rounds of applause for his creative interpretation of the street culture with his freestyle moves. Léa Mougin, also from France, captivated the audience with her dance "Solo", a K-pop hit that portrayed a fiercely independent young woman determined to follow her dreams. Enzo Zhang, a Chinese German, played the piano solo of Golden Hour, bringing peace and tranquility to the audience with the melodious tune.



Léa Mougin took the stage again with the Chinese song Ruyuan (As You Wish). Her voice was bright and expressive, seamlessly weaving the Chinese lyrics into the melody. Another highlight of the concert was the violin recital He's a Pirate by French student Arthur Liu. With his bow dancing across the strings, he masterfully led the audience on an exhilarating sea adventure.

The concert reached its peak with a choral performance of "Listen to Me, Thank You" by all the German students. Their heartfelt singing conveyed their gratitude and love for Chinese culture and gained rapturous applause. The concert concluded perfectly with a joint performance of a beloved French song "Aux Champs-Élysées" by the French students, joined by all students and teachers in harmony, creating a heartwarming experience for all.

► Experiencing traditional Chinese culture through embroidery, chopsticks, and mortise and tenon

On October 23, the European students visited the hair embroidery gallery and art museum at WUT. It was their first encounter with these exquisite forms of Chinese art. Mesmerized by the intricate craftsmanship, many of them remarked that they had never imagined embroidery could have such delicate layers and refined details.

They also visited the woodworking workshop where they crafted bamboo chopsticks. Guided by skilled artisans, the students sanded bamboo slices with sandpaper, carved patterns, and created their own unique pairs of chopsticks. As they learned that chopsticks are not merely tableware, but also a symbol of harmony and unity in Chinese culture, they gained a deeper appreciation of their cultural significance. A German student expressed his excitement,

saying, "I can't wait to take these chopsticks back to my country and share the warmth of Chinese culture with my family."

The students were also introduced to mortise and tenon, an ancient Chinese woodworking technique that requires no nails or glue. They were deeply fascinated by this craft. As they tried assembling mortise and tenon models, they gained a hands-on understanding of ancient craftsmen's relentless pursuit of perfection, harmonizing structural integrity and aesthetic beauty.



► Jiangxin Island and Nanxi (Southern Opera) –a fusion of culture and drama

On October 25, the students visited Jiangxin Island to explore Wenzhou's distinctive identity as the City of a Hundred Islets. The island's rich historical atmosphere and natural beauty left the students in awe. During a guided tour to ancient landmarks, they gained a deeper insight into Wenzhou's cultural heritage.

Dressed in Han Chinese costume, they stepped into the world of *Nanxi*, an ancient form of Chinese opera. In these traditional garments, they watched performances where actors brought classic stories to life with graceful singing, nuanced expressions, and precise movements. A French student shared emotionally, "Watching *Nanxi* in Han Chinese costume makes me feel like traveling back in time to an ancient Chinese stage—a truly unforgettable experience."



► Nanxi River and Yongjia Academy—a journey of culture and nature

On October 26, the students explored the Nanxi River for its cultural and natural wonders. Renowned for its crystal-clear water and picturesque landscapes, the river revealed the beauty of a traditional Chinese landscape painting. As they sailed down the river in wooden boats, the students admired the verdant bamboo groves and ancient villages along the banks, feeling the harmony between nature and human culture.

The students visited the culturally significant Yongjia Academy, established during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279 A.D.), which served as an important center for traditional education and scholarly exchange. Through their visit, they learned about the academy's history and roles and they even tried their hand at calligraphy with traditional brushes in a "scholarly classroom" setting. In an interview with a local TV program Yongjia News, a French student commented, "Yongjia Academy embodies the perfect fusion of culture and education. This experience gave me a new appreciation for ancient Chinese education."



► Dream of the Red Chamber—a melodic interpretation of a literary masterpiece

A standout feature of the cultural experience camp was "The Dream of the Red Chamber as an Audio Experience: A Fusion of Literature and Music" led by Professor Yang Xiaomin. Using six traditional instruments—*pipa*, *guzheng*, *xiao*, *erhu*, *yangqin*, and *dizi*, she skillfully brought the classic novel's iconic scenes to life. Through musical rendering complemented by insightful explanations, she presented various characters and projected rich emotions underlying the literary tensions.

The class offered the students not only a chance to appreciate the unique allure of traditional Chinese music, but also an opportunity to try playing the instruments themselves. This hands-on experience allowed them to explore the close relationship between classical Chinese literature and music. A French student said excitedly, "This is an artistic feast that transcends language and culture—I've learned so much!"

The European Youth Chinese Culture Experience Camp showcased the diversity and depth of the Chinese culture and provided a platform for dialogue and cooperation between Chinese and European youth. WUT plans to continue promoting international cultural exchanges and deepening Sino-European friendship through similar activities to contribute its share to building a community with a shared future for humanity.

► The Rhine River and the Yellow River –A Fusion Across Time and Space

In October, Dalian University hosted a ten-day event titled "The Rhine River and the Yellow River: A Fusion Across Time and Space—2024 Sino-German Cultural and Artistic Exchange". Faculty and students from Alanus University of

Arts and Social Sciences in Germany joined their counterparts from Dalian University's Academy of Fine Arts for this cross-cultural program. The event featured a rich array of activities, including field visits, cultural experiences, academic exchanges, and collaborative art projects. These activities not only deepened mutual understanding of the cultural and educational systems of both universities, but also enhanced people-to-people exchange between China and Germany.



During the field visits, the German participants explored the Dalian University Museum and the Lüshun Museum, gaining insights into the history and development of Dalian University and experiencing the breathtaking natural and historical heritage of Dalian, including an artistic excursion to Jinshitan, a national 5A tourist attraction. The cultural activities that followed offered the German visitors a deep dive into traditional Chinese culture.



In a collaborative creative session, the Chinese and German students jointly produced a 12-meter-long painting centering on the theme of "water", portraying its fluidity and vitality. This artwork was a testament to the friendship

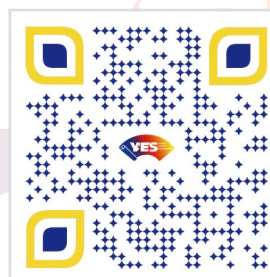
between the students of both universities. The program culminated in an art exhibition titled "The Rhine River and the Yellow River: A Fusion Across Time and Space-Sino-German Art Exchange Exhibition" at the Dalian University Library Exhibition Center, showcasing the collaborative works created during the event.



Through a series of meticulously designed cultural experience and academic exchange activities, the program effectively advanced Sino-German cultural ties. These activities provided the German participants with a deep understanding of Chinese traditions while offering the Chinese students a platform to display China's cultural heritage. The program fostered intercultural dialogue, mutual appreciation, and people-to-people bonds. The collaborative art projects and exhibition deepened the friendship between the students and laid the groundwork for their future cooperation.

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