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Franklin College summer exchange program: Telling Chinese stories in aid of rural revitalization



The Franklin College summer exchange program was held successfully in Hunan Province, hosted by the School of Remote and Continuing Education of Hunan University and attracting 40 young American participants. The program consisted of four parts: exploring traditional Chinese culture, experiencing modern technologies, learning about the effects of policy implementation and engaging in strategic practices. Students of the program toured Yuelu Academy, Hunan Museum, the High School Affiliated to Hunan University, and the School of Robotics of Hunan University and gained valuable insights into the glamor of fine traditional Chinese culture and China's advancements in modern science and technology. They also conducted interviews, research and learning activities in Baishuidong Village, Longhui County, Shaoyang City, Hunan Province. There, they experienced the significant changes resulting from by the Chinese government's "targeted poverty alleviation" and "rural revitalization" strategies.

► Following footprints of history to appreciate traditional Chinese culture

Yuelu Academy, one of the four great academies of ancient China, is steeped in rich cultural influence and profound historical heritage. The visit provided the students with a direct and graphic experience of traditional Chinese

culture and Hunan's culture. Through guided tours, the students learned more about the rich cultural heritage of Hunan and the great achievements of Yuelu Academy. At Hunan Museum, a first-class national museum, they visited the Changsha Mawangdui Han Dynasty Tombs Exhibition. Through various artifacts, pictures and documents, they traced the roots of Hunan's civilization, experienced the diligence, bravery, and wisdom of its people, and marveled at the great ancient civilization.

► Experiencing modern technological civilization & embracing the future

When touring the newly-established School of Robotics at Hunan University, the students not only explored the school's exhibition hall, but also observed various robots and autonomous driving systems in action. Their visit sparked great interest among them in robotics research and its future applications.



► Launching Sino-U.S. youth dialogue by sharing beautiful life moments

Student representatives from Franklin College and the High School Affiliated to Hunan University engaged in friendly exchanges about their school and extracurricular lives. The Chinese students showcased their talents through songs, dance, and *guzheng* (Chinese zither) performance. The students also shared their learning experiences and perspectives on China-U.S. relations through group discussions.



► Visit to Baishuidong village to experience targeted poverty alleviation and rural revitalization

The Baishuidong village committee warmly welcomed the teachers and students from Franklin College. For the visit, Franklin College donated printers, laptops, volleyballs, basketballs, backpacks, books, and other learning tools and daily essentials to Hexi Primary School in Baishuidong Village, demonstrating their loving care for the children and contributing to education in the area.



The students conducted in small groups in-depth interviews and research with over 20 rural households, involving village officials, leading figures in rural prosperity, ordinary farmers, and farmers facing special challenges. Through these conversations, the students learned about the changes in villagers' lives following the implementation of China's "targeted poverty alleviation" policy. They were amazed by the profound transformative impact of the national strategies on the everyday life in an ordinary village.

The students also showed a keen interest in participating in implementing the ongoing "rural revitalization" strategy. They proposed taking the products, such as tea and handicrafts,

back to the U.S. and through packaging design and community-based operations, help usher Baishuidong Village's traditional cultural industry towards the world. On its part, the Franklin College Foundation expressed its willingness to select families with potentials for grants or micro-loans and provide technical assistance to help more rural households overcome financial challenges to move toward common prosperity.

Baishuidong Village, home to ethnic minorities, particularly captivated the students with its Yao ethnicity's intangible cultural heritage. The students actively engaged in tea picking, straw weaving, tie-dyeing, and hand-stitching, immersing themselves in the glamor of local customs and the unique beauty of Yao intangible cultural heritage. They pledged to do their level best to promote China's intangible cultural heritage globally and introduce quality cultural and creative products to consumers worldwide.



This 13-day exchange and study program provided the American youth with a deep understanding of China's culture, history and social development through a myriad of on-site viewing and participatory activities. They actively engaged in rural revitalization practices and fostered beautiful friendship with

the Chinese people. The students also said that the exchange program presented a panoramic and accurate portrayal of China, helping them develop an objective understanding of the country. They expected to share more about China and encourage more American youth to follow. They hoped to contribute to deeper exchanges and cooperation between China and the U.S. across the political, economic, and cultural arenas.

Ball for all & united as one: China-U.S. summer basketball exchange

The 2024 China-U.S. Summer Basketball Exchange was held at Tsinghua University (THU) from August 5 to 12, featuring top players from Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Columbia, UPenn, and prestigious universities like MIT, alongside the men's and women's varsity teams from THU.



This event provided a platform for Chinese and U.S. youth to connect through basketball and culture. Through games and other cultural exchange, it fostered sportsmanship and global perspectives among the younger generation, creating a future-oriented youth partnership network. It laid the groundwork for long-term cooperation between the youth of both nations and promoted the healthy, steady, and sustainable development of Sino-U.S. relations.

Throughout the week, the players of both countries engaged in several intense basketball matches and, through a variety of cultural

activities, gained deep insights into each other's cultural backgrounds and values. Together, they had a glimpse of the historical changes and modern development of China with an in-depth tour of the THU campus, hands-on experiences with technology at Tencent's Beijing headquarters, and visits to the magnificent Great Wall as well as the exquisite Summer Palace. Besides, they had their international horizons broadened and mutual cultural understanding deepened through expert lectures, player discussions, and enterprise visits. All this helped deepen their cultural cognition and respect for each other.

At the welcome banquet, Liu Bo, Director of the Division of Sports Science and Physical Education, warmly welcomed the U.S. college players and thanked the Huang Yicong Foundation for its support. He stated, "Exchanges between Chinese and U.S. college students represent an important way to advance mutual understanding, deepen friendship, and co-build a bright future. This exchange, with basketball selected as the theme, holds special meaning as basketball is one of the most popular sports among youth in both countries. U.S. college basketball is the pinnacle in the world while the THU basketball team is a leading contender among Chinese universities, having secured the Chinese University Basketball League (CUBAL) championship title multiple times. I believe this exchange will lead to better results. I hope all the athletes will fully share the joy that basketball brings us this week."

The youth players engaged in various activities for in-depth exchange. On August 6, they toured the THU campus and its Sports Honor Room, delving into the university's history and development. After an afternoon of basketball practice, the players gathered for a roundtable discussion to share their basketball

philosophies and cultural backgrounds, fostering greater mutual understanding and consensus.



On August 7, the players visited Tencent's Beijing HQ and experienced firsthand the innovation and growth of China's tech sector. In the evening, Prof. Li Jinliang of THU's School of Economics and Management delivered a graphic lecture to the U.S. players on China's economic history and reality, which increased their knowledge of the country's economic progress. On August 8, they visited the Great Wall and Summer Palace, getting a firsthand experience of China's rich history and culture which helped strengthen the friendship with their Chinese counterparts. On August 9, after a morning of basketball training, they visited Ernst & Young to learn about international business operations.

The exchange included four exciting joint training sessions. Chinese and U.S. coaches took turns giving instructions, fostering an environment of openness, collaboration, and mutual respect. The atmosphere was both intense and friendly in harmony, demonstrating the sportsmanship of teamwork and fair play.

During each session, the coaches not only imparted sophisticated basketball strategies and training techniques, but also discussed in detail topics such as player's skill improvement, physical conditioning, and mental development. On the court, the players encouraged and

learned from each other, with fierce competition alongside warm support. Under the attentive guidance of the two coaches, the players honed their technical movements and tactical acumen significantly.



On August 10, the players participated in mixed-team games at THU's stadium, displaying their prowess and teamwork. The games featured men's and women's mixed teams, with the men's teams named "Dog" and "All Stars" and the women's "Queens" and "Winwin". The women's game kicked off first. The contest was thrilling, with Team Queens emerging victorious with an outstanding performance. The following three-point shooting contest brought the crowd to its feet, with sharp shooting from beyond the arc driving the energy to new heights. In the men's game, both teams battled neck and neck. The slam dunk contest at halftime ignited the crowd further, as cheers and applause echoed through the arena. In the end, the game concluded with a memorable 64-64 tie.



On August 11, the U.S. players toured Qianmen and Shichahai and experienced further China's traditional culture. That evening, at the farewell ceremony, the team leaders, coaches, and players reflected on their personal growth from the exchange, full of sincere thanks and reluctance to leave. They recalled with emotion

the moments of intense yet friendly competition and seamless teamwork, with every moment defined by dedication, laughter and deep friendship. Both sides expressed their hopes for continued cooperation and mutual progress in future.



Beautiful Jiangsu in the eyes of American university students

"This place is absolutely stunning. I feel that I'll definitely come back here if I get the chance," remarked Claire Song, a student from Duke University. In the height of summer, 90 teachers and students from eight top universities, including Duke University, Columbia University, and Sciences Po Paris, visited Jiangsu province and engaged in varied and enriching exchanges in Suzhou, Wuxi and Nanjing. Claire Song, born in Texas, had never been to Asia before. As a biology and visual arts major at Duke, she captured countless unforgettable moments during the trip with her camera. One of her favourite experiences was visiting the ancient town of Zhouzhuang in Kunshan.



American Students Touring Zhouzhuang, Kunshan

"My favourite photo is the one I took of an elderly woman by the roadside. I find these opportunities to interact closely with local residents are highly valuable as they help me gain a deeper understanding of the culture here." One of the most classic stops on the trip was none other than Suzhou Museum, which imbue both classical charm and the beauty of modern design. With the renowned I. M. Pei as its architect, the museum's architectural style blends the traditional elements of Suzhou's classical gardens with modern design concepts. Once inside the museum, the American students were captivated by its unique architecture. The white walls, black tiles and upturned eaves-typical elements of water towns in Jiangnan-were given a new life and harmonized perfectly with modern materials and design techniques. Inside the museum, the rich collection of artifacts left the students in awe. Exquisite ceramics, calligraphy artworks, paintings and jade ornaments all bear profound cultural heritage, telling the long history of Suzhou and China.



American Students Visiting Suzhou Museum

Christian Testa, a mechanical engineering major from Duke University, expressed his amazement at the museum's unique architectural design. "Suzhou Museum perfectly blends tradition with modernity, nature with humanity. It cleverly integrates the architecture into the surrounding landscape, showcasing the beauty of the natural environment. Everything contributes to forming a harmonious and unified whole."

Nanjing's Yunjin Brocade Museum also left a deep impression on the students. During the event, they raised insightful questions about various aspects of Yunjin brocade, such as the daily care of Yunjin brocade garments, the brocade's historical inheritance as well as its applications and evolution across different social classes.

When discussing the core techniques of Yunjin brocade production, the students were particularly interested in the process of making gold threads. Through vivid explanations, master craftsmen revealed how delicate metal threads are transformed fine metallic wire into the shining embellishments of Yunjin brocade, giving the students a more direct understanding of the intricacies and craftsmanship involved in the art. The masters also led the students on a tour of the production process, allowing them to experience firsthand the charm and laborious process of this ancient craft.



American Students Experiencing Yunjin Brocade Production

Classical culture allowed the American students to feel the deep heritage of Jiangsu, as its technological innovation demonstrated the province's vitality and future potential. Eduardo Bortolomiol Passos, a student majoring in electrical and computer engineering and in physics at Duke University, expressed his excitement after visiting the Yangcheng Lake Sci-Tech Innovation Center: "Jiangsu's achievements in technological innovation are

truly impressive. This place is full of possibilities. Before attending this exchange program, I never considered coming to China to develop my career, but this trip has changed my mind. I hope I'll have the opportunity to study and work here in the future."



American Students Visiting the Yangcheng Lake Sci-Tech Innovation Center

Dianahy Lopez Valentin, a neuroscience and Spanish major at Duke, shared her thoughts on Suzhou City's unique urban layout. "During the tour, I learned about how Suzhou combines traditional elements with urbanization. I find this very beneficial for developing countries as development requires a balance between growth and sustainability. Suzhou has done well in this regard."



American Students Visiting the Suzhou Urban Planning Museum

After the tour, the students participated in another China-U.S. youth dialogue on "Technological Progress and the Opportunities and Challenges for China's Sustainable

Development", with students from Nanjing Normal University, Nanjing Agricultural University, and Nanjing Tech University participating as well.



Isabella Suels, a political science and government student from Sciences Po Paris and a native of Minnesota, felt that the dialogue with Chinese students rewarding. "This event provided us with a platform to exchange and debate a wide range of views on a global hot topic. Sitting down with Chinese students for these discussions was highly beneficial for me as it was a real conversation with others that broke down preconceived notions and allowed a deeper understanding of different perspectives. Therefore, effective communication is crucial. We need to step out of our comfort zones, embrace diverse viewpoints and always keep an open mind. Only then can we achieve greater collaboration."

In the eyes of American university students, Jiangsu is a rich tapestry of both ancient and modern, traditional and innovative elements. Here, they not only witnessed the accumulation of history and cultural heritage, but also felt the pulse of the times and the hope of the future. Through its unique charm, Jiangsu is showcasing its blend of classical beauty, technological innovation and cultural appeal to the world. This cross-cultural exchange journey not only deepened

the understanding and friendship between the youth of the two countries, but also contributed to the global cultural diversity and inclusiveness.

2024 China-U.S. Young Maker Competition concludes successfully – A collision of creativity among 400-plus Chinese and U.S. youth

The 2024 "Co-Making the Future" China-U.S. Young Maker Competition final, along with the related activities, and the First Youth Robotics Innovation Event were successfully held in Beijing. Over 400 young makers and nearly 100 robotics enthusiasts from China and the U.S. gathered to showcase their talents and enhance their skills.



China-U.S. Young Maker Competition



The CITIC Bank Cup Youth Robotics Innovation Invitational Event

In the vibrant atmosphere of the Young Maker Competition final, the young participants collaborated on creative ideas and engaged in meaningful exchanges, sparking innovative

thoughts through their interactions and transforming concepts into reality. Numerous novel and practical projects emerged in various competitive activities, including timed prototyping, evaluation presentation, and live demonstration.

At the Youth Robotics Innovation Event, exceptional high school students from the U.S. and cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen, gathered for an inspiring celebration of technology and creativity. Over three days of collaborative learning and training, the participants built and programmed robots to perform various functions in teams, tackling a series of challenging and thought-provoking tasks. This experience not only ignited the passion of Chinese and American youth for exploring science and technology, but also fostered deeper understanding and friendship among them.

The awarding ceremony of the 2024 "Co-Making the Future" China-U.S. Young Maker Competition and the CITIC Cup Youth Robotics Innovation Event took place on the morning of August 12 at the China Millennium Monument in Beijing. Among more than 300 attendees were representatives from various competition zones, judges, relevant participants, supporters, and winning teams from both the maker competition and the robotics events.



In his speech, Chen Dali, Deputy Director-General of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of

Education of China, pointed out that both China and the U.S. share the innovation spirit and have a common understanding on a wide range of issues and broad space for cooperation in advancing innovative development. The open, vibrant and confident youth from both countries are not only the hope for national progress, but also the future of China-U.S. relations. He expressed the hope that the young people of both countries will take the competition as a bridge for maintaining good communication and building lasting friendship, and become partners and friends while continuing to write a new story about the friendship between Chinese and American youth. He also expected all parties to continue to work in concert to create more enabling conditions and broader platforms for the youth's exchanges in innovation, allowing them to shine even brighter in their innovation and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Mary Sue Fields, Minister Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in China, stated that the China-U.S. Young Maker Competition has served as one of the flagship cultural exchange events for both nations over the past eleven years, playing a crucial role in fostering communication between Chinese and American youth. Similarly, the Youth Robotics Innovation Event has promoted exchanges, providing students from both countries with excellent opportunities to learn from one another while encouraging friendly dialogue and interaction among the brightest minds and most promising future creators.

Xia Jianhui, Deputy Director of the Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange, remarked, "Chinese and American youth have become more actively engaged in competing, communicating, and collaborating rather than becoming distant due to time and space barriers. Whether during preliminary exchanges across various competition segments or

throughout the three-day finals, they both competed and collaborated, sincerely sharing ideas and fostering friendships centering around exploration and innovation. This reflected their enthusiasm for innovation, yearning for exchange, and a sense of responsibility for the future of mankind, perfectly embodying and practicing the spirit and mission of the 'Co-Making the Future' competition."



After years of dedicated effort in depths and details, the China-U.S. Young Maker Competition has expanded in scale and improved in quality, creating a unique platform that fosters free exploration, collaborative innovation, and friendship among Chinese and American youth. This competition has contributed significantly to strengthening friendship between Chinese and American youth and enhancing people-to-people exchanges. Since its inauguration in 2014, it has attracted over 70,000 young participants from both countries, resulting in the creation of more than 17,000 innovative products.



2024 China-U.S. University Tennis Friendship Tournament commences – Sport without borders for a win-win future

Amid the clatter of rackets striking balls and the enthusiastic cheers from the spectators, Chinese and American players are putting forth their utmost efforts, with quick movements, varied strokes, forceful attacks and many brilliant hits....



On August 15, the 2024 China-U.S. University Tennis Friendship Tournament -commenced at the Shanghai Qizhong Tennis Center. Teams from ten U.S. institutions such as Dartmouth College and Boston University forged friendship by competing against their counterparts from six Chinese universities, including East China University of Science and Technology and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). On the first day of matches, both the Chinese men's and women's university teams secured victories with scores of 2:1.

"It is always a pleasure to greet a friend from afar," said American player Matthew Kandel with a quote from The Analects of Confucius to sum up all participants' feeling. Matthew has been learning Chinese since high school and now majors in both Chinese and math. Thus, he is well-versed Chinese history and culture as ancient Chinese is his favorite Chinese class. He is also a big fan of Yao Ming and followed Zheng Qinwen's tennis singles final at the Paris Olympics. He believes that sports can transcend language, bringing mutual understanding and communication.

The China-U.S. Friendship Tournament lasted

three days, featuring singles, doubles, and team events. After the matches, the hosts, including East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), organized various cultural activities which enabled the American students to experience a true, multi-dimensional and panoramic view of China, enriching their understanding and perception of the country.



From the Shanghai Museum to Yuyuan Garden, the Oriental Pearl Tower, and Nanjing Road to the Bund and the "One River, One Creek" boat tours along Zhujiajiao, these are the iconic spots that the tennis-loving youth from both countries visited. Interesting, the American visitors stayed at the Lizhi Apartments on ECUST's Xuhui Campus. They planned to catch the thrilling Chinese Soccer Leagur (CSL) Shanghai Derby at the Shanghai Stadium on Saturday evening, where they were going to witness the match between Shanghai Shenhua Football Club and Shanghai Port Football Club.



The American participants hailed from Dartmouth College, Boston U, Rutgers, Tufts, Stevens Institute of Technology, Long Island U, Williams, Pitzer College, Stonehill College, and Fordham U. The Chinese participants

were from ECUST, SJTU, Zhejiang University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (SUFU), Southwest University, and Shanghai University. Both countries fielded strong teams featuring star players like Dartmouth's Sara Cruz with six ITF singles titles and Williams' Matthew Kandel, a champion in the Mid-Atlantic Conference. Among the Chinese participants, Deng Zhaohua from SUFE had won men's team championship in Group B at the 27th China University Student Tennis Championships. In the same championships, Xi Zixuan from Zhejiang University had won women's Group B team competition as the first singles player; Li Zefeng from SJTU, a key member in his team, had won the third place in the men's Group B team competition and the title of champion in men's doubles.

2nd Fudan-Harvard China-US Young Leaders Dialogue successfully held at Fudan University

From August 17 to 18, the Center for American Studies at Fudan University (CAS Fudan) hosted the Second Fudan-Harvard China-US Young Leaders Dialogue. This event is a dialogue mechanism initiated by Fudan and Harvard students, with academic guidance and support provided by the CAS. The activity focuses on the divergences and collaborations between China and the United States on emerging global issues and is aimed at providing a platform for dialogue and exchange among Chinese and American youth.



In 2023, the inaugural Fudan-Harvard China-U.S. Youth Leaders Dialogue focused on topics such as Cyber and Space Governance, Biotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy, and Global Digital Finance. On that occasion, scholars, government officials, and business leaders from China and the U.S. shared their perspectives with many undergraduate and graduate students from Boston and Shanghai. This year, the dialogue was themed The Path of China-U.S. Competition and Cooperation, with a focus on key issues such as sustainable development, data governance, and artificial intelligence. New elements such as Strategic Dialogue and Student Dialogue Outcomes Presentation were added. Nearly ten Harvard students crossed the Pacific to visit the Fudan campus and participated in the in-person event with Fudan students.



Student Speaker
from Fudan University



Student Speaker
from Harvard University

Professor Wu Xinbo, Dean of the Institute of International Studies and Director of the Center for American Studies of Fudan University, Marc Horn, Executive Vice President of Merck and President of Merck China, Carlos Gutierrez, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and Jing Quan, Minister at the Chinese Embassy in the U.S. were invited as keynote speakers. The event was held online and offline, attracting over 200 faculty members and students from Chinese and American universities, including Fudan, Peking University, China Foreign Affairs University, and Harvard.

In his keynote speech, Wu Xinbo emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and mutually beneficial cooperation in China-U.S. relations. He reviewed the history of Fudan University's Center for American Studies, noting that since its establishment in 1985, the center has trained a large number of experts on China-U.S. relations and promoted exchanges between the two countries. Wu stressed that despite the deterioration of China-U.S. relations in recent years, it is crucial not to view the relationship as a zero-sum game. He argued that China and the U.S. can achieve win-win outcomes through cooperation rather than falling into the trap of zero-sum competition. Wu also shared his personal experiences in the U.S., highlighting the importance of understanding the complexities of the other country in managing bilateral relations. Finally, he called on young people in both countries to strengthen communication and lay the foundation for future cooperation.



Keynote speech
by Prof. Wu Xinbo



Keynote speech
by Marc Horn

In his keynote speech, Marc Horn underlined the importance of international cooperation in responding to global challenges and called for a new phase of globalization centered on green transformation. He pointed out that China has played a crucial role in the globalization process in recent decades and has made remarkable contributions to world economic growth, particularly since joining WTO in 2001. Looking ahead, Horn believes that the next phase of globalization must focus on sustainable

development. China's progress in green technologies, especially in renewable energy and electric vehicles, positions the country as a key player in the global green transition. He urged the international community to strengthen cooperation, establish common standards, and promote innovation to combat global climate change. He stressed that only through close collaboration among China, the U.S., and Europe can true sustainable development be achieved, creating a prosperous and environmentally friendly future.

In his keynote speech, Carlos Gutierrez expressed deep concern about the current state of U.S.-China relations. Citing various statistics, he pointed to the drastic decline in investment, trade, and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries and stressed that this trend is gradually leading to "decoupling." He called for swift action to halt further deterioration and called for the restoration of strategic mutual trust. Gutierrez emphasized that though both the U.S. and China hold important global positions economically and militarily, the lack of dialogue and communication has increased the risk of misunderstandings. He proposed the enhancement of cultural exchanges, fostering of people-to-people friendship, and cooperation in pandemic control and technology to help alleviate the current tensions. Gutierrez mentioned, in particular, the important role of youth in shaping U.S.-China relations in the next two to three decades, encouraging them to actively engage in dialogue and cooperation to advance the relations in a positive direction. Finally, Gutierrez expressed his optimism about the future of U.S.-China relations, expressing the belief that through joint efforts, the two countries could usher in a new era of cooperation and prosperity.



In his turn, Minister Jing said that this year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. Over the past 45 years, China-U.S. relations have kept forging ahead despite vicissitudes, having grown into the most important bilateral relationship in the world today. It has contributed not only to the well-being of our two peoples, but to peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and the rest of the world. Jing updated the audience on the progress made in bilateral dialogues and cooperation in the fields of counter-narcotics law enforcement, people-to-people exchanges, economy and trade, and artificial intelligence since the San Francisco meeting between President Xi Jinping and President Biden. Jing underscored the immense opportunities for expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between China and the U.S. brought about by the resolution on further deepening reform of the Third Plenary of the 20th CPC Central Committee. Jing noted, as two major powers with different histories, cultures, social systems, and development paths, it is normal for China and the U.S. to have differences.

China-U.S. relations have been moving forward through solving problems and overcoming difficulties; the most important experience from the past 45 years is that China and the U.S. stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation and that working together is our only correct choice. He concluded by stating that the broadest consensus is that we should only make the China-U.S. relationship work

and not mess it up, that the only right way to get along is through mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation.

The guests attending the strategic dialogue session included Scott Walker, U.S. Consul General in Shanghai; Sun Yuhong, Chinese Chairperson of China Institute in America; Melinda Xu, Chief Representative of the U.S.-China Business Council Shanghai Office; Cameron Johnson, Vice Chair of The AmCham Shanghai Office and Senior Partner at TidalWave Solution; Professor Xu Guoqi from the Department of History, the University of Hong Kong. The discussion was moderated by Professor Ma Jianbiao from the School of International Relations and Public Affairs at Fudan University. The experts explored major obstacles in business and cultural exchanges between the two countries, including intellectual property, the complex data regulations, and the COVID-19's negative impact on interpersonal relationships. The experts agreed that while ideological differences exist, they should not hinder cooperation. The discussants emphasized the long-term importance of China-U.S. business collaboration and cultural exchange, calling for dialogue and cooperation to overcome the current challenges, especially by encouraging the younger generation to play a key role in future relations.

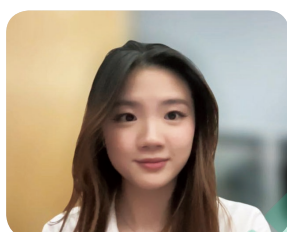


During the interactive session, the audience and guests discussed how to promote academic and cultural exchanges between China and the U.S., particularly student-level interactions. It was also mentioned that geopolitical tensions and economic pressures have posed challenges to American businesses operating in China, thus the call for stabilizing bilateral relations to optimize the business environment. On cultural exchange, the guests stressed that shared cultural activities and personal connections could lay the foundation for business cooperation between China and the U.S. Overall, education and cultural exchange were viewed as important avenues to deepen China-U.S. relations and promote business cooperation.



After the strategic dialogue session, the student representatives from both sides presented the research results from the past year. First, Zhu Guli from Fudan and Maria Janine Pape from Harvard discussed China-U.S. cooperation and competition in green industrial policies. They compared the actions taken by both countries and emphasized the importance of trade transparency and adherence to WTO rules to establish a fair and open market. Wei Zijie from Fudan and Laura Nguyen from Harvard focused on the critical area of data governance, highlighting the major differences and similarities between China and the U.S. on issues such as data privacy protection and cross-border data flows, particularly concerning

new applications like TikTok as well as legal measures taken by both countries. They advocated the establishment of international cooperation mechanisms and common standards aimed at contributing to secure data flows and privacy protection. Finally, Tian Zhe and Wu Zhenyang from Fudan and Cody Chou from Harvard critically assessed AI's impact on environmental protection by analyzing how AI can enhance climate modeling, optimize resource utilization, and improve energy efficiency.



This Dialogue included three panels on three topics: Sustainability, Data Governance, and Artificial Intelligence. The themes for the Sustainability forum were *Forging Green Alliances in U.S.-China Climate Policy and Decarbonization through Corporate and Carbon Markets*. The themes of the Data Governance forum were *Navigating U.S.-China Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Policies* and *Cross-Border Data and IP Management in US-China Relations*. The themes of the Artificial Intelligence forum were *Setting Mutual Rules and Standards for AI Policy* and *Pathways for Healthy AI Competition and Commercialization*.



Crossing swords and building bonds – meeting of Sino-U.S. college fencers

On August 18, the China-U.S. University Fencing Invitational and Cultural Exchange was held in Beijing, co-organized by China Center for International People-to-People Exchange, Ministry of Education (CIPPE) and Tsinghua University. Fencing teams from five renowned universities, i.e., Tsinghua University, Peking University, Sun Yat-sen University, Stanford University, and Columbia University met in competition, with 24 student athletes engaged in friendly contests and forging bonds through the art of fencing.



The competition followed a mixed-team format, with athletes grouped randomly into four teams of six regardless of nationality or university affiliation. Each group included one male and one female for épée, sabre, and foil. The athletes from different teams faced off, and rankings were determined by fencing weapon types and gender. Though lasting only one day, the event fostered not only intense competition, but also team spirit and friendship, making it a resounding success.



An award ceremony was held in the evening. In his address, CIPPE Director Yu Changxue pointed out that sports is an important field in promoting international cultural exchange and that, through sports competitions, people from different nations can enhance mutual understanding and forge lasting friendship. Yu encouraged the students to leverage exchanges in fencing to rise above cultural and linguistic differences, build strong bonds, and become ambassadors of China-U.S. cultural exchange, contributing to the consolidation and development of friendly relations between the two countries.

Shi Zongkai, Vice Chairperson of the Tsinghua University Council, welcomed the participating students, noting that China and the U.S. are both dominant forces in the world of fencing. He pointed to the growing popularity of the sport, particularly among young students. He expressed the belief that exchanges through such means as fencing invitational would further deepen mutual understanding and strengthen friendship and mutual trust between Chinese and American students.

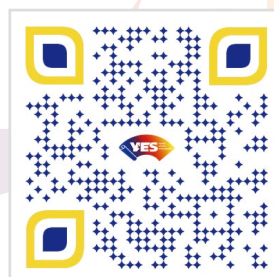


Representatives from both countries shared their thoughts and experiences, expressing their happiness at participating in the event, which not only improved their fencing skills but also fostered friendship and promoted understanding and exchange between Chinese and American youth. The evening ended with a lively cultural musical performance with students from both countries taking to the stage to showcase their talents through singing, instrumental shows, and more. The air was filled with vibrancy and excitement, marking a perfect close to the day.



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