

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
FINLAND
ON
STRENGTHENING COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION ON EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Finland (hereinafter referred to as "the two participants") acknowledge that education plays a fundamental, extensive and sustained role in the development of individuals and countries. In April 2013, XI Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, and Sauli Niinistö, President of the Republic of Finland, jointly announced the upgrading of China-Finland relations to a future-oriented new-type cooperative partnership, and reached a consensus to enrich bilateral people-to-people exchange between the two countries. To strengthen exchange and cooperation in education is an important form and content of the people-to-people exchange between the two countries, and is an important force to promote economic development and social progress in both countries.

The two participants are willing to enhance mutual understanding and trust, to adapt to the development of education in China and Finland and to promote the comprehensive development of bilateral cooperation in education. In order to fulfill this goal the following consensus is reached:

Paragraph1 General Provisions

1. The participants will comply with the existing laws, regulations and compliances of their own on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in the field of educational exchange and cooperation. The participants will seek to create a good environment and conditions and to contribute to fruitful exchange and cooperation between themselves.
2. This Memorandum of Cooperation is based on the following agreements of "2005–2009 Program on Cultural Exchanges between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Finland" signed in 2005, "Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degrees between the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Finland" signed in 2006, and "Memorandum of Understanding of Building a Strategic Dialogue System between the Ministry of Education of China and the Ministry of Education and Science of Finland" signed in 2009 etc., as well as the existing cooperation.

3. The framework of this cooperation will be named the “Sino-Finnish Learning Garden” to emphasize the uniqueness as well as the comprehensive and student-oriented nature of the cooperation scheme.

Paragraph 2 Objective

Based on an in-depth exchange of views, the participants are committed to further strengthening their educational exchange and cooperation in a comprehensive manner, and to actively encourage respective educational and research institutions to share experience and develop existing and new cooperation schemes by jointly identifying priority areas at various levels. The overall aim of the scheme is to create synergy between different educational institutions, experts, authorities and other stakeholder groups also in the public-private partnership throughout the educational system in order to co-create inclusive, student-oriented learning solutions for better fostering 21st century skills among students in China and Finland.

Paragraph 3 The Scope of Cooperation

The participants will, on the basis of existing cooperation, promote pragmatic cooperation at all levels in all types of educational and research departments and institutions through the following specific forms:

- Information sharing and dialogues on education policies and practices;
- Exchange of government scholarships;
- Joint curriculum and program development between relevant institutes;
- Teacher training and exchange;
- Student and expert mobility;
- Scientific and research cooperation (including thematic seminars and conferences);
- Joint projects;
- Set-up of learning and innovation related centers, when appropriate;
- Local level cooperation.

The participants encourage the actors for a long term development for cooperation. The national initiatives and schemes encourage regional co-operation, e.g. between twinning cities and sister schools, to cover education system development, learning innovations and learning industry development.

Language teaching is encouraged to be supported on all levels. The participants share the opinion that language is an important tool and bridge to enhance mutual understanding and that learning of each other’s language and culture has great significance in deepening friendship and exchange between the participants.

Paragraph 4 Cooperation Areas

The participants will carry out closer cooperation in the following areas:

1. Early Childhood, Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education

The participants will, on the basis of the Chinese-Finnish high school education cooperation and exchange projects successfully implemented, actively explore the possibility of the

cooperation extended to the primary and junior secondary schools, as well as to the early childhood education and care and pre-schools. The participants will jointly:

- 1) Strengthen the policy makers' and education experts' exchange, and carry out education policy dialogue;
- 2) Carry out learning solution pilot projects for specific groups (such as children with autism, dyslexic children, etc.), and develop the cooperation with schools in rural and remote areas;
- 3) Conduct collaborative research in the development of curriculum in primary and secondary schools, as well as policy and experience exchange on education assessment to develop the quality assurance of education and teaching;
- 4) Carry out projects to jointly develop ICT solutions and to pilot them in the classrooms and other learning environments;
- 5) Carry out expert dialogue and collaborative projects to foster mental health and wellbeing of students in primary and secondary schools.

2. Teacher education and training

The participants agree to strengthen cooperation in teacher education and training by:

- 1) Conducting dialogues on teacher development policies and teacher training practices;
- 2) Encouraging educational authorities and institutions to carry out teacher training and exchange.

3. Secondary and Higher Vocational Education

Vocational education, including vocational adult education, plays an important role in national industrial upgrading and innovation development. The participants decided to strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the field of vocational education and to:

- 1) Launch the inter-governmental vocational education policy dialogue. The two participants will regularly exchange and share relevant information in the field of vocational education between the two countries, and strengthen the common consensus in the field of vocational education development strategy, taking macroeconomic conditions and institutional mechanisms into consideration;
- 2) Identify the priority areas for cooperation in the field of vocational education. The two participants will jointly aim to make progress in training of students, collaboration among industrial, educational and research sectors, teaching mode reform, curriculum development, management innovation, and training of teachers and principals. The key aim is to improve the cooperation between vocational education institutes and industry by constructing stable cooperation relationships between the two. The two participants will actively encourage vocational education institutions to develop systematic and regular partnership with industry to foster career development;
- 3) Start a dialogue on vocational teacher training policy, explore and implement teacher training programs and extend teacher training also to institutional leaders' training.

4. Higher Education and Research

Higher education plays an important role in creating and disseminating knowledge,

cultivating academic top research and serving the knowledge-based society. As higher education and research institutes produce fundamental knowledge on learning and education, they should be actively engaged in all levels of educational exchange and dialogues outlined in this Memorandum of Cooperation.

The participants will, on the basis of the "Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degrees Between the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Finland" signed in 2006, promote the signing of the "Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degrees Between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Finland", and create a favorable environment to safeguard and encourage higher education institutions to establish close collaboration between the two countries.

In order to deepen the cooperation in higher education and research the two participants will:

- 1) Support two countries' institutions to recognize each other's credits, promote student exchange and development of joint courses;
- 2) Encourage and support institutions from both countries to conduct joint research, to establish joint research institutes and joint labs including those in the public private partnerships, and to make full use of governmental science & technology cooperation programs and Sino-Europe science & technology cooperation frameworks;
- 3) Support joint research on learning, such as: learning and brain, memory and learning, biological mechanisms of learning, educational psychology, learning difficulties and personal strategies of learning, interactive learning, child's development and learning, game based learning and elderly learning, and so on;
- 4) Encourage dialogues on the use of ICT in learning and teaching as a means of expanding availability of education and improving the quality of learning; co-operation between the academia and companies will be encouraged to co-create innovative learning solutions and serious games for educational purposes;
- 5) Carry out dialogue on teacher education policies and teacher professionalism; support the research and efforts on developing quality assurance for enhancing both quality and relevance of training of institutional leaders and teachers between the two countries.
- 6) Support comparative research on education policies, education management and the role of education in economic growth and innovation system development; each participant will be encouraged to conduct research on the partner country's education system and practices to promote mutual understanding and to build trust;
- 7) Strengthen policy makers' and education practitioners' exchange and training and carry out higher education policy dialogue, supported by up-to-date knowledge and research;
- 8) Support the development of information/knowledge sharing system concerning issues mentioned above in all fields of education of the two countries.

5. Mobility and educational cooperation

Based on reciprocity, the two participants will launch exchange scholarship cooperation and on the consensus of “Sino-Finnish Program on Cultural Exchanges”, send bachelor (Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science), master (Master of Arts/Master of Science), doctor and research fellows to each other’s institutions to study;

In order to further promote mobility of students and academic staff as well as educational cooperation between higher education institutions in China and in Finland, Chinese Scholarship Council and CIMO will discuss the possibility of a joint, reciprocal mobility and cooperation instrument based on the existing China Programme by CIMO.

Paragraph 5 Enforcement

The two participants decided to nominate a national contact point to coordinate the overall educational dialogue between the two countries, as well as contact points to coordinate each of the dialogues mentioned above. The participants will also jointly determine collaborative pilot projects for the Cooperation Areas 1-3, respectively. These pilot projects, as well as their national coordinators, will be defined in a separate addendum, which will be signed separately and updated accordingly.

Paragraph 6 Effectiveness, Amendment and Termination

The Memorandum of Cooperation will come into operation from the date of signing and remain valid for 5 years. Unless terminated earlier by any participant, will the Memorandum of Cooperation continue to have effect for another 5 years. If either participant intends to terminate the Memorandum of Cooperation, a no less than 6 months’ notice in written form should be given to the other party. With both participants’ written consensus, the Memorandum of Cooperation is able to be amended at any time.

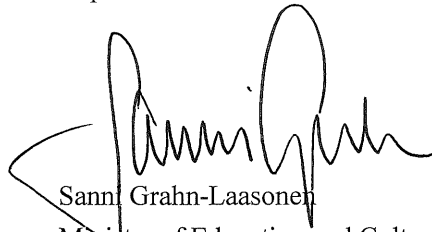
This Memorandum of Cooperation is signed on 12 June, 2015 in Helsinki, in two copies in Chinese and English. In case of discrepancies, the participants will address to the text in English.

Ministry of Education of the
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