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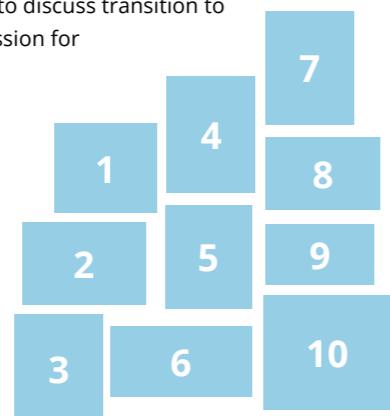
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**Cover photos:**

1. Children with visual impairments learning about the structure of dinosaur skeleton through touch and oral video explanation © Guangdong Museum (Guangzhou Luxun Museum), 2024
2. In 2010, a Study Tour to Japan was organized for 15 education planners and officials of the central ministry and provincial education departments, providing participants with first-hand knowledge and experience of advanced technical information, good practices and relevant policies/ standards of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in education.
3. DPRK students in a Technical and Vocational School, 2006
4. Opening ceremony of the 12th session of the International Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage featuring Korean performances (Jeju, ROK, 3 December 2017).
5. Washoku, traditional dietary cultures of the Japanese, notably for the celebration of New Year ©UNESCO/Ichinoseki City, 2011
6. The UNESCO forum with the National Assembly to discuss transition to future education with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO on August 26, 2022
7. The launch ceremony of the Mongolian version of the "UNESCO Model Curriculum for Journalism Education" in Mongolia, 2011
8. Students benefit from the "Two Exemptions and One Subsidy" policy, China
9. Transmission of traditional skills during a conservation workshop (DPRK) © RYU Tok In, 2025
10. Cultural heritage bearers presenting their crafts during the Consultation Workshop, 2024



# UNESCO Beijing 40 Years in Actions

**UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia  
Annual Report 2024-25**

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Dear Colleagues and Partners,

With great pleasure, I present to you the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia (UNESCO Beijing) Annual Report 2024, encapsulating a memorable year marked by 40 years of significant milestones and a steadfast commitment to our shared mission of fostering peace, sustainable development, and intercultural dialogue.

The year 2024 was a landmark year for UNESCO globally. Key events included the celebration of the first International Day of the Intangible Cultural Heritage on 17 October, highlighting the diversity and richness of living heritage. Additionally, 2024 marks the starting year of the "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development 2024-2033" (Sciences Decade) which aspires to advance and leverage science in the pursuit of sustainable development. UNESCO, as the lead agency, has been formulating and disseminating a clear vision for the Sciences Decade through extensive consultations with Member States and various stakeholders. The Office in Beijing also co-organized the "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development Forum" in Beijing, China, in April 2024 to foster a culture of science and mobilize stakeholders for the Decade's implementation.

In the East Asia region, UNESCO Beijing achieved several key milestones. We opened a new Antenna Office in Mongolia to enhance our support for the country's development. Our partnership with Japan and the Republic of Korea also deepened, fostering greater regional collaboration. In 2024, the education sector contributed to building educational resilience for Mongolia in the face of the dzuds, ensuring continuity in learning. The Natural Sciences sector held a side event at COP29, highlighting the importance of climate action. The Culture sector successfully concluded the fourth phase of the "Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China" project, achieving significant outcomes. The Social and Human Sciences sector gained new momentum with the establishment of the IYF Alumni Network, fostering youth engagement and intercultural dialogue. Last but not least, the Communication and Information sector advanced gender equality and disability inclusion in media, promoting a more inclusive digital landscape.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO Beijing Office in 2024, we reflect on our journey from 1984, when the Office was established to serve China, to now, where we support five East Asian countries: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Our work has expanded from one single focus on science and technology to encompass five core areas: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. In addition, throughout these years, we have collaborated closely with the UN system to promote sustainable development and peace in the region. At this important juncture, we extend our sincere thanks to our partners and colleagues for your enduring support and commitment. As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to accelerating sustainable development through collaborative partnerships, diverse expertise, responsible innovation, and robust knowledge systems.

Sincerely,

Shahbaz Khan

Director and UNESCO Representative to  
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia,  
the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea



## ABOUT UNESCO BEIJING

Established in 1984, UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia (hereinafter "UNESCO Beijing Office") is a regional focal point connecting five East Asian countries: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea (ROK). Altogether, these countries encompass about 1/5 of the world's population, around 25% of global economic output, and over 5,000 years of rich history and culture.

In July 2024, a new Ulaanbaatar Antenna Office was established, marking a significant milestone and further strengthening regional ties. In addition, the Secretariat of the East Asia Biosphere Reserves Network (EABRN) and the Secretariat of the UN Theme Group on Disability in China are also based at UNESCO Beijing Office.

Together with the UNESCO networks, the entire United Nations family and other various partners, UNESCO Beijing Office works to find and implement innovative solutions in social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions, assisting countries to achieve their national development priorities and commitments on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As a multisectoral office, UNESCO Beijing is dedicated to UNESCO's universal mandates in all its fields of competence: education, culture, social and human sciences, natural sciences, and communication and information.

In the five countries it serves, UNESCO Beijing Office has helped:

- Build capacities of key decision-making institutions;
- Strengthen policies, standards, and practices in UNESCO's areas of work;
- Promote cooperation between countries within and outside the region;
- Make a lasting impact on people's lives.

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### UNESCO Membership for China, ROK, Japan, Mongolia and DPRK

**China** is one of the founding Member States of UNESCO. It signed the agreement to establish the organization in 1946. After China's legitimate seat in the United Nations was restored in October 1971, China formally returned to UNESCO.

**The Republic of Korea** joined UNESCO in 1950.

**Japan** joined UNESCO in 1951.

**Mongolia**, UNESCO member since 1962.

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**, UNESCO member since 1974.

### Office's Historical Milestones

*Note: The following images and highlights represent a selection of key achievements and moments. They are intended to provide a glimpse into our journey and accomplishments but do not encompass the full scope of our work.*



#### 1984: Established as the UNESCO Office for Science and Technology in China

**1992-1999**

Organized by UNESCO Beijing and the State Bureau of Cultural Relics of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and sponsored by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust, a project for the protection and conservation of the Ancient Ruins of Jiaohe in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region was carried out since 1992 and was completed in 1999.



#### 1995: East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) was established

Established in 1995, EABRN has been a key regional platform under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme for policy exchange, capacity-building, and transboundary cooperation. The network counts 7 Member States. Founding members of the network are China, DPRK, Japan, Mongolia and ROK, and were joined by the Russian Federation in 1998 and Kazakhstan in 2011. EABRN has convened 16 regional meetings, 7 training courses and 2 online training webinars, strengthening collaboration among biosphere reserves.



Over the past 30 years, EABRN has focused on improving conservation policies, promoting eco-tourism, and encouraging knowledge-sharing via training and site cooperation, while also emphasizing youth empowerment across its initiatives. As it reaches its 30th anniversary in 2025, EABRN continues to drive sustainable development, scientific research, and regional resilience in sustainable management of the biosphere reserves.

**1995**

UNESCO Beijing formed a research project to preserve the Ancient Ruins of Kharakhorum City, the 13th century capital of the Mongolian Empire, with financial support from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**1997**

UNESCO Beijing provided technical assistance for the preservation of the mural paintings of the Koguryo Tombs. The support, which included the visit of Professor I. Hirayama, Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO, in October 1997, resulted in the Government of DPRK's ratification of the World Heritage Convention.

**15-26 September, 1997**

Baoding, Hebei Province, China

The International Training Workshop on Rural Education for Development was jointly organized by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, the UNESCO Beijing Office, INRULED, and the Agriculture University of Hebei, with participants from 17 countries aiming to promote literacy and post-literacy education in developing countries in Asia and Africa in line with the Education for All (EFA) goals.

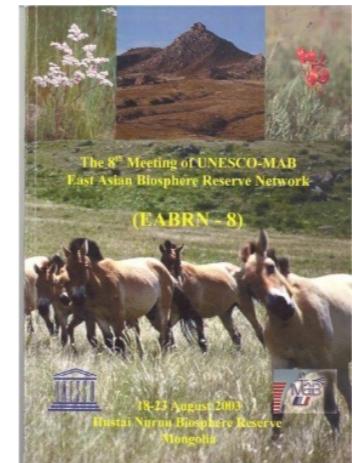
**1997: The Office expanded its mandate to encompass the East Asian sub-region, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, and the People's Republic of China. Programme activities spanned the fields of education, science and culture.**

**1998-1999**

Life sciences was a priority for the Office. During 1998-1999, a large number of international, regional and national workshops and training courses on bio-technology and microbiology were conducted. The picture shows training in Microbiology.



**2001: The Office was designated as a Cluster Office for East Asia, covering 5 countries: DPRK, Japan, Mongolia, China and ROK. It represented UNESCO in all its programs: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.**



**2002: Social and Human Sciences (SHS) was established as a new sector within UNESCO Beijing Office.**

**2003**

UNESCO Beijing celebrated the World Philosophy Day in 2003 together with the Asia-Pacific Research Center of Peking University, after one year the SHS unit was established in UNESCO Beijing Office in 2002.

By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

**2003: The EABRN Secretariat was transferred from the UNESCO Office in Jakarta to Beijing.**

**18-23 August 2003**

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

The 8th EABRN Meeting Report

**2005**

"Together with Migrants": action against poverty in Mongolia. In 2005, the SHS sector has extended the "Urban Poverty Alleviation among Young and Female Migrants" project to Mongolia, where massive migration from rural areas to Ulaanbaatar often means harsh living conditions, and difficulties in adapting to urban life.



Launching Ceremony of the Project, 2010



Project introductory poster



### 2007: UNESCO Beijing initiated the "Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China" project

The project was initiated in partnership with the China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund to improve the conservation and management of World Heritage sites in China through research, capacity building, tourism management planning and awareness raising.

In 2024, the project celebrated its 17th anniversary and successfully completed the Phase IV. As of 2024, it has directly benefited 11,476 individuals, 59% of whom were women, and raised awareness among 81,889 people.

#### 2008

The Zhenwu Palace (part of the Qingcheng Mountain and Dujiangyan Irrigation System World Heritage Site, Sichuan, China) was restored after the 2008 earthquake as a UNESCO demonstration project for post-earthquake cultural heritage restoration and preservation.

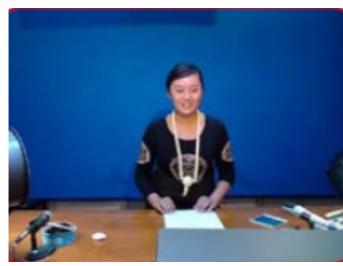
#### 2008-2009

##### Promoting Intercultural Dialogue

Since 2008-2009, UNESCO Beijing Office has assisted the Government of Mongolia in mainstreaming the links between cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development and Mongolian national policy through a Master Plan for Culture and Art.

#### 2008

UNESCO Beijing introduced the Model Curricula for Journalism Education to China in 2008, sparking a national drive to modernize journalism education. With UNESCO Beijing's support, this initiative reached over 800 schools, significantly impacting journalism education and training nationwide.



### 2009: Communication and Information was established as a new sector within the Office.

#### 2008-2015

UNESCO Beijing supported the establishment of ten community radio stations in Mongolia's remote soums (counties) targeting ethnic and disadvantaged minorities, significantly improving media access in Mongolia's remote ethnic regions.

Beyond radio, UNESCO Beijing also introduced digital services and computers in remote soums, transitioning to enhance internet access. Partnerships with Education TV produced documentaries on minority issues, while media trainings and scholarships empowered local journalists and technical staff. This work ensured sustainable media access and highlighted the voices of Mongolia's diverse communities.

#### 2009

Support to scale up Comprehensive Education sectoral response to HIV and AIDS in most affected ethnic minority areas in Yunnan, China.

#### 2010

A Study Tour to Japan was organized for 15 education planners and officials of the central ministry and provincial education departments, providing participants with first-hand knowledge and experience of advanced technical information, good practices and relevant policies/standards of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in education.

#### 2011

Irina Bokova, former UNESCO Director-General, inaugurated Mongolia's second national television channel dedicated to ethnic minorities, established under UNESCO's support. This highlighted UNESCO's commitment to media accessibility, inclusion, and empowering marginalized voices through culturally relevant content.

#### 2011

The launch ceremony of the Mongolian version of the "UNESCO Model Curriculum for Journalism Education" in Mongolia

**2012-2013**

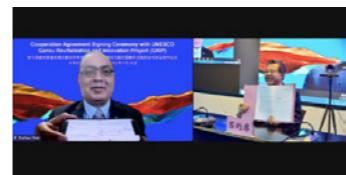
To support the decision of the Government of Mongolia to elaborate a new youth policy, UNESCO Beijing working with local partners conducted a situational analysis to identify youth social needs and challenges, and sought to enhance the capacities of youth to participate in management, leadership, and policy making processes through a capacity building initiative.

**2022**

Practical training in the School of Communication, Shenzhen Polytechnic, China

**2016-2020****Disability Equality Training for media professionals**

UNESCO Beijing conducted capacity-building programs that equipped 140 media professionals and communication officers with improved knowledge and practical skills for professional reporting on disability.

**March 2022**

UNESCO Beijing and the Gansu Provincial Government formed a new partnership to integrate cultural and creative assets into Gansu's development frameworks, leveraging culture and creativity for economic, social, cultural and environmental gains as part of the World Bank's **Gansu Revitalization and Innovation Project (GRIP)**

**2017**

UNESCO Beijing project successfully documented and promoted Mongolian traditional games by creating a digital library (naadgai.mn). It raised awareness among the public and game practitioners about the importance of preserving these cultural traditions. The project also fostered collaboration among game producers and identified needs for further development and safeguarding of traditional games. Ultimately, the initiative contributed to the preservation and dissemination of Mongolian cultural heritage, reaching a broad audience through the digital platform and media coverage.

**2023**

"The Revised Future", China's first inclusive play, premiered at Phoenix TV in 2023 with UNESCO's crucial support, boldly reimagining the landscape of Chinese theater. Co-created by the Beijing Happy Inclusion Social Work Center and The Pleasure Troupe, this ground-breaking performance wielded humor as a weapon against entrenched stereotypes of persons with disabilities, using a futuristic courtroom setting to confront societal biases. The cast with diverse disabilities and innovative narrative not only captivated audiences but also catalyzed a national conversation on disability inclusion, fostering unprecedented collaboration within the arts community and identifying critical needs for the future of inclusive artistic expression.



The Changsha Initiative adopted on the 3rd IYF in 2019 (SHS)



2021 IYF



2023 IYF

**2017: The International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (IYF) was initiated.**

The IYF is an annual forum initiated by UNESCO Beijing, the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, local governments in China, and the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres, and Associations (WFUCA) since 2017.

The past Forums have gathered over 600 young participants from 137 countries, creating space for intercultural dialogue among youth from countries especially along the terrestrial and maritime Silk Roads.



New UNESCO project office in Mongolia

**2024: The Office opened an Antenna Office in Mongolia from July 2024. It marked a significant milestone for UNESCO to become an UN resident agency in Mongolia.**

## UNESCO Contributions to the UN Collaboration Mechanisms

### 1. The Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing was designated as the Chair of the UN Theme Group on Gender (UNTGG) in China.

The UNTGG promotes inter-agency policy dialogue on gender, coordinates gender-related development, and supports the Government of China in pursuing its goals to achieve gender equality. Working closely with the UNTGG, UNESCO Beijing once played an active role in incorporating gender mainstreaming into the China UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2011-2015 and to promote the China Gender Facility for Research and Advocacy (CGF).

### 2. UNESCO Beijing contributed to the Theme Group on Poverty and Inequality (UNT GPI) in China.

The UNT GPI works with China to reduce inequalities in the country, focusing specifically on issues surrounding ethnic minority culture and development and migrant workers. The UNESCO Director and Representative once served as the Vice Chair for the Culture Joint Programme of the UNT GPI.

### 3. 2015: UNESCO Beijing Office assumed the role of Chair for the UN Thematic Group on Disability (UNTGD) in China.

Established in 2015 by the UN Country Team in China and chaired by UNESCO since then, the UNTGD is a unique platform for dialogue and advocacy on the rights and needs of people with disabilities in China. Its strength lies in its multi-stakeholder composition and adherence to the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us," emphasizing community involvement in decision-making. (Learn more on page 69)



4. UNESCO Beijing Office is also playing a significant role in contributing to the United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) in DPRK and Mongolia. This contribution is part of its broader mission to promote sustainable development and support the implementation of UNESCO's programs in the East Asian sub-region.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Facts and Figures in East Asia (as of December 2024)

<b>25</b> Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO	<b>9</b> UNITWIN Networks	<b>49</b> UNESCO Chairs	<b>109</b> World Heritage Sites
<b>111</b> Intangible Cultural Heritage Elements	<b>41</b> UNESCO Creative Cities	<b>69</b> Biosphere Reserves	
<b>62</b> Global Geoparks	<b>14</b> UNESCO International Centres for UNEVOC (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Network		
<b>1274</b> UNESCO ASPnet (Associated Schools Network) Schools	<b>48</b> Learning Cities in the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities	<b>48</b> Memory of the World Register Elements	

### New Additions to the UNESCO List and Designations in 2024 (Alphabetized by the first letter of the country name in English)

#### 1. Newly Inscribed World Heritage Sites in East Asia

(1) China - Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital (Cultural Site)



(2) China - Badain Jaran Desert - Towers of Sand and Lakes (Natural Site)



(3) China - Migratory Bird Sanctuary along the Yellow Sea Coast and Bohai Gulf of China (Significant modifications to the boundaries, Natural Site.)



© Yancheng Broadcasting Television

(4) Japan - Sado Island Gold Mines (Cultural Site)



Sado Island Gold Mines © Niigata Prefecture

(5) Republic of Korea  
Knowledge, beliefs and practices related to jang making in the Republic of Korea



© Korean Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation, Republic of Korea, 2021

- Further information about the [46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#)

## 2. UNESCO Intangible Heritage: 5 New Inscriptions in East Asia

(1) China

Spring festival, social practices of the Chinese people in celebration of traditional new year



© Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China, 2023

(2) Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Custom of Korean costume: traditional knowledge, skills and social practices in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



(3) Japan

Traditional knowledge and skills of sake-making with koji mold in Japan



© Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan, 2023

(4) Mongolia

Mongol nomad migration and its associated practices



© Battulga P, Mongolia

## 3. UNESCO Designated 2 New Biosphere Reserves in East Asia

(1) Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)



Pallas cat (Otocolobus manul), Khar Us Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia) © Sergelen

- [View the full list](#)

(2) Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea)



Upo Wetland, Changnyeong Biosphere Reserve (Republic of Korea) © Changnyeong-gun County

## 4. UNESCO Named 18 New Geoparks Globally, 6 in China

China

(1) Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark



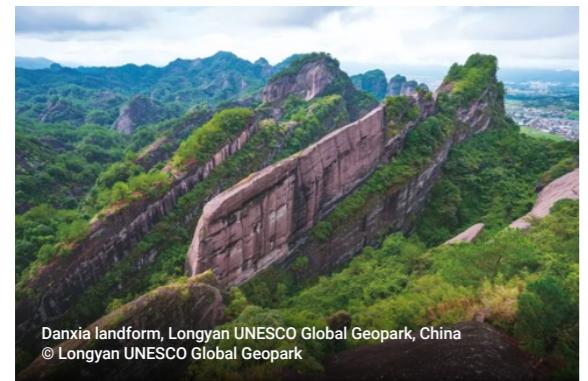
Daloumen Karst stone pillars, Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark, China © Enshi Grand Canyon-Tenglongdong Cave UNESCO Global Geopark

(2) Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark



Confluence of the Yellow River and the Tao River in the Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark, China © Linxia UNESCO Global Geopark

(3) Longyan UNESCO Global Geopark



(4) Mount Changbaishan UNESCO Global Geopark



Buan (Republic of Korea)



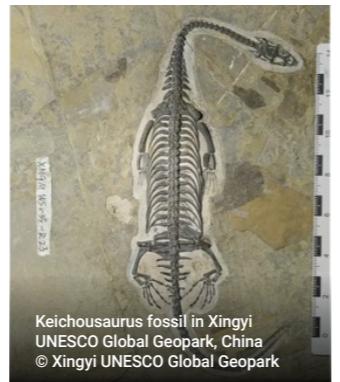
Hanam (Republic of Korea)



(5) Wugongshan UNESCO Global Geopark



(6) Xingyi UNESCO Global Geopark



Seo-gu (Gwangju) (Republic of Korea)



- [View the full list](#)

- [View the full list](#)

## 5. 5 Cities in East Asia Joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)

Nanjing (China)



Suzhou (China)





# Education Transforms Lives



## What we do in Education

### 1 Strengthening Education Systems

- Education policy and sector-wide planning
- Management and evaluation
- Teacher education
- Capacity-building at all levels

### 2 SDG 4 Coordination and Monitoring

- SDG 4 – Education 2030 coordination and implementation
- Global education monitoring report
- Strengthening education statistical system

### 3 Building Skills for Work and Life

- Higher education
- Literacy and adult learning
- Technical and vocational education and training (TVET)
- Lifelong learning

### 4 Education for Peace, the Planet and Well-being

- Education for health and well-being (HIV/ AIDS, Comprehensive Sexuality Education)
- ESDfor2030 Roadmap
- Global citizenship education

### 5 Leveraging Technology for Learning

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education policy
- Strengthening teachers' competency in ICT
- Open and distance learning (ODL)

### 6 Reimagining Education through Research, Foresight & Public Debate

- Futures of Education initiative
- Transforming Education Summit/ national consultations

## Flagship Initiative Driving Change

### Strengthening Educational Resilience to Withstand Mongolia's Extreme Winters

In Mongolia, extreme winter weather can severely impede access to education. UNESCO is working with partners to build the resilience of the education system against climate hazards like dzuds and ensure continuity of learning.

#### The impact of dzud on education



Dzuds in Mongolia © MNCU

Dzuds, slow-onset climate disasters unique to Mongolia, are characterized by extreme winters, below freezing temperatures, heavy snow and frozen ground. These conditions have a devastating impact on access to education, as infrastructure may be damaged and dangerous or impassable roads hinder school attendance. Consequently, many students face prolonged school absences, reduced learning outcomes, and psychological stress. Reduced livelihoods can also make it difficult for families to afford education for their children. Mongolia experienced its harshest dzud in 50 years between November 2023 and May 2024. Severe blizzards and extremely cold temperatures affected more than 188,300 people, including 80,215 children. Millions of livestock were killed, with profound consequences for herder families reliant on livestock for their income.

*"They wanted to come to school, but the roads were closed because of the snow, there were no vehicles to cross the snow, there was no fuel. It was difficult to leave their parents behind, and their beloved animals were also affected by the dzud."*

- Learn about the impact of the dzud on children in Mongolia via the [Mongolian National Commission to UNESCO](#)

In response, UNESCO Beijing, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO (MNCU), and other national education stakeholders united to support the Ministry of Education in the development and implementation of the Dzud Emergency Education Response Program, aiming to improve educational resilience and continuity during dzuds, including through:

- Enhancing the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Education to better respond to dzuds;
- Liaising with education authorities in affected areas to offer remedial classes;
- Facilitating remote learning, including through the provision of ICT devices;
- Enhancing the capacity of teachers and educational staff to provide psychosocial support;
- Translating UNESCO's guidelines on education in emergencies into Mongolian.



Mongolian students © MNCU

### Building educational resilience and preparedness for future dzuds

*"By providing timely, accurate information through various media channels, we can highlight practical measures for schools, parents, and communities to safeguard education during severe winters."*

- Professor Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia, speaking at the workshop: 'Ready for Winter and Spring? – Educate, Empower, Ensure'



Brigadier-General B. Uuganbayar, Deputy Director of the National Emergency Management Agency © MNCU

- [Read full article](#)

#### Looking ahead

As climate disasters become more frequent, effective policies are vital to protect Mongolia's learners and uphold their right to access education, including in emergencies. The Dzud Emergency Education Response Program has been implemented by the Ministry of Education, with support from UNESCO Beijing through the SDG4 Emergency Fund from the Education Sector. Looking ahead, the aim is to scale up the initiative to reach more schools and learners affected by dzuds across the country.

### Key Highlights of 2024

#### 1. Global citizenship and peace education

##### Strengthening Regional Collaboration on Global Citizenship Education and Education for Peace and Sustainable Development



Group photo of the Sub-Regional Workshop and Seminar. Ms. Choi Mee Young, Programme Specialist for Education at UNESCO Beijing (6th from right, front row) and Ms. Tianzhou Zhao, Programme Assistant (5th from right, front row) were among the onsite participants

The Sub-Regional Workshop and Seminar on "Global Citizenship Education (GCED)" and the "Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights, and Sustainable Development" were held in Fukuoka, Japan, on October 26 – 27, 2024. This event was co-organized by Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU), Kyushu University, the Comparative Education Society of Asia (CESA), and UNESCO Beijing to support the regional implementation of GCED, UNESCO's Recommendation embedding peace, human rights, and sustainable development into education systems across the East Asia. The event brought together over 40 key stakeholders from Ministries of Education, NGOs, academia, and international experts, highlighting the urgent need for education policies that promote peace, social cohesion, and sustainable development in East Asia. Over 30 participants also joined online, underscoring the event's regional significance.

- [Read full article](#)

## 2. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

TVET connects education and work. It is crucial to address economic, social and environmental demands by helping youth and adults develop skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

### 1) UNESCO Partners with UNEVOC Centre in Hong Kong to Promote Green Skills and Youth Empowerment

UNESCO Beijing partnered with the Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK), a UNEVOC Centre, hosted the UNESCO and UNEVOC (Hong Kong) Symposium themed "Empowering Youth with Green skills" on 26-27 Feb 2024. The symposium had laid the solid foundation to advance the discourse on green skills and green transition, as well as the crucial role of TVET education in shaping a sustainable future aligned with the needs of the labour market and green economy.



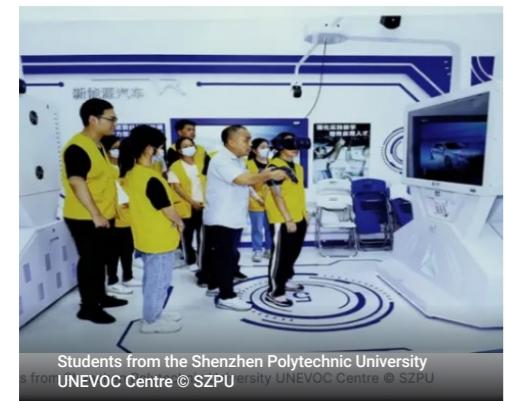
Group photo of the UNESCO and UNEVOC (Hong Kong) Symposium



On-site photo of the symposium © EdUHK

- [Read full article](#)

### 2) UNESCO fostering closer cooperation among UNEVOC Centres in China to advance the TVET Agenda



Students from the Shenzhen Polytechnic University UNEVOC Centre © SZPU

The five UNEVOC Centres in China held an on-line consultation meeting on 25 June to assess the progress and strengthen cooperation on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in China. The main objective was to establish a solid platform for dialogue and cooperation. The strategic collaboration among UNEVOC Centres in China is very critical to advance dialogue on TVET and skills agenda in China.

- [Read full article](#)

### 3) UNESCO partners with UNESCO INRULED to Promote Digital Transformation of TVET and Sustainable Rural Development



Digital transformation of TVET

As part of the 2024 Global Smart Education Conference, the TVET Leadership and Management Programme—a capacity-building workshop for TVET stakeholders from Southeast Asian countries—was successfully held from 18 to 24 August. The workshop, themed "Promoting Digital Transformation of TVET for Sustainable Rural Development," aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices in TVET digital transformation and its role in sustainable rural development, while also enhancing leadership and management skills in these areas.

- [Read full article](#)

## 3. Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning is essential for alleviating poverty and hunger, addressing the climate crisis, fostering peaceful societies, and shaping our future. This journey begins in early childhood, preparing individuals for a lifelong learning path that becomes increasingly important as we must upskill and reskill to adapt to a world in constant change. Community Learning Centers (CLC) are an essential contributor to advancing lifelong education. They are instrumental for the provision of lifelong learning opportunities and skills training at the community level, as they involve local citizens and skills training aligned with local needs.

### 1) UNESCO Promotes Lifelong Learning Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Nanjing, China

On 19-21 May, the 2024 International Symposium on "Lifelong Learning Empowering Sustainable Urban Development" was held in Nanjing, China, supported by UNESCO Beijing. Under the themes of "lifelong learning" and "sustainable urban development", the symposium was attended by nearly 300 education officials, educators, experts, professionals and city representatives from 12 countries (China, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Thailand, Laos, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, and Indonesia) and concluded with the adoption of the declaration to strengthen lifelong learning in urban areas in China.

2024 “终身学习赋能城市可持续发展”国际研讨会  
2024 International Symposium On “Lifelong Learning Empowering Sustainable Urban Development”  
2024.5.19 · 南京



2024 International Symposium on 'Lifelong Learning Empowering Sustainable Urban Development' held in Nanjing © Nanjing University



Mr. Robert Parua of UNESCO presenting the GNLC membership certificates to Vice Mayors of Nanjing and Suzhou © Nanjing University

During the symposium, the launch ceremony for Suzhou and Nanjing joining the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) took place. Membership certificates were presented to the Deputy Mayors.

- [Read full article](#)

## TVET + Lifelong learning

### 1) UNESCO Partners with INRULED to Enhance Collaboration in TVET and Adult Education and Lifelong Learning with Southeast Asia Countries and China for Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

At the opening ceremony of the “China-Southeast Asia Capacity Building Workshop”, the joint symposium on “Transforming TVET and Adult Education for Sustainable Rural Development” was successfully held at Beijing Normal University on June 13, 2024, to promote cooperation between Southeast Asia Countries and China in TVET and adult education and lifelong learning.

This workshop was jointly organized by Beijing Normal University, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), UNESCO Beijing Office, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED).

The symposium brought together over 100 policymakers, experts, and practitioners from China and eight Southeast Asian countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) to exchange knowledge, best practices, and discuss strategies for skills transformation in rural areas. Additionally, more than 1,500 participants joined via live broadcast, highlighting the event's broad impact and regional significance.



• [Read full article](#)

Teachers on the 16 December 2024 at Peking University. The event, hosted by the Institute of Child and Adolescent Health of Peking University, and supported by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and the Department of Physical Education, Health, and Arts of the Ministry of Education of China, brought together a total of 109 education officials, experts and teachers, and was live-streamed online, attracting approximately 43,000 viewers.

The success of the workshop built a platform for exchange and cooperation in the field of school health education for experts, scholars, and educators, injecting new vitality and momentum into the development of school health education in China. It represented a critical step towards integrating health education in school teaching, curriculum and educational activities. It is of significance for promoting the capacity enhancement of school health education and improving the health literacy of children and adolescents at national level, thus advancing the global health and education agenda by 2030.

• [Read full article](#)

## 5. Leveraging Technology for Learning

Digital technology has become a social necessity to ensure education as a basic human right, especially in a world experiencing more frequent crises and conflicts. UNESCO supports the use of digital innovation in expanding access to educational opportunities and advancing inclusion, enhancing the relevance and quality of learning, building ICT-enhanced lifelong learning pathways, strengthening education and learning management systems, and monitoring learning processes. To achieve these goals, UNESCO works to develop digital literacy and digital competencies with a focus on teachers and students.

### Digital Upskilling of Teachers in Mongolia



The “Digital Upskilling of Teachers in Mongolia” project, spearheaded by UNESCO Beijing in collaboration with the ICDL Asia Foundation, the Mongolia National Commission for UNESCO, and the Mongolian Ministry of Education, was launched to align Mongolia’s 2050 Digital Nation Vision with UNESCO’s Education 2030 Agenda. This initiative aimed to enhance digital literacy among secondary school teachers, addressing gaps in technology integration within Mongolia’s education system.

The project unfolded in three key phases: five master trainers were trained with a Compass assessment tool to evaluate their baseline digital skills, a Train-the-Trainer workshop was held covering modules on documents, spreadsheets, presentations, cybersecurity, and ICT in education, and a Pilot Training phase engaged twenty teachers in localized modules tailored to Mongolia’s needs, including application essentials, cybersecurity, and ICT integration.

In addition, three training modules were translated into Mongolian to improve accessibility. Teachers emphasized the relevance of ICT in education, particularly its potential to enhance classroom engagement. Ongoing eLearning resources and localized materials were developed to ensure sustainability and support future upskilling efforts.

Direct beneficiaries included the 20 pilot teachers and 5 master trainers, who gained skills to train peers. Partners such as the FARO Foundation contributed to resource mobilization, while the Mongolian Ministry of Education ensured alignment with national priorities.

The project established a foundational model for scalable digital literacy programs, demonstrating the effectiveness of blended learning in resource-constrained environments. By fostering equitable access to technology skills, it strengthened Mongolia’s digital education infrastructure, ultimately benefiting students and educators across the country.

• [Read full article](#)

## 4. Health Education

UNESCO works to improve the physical and mental health, well-being and education outcomes of all learners. By reducing health-related barriers to learning, such as gender-based violence, gender inequality, HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), early and unintended pregnancy, bullying and discrimination, and malnutrition, UNESCO, governments and school systems empower learners to understand their rights, learn better and lead fulfilling lives.

### UNESCO and Peking University Host Capacity Building Workshop on Health Education for Teachers in Beijing



In a significant move to bolster health education for teachers, UNESCO Beijing, in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Global Health and Education (Peking University), convened the Capacity Building Workshop on Health Education for

# Science for a Sustainable Future



## What we do in Natural Sciences

### 1 Ecology and Earth Sciences

- UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme
  - Secretariat of East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN)
  - Supporting youth and young professional working on biodiversity, food security, and climate change
- International Geosciences and Geoparks Programme (IGGP)
  - Awareness raising and capacity building for UNESCO Global Geoparks
  - Promoting geoscience research
- Promoting UNESCO Designated Sites as living laboratories for celebrating local and indigenous knowledge, sustainable development and ecotourism

### 2 Water Sciences: Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP)

- Promoting water and river ethics
- Developing guidelines for Open Hydrology for Integrated River Basin Management
- Promoting water Education and Water and Culture

### 3 Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)

- Strengthening science policy through regional and national SETI master plan
- Implementing UNESCO Open Science recommendation
- Promoting women and youth in science

## Flagship Initiative Driving Change

### “Accelerating Carbon Neutrality: Innovative Actions for Sustainable Development” Project



The project has been jointly initiated by UNESCO Beijing Office, China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund from June 2022. The project seeks to facilitate sustainability science, education for sustainable development, and capacity building for stakeholders including youth to be equipped with knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes matching climate change response, including carbon footprint reduction, ecological protection, and biodiversity conservation, with the purpose to promote the practical action of ecological civilization and build a sustainable future for all.



Volunteer teaching activity was held at Hainan Nongken Experimental Middle School by Tsinghua University ©Tsinghua University& UNESCO



Volunteer Teaching activity was successfully held at Ya'n Hope School ©Tsinghua University& UNESCO

## Part I Accelerating Youth Climate Action

In 2024, the project significantly advanced youth engagement in climate action through a series of impactful activities.

### • Empowering Youth to Lead Climate Action

The 2024 Youth Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Hackathon, lasted from 20 March to 8 June 2024, saw 75 teams comprising 400 young students from 12 countries submitting innovative proposals with the theme on “Foster Innovation and Empower Youth Leadership for Climate Disaster Risk Reduction”. The grand final attracted 100 participants offline and 1,300 participants online, showcasing the global reach and engagement of the initiative.



### • Educational Outreach and Capacity Building

◦ **Volunteer-Led Courses:** 40 volunteer students delivered courses on ocean conservation, clean energy, and disaster reduction, reaching approximately 1,880 participants across various educational levels from preschool to university.

◦ **Model Climate Change Conference of Parties (MCCOP9):** To empower the young climate leaders and cultivate global perspectives, the MCCOP9 was successfully held in Beijing from 15 to 17 September, featuring a 2-day online training and a 3-day on-site mock negotiation, engaging a total of 849 participants.

◦ **COP29 Side Event:** During the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) in Baku, a side event co-hosted by UNESCO Beijing on 18 November involved 30 young representatives who shared their perspectives on climate change governance.



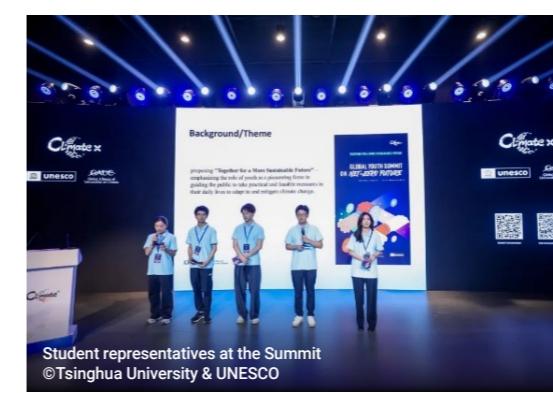
Volunteer teaching activity at Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark, Beijing. During the lecture session, student volunteer Jia Jinkai and Wang Zhaochen from Tsinghua University delivered lectures on Geography and Rock Stone and Clean Energy utilization for Buildings ©Tsinghua University& UNESCO

Moreover, 2 educational activities continued to provide capacity building and exchange platforms for youth.

### • Global Climate Change Lectures and Summits

◦ **Global Climate Change Lectures:** Two lectures at Tsinghua University in June and November attracted over 500 participants, providing a platform for expert engagement.

◦ **Fourth Global Youth Summit on Net-Zero Future:** To advance climate action and to articulate the innovative solutions of youth, the Summit was organised on 12-14 November, and saw over 400 young delegates and experts from 26 nations participate in person, with an additional 270,000 viewers online, showcasing youth representatives' commitment and proactive efforts in addressing climate change issues.



## Part II Forest Protection Action

This project focused on raising awareness and promoting scientific knowledge on biodiversity conservation and forest protection through targeted activities:

• **Science Popularization Knowledge Competition:** To improve youth's awareness of biodiversity conservation and popularize scientific knowledge on dual carbon goals and tropical rainforests, the second competition themed on "Conserving Biodiversity & Safeguarding National Parks" was held in Baisha Li Ethnic Group Autonomous County in November. This competition engaged over 80 students and teachers from 19 local universities. The online component attracted 83,000 participants to take quizzes, significantly expanding the reach of the initiative.



• **Youth Forest Nature Education Activities:** To promote nature education and forest protection through leveraging national parks, two activities were organised in the Northeast China Tiger and Leopard National Park and the Wuyishan National Park in July and August in collaboration with the National Forestry and Grassland Administration, Heilongjiang Forestry and Grassland Administration, and Fujian Forestry Society. A total of 90 students from 21 provinces across the country participated in the events. They gained knowledge of natural resources and the significance of biodiversity in national parks through a combination of indoor courses and outdoor nature observations. Additionally, they demonstrated their commitment to climate action advocacy.



## Part III Tropical Rainforest Biodiversity Conservation Action

The project continued to strengthen biodiversity conservation efforts in tropical rainforests through education and scientific research.

• **School-Based Curricula and Teacher Training:** A series of science popularization education activities were continuously organised in 2024 with an updated theme on "Conserving Biodiversity & Safeguarding National Parks". In collaboration with local partners in Hainan Province, such as the Hainan Institute of National Parks and Hainan Nongken Experimental Middle School, four school-based curriculums, namely "Blue Sky", "Clear Water", "Good Sounds" and "Walking into Wuzhishan" were updated. This was achieved by updating data and case studies, integrating local ecosystem resources, and strengthening teacher capacity. Additionally, a three-day training on nature education tutors was conducted in Qiongzhong Li and Miao Ethnic Autonomous County in December, benefitting 30 staff and young professionals from the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park Administration. This empowered the participants with knowledge and skills in ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation, and course design, thereby enhancing their professional competence.

• **Scientific Research and Monitoring:** Support was provided for monitoring research on Hainan gibbons in the Bawangling Branch and studies on butterflies and predators in the Maorui Branch of the Hainan Tropical Rainforest National Park. These efforts supplemented knowledge of flagship species and their food chain, assessed the local ecosystem, and provided a scientific basis for habitat restoration and sustainable management strategies for the national parks.

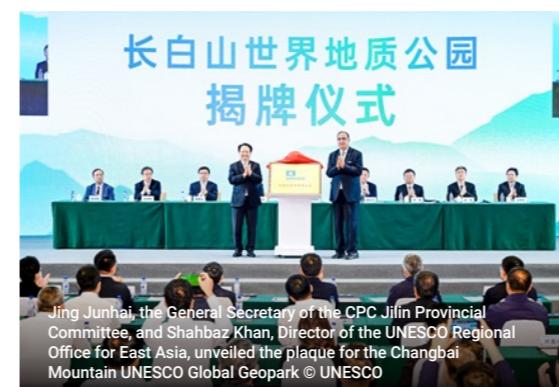


## Key Highlights of 2024

### 1. Ecology and Earth Sciences

UNESCO is committed to advancing our understanding of Earth's systems and fostering sustainable development in ecology and earth sciences. Under this initiative, the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme (IGGP) are key programs that support sustainable development through UNESCO Designated sites: Biosphere Reserves (BRs) and UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGGps). These sites are instrumental in creating local solutions for addressing global challenges like climate change and biodiversity loss. In 2024, UNESCO Beijing Office continued to support the implementation of MAB and IGGP in the East Asia region. We provided capacity development opportunities for Mongolia BRs and the aspiring UGGp in the South Gobi Region and promoted youth empowerment through activities linked with the MAB Youth Forum and the East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN). We are also preparing for the regional engagement in the 5th World Congress on Biosphere Reserve (WCBR) in China in 2025.

#### 1) Jilin Province Tourism Development Conference and Changbaishan Global Geopark & Biosphere Reserve Sustainable Development Conference



On 14 June 2024, the Jilin Province Tourism Development Conference was held in the Changbaishan Conservation and Development Zone, where the plaque for the Changbai Mountain Global Geopark was unveiled. On the following day, the Changbaishan Global Geopark & Biosphere Reserve Sustainable Development Conference took place in the same zone. Over 180 experts, scholars, and professional representatives from relevant fields attended this conference. Mount Changbaishan is home to two UNESCO designated sites: the "Mount Changbaishan UNESCO Global Geopark" and the "Changbaishan Biosphere Reserve".

## 2) The 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Development of the Global Geoparks in China



On 20 June 2024, the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Development of the Global Geoparks in China was held in Beijing. The event reviewed the 20-year development journey of China's Global Geoparks, exchanged best practices and experiences in the management and sustainable development of Global Geoparks, and arranged and deployed key tasks for the next phase. Over the past 20 years, China has developed to own 47 UNESCO Global Geoparks.

## 3) Post-2023 MAB Youth Forum: Advancing Youth Empowerment in Ecosystem Conservation



On 22 July 2024, UNESCO Beijing and the Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences co-organised a special side event, "Post-2023 MAB Youth Forum", at the 6th International Conference on Resources, Environment and Regional Sustainable Development in Northeast Asia, the 4th International Conference on Black Soil Conservation and Utilization. This event is a significant follow-up to the First Regional Youth Forum for Asia and the Pacific for Man & Biosphere (MAB) 2023, which continued the discussions on ecosystem conservation, biodiversity, and food security, emphasising the critical role of youth in these areas. It also promoted the implementation of the three outcomes from the 2023 Forum: the Xingkai Lake Declaration, the International Young Professional Network for Biodiversity Conservation and Food Security, and the Transboundary Ecosystem Conservation, Climate Change and Food Security Initiative.

## 4) Training Workshop on Promotion of Ecotourism in UNESCO Designated Sites held in Mongolia



From 2 to 5 September 2024, the Training Workshop on Promotion of Ecotourism in UNESCO Designated Sites was held in Onon-Balj Biosphere Reserve Mongolia. It was co-organised by UNESCO Beijing, Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Environment and Tourism Mongolia, World Wild Foundation Office in Mongolia, The Nature Conservancy office in Mongolia, and hosted by Administration Office of Onon-Balj National Park as well as the Governor's Office of Khentii Province and Dornod Province. The workshop was attended by 80 participants from Mongolia, including workshop organizers and representatives from 10 Biosphere Reserve administration offices and 6 World Heritage property administration offices.

## 5) 2024 East Asia Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN) Steering Committee Meeting



From 7 to 10 November 2024, a 3-day EABRN Steering Committee Meeting was held to further discuss preparations for the postponed EABRN training and meeting, as well as planning tentative activities for the next phase of the EABRN Project. With the continuous support of ROK in the past 30 years, and as part of the EABRN Steering Committee Meeting organization, EABRN members were also supported in participating in the Symposium for Future Generation and a field trip at the UNESCO Multi-designated site in Yeoncheon. The Steering Committee meeting covered ongoing and proposed activities, including youth engagement and leadership development, and the network's participation in the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, Hangzhou, China, in 2025.

## 2. Water Sciences

Within the framework of the ninth phase of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP-IX) and its Strategic Plan, UNESCO has been actively promoting the integration of sociocultural dimensions into water resource management in 2024. By emphasizing the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and the importance of Open Science, UNESCO advocates for holistic, transparent, and inclusive approaches to water governance. The Office has prioritized raising public awareness of sustainable water practices and fostering a deeper understanding of the cultural values tied to water systems, contributing to resilient and equitable water management globally.

- Read more: [Strategic Plan of the IHP-IX: Science for a Water Secure World in a Changing Environment, ninth phase 2022-2029](#)

## 1) 2024 World Water Day Open Day: Mutual Learning on Water Civilization and Promoting Water Cooperation



On 22 March, the 2024 World Water Day Open Day was held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, with the theme "Water for Peace". The event was co-hosted by the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) and UNESCO Beijing. It aimed to build a platform for exchange and dialogue among different water cultures, as well as mutual learning among different water civilizations, through museum research, salon exchange and discussions, and urban water system investigation.

## 2) Students' Scientific Conference in Mongolia on World Water Day 2024



On 22 March 2024, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with UNESCO Beijing, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other local institutions, organised this event under the theme "Water – A Key to Development" on World Water Day 2024. The conference was attended by 80 participants, aiming to foster cooperation between water-related authorities and universities and increase awareness among government officials and students about shared water resources and transboundary water issues, and encourage actionable solutions.

### 3) The 10th World Water Forum: UNESCO Mobilizes the International Community for Sustainable Water Management



The UNESCO Beijing delegation at the 10th World Water Forum  
© UNESCO

UNESCO Beijing helped to promote international cooperation and innovative solutions to tackle the pressing global water challenges at the 10th World Water Forum from 18-24 May in Bali, Indonesia. The 2024 edition, hosted by the World Water Council and Indonesia and held under the theme "Water for Shared Prosperity", brought together policymakers, scientists, and stakeholders from around the world and led to a joint global commitment to water availability and water cooperation.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing, led a delegation to the forum and hosted a number of thematic and regional sessions and events. These activities highlighted the importance of cultural and ethical aspects in global water management, including a youth perspective through a poster competition. They also addressed the role of open science in water science in East Asia and globally. Youth voices were given particular importance at the Northeast Asian Youth Session during which local and regional research, projects, and experiences were shared with the audience by youth representatives."

### 4) Stockholm World Water Week 2024: Accountability for Enhanced Ecosystem Security and Water Resilience in Asia-Pacific



Group photo © Japan Water Forum

UNESCO Beijing, together with the Asia-Pacific Water Forum (APWF), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), co-organized a session titled "Accountability for Enhanced Ecosystem Security and Water Resilience in Asia-Pacific" on 27 August 2024 during the Stockholm World Water Week. The session highlighted the role of digital technologies, community engagement, and scientific data in addressing water and ecosystem challenges. Key themes focused on data-driven decision-making, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative approaches to sustainable water management. Prof. Shahbaz Khan delivered the presentation and highlighted UNESCO's role in promoting open science, integrated water resource management (IWRM) through Accountable Data and Information.

### 5) UNESCO at AIWW 2024: Building Harmony Between Human and Nature Through Holistic Water Solutions



Opening Ceremony @AIWW 2024



Plenary Session on River Conservation and Development  
@AIWW 2024

The 3rd Asia International Water Week (AIWW) was held in Beijing from 23 to 28 September, 2024, with over 1,300 participants from 70 countries. Co-hosted by China's Ministry of Water Resources and the Asia Water Council, the event, themed "Enhancing Our Future Water Security," focused on collaborative, innovative, and sustainable solutions to Asia's water challenges.

UNESCO Beijing, led by Director Prof. Shahbaz Khan, played a key role, in emphasizing sustainable water management, transboundary cooperation, technological innovation, and youth empowerment. Key highlights included celebrating the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO Category II Centre—International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRT CES), unveiling the book River Ethics and China's Practices, and signing an MoU with the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

UNESCO Beijing also highlighted the importance of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) and Open Science for resilient water governance. Two UNESCO Water Family symposiums stressed the need for data sharing and transparent water science. Through its active participation, UNESCO reinforced its commitment to sustainable water management and global water security.

## 4. Science, Technology and Innovation

In 2024, UNESCO Beijing led efforts to advance the UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (2024–2033) in East Asia, with a focus on promoting open science, fostering international collaboration and policy dialogue. The office supported the organization of high-profile events in China, which has brought together diverse partners to bridge science, policy and innovation in addressing global sustainable development challenges. Through the collaboration with diversified networks and institutions, including the Asia Pacific Advanced Network (APAN), the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP), School on Internet, Asia (SOI-Asia), the Office remains dedicated to upholding its commitment to fostering regional science dialogues. These efforts demonstrate the Office's key role in driving scientific collaboration, equitable knowledge sharing, and sustainable development in the region.

### 1) International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development Forum Opens in Beijing



Panel discussion on the Science Decade © ZGC Forum

On 25 April 2024, UNESCO Beijing co-organized the "International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development Forum" in Beijing with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and the People's Government of Beijing Municipality as one parallel forum of the 2024 ZGC Forum. The objectives are to foster a culture of science by expanding the outreach of the Science Decade, and to engage and mobilize various stakeholders for its effective implementation. 13 esteemed scientists, experts, and senior government officials from 9 countries presented and exchanged their perspectives and advice regarding the Science Decade's implementation.

## 2) Gathering Wisdom, Sharing the Blue: UNESCO Supports Marine Sustainability



Group photo of Subforum 4 © ISTICF &amp; DSSTIC

From 23 to 25 August, 2024, the 2nd Hainan Free Trade Port International Science and Technology Innovation Cooperation Forum (ISTICF) & Deep-Sea Science and Technology Innovation Conference (DSSTIC) was held in Sanya, Hainan Province, China, bringing together over 400 experts and leaders from 21 countries and 270 institutions. With the theme "Gathering Wisdom in the Deep Sea, Sharing the Blue Ocean", the conference focused on cutting-edge issues in marine science and technology, exploration of marine civilization, marine ecological protection, and marine governance policies.

UNESCO Beijing co-organized the Sub-forum 4, "Ocean Science and Technology Innovation for the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals," and the Sub-forum 3, "Deep-sea Science, Technology, and Archaeology" during the conference. The forums focused on blue carbon research, coastal wetland protection, open science, deep-sea archaeology etc., bringing together experts and policymakers to explore innovative solutions and foster international collaboration.

## 3) Harnessing AI for Advancing Open Science in Asia



Prof. Shahbaz Khan delivered a speech © APAN58

During the 58th Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN58) meeting held from 26–30 August 2024 in Islamabad, Pakistan, UNESCO Beijing, with support from the UNESCO Islamabad, organized a session titled "Harnessing AI for Advancing Open Science in Asia". The session brought together leading experts to discuss opportunities and challenges in integrating AI into Open Science practices, highlighting innovative solutions, ethical considerations, and successful case studies to foster collaboration and advance Open Science in the Asia-Pacific region.

## 4) Engineering Collaboration for a Sustainable Future



Prof. Shahbaz Khan delivered a keynote presentation © 2024 IEC

The 2024 International Engineering Congress (2024 IEC) was held in Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, from 8 to 9 November, 2024, with the support of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Beijing, and other organizations. Under the theme "Engineering Innovation: Cooperation for Mutual Benefits", the event gathered representatives from 50 international organizations across 41 countries.

UNESCO Beijing Office co-hosted the thematic session on "International Cooperation for Emerging Technologies in Engineering", addressing topics such as open engineering, AI applications, and challenges and opportunities for the Global South in technological collaboration, etc. The session highlighted the importance of knowledge sharing, data transparency, and cross-border collaboration in promoting sustainable development, while calling for capacity-building initiatives to support fair, open, and inclusive engineering practices globally.

## 5) 2024 Seminar of UNESCO Regional Network of Natural Products Chemistry for Safety and Well-being in Pan-Asia and the Pacific (URSWAP)



Group photo of 2024 URSWAP Seminar

In collaboration with the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (Simm) and the State Key Laboratory of Drug Research, UNESCO Beijing Office co-organized the 2024 Seminar of the UNESCO Regional Network of Natural Products Chemistry for Safety and Well-being in Pan-Asia and the Pacific, in Shanghai, from 12 to 14 December 2024. The Network was revived in November 2023 to actively support the implementation of the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033), and to address global challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and public health issues as a platform to foster collaboration, inclusivity and innovation.

More than 60 experts, scholars and young scientists from 16 countries and regions including China, Japan, ROK, Vietnam and Thailand, etc., participated in this meeting, where 29 academic reports on ethnic medicine research were presented. This year's meeting revitalized and expanded the Network, shared the latest advances in natural products, and promoted the integration of modern science and traditional practices.



# Building Inclusive and Sustainable Economies and Societies



## What we do in Social and Human Sciences

### 1 Strengthening Ethics Infrastructure

- Ethics of Artificial Intelligence
- Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology
- Climate Change Ethics
- Ethics Education

### 2 Youth: A Priority Group for UNESCO

- Building capacities of youth to generate knowledge
- Policy solutions on, with and by youth
- Youth-led action and innovation
- International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads

### 3 Advancing Policies and Practices for Inclusive Development

- Enhancing knowledge base for disability-inclusive policies
- Fostering gender equality through knowledge and policy-oriented products, and engaging men and boys as proactive agents of change
- Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme

### 4 Promoting a Culture of Peace

- Nanjing Peace Forum
- Supporting peace education
- UNESCO Silk Roads Programme: furthering understanding of the rich history and shared legacy of the historic Silk Roads

## Flagship Initiative Driving Change

### 2024 International Youth Forum on Creativity and Heritage along the Silk Roads (IYF)



Since its inception in 2017, IYF has become an important platform to promote cross-cultural exchanges and cooperation among the youth of Belt and Road countries and beyond. In 2024, the forum is held from 22 to 28 September in the cities of Changsha and Nanjing, China. It aims to encourage young people worldwide to engage in the protection of cultural heritage, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, and contribute to building a shared future for mankind.

The 2024 IYF was themed on "Reimagining Our Heritage: Stories of Resilience and Change". 60 young people from 53 countries across the world joined this annual event. This year's forum focused on exploring the dynamic interplay between cultural heritage and contemporary innovation.

Participants engaged in a diverse program encompassing keynote speeches from leading experts, interactive workshops, and enriching cultural visits to historical sites. A key highlight was the Youth Sharing Sessions, where all participants presented their research and insights on topics such as the role of technology in heritage conservation and the resilience of communities along the Silk Roads. Collaborative group projects, including SDG-focused poster designs, fostered teamwork and creative problem-solving. The 2024 IYF provided a platform for intercultural dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the development of future heritage advocates, reinforcing the power of youth to shape a more sustainable and culturally rich world.



Responding to the high demand of the post-event survey for recent IYFs, the IYF Alumni Network was launched after the 2024 Forum, a long-awaited initiative designed to maintain connections and facilitate continued collaboration among past participants. Regional Facilitators were selected by their peers of 2024 IYF Participants through a democratic voting process. These dedicated individuals will serve as key coordinators for their respective regions, fostering connections, organizing events, and driving impactful initiatives within the IYF Alumni Network.

- **Africa and Europe:** Johnson Abayi (Ghana)
- **Americas:** Bruna Tabajara Brilmann (Brazil)
- **Arab States:** Rime El Harrouni (Morocco)
- **Asia and Pacific:** Hoodh Ibrahim (Maldives)

To know more about the 2024 IYF from a special youth perspective, please check [here](#).

## Key Highlights of 2024

### 1. Youth Engagement

In 2024, SHS's youth engagement activities prioritized empowerment, skills development, and fostering a sense of global citizenship among young people. The focus was on providing opportunities for youth to actively participate in shaping the future through dialogue, collaboration, and engagement with key global issues.

### Model UNESCO General Conference in Mongolia 2024: Empowering Youth to Shape the Future

In partnership with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, a Model UNESCO General Conference in Mongolia was organized. It was a platform designed to engage and empower youth in discussions on global issues aligned with UNESCO's core missions. This initiative fostered diplomatic skills, deepened understanding of international affairs, and encouraged peer collaboration.

The event, launched on 30 August, 2024, and held from 28 to 29 September, selected 60 participants from 110 applicants, with a focus on gender balance. Out of the 110 applications, 60 participants were selected, comprising 39 females and 21 males. Thirteen participants were university students, while the remainder were from secondary schools.

Key outcomes included consensus on educational accessibility in underrepresented communities and significant strides in cultural preservation through sustainable tourism. The event empowered youth, with delegates leading discussions on education, heritage, and environmental protection, showcasing their commitment to global challenges.

The event significantly raised awareness among delegates, sparking further conversations and inspiring action, demonstrating its role in creating a legacy of informed, and engaged youth working toward UNESCO's goals.



### 2. Fostering Inclusive Development

Inclusive development was advanced in 2024 by addressing diverse dimensions of social inclusion. UNESCO Beijing's work focused on tackling social issues such as bullying and discrimination, examining emerging challenges related to gender equality in the digital age, and promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

### Advancing Disability Rights in Mongolia through UNCRPD Recommendations

Mongolia has been committed to promoting equal opportunities for persons with disabilities since ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009. The country submitted its initial report to the UN Committee in 2015 and a combined second and third report in 2023, receiving recommendations to enhance policy and practice.

In response, UNESCO Beijing and the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO together launched an initiative to consolidate the guidance from the UNCRPD reports. There were two sections in this initiative: 1) Development of a comprehensive manual that includes a brief review of UN repository of Human Rights, and information to equip targeted

trainees with necessary understanding and working knowledge with and for Persons with Disabilities in Mongolia; 2) A one-day tailored training workshop to reach around 60 government officials and stakeholder from Mongolia.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in Mongolia led the drafting of a comprehensive manual, which was reviewed by an independent expert and distributed to over 500 stakeholders. The manual covers the CRPD overview, implementation, and specific recommendations for Mongolia.

The training session was then organized on 30 September, 2024, at the UN Conference Hall. The training equipped government representatives with a comprehensive understanding of the CRPD and its implementation in Mongolia. In total, 65 government officials from different government departments at both national and local level attended the training. Participants' awareness of disability-inclusive policies was significantly heightened, and they gained insights into implementing the UN Committee's recommendations. The training also fostered stronger inter-agency collaboration, enhancing the effectiveness of policies and improving outcomes for persons with disabilities. These outcomes collectively contribute to bridging the gap between Mongolia's laws and the CRPD standards, empowering stakeholders to advance disability rights and promote inclusive development.



## **Mongolian Scientific Conference on Gender Equality: Lessons, Opportunities, and Solutions**

UNESCO Beijing has supported the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO in 2022 and 2023 respectively for carrying out social media campaign and training workshops for students, under the UNESCO initiative of "Transforming MENTalities". Then, in late 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia launched a "She for He" initiative to remove the gender barriers in the context of a nomadic society. In response to this governmental initiative, UNESCO Beijing supported Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO to carry on deepening the research and policy dialogues on Gender Equality in 2024.

A scientific assessment was developed by the Gender Studies Institute of National University of Mongolia prior to the Conference. The assessment involved consultations with experts and stakeholders to draft targeted policy recommendations addressing specific gender issues in Mongolia. The conference, held on 19 November, 2024, at the University of Mongolia, brought together 83 representatives from 42 organizations. The conference covered themes such as policy implementation, rural gender equality, global initiatives, innovations in enforcement, and collaborative strategies.

24 Policy Recommendations were put forward as key outcomes of the Conference. These Recommendations were designed to foster gender equality, promote inclusive development, and create a more equitable society in Mongolia.



National Anti-bullying and Anti-discrimination Forum in Mongolia

Bullying, in its various forms, remains a significant societal issue impacting the well-being and development of young individuals. UNESCO Member States recognized this severity by designating the first Thursday of November as the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School, Including Cyberbullying, acknowledging the infringement on children and adolescents' rights to education, health, and overall well-being.

On 27 November, 2024, with the support from UNESCO Beijing, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, in collaboration with an NGO named Human Rights Protector Youths, organized a National Anti-bullying and Anti-discrimination Forum in Ulaanbaatar. This forum aimed to address and combat discrimination and bullying, especially in educational settings. The event included keynote presentations and panel discussion. Keynote addresses and panel discussions covered topics such as the current state of discrimination, root causes, legal frameworks, and best practices.

The National Anti-Bullying and Anti-Discrimination Forum successfully brought together key stakeholders to discuss the critical issues of discrimination and bullying. The event facilitated valuable discussions and resulted in the development of actionable policy recommendations. These recommendations, when implemented, will significantly contribute to creating a safer and more inclusive environment in schools across Mongolia.



## Research on Digital Misogyny and Gender Discrimination behind AI Algorithm in the Republic of Korea (ROK)



## Cover of the UNESCO report: Challenging Systematic Prejudices: An Investigation into Gender Bias in Large Language Models

Not only in physical life, gender bias can also perpetuate through digital space, which can be further reproduced and amplified by Artificial Intelligence (AI). The UNESCO report produced in 2024, Challenging Systematic Prejudices: An Investigation into Gender Bias in Large Language Models, has called for continuous research and policy intervention to "address the bias that exacerbate as these technologies are integrated across diverse societal and cultural landscapes".

ROK, a country that has emerged as an AI technology and innovation leading country, has witnessed the reproduction of digital misogyny and gender discrimination by AI. UNESCO Beijing, in collaboration with Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC), based in Sookmyung Women's University in ROK, conducted research on digital misogyny and gender discrimination behind AI algorithms.

The research title was further focused and anchored as "Confronting Algorithmic Gender Bias and Misogyny: Who Stands Against AI Algorithmic Bias in South Korea and What Drives Their Resistance?" after initial literature review carried out.

A public survey, with the sample size of 1,000 South Korean ordinary women and men in different age cohorts from 20s to 60s, had been conducted by the researchers. The survey questions cover topics including exposure to AI services, daily usage of

algorithmic feeds and recommendations, familiarity to AI technology, awareness of algorithmic bias and discrimination, sensitivity to misogyny and gender bias in algorithms, involvement in political activism and feminist movements, and support for regulating algorithms (e.g., Twitter, Facebook).

This research concluded that there is a notable link between greater exposure to AI-generated misogynistic content and increased involvement in social and political activities. However, this correlation is observed only in individuals who are already aware of gender inequality within South Korean society. This highlights the complex nature of algorithmic misogyny. On one hand, it alienates users who are unfamiliar with or indifferent to feminist issues. On the other hand, it can act as a trigger for political engagement among those who have a feminist consciousness.

### 3. Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Strategic partnerships were strengthened to advance AI ethics, focusing on global governance and AI's role in enhancing social and human sciences. These efforts aim to promote ethical AI development and ensure equitable benefits for developing countries.

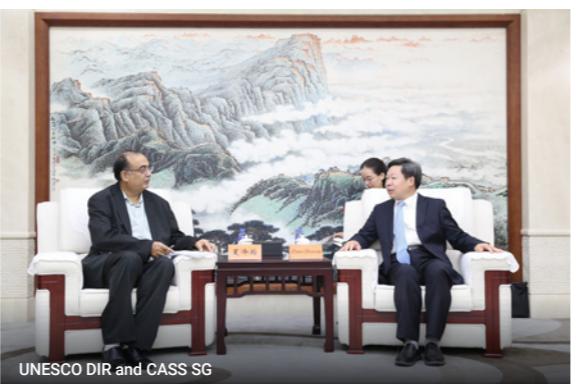
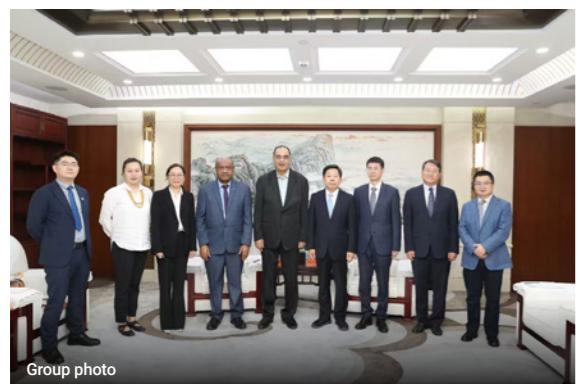
#### Strengthening Strategic Partnerships with CASS to Advance AI Ethics and Social Science Innovation

On 6 August, 2024, a delegation led by Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing, visited the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and held a cordial meeting with Prof. Zhao Zhimin, Secretary-General of CASS, and his team. The two sides engaged in in-depth and productive discussions on core issues such as ethical rules for AI and global governance, as well as the role of AI in promoting the development and innovation of philosophy and social sciences.

Prof. Shahbaz Khan emphasized that UNESCO issued the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI in 2021 and has long been committed to advancing AI ethics, improving governance systems, and promoting knowledge dissemination. UNESCO hopes to strengthen strategic-level cooperation with CASS to jointly ensure that AI develops in a stable manner, guided by robust ethical norms, and that developing countries can fairly benefit from AI's progress.

Prof. Zhao Zhimin responded by stating that CASS places great importance on the developments in the field of AI. While actively applying AI technology to empower research in philosophy and social sciences, CASS is also conducting in-depth research on AI ethics and governance.

In addition, the two sides exchanged views on the specific forms and content of future cooperation, laying a solid foundation for deeper collaboration moving forward. These efforts aim to promote ethical AI development and ensure equitable benefits for developing countries.



# Protecting Our Heritage and Fostering Creativity



## What we do in Culture

### 1 Protecting Natural and Cultural Heritage

- Fostering sustainable livelihoods for communities in and around World Heritage sites
- “Panda Ambassador” heritage education initiative for youth
- “Heritage So Young” initiative engaging youth and civil society in communicating heritage values through new media
- Facilitating international exchange and dialogue on heritage conservation

### 2 Safeguarding Living Heritage

- Strengthening capacities for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Safeguarding living heritage in formal and non-formal education
- Youth engagement for living heritage safeguarding and transmission

### 3 Enhancing the Role of Culture in Emergency Situations

- Building capacity for military forces on cultural heritage projection
- Exploring the intersection of culture and climate change
- Integrating cultural heritage into disaster risk reduction strategies
- Combating the illicit trafficking of cultural property

### 4 Fostering Diversity of Cultural Expressions

- Policy advice in culture and creative industries for sustainable development
- Strengthening institutional capacities in the culture and creative sector
- Leveraging culture and creativity to generate job opportunities at the local level
- Promoting the UNESCO Creative Cities Network to foster cultural innovation and urban development

## Flagship Initiative Driving Change

### Successful completion of the “Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China” Phase IV



In 2024, the "Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China" project celebrated its **17th year** of partnership between UNESCO and the China Youth Development Mercedes-Benz Star Fund with the successful completion of Phase IV. This phase, deeply integrated with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, focused on sustainable livelihoods, youth engagement, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. It directly benefited **11,476 individuals, 59% of whom were women, and raised awareness among 81,889 people**.

The project played a crucial role in finalizing the "Shilin Yi (Sani) Embroidery Product Craft Standards," setting quality benchmarks for local craftsmanship. The publication of the "Shilin Yi (Sani) Embroidery Atlas" not only preserved traditional patterns but also opened economic avenues for artisans. The registration of the Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) for Sani embroidery and the application of UNESCO Culture 2030 Indicators for data-driven policy-making further solidified the project's impact on cultural heritage and sustainable development.

**Successful cases:** Laowa village in Shilin and Dawan village in Songtao were transformed into cultural tourism hubs. These pilot villages, with their array of tourism products and services like homestays and ICH experiential courses, attracted over 5 million visitors and generated a significant revenue of approximately 625.5 million CNY, directly boosting the local economy.

**Capacity building** was a cornerstone of the project, with over 8,260 individuals, including local residents, government officials, and university students, receiving training in various fields. This led to the improved livelihoods of 3,821 rural women and men in the pilot villages. Nationally, 100 Panda Ambassadors are now actively promoting cultural and natural heritage values, inspiring a new generation to protect these treasures.

**Public awareness campaigns** were far-reaching, with activities targeting local students, visitors, and national online audiences, sensitizing them to the values of heritage, culture-based economic development, and environmental sustainability. High-level public events and the production of numerous media materials reached 67,449 people, significantly amplifying the project's visibility. The focus on low-carbon development and climate responsibility was particularly impactful, encouraging sustainable practices in rural growth and heritage site management.

**Knowledge management** was enhanced through the creation of 19 publications and resources, including databases and training manuals, ensuring the continuity of traditional skills and knowledge. These resources will serve as a legacy for future generations, supporting the long-term preservation of cultural heritage.



The project's success is a testament to the collaborative efforts of 33 partners, who provided not only strategic support but also mobilized an additional USD 485,352.33 in supplementary funds, significantly enhancing the project's reach and impact.

Phase IV has been a catalyst for change, leaving a lasting impact on cultural preservation, economic development, and environmental sustainability, while empowering communities and fostering a sense of ownership in heritage management.

**UNESCO – CYDF Mercedes-Benz Star Fund Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China**

2007-2024	Total Budget > 7,000,000 USD
4 phases with activities in Guizhou, Sichuan, Jiangxi, Yunnan, Fujian	Supporting 16 World Heritage Sites

**436,365 Beneficiaries**



Overview of Project Phase I to IV

## Key Highlights of 2024

### 1. UNESCO – World Bank – Gansu Government’s Partnership Facilitates Holistic Development of the Culture Sector

The **Gansu Revitalization and Innovation Project (GRIP)** has significantly advanced the holistic development of the culture sector by fostering sustainable tourism and cultural heritage preservation. Through workshops and symposiums, GRIP has empowered local stakeholders with knowledge and skills to enhance visitor experiences while protecting environmental and cultural assets, safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and developing inclusive cultural policies. Collaborations between UNESCO Beijing, the World Bank, and local Gansu authorities have resulted in successful capacity-building initiatives that align with international conventions, promoting cultural diversity and sustainable economic growth. These efforts position Gansu as a leader in integrating culture and creativity into development strategies, setting a precedent for other regions. Under the partnership, fruitful achievements were made.

#### 1) UNESCO Built Gansu’s Capacity in Implementing Sustainable Tourism

Within the framework of Gansu Revitalization and Innovation Project, the "Deep Dive on Sustainable Tourism" workshop was held in Lanzhou from 25 to 27 March, followed by the Mayors' Symposium on "Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Road" on 28 March. The two events were designed to empower Gansu local stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance the visitor experience while preserving the region's environmental and cultural assets and to use sustainable tourism as a transformative force along the Silk Road, positioning Gansu Province as a model for integrating culture and creativity into sustainable tourism development strategies.



The "Deep Dive on Sustainable Tourism" workshop



The Mayors' Symposium on "Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Road"

## 2) UNESCO-Led Workshop in Gansu (China) Nurtures Inclusive Cultural Policies



Opening ceremony

- [Read more](#)

## 3) Dunhuang Forum Reaffirms Gansu's Commitment to Safeguard Intangible Cultural Heritage



Opening ceremony

- [Read more](#)

## 4) UNESCO-Led Capacity Building Workshop Shapes New Era of ICH Safeguarding in Gansu, China



Cultural products from Gansu province © Gansu Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism, Ding Yage

- [Read more](#)

As part of the technical support for Gansu province to leverage cultural heritage and creativity for sustainable development, a capacity-building workshop was hosted in the picturesque city of Zhangye, Gansu Province from 2 to 4 July 2024. The event aimed to foster effective cultural policies that resonate with the *2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. Over 100 participants, comprising officials from Gansu's cultural bureaus, local enterprises, and community representatives, engaged in a series of diverse activities, encompassing lectures, case studies, group discussions, and a field visit.

## 2. Safeguarding Tangible and Intangible Heritage

Safeguarding heritage – both tangible and intangible – is essential for preserving cultural identity and fostering sustainable development. In East Asia, tangible heritage, such as ancient monuments and historical sites, provides physical evidence of the region's rich history and architectural achievements. Intangible heritage, including traditional performing arts, crafts, and oral traditions, embodies the living expressions of culture and community. During 2024, UNESCO Beijing has strived to support the East Asian countries to protect these forms of heritage through a multifaceted approach, combining capacity building, community engagement and international collaboration.

### 1) Celebrating Youth's Power in Safeguarding Traditional Building Skills



Display of Suzhou traditional buildings in the Symposium

In the heart of Suzhou's rich tapestry of culture and history, UNESCO Beijing, Suzhou Municipal Administrative Bureau of Gardens and Landscaping, and UNESCO Category 2 Center World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (Suzhou), organized the "Youth and Traditional Building Skills Symposium" on 15-16 July, Suzhou (China), a two-day event that spotlighted the dynamic interplay between youth empowerment and the preservation of traditional building skills. It was a gathering of over 120 dedicated participants, who shared insights and experiences across a spectrum of critical topics. The symposium also marked the celebration of World Youth Skills Day on 15 July, which was inaugurated by the United Nations 10 years ago. On the margin of the symposium, Prof. Shahbaz Khan also held a meeting with the Party Secretary of the Suzhou CPC to discuss the future of the collaboration of between UNESCO and the city.

On 24 August, as an extension of the aforementioned Symposium, the "Youth and Traditional Building Skills Excellent Cases Exhibition Tour" was grandly inaugurated at Xinghai Experimental Junior High School in Suzhou Industrial Park.

- [Read more](#)

### 2) East Asian World Heritage Professionals Identified Common Priority Actions for Conservation and Management



Group photo © GAO Chenxiang

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"East Asian Consultation Meeting on the Implementation of the Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific", organized by UNESCO Beijing with the support from the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau, and Beijing Central Axis Protection Fund, was successfully organized on 16-17 October in Beijing. The meeting included a series of fruitful discussions among the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, administrative agencies of East Asian State Parties, Category 2 Centres in cultural and natural heritage, UNESCO Chairs and site managers, resulting in a number of common priorities to be jointly tackled in the coming years.

### 3) East Asian World Heritage Professionals Seek Integrated Approaches to Heritage Conservation



To achieve a more inclusive interpretation of heritage and holistic management through the consideration of diverse perspectives and methods, UNESCO Beijing, the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites under the auspices of UNESCO (WHIPIC), the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (WHITRAP-Beijing), and Peking University School of Archaeology and Museology co-organized the Capacity-building Workshop for East Asia on Integrated Approach to Heritage Management: Tangible and Intangible Synergies.

The workshop, organized from 21-23 October, brought together 22 site managers from 12 World Heritage sites of China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. Through lectures, group discussions and presentations, the participants shared innovative practices and challenges in management and had in-depth discussions on comprehensive approaches to heritage conservation in the region.

- [Read more](#)

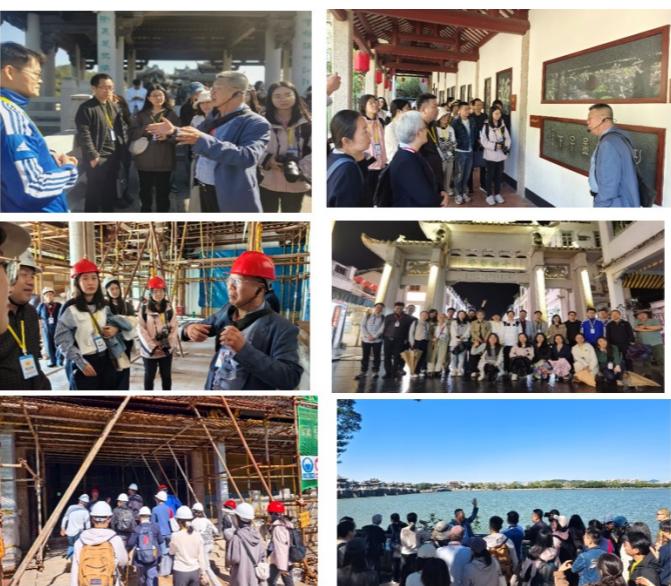
### 4) Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao Living Heritage Educators and Bearers Enhanced Knowledge on the 2003 Convention for Future Synergetic Safeguarding Actions



- [Read more](#)

26-29 October, Foshan, Guangdong Province – The “Training of Trainers Workshop on the 2003 Convention for China (Second Session) (Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao)”, co-organized by the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia and Pacific Region (CRIHAP), UNESCO Beijing, and China Intangible Cultural Heritage Protection Center with the support from Guangdong Provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage Museum (Guangdong Provincial Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Center) and Foshan Municipal Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding Center was successfully organized, gathering 22 participants—university ICH educators, representatives from culture sector, as well as ICH bearers and practitioners—from the region.

### 5) Suzhou and Chaozhou (China) United to Honor the Legacy of Traditional Architectural Artisanship



On 30 November 2024, the week-long Advanced Course on Conservation and Restoration Techniques of Traditional Architecture for the Asia-Pacific Region, titled “Preservation Practices of Ancient Architectural Building Skills - Chaozhou Field Training”, successfully concluded. The collaborative initiative was jointly organized by the UNESCO Beijing, Suzhou Municipal Publicity Department, Suzhou Gardens and Landscaping Administrative Bureau, WHITRAP Suzhou, Chaozhou Municipal Culture Bureau and Suzhou University. The course gathered 30 professionals specializing in the conservation and restoration of ancient architecture from various universities, culture heritage protection units, Architectural Design Institute, and construction companies. It offered a comprehensive platform for learning and exchange, where participants discussed innovative concepts and technologies in the field. It also fostered a deeper collaboration between Suzhou and Chaozhou in the areas of ancient city protection, cultural heritage preservation, and safeguarding of traditional building skills.

### 6) UNESCO Support to DPRK: Enhancing Capacity Building for Heritage Safeguarding



UNESCO has been actively supporting DPRK through two significant projects aimed at protecting the country's cultural heritage. Supported by the International Assistance Fund of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the project “Updating DPRK's Tentative List for World Heritage” focuses on updating and revising the DPRK's Tentative List for World Heritage sites, while ensuring inclusive and participatory processes, strengthening the documentation of existing sites, and promoting intersectoral cooperation. The second project, “Capacity Building on Traditional Koryo Celadon Making Practice”, implemented with financial support from the International Assistance Fund of the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, includes on-site investigations, capacity building workshops, and the publication of a book to raise awareness and improve the skills of 150 local pottery makers. The project aims to serve as a model for researching and safeguarding traditional craftsmanship in DPRK.

### 3. Enhancing the Role of Culture in Emergency

In emergency situations, culture possesses a dual nature that demands our attention. On the one hand, cultural heritage is vulnerable to significant risks. Natural disasters, conflicts, and other crises can lead to the destruction or loss of invaluable cultural assets, erasing irreplaceable aspects of our collective history and identity. On the other hand, culture itself can play a crucial role in addressing and mitigating emergencies. It provides a sense of continuity and resilience, helping communities to cope with trauma, rebuild their lives, and foster social cohesion. Throughout 2024, UNESCO Beijing has worked to raise awareness about this topic and mobilized stakeholders to jointly develop measures to empower culture as a vital force in emergency response and recovery efforts.

#### 1) UNESCO Advocates for Culture at Disaster Risks Reduction Conference



UNESCO Beijing and the International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI) organized the session "Enhancing the Role of Culture in Disaster Risk Reduction" at the IRDR 2024 International Conference and 2024 World Science and Technology Development Forum Thematic session VI. The session explored the critical role of culture in disaster risks reduction (DRR) and strategies for integrating cultural aspects into DRR policies and practices.

• [Read more](#)

#### 2) Empowering Mongolia in Building Resilience Against Climate Emergencies



In a significant step towards safeguarding Mongolia's cultural heritage against the growing threats of climate change and natural disasters, a capacity-building workshop was held at Khustai National Park from October 28 to November 1, 2024. This workshop, organized by UNESCO Beijing and the National Center for Cultural Heritage, marked the first step of the "Empowering Mongolia by Building Resilience Against Climate Emergencies" (EMBRACE) project, funded by the Heritage Emergency Fund. The event brought together experts, policymakers, and practitioners from both culture and the disaster risks sectors, to explore the integration of heritage and disaster risk reduction (DRR), with a particular focus on the recurring natural disaster known as *dzud*.

#### 3) East Asia Focuses on Intangible Cultural Heritage Safeguarding amidst Climate Change



With the theme, "The Roles and Risks of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Face of Climate Change", the 2024 Sub-Regional Meeting on Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in East Asia took place from November 5-6 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Hosted by UNESCO Beijing and the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (ICHCAP), and organized by the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth of Mongolia, the event convened experts, researchers, and policy-makers from culture, climate change, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) sectors to develop strategies to strengthen ICH safeguarding against the escalating challenges posed by climate change in East Asia.

• [Read more](#)

### 4. Fostering Creativity for Sustainable Development

In the pursuit of sustainable development, creativity and cultural expression play pivotal roles. Through the provision of financial and technical support, UNESCO has been actively engaged in initiatives that foster creativity and support artists and cultural professionals, not only to enhance their status but also to drive sustainable development through inclusive and innovative approaches. By empowering artists and cultural entrepreneurs, these initiatives contribute to a more vibrant, equitable, and sustainable cultural landscape in Mongolia.

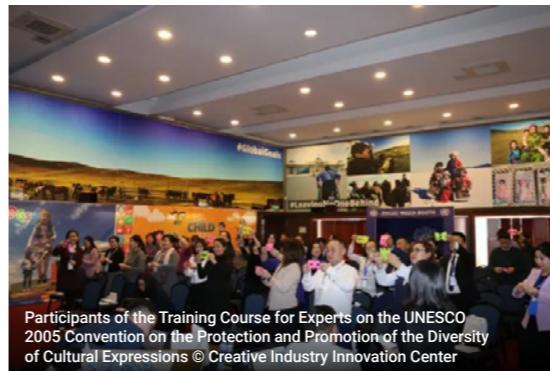
#### UNESCO-Aschberg Programme Promotes the Status of Artists and Culture Professionals in Mongolia's Film Sector



• [Read more](#)

On 11-12 April, UNESCO Beijing, the Mongolian National Film Council and Mongolia Ministry of Culture have successfully concluded a 2-day capacity-building workshop under the UNESCO-Aschberg programme. Participated by 40 government officials, civil society representatives, artists and filmmakers, the workshop developed a deep understanding on international principles and good practices to enhance the status of artists. A research is now being finalized on the status of artists in the film sector in Mongolia and the establishment of a database for Mongolia's film stakeholders.

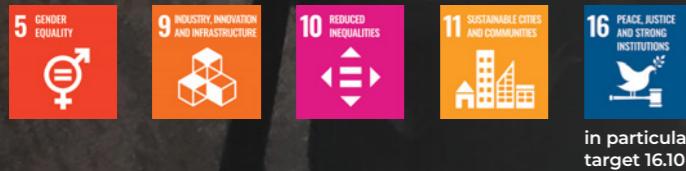
#### Project "Promoting Social Equality within the Cultural and Creative Industries" Launched in Mongolia with IFCD Support



• [Read more](#)

The project implementation aims to enhance public awareness of gender roles, human rights, culture, and creativity in sustainable development. It seeks to amplify the impact of the cultural and creative industries through innovative business models and digital solutions, promote gender equality in development cooperation, and engage diverse stakeholders through a cultural entrepreneur network comprising government organizations, civil society, banks, investors, and media. These efforts are designed to encourage greater cooperation and increase women's participation in cultural entrepreneurship. The project is implemented by CIIC, a non-governmental organization that provides training, research, and consulting services within the sectors of creative industries and innovation.

# Promoting Free Flow of Ideas by Word and Image



## What we do in Communication & Information

1

**Supporting Freedom of Expression, Access to Information, and the Safety of Journalists**

2

**Supporting the Development of a Free, Diverse and Gender-Inclusive Independent Media**

3

**Promoting Open Access to Information for All, Supporting Multilingualism and Improving Access to Information for Marginalized Groups**

4

**Building Media and Information Literacy through Empowering Citizens and Youth with Digital, Media and Information Skills**

5

**Fostering Innovation and an Inclusive Digital Transformation**

6

**Protecting, Preserving and Promoting Access to the World's Documentary Heritage**

## Impact Story Driving Change

### A Dream Rekindled: The Journey of a Mongolian Rural Journalist

Sedbazar Purevdulam, a journalist from Arkhangai Province, Mongolia, reignited her passion for journalism through UNESCO-supported Media and Information Literacy (MIL) training. Her journey highlights the transformative power of education and media literacy in empowering individuals and communities.

#### Early Inspiration and Career Path

Sedbazar Purevdulam was inspired by her mother's journalistic aspirations and her own early involvement in a poetry club and as a children's TV presenter. After studying at the University of Culture and Arts and working in civil service, she felt disconnected from her passion. This prompted her to launch the news website [inguun.mn](http://inguun.mn), which delivers simple, truthful stories. The word "Inguun" means simple and ordinary in old Mongolian, aligning with her editorial policy.



Sedbazar Purevdulam participating in the MIL training for journalists in Ulaanbaatar © PIM

#### Discovering Media and Information Literacy (MIL):

Two years into civil service, Purevdulam attended a MIL workshop organized by the Press Institute of Mongolia (PIM) with support from UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC). The workshop broadened her understanding of MIL and its importance for everyone. She learned to differentiate news and information sources, which aligns perfectly with her website's motto: "Everything simple comes from Inguun."

#### A Turning Point and New Vision:

The MIL workshop was a turning point for Purevdulam. It provided new insights and ideas to improve her website's content. She learned to train her audience to find, analyze, create, and verify information. Upon returning to Arkhangai province, she organized workshops for students and senior citizens, introducing them to various information types and engaging them in podcasting and critical thinking sessions.



#### A Dream Realized

After attending the MIL training, Purevdulam enriched [inguun.mn](http://inguun.mn) with educational content, particularly benefiting from the MIL video lessons provided by PIM. This training allowed her to reconnect with her profession and understand the crucial role of independent news in society. She realized that educating her audience about MIL could significantly elevate their knowledge and understanding.

Purevdulam's journey from a passionate high school student to a dedicated rural journalist illustrates the transformative power of education and media literacy. The MIL training shifted her perspective and rekindled her passion for journalism. She remains committed to fulfilling her and her mother's dreams, envisioning a future where [inguun.mn](http://inguun.mn) serves as a reliable source of information and critical thinking for her readers.

#### Project Insights: Integrating IPDC Support

Purevdulam's success reflects the broader impact of international support through projects like the one from the IPDC.

#### Promoting MIL is crucial in addressing the challenges of digital manipulation, bias, hate speech, and privacy infringement.

In Mongolia, PIM, with UNESCO's support, has played a pivotal role in promoting MIL, translating and adapting curricula, and organizing workshops. The establishment of a National Network for MIL in 2020 facilitated exchanges among stakeholders. PIM began organizing workshops for journalists to enhance their understanding of MIL's value. In 2022, using UNESCO's handbook, PIM conducted workshops that inspired media organizations to integrate MIL into their policies.

Purevdulam's story exemplifies how targeted education and persistent effort can rekindle passions, bridge knowledge gaps, and transform communities. Through [inguun.mn](http://inguun.mn), she continues to empower her readers, illustrating the profound impact of MIL on both personal and societal levels.

- [Read more](#)

## Key Highlights of 2024

### 1. Protecting Freedom of Expression and Promoting Media Development

Freedom of expression, particularly in the context of media development, is central to UNESCO's mission. Through fostering free, independent and pluralistic media, it contributes to peace, sustainability, poverty eradication and human rights. UNESCO is uniquely placed to advocate for press freedom, access to information, media development, and media and information literacy, working with professional media organizations, civil society, and national authorities in its Member States.

#### Celebration of the World Press Freedom Day 2024 in Mongolia



The multidisciplinary discussion "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the Environmental Crisis" © GIC

On 3 May 2024, World Press Freedom Day, a significant event was held with the support of UNESCO Beijing. The Globe International Center (GIC), in partnership with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, hosted a multidisciplinary discussion titled "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis". The event was also supported by the National Human Rights Commission, the European Union, and the Open Society Forum.

The discussion underscored the pivotal role of journalism and the freedom of expression in addressing the pressing environmental challenges that the world faces today. It resonated with the theme of 2024 World Press Freedom Day, highlighting the critical role of the media in fostering public awareness and driving action on environmental issues.

During the event, GIC launched its 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive "For the Truth" annual award, honoring journalists and media organizations for their exceptional professionalism and courage in truth-seeking and upholding press freedom.

## UNESCO Bolsters Fact-Checking Efforts in Mongolia



Under the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC), UNESCO Beijing supported the Nest Center for Journalism Innovation and Development to conduct a three-day advanced fact-checking training for 40 Mongolian journalists and media professionals from 23 newsrooms on 27-28 April and 13 May. The training aimed to equip participants with technical skills to integrate fact-checking into daily routines and address online harassment, using the translated UNESCO handbook "Journalism, Fake News & Disinformation: Handbook for Journalism Education and Training." A highlight of the training was the announcement of a competition, offering a grant of three million Mongolian Tugrik (MNT) along with a mentorship program for participating newsrooms. Out of nine proposals, six were selected for their quality and potential impact.

• [Read more](#)

The project also established Student Fact-Checker Clubs at the journalism departments of Mongolia's three major universities: National University of Mongolia, University of Humanities, and University of Arts and Culture, with around 80 active students.

## 2. Advancing Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion in Media

UNESCO is committed to enhancing media representation for underrepresented groups, including through targeted capacity-building workshops for regulatory bodies and media institutions in Mongolia. These efforts focus on promoting gender equality and disability inclusion, aiming to create a more inclusive media landscape that reflects the rich tapestry of voices in the region.

### Media Professionals in Mongolia Embrace Disability Equality



In line with the 2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities theme, "Amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities for an inclusive and sustainable future," UNESCO Beijing supported the Media Council of Mongolia (MCM) to enhance disability equality in media. A two-day training workshop for media professionals was held on 21-22 November 2024, promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Additionally, a Roundtable Meeting for Newsroom Editors and Managers on Disability Equality in Media took place on 25 October 2024. Participants discussed best practices for sensitive reporting on disability issues and making news content accessible. UNESCO introduced its Practical Manual and Master Class video series on Disability Equality in the Media, providing insights into the News for Disability Equality programme. Over 20 newsroom editors and disability rights advocates from CSOs attended. Five newsrooms were selected for a mentorship programme to develop strategies for promoting disability equality, creating diverse and accessible journalism content, and implementing inclusive policies.

Read more:

- Promoting Disability Equality in Mongolian Media: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/promoting-disability-equality-mongolian-media>
- Media Professionals in Mongolia Embrace Disability Equality with UNESCO Support: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/media-professionals-mongolia-embrace-disability-equality-unesco-support?hub=67076>

## UNESCO Reinforces Gender Equality in Media in Mongolia



Read more:

- [UNESCO Training Reinforces Gender Equality in Media in Mongolia](#)

UNESCO, in partnership with the Globe International Center (GIC) and the National Human Rights Commission, successfully organized the first training workshop titled "Gender-Sensitive Policy and Media" on 29 November 2024. The training brought together 27 participants, including representatives from regulatory and legislative bodies, as well as relevant authorities. The primary objective was to enhance participants' understanding of gender equality and to assist their organizations in developing institutional policies that foster gender equality and improve their policy documents.

Key topics included the "Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media", a set of tools developed in 2012 with support from the IPDC. With gender equality and women's empowerment as top priorities for UNESCO, these indicators are designed to assess the media sector in UNESCO member states and provide a framework for promoting gender equality in media operations and content representation.

## 3. Promoting Barrier-free Environment

### UNESCO Promotes Technology Accessibility Development



Read more:

- [UNESCO Champions Accessibility at the 2024 Technology Accessibility Development Conference](#)

On 16 May, the 2024 Technology Accessibility Development Conference (TADC), with UNESCO Beijing as a guiding unit, successfully took place in Beijing. Focused on technology-assisted rehabilitation and digital aging-friendly solutions, the event issued a Call to Action, urging society to pay attention to the needs of persons with disabilities and older persons, encouraging investment in accessibility initiatives. More than 300 government officials, renowned enterprise executives, domestic and international accessibility experts attended the event. The entire Conference was also broadcast live, with a total of 100,000 people watching on online platforms.

### UNESCO Explores AI-Powered Accessibility



Read more:

- [Seminar on AI-Powered Accessibility: Redefining Digital Inclusion Held in Beijing](#)

UNESCO Beijing and the Communication University of China (CUC) co-organized a Seminar on 25 September 2024 in celebration of CUC's 70th Anniversary. This Seminar, titled "AI-Powered Accessibility: Redefining Digital Inclusion," sought to explore how digital technology can enhance information accessibility and offer innovative solutions and service models for global information accessibility and digital inclusion. At the seminar, experts and scholars from around the world discussed their research and practices on AI-powered accessibility and the creation of a digitally inclusive society.

## UNESCO Advances Disability Inclusion through Advancement of Information Accessibility and Assistive Technology



As the world commemorated the 2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD), UNESCO Beijing took a significant step towards championing disability inclusion by supporting the World Blind Union Asia-Pacific (WBUAP) and the China Association of Persons with Visual Disabilities in organizing the Regional Seminar on Information Accessibility and Assistive Technology in Beijing. The event, held on 3-4 December, was attended by over 150 representatives from the World Blind Union, international organizations, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities across the Asia-Pacific Region.

The seminar served as a valuable platform for sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and exploring innovative solutions to enhance information accessibility and assistive technology. Participants discussed strategies to advance assistive technology, promote inclusive education, equip persons with disabilities with digital skills, and advocate for policy changes to create a more inclusive digital environment. The event marked a significant step forward in the global effort to ensure that the benefits of the digital age are accessible to all.

Read more:

- [UNESCO Champions Disability Inclusion through Advancement of Information Accessibility and Assistive Technology at Regional Seminar Held in Beijing](#)

## Bridging Digital Literacy Gap

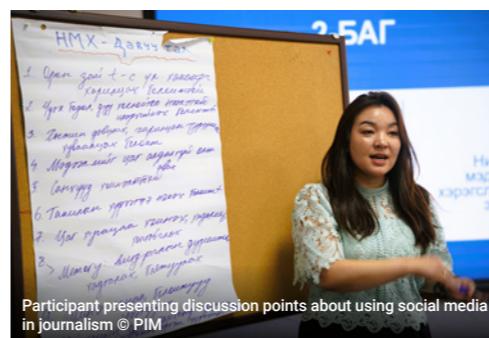
UNESCO Beijing supported the "Bridging the Digital Literacy Gap and Empowering Women and College Students with Disabilities" project under the "Enhancing Rights-Based Disability Inclusive and Sustainable Development in China" programme, funded by the Global Disability Fund. Implemented by UNESCO, UNFPA, and ILO with support from the UN Resident Coordinator Office, the programme aims to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are fully respected, protected, and fulfilled, addressing issues like accessibility, education, employment, and sexual and reproductive health.

As part of the project, UNESCO Beijing supported to design a comprehensive digital literacy needs assessment for Chinese college students and women with disabilities. By addressing their specific challenges and considering the intersection of disability and gender, the project promotes equitable development opportunities in the digital age, empowering them to thrive and contribute meaningfully to society. Moving forward, UNESCO Beijing will partner with universities, OPDs, and technology companies to develop and pilot a series of accessible digital literacy courses specifically designed for college students and women with disabilities, based on the assessment findings. The courses will focus on essential digital skills, content creation, and accessibility advocacy, opening new career paths and ensuring content meets the diverse needs of persons with various disabilities, including rural women.

## 4. Media and Information Literacy

Media and information literacy (MIL) is an indispensable skillset for fostering critical thinking amidst the ever-evolving digital landscape. UNESCO supports the development of MIL and Digital Competencies for all to enable people's ability to engage critically with information, navigate the online environment safely and responsibly and ensure there can be trust in our information ecosystem and in digital technologies.

### UNESCO Facilitates MIL Workshop for Mongolia Local Journalists



With UNESCO Beijing's support under the IPDC, the Press Institute of Mongolia (PIM) conducted MIL workshops for media executives on 25 January and 15 February 2024, training 50 executives on journalism trust and ethics. Additionally, PIM held three-day workshops for local journalists from 28-30 March and 11-13 April, and two-day online workshops for Ulaanbaatar journalists on 18-19 and 24-25 April, focusing on media education, interactive tools, AI in social media, and gender equality. Around 60 media professionals from Ulaanbaatar and rural areas were trained on promoting MIL in Mongolia. 20 video lessons based on UNESCO's Handbook for Journalism Education and Training were also produced to enhance MIL understanding among journalists and educators. The project has effectively promoted MIL in Mongolia, impacting media professionals and the public sustainably.

### UNESCO Advances MIL Initiative in Mongolia

With the support of UNESCO Beijing, the Press Institute of Mongolia (PIM) is actively working to integrate MIL into the Mongolian education system. This project aims to raise awareness among key stakeholders, particularly within the education sector—about the importance of integrating MIL into the national curriculum. It aligns with Mongolia's recent educational reforms and seeks to embed UNESCO's MIL components across various levels of the education system.

As part of the project, PIM successfully conducted two workshops between 1 October and 30 November 2024. These workshops engaged 36 officials from key ministries and institutions, including the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Communications, the Ministry of Education, the General Department of Education, the Educational Research Institute, and the General Department of Child and Family Development Protection.



The workshops provided practical insights and strategies to enhance MIL integration into Mongolia's educational framework. They built momentum for ongoing MIL integration into national educational reforms, demonstrating its potential to empower educators, policymakers, and stakeholders in navigating today's complex media and information ecosystems.

Building on the success of these workshops, PIM will continue to support Mongolia in its efforts to integrate MIL into the national curriculum. This includes providing ongoing capacity-building opportunities for educators, developing relevant training materials, and facilitating knowledge exchange with other countries that have successfully integrated MIL into their education systems.

Read more:

- [Advancing Media and Information Literacy in Mongolia: UNESCO-Supported Workshops for Curriculum Integration](#)

## UNESCO Promotes MIL Initiative in China



With the support of UNESCO, the Media Literacy Blue Book (2023-2024) launch and the MIL Development Strategy Expert Roundtable was successfully held on 14 December 2024. This event was co-hosted by the Communication University of Zhejiang (CUZ), Media Literacy Academic Research Base of China Federation of Radio and Television Associations, and Zhejiang Province Media Literacy Education Research Association. This conference brought together 150 experts and scholars from a variety of fields, including radio and television social organizations, international organizations, local governments, educational research institutions, schools at various levels, media outlets, and the private sector.

Read more:

- [UNESCO Promotes the Implementation of MIL Initiative in China](#)

## 5. Preservation of and Access to Documentary Heritage

### UNESCO Supported Public Awareness Raising about Documentary Heritage Preservation and Accessibility in DPRK



UNESCO initiated the [Memory of the World \(MoW\)](#) Programme in 1992 to combat collective amnesia. It aims to preserve valuable archives and library collections globally and ensure their widespread dissemination. The Programme's vision is to make the world's documentary heritage fully accessible to all, with due consideration for cultural norms and practical constraints.

Under the MoW Programme, UNESCO Beijing supported the Grand People's Study House (GPSH) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in a project to raise public awareness about documentary heritage preservation and accessibility, including audiovisual materials. UNESCO's publication [Towards Sustainable Preservation and Accessibility of Documentary Heritage](#) was translated and published in 200 copies, distributed to relevant institutions and stakeholders. A workshop on ["World Day for Audiovisual Heritage"](#) was held on 5 December 2024, aiming to raise social awareness and share valuable experiences and techniques for preserving and accessing documentary and audiovisual heritage. The translated publication's knowledge was disseminated, and discussions on best practices for documentary heritage preservation were facilitated during the workshop.



## INTER-SECTORAL COLLABORATION

Intersectoral collaboration has proven to be practical and impactful in a cost-efficient and sustainable manner.

UNESCO Beijing Office has been a practitioner of intersectoral cooperation, collaborating beyond the boundaries of sectors to leverage on diverse expertise and resources. This notion will be further enhanced in future programming as a priority.

### 1. "Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Mongolia through UNESCO Cultural and Geo Heritage" Project



The Demchog Monastery, Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province, Mongolia

This three-year project, supported by the Rio Tinto Mongolia (RTM), is being implemented by UNESCO Beijing and its newly established Ulaanbaatar Antenna Office in Mongolia for project management.

The project aims to enhance Mongolia's post-Covid resilience in sustainable tourism by leveraging the country's rich cultural and geo heritage. It seeks to achieve this through three interrelated outcomes:

- **Cultural heritage:** Integrated, participatory, resilient, sustainable tourism built on cultural heritage co-managed with local communities.
- **Geo heritage:** More sustainable, eco-friendly management and operation of Mongolian geo heritage.
- **Management and communication:** Integrated coordination, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation.

These three outcomes will be achieved by leveraging UNESCO's intersectoral expertise and partnerships, particularly in the fields of Culture and Natural Sciences, with overall coordination provided by UNESCO Beijing Office.

## Summary of Key Initial Activities



With the establishment of the Ulaanbaatar Antenna Office in July 2024, the project management team, in collaboration with the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and RTM, successfully organized two key initial events.

- Held on 12–13 September 2024 in Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province, [the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation](#) on Tourism Products and Tourism Routes, and the Stakeholder Engagement Workshop brought together 60 participants fostered a deeper understanding of the current situation, challenges, and opportunities for promoting tourism through cultural and geo-heritage, highlighted practical sustainable tourism principles, and raised awareness of the importance of community engagement and collaborative efforts for supporting sustainable livelihoods.



- The [project launch](#) took place on 16 September 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, with over 50 participants in attendance. The launch provided valuable networking and awareness-raising opportunities, connecting professionals from various sectors. It was broadcast by the Mongolian National Broadcasting Agency and posted on Facebook, reaching over 4,500 views as of December 2024.



## Project Implementation and Impact

In the second half of 2024, significant progress was made, laying a solid foundation for the project. This period saw the successful engagement of diverse partners from various sectors, including culture, history, tourism, and science. The impact was evident across multiple dimensions, aligning with the project's objectives and plans.

### 1. Cultural heritage:

#### (1) A comprehensive understanding of local cultural resources was achieved, enhancing access and visibility.

- Activity 1: Conducted an inventory and analysis of local cultural resources and assets for tourism promotion in Umnugovi province. This involved a desk study in August and field research in September–October carried out by the National Center for Cultural Heritage (NCCH).
- Activity 2: Collected community stories, including interviews with heritage bearers, photos, and videos in preparation for a high-profile publication showcasing local heritage.
- Activity 3: Preparation work was done to establish a “heritage journey” platform highlighting suggested routes for local visits.
- Activity 4: Drafted calls for a visual arts competition and a youth scriptwriting competition. These competitions will precede an exhibition and potentially a full-length movie to showcase and promote Mongolia's unique cultural and natural resources to attract more tourists.



#### (2) Interpretation of Mongolia's heritage sites for tourism purposes was strengthened.

- Conducted situational analysis of current conditions and identified the need for signage at cultural sites in Umnugovi province during the NCCH field research.

#### (3) Enhanced creativity in developing and promoting cultural products and services

- Activity 1: Identified preliminary opportunities and built capacity for local communities to develop ICH-based products and services.
- Activity 2: Engaged the private sector with local communities to support the development of a tourism route.

### 2. Geo Heritage

#### (1) Visibility of Mongolian Geo Heritage promoted

- Activity 1: The National Geological Survey established a team of experts from different sectors, who carried out a mapping study on identification of geosites and sites of natural value. The initial findings were presented during the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop held on 12–13 September 2024 in Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province and a following review meeting between the mapping study team and the project main partners on 12 December 2024 at the United Nations House in Ulaanbaatar.
- Activity 2: Training sessions and discussions were held during the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop in September 2024, focusing on promoting linkages between geology, nature and culture as part of a geopark initiative through a multi-purpose visitor centre.
- Activity 3: The UNESCO project team has initiated the development of quarterly geo e-newsletters devoted for the National Geopark Committee. The November 2024 issue was distributed.

#### (2) Capacity in promoting and managing sustainable Mongolian Geo Heritage was enhanced

- Activity 1: Created platforms to enhance local communities and multi-stakeholders' mobilization and dialogue, including the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop organized in September 2024. Also, the UNESCO project team created an e-platform ([Facebook private group](#)) in November 2024 for effective communication and collaboration with local communities towards



Cultural heritage bearers presenting their crafts during the Consultation Workshop

- mobilization and support for a geopark initiative.
- Activity 2: Supported six national participants including two local residents from Umnugovi province to enhance their knowledge and capacity in promoting and managing geo heritage through two international training workshops.

### (3) Communication and Visibility

A number of tangible outputs were generated in 2024, including a dedicated webpage as a hub for all project-related information such as project overviews, knowledge resources, and multimedia content; one long and four short videos introducing the project and featuring insights of a local official and a community member towards sustainable tourism and cultural heritage promotion; project snapshots were included in the UNESCO quarterly newsletter; and a project dedicated Facebook page was created. The long video with engaging narratives that highlight the project features and stakeholders' perspectives was disseminated through the Facebook pages of the main partners.



#### About

Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Mongolia Through UNESCO Cultural and Geo Heritage is a three-year project supported by the Rio Tinto Mongolia through a total funding of US\$1.5 million. The project is implemented through UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia in Beijing and Ulaanbaatar Antenna Office, in coordination with Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO and local partners.

The project will be able to leverage UNESCO's intersectoral capacities of experts and partners, especially Culture and Natural Sciences, with the overall coordination across the UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia.

Visit the [project webpage](#)



Looking ahead to 2025, we are poised to build on the momentum achieved thus far, with a focus on deepening community engagement, enhancing capacity building, and further promoting sustainable tourism through our cultural and geo heritage initiatives.

[Follow us on Facebook for more updates!](#)

## 2. Culture + Communication & Information

### Towards Inclusive Cultural Spaces: UNESCO Contributes to Museum Accessibility in China



In 2024, with the support of the Global Disability Fund (GDF), the "Accessible Museums for Persons with Disabilities" project has launched in China. In a significant stride towards cultural inclusivity and accessibility, UNESCO Beijing and the Chinese Museums Association (CMA) co-hosted the [Symposium on Museum Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities](#) on 24 August 2024 during the 10th "Museum Expo" to emphasize the equal right of all individuals to participate in cultural life.

Building on this momentum, UNESCO Beijing and CMA also co-launched the ["Museum for Everyone: Innovative Practices in Accessibility and Inclusion" Call for Good Practices](#) in October 2024, which has seen enthusiastic participation from museums across China since its launch. A total of 75 innovative museum accessibility cases from 60 Chinese museums have been collected. After expert review, the finalists have been announced in March 2025, and will be featured in UNESCO's Museums for Everyone: Innovative Practices in Accessibility and Inclusion publication, set to be publicly available soon.

- Check out the [announcement of finalists](#)

These activities have not only raised awareness about the importance of accessibility but have also provided practical solutions and best practices for museums to implement. By promoting inclusive cultural spaces and leveraging on strengths of various sectors, UNESCO Beijing and its partners are contributing to a more inclusive society and culture-driven sustainable development.

(Read more: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/towards-inclusive-cultural-spaces-china-hosts-landmark-symposium-museum-accessibility-persons>)

### 3. Culture + Education

#### Teaching and Learning with Intangible Cultural Heritage

Teaching and learning with intangible cultural heritage (ICH) are crucial for preserving cultural diversity and fostering global citizenship. UNESCO Framework for Culture and Arts Education emphasizes the importance of integrating ICH into curricula to enhance educational relevance and quality. In East Asia, initiatives incorporating traditional crafts and performing arts into schools not only allow students to engage with cultural practices firsthand but also enriches educational experiences and supports the sustainable development goal of inclusive and equitable education for all.

#### 1) Bringing Living Heritage to the Classrooms in Japan



On 20 January 2024, within the framework of the UNESCO ASPnet National Conference in Japan, UNESCO Beijing organized the webinar "Bringing living heritage to the classroom", with the participation of school teachers, university professors and students. The webinar aimed to raise awareness about the benefits of integrating living heritage and education, and to provide a step-by-step methodology on effective and innovative ways.

- [Read more](#)

#### 2) Strengthening Regional Capacity on Teaching and Learning with East Asian Shared Heritage



The "Capacity Building Workshop on Teaching and Learning with East Asia Shared Heritage" was jointly held by the International Training Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP) and UNESCO Beijing from 19 to 21 November 2024 in Jintan District, Changzhou City, Jiangsu Province. Nearly 20 university professors and educators, and intangible cultural heritage (ICH) practitioners from China, Japan, Mongolia and Republic of Korea, and representatives from UNESCO Category 2 Centers (CRIHAP and ICHCAP), participated in this workshop. It aimed to build capacity for teachers and educators on the methodologies of teaching and learning with heritage, and to establish a platform for dialogues and collaboration among universities in East Asia for the pilot phase.

The workshop has sparked many interesting dialogues on benefits and challenges of bringing living heritage to the classrooms, and potential stakeholders and measures required for successful implementation of this methodology. During 2025, the participants will lead a collaborative process to develop and pilot lessons using East Asian shared heritage in selected schools.

- [Read more](#)

# INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION IN 2024

Firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda and in line with SDG 17, revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development, UNESCO Beijing Office has been fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships. We attach great importance to cooperation among partners, especially UN agencies to achieve synergy to build peace and ensure equitable and sustainable development.

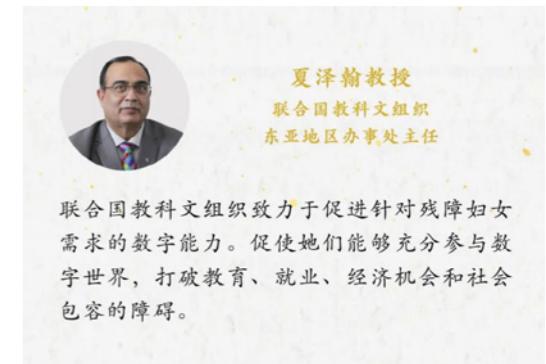
#### International Women's Day

In 2024, the International Women's Day theme was "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress." This theme aimed to celebrate the significant achievements of women worldwide while urging increased investment in gender equality to unlock women's economic potential, strengthen policy support, and build a more equal and sustainable future.

In alignment with this theme, UN Women China launched an online campaign. The campaign selected five key Chinese characters "Fusion, Harmony, Support, Benefit, and Achievement" to convey its message. In collaboration with the National Academy of Painting, the campaign incorporated elements of calligraphy and traditional Chinese painting to engage a broader audience. The goal was to invite more partners to focus on and join the efforts to advance SDG 5 on gender equality.

Representatives and colleagues from 17 UN entities in China, including Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director of UNESCO Beijing, along with UN Women National Goodwill Ambassadors and numerous partners, participated in this initiative. They shared their respective initiatives and actions towards gender equality and women's empowerment, demonstrating a collective commitment to creating a more inclusive and equal world. In his key message, Prof. Shahbaz Khan emphasized the importance of engaging women with disabilities in the digital world and reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to promoting digital competencies for this targeted group.

- [Read more](#)



Quote from Prof. Shahbaz Khan on the theme "助" "Support": UNESCO promotes digital competencies tailored to the needs of women with disabilities. This empowers them to fully participate in the digital world, breaking down barriers to education, employment, economic opportunities, and social inclusion.

# PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

## UN Collaborative Initiative for Disability Inclusion

From 2024 to 2025, **UNESCO**, in partnership with **UNFPA** and **ILO**, is implementing a joint UN initiative on disability inclusion in China, the Global Disability Fund (GDF). This initiative is supported by the UN Resident Coordinator Office and the UN Theme Group on Disability in China. The goal is to fully respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of persons with disabilities, addressing key issues such as accessibility, education, employment, and sexual and reproductive health services.

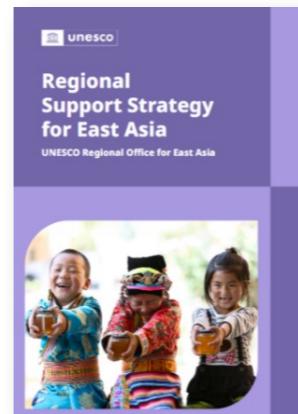
In 2024, the GDF joint programme focused on supporting the Chinese government in implementing the new Law on Barrier-free Environment Construction and the State Council's Three-Year Action Plan for Promoting Employment of Persons with Disabilities. This support encompasses **enhancing accessibility in cultural life and digital domains, ensuring inclusive sexual and reproductive health information and services, boosting capacity for inclusive employment at both national and local levels, and advocating for greater disability inclusion and increased participation of organizations of persons with disabilities** in national and international frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

### UN Theme Group on Disability (UNTGD) in China:

Established in 2015 by the UN Country Team in China and chaired by UNESCO, the UNTGD is a unique platform for dialogue and advocacy on the rights and needs of people with disabilities in China. Its strength lies in its multi-stakeholder composition and adherence to the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us," emphasizing community involvement in decision-making.

The UNTGD has seen significant membership growth, reflecting its commitment to open and inclusive participation. Membership is open to a wide range of organizations working on disability rights in China, ensuring diverse representation. Today, the UNTGD has **165 members from 118 entities**, including 26 members from 18 UN entities including UNESCO, UNRCO, ESCAP, FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO, IOM, UNHCR, UNOPS, forming a powerful network of disability stakeholders in China.

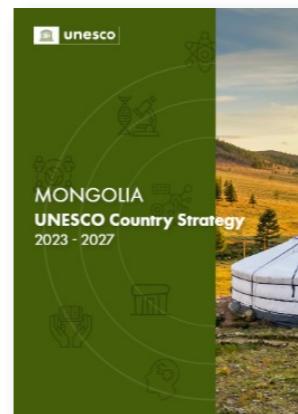
As part of the UNTGD's 2024-2025 biannual work plan and in response to China's 2023 Law on Construction of Barrier-Free Environments, a UN Position Paper on Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in China has been developed, building on the 2023 Situational Analysis of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in China. The document received valuable feedback from UN entities and several OPDs. This critical document will guide UN China's efforts to promote disability inclusion, particularly focusing on accessibility in China. UNESCO is leading on the design of this position paper. Stay tuned for its publication.



### Regional Support Strategy for East Asia

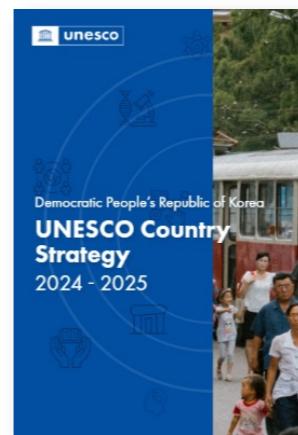
*The Regional Support Strategy for East Asia encapsulates UNESCO Beijing Office's endeavors and accomplishments in advancing UNESCO's mission in the East Asia region. It outlines our vision for future development and strategies to enhance our impact.*

In response to the region's contemporary challenges, the Office calls for partnerships with governments, academia, civil society organizations, and private sectors across East Asia and beyond. By fostering interdisciplinary approaches and unified action, we aim to mobilize the international community to achieve a sustainable and resilient future, ensuring no one is left behind.



### UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for Mongolia, 2023 – 2027

This document provides an overview of the latest Mongolia policy concerning UNESCO, and the Office's strategic engagement planned within the cycle of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 for Mongolia. Meanwhile, it will support the national priorities within UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) for Strategic Objectives.



### UNESCO Country Strategy (UCS) for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, 2023 – 2027

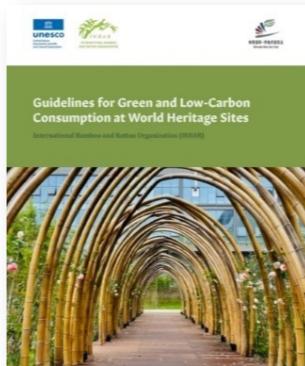
This document outlines the country's context and UNESCO's programming priorities for the period 2023-2027. These priorities are aligned with UNESCO's Medium-term Strategy for 2022-2029 (41 C/4) and the Programme and Budget for 2024-2025 (42 C/5). The strategy aims to address key challenges in the DPRK through targeted interventions in education, culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences, and communication and information. By integrating these efforts, UNESCO seeks to support the DPRK in achieving sustainable development and contributing to the global goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





### Protection of Cultural Property: Military Manual (Chinese Translation)

The Chinese translation of the *Protection of Cultural Property: Military Manual*, in accordance with UNESCO's 1954 *Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict* and its Second Protocol, is co-published by UNESCO and Xi'an Jiaotong University. This manual consists of eight chapters, which explain the relevant principles and importance of protecting cultural property at all stages of armed conflict, the international legal sources of cultural property protection, and specific measures for cultural property protection. The manual also lists criminal cases heard by international and domestic courts on the protection of cultural property in armed conflicts after World War II.



### Guidelines for Green and Low-Carbon Consumption at World Heritage Sites

In recent years, the Chinese government has attached great importance to green consumption in implementing the Action Plan for Carbon Dioxide Peak Before 2030 and has achieved remarkable results. However, rigid constraints still exist in several industries, meaning that the long-term mechanism for promoting green consumption and the supporting role of green consumption in high-quality economic development need to be strengthened. In response to this demand, this Guideline takes the development and utilization of bamboo resources as an entry point to provide systematic guidance for World Heritage sites to implement green and low-carbon concepts in consumer activities, especially in tourism development.

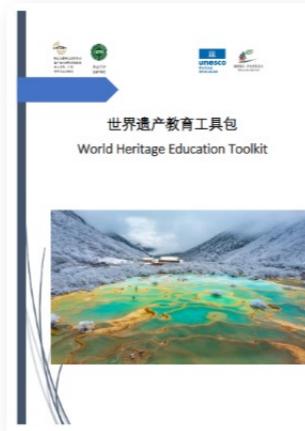
To access the full booklet in Chinese and English:



### 2024 Thematic Report on New Media Communication of World Heritage Sites in China (Chinese)

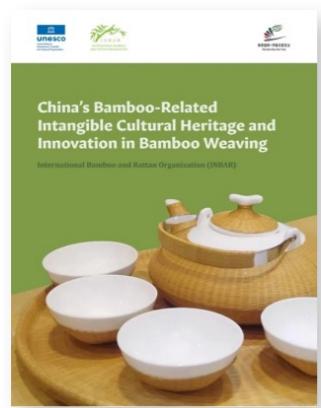
Cultural and natural heritage are crucial for sustainable development. Digital advancements have turned new media platforms into key tools for heritage protection, attracting more young people to the cause through their extensive reach and influence.

In this context, within the framework of UNESCO – China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund "Conservation and Management of World Heritage Sites in China" Phase IV, the research team of Communication University of China carried out the third year "New Media Communication of World Heritage Sites in China". Focusing on the theme on "New media makes youth an important force in heritage protection", the *2024 Thematic Report on New Media Communication for Sustainable Livelihood in Pilot Sites* analyzes the current status of new media communication of World Heritage and living heritage, and provides prospects for future work on heritage protection.



### World Heritage Education Toolkit (Chinese)

Co-developed with the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO Designated Sites at Sun Yat-sen University, this toolkit explains the necessity and importance of World Heritage education and guides World Heritage site managers on their daily World Heritage education practices, so that they have a more comprehensive understanding of the origin and development of World Heritage education, theoretical knowledge and practical development, as well as how to carry out World heritage education.



### China's Bamboo-Related Intangible Cultural Heritage and Innovation in Bamboo Weaving

This booklet outlines bamboo-related ICH elements at all levels in China, including bamboo-weaving historical development, categories, genres, styles, leading bearers, techniques, skills, patterns, design, product innovation and marketing tools. The handbook elaborates comprehensive and systematic background and step-by-step technical guidance on the transmission, development and innovation of a wide variety of bamboo-related living heritage in China.

To access the full booklet in Chinese and English:



### Youth and Traditional Building Skills Symposium, 15-16 July 2024, Suzhou, China: Proceedings (English)

This report encapsulates a comprehensive discourse on the role of youth in preserving traditional building skills within the context of cultural heritage. The symposium, co-hosted by UNESCO and the Suzhou Municipal People's Government, featured panel discussions, field visits, and a focus on integrating traditional skills into education and sustainable development. It aimed to empower youth, promote intergenerational continuity, and contribute to the dynamism of cultural heritage. The report also underscores the importance of policy frameworks and public-private partnerships in supporting traditional skills and fostering youth engagement in heritage preservation.



# LIST OF DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2024



## "Accelerating Carbon Neutrality: Innovative Actions for Sustainable Development" Project Brochure (2024 Edition, Bilingual)

To contribute to capacity-building on ESD and promote the dissemination of the project, engage partnerships and expand the influence of the project, SC unit updated the project brochure in 2024. The project brochure introduces the background, framework, outputs, activities carried out in 2023 under the three pillars of "Accelerating Youth Climate Action", "Forest Protection Action" and "Tropical Rainforest Biodiversity Conservation Action". This project aims to make a pilot for climate change education and sustainable development education in China and the world by empowering institutions and community residents, including women, children and youth, and contribute to the realization of the UN 2030 SDGs in a bottom-up manner.



## Carbon neutrality: our shared future (Chinese)

This publication is an outcome of the "Accelerating Carbon Neutrality: Innovative Actions for Sustainable Development" Project. Designed and written by young students for children, it uses simple language and draws on substantial scientific evidence to describe the issue of climate change. It serves as a comprehensive popular science book for disseminating background knowledge on climate change and effectively demonstrates how to enhance and inspire the potential and leadership of young people in climate change governance.



## UNESCO Practical Manual on Disability Equality in the Media

This Practical Manual on Disability Equality in the Media aims to encourage the media to promote respect for inclusion, equality and meaningful engagement and participation of persons with disabilities. The Practical Manual covers the following three areas:

- Inclusive editorial content and equitable media programming;
- Making media content and operations accessible to persons with disabilities;
- Adopting inclusive management practices.

This publication is tailored for all media professionals, from journalists, producers and designers to human resources staff and managers. It applies the human rights approach, gender equality and non-discrimination principles, and includes good practices for reporting on disability, including interviewing techniques, appropriate language, and other issues. It also provides technical recommendations for producing TV, radio, print and online content that can reach persons with disabilities. This Practical Manual has been translated into Mongolian and is available on UNESCO website.



## National Commissions

National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO

National Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for UNESCO

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO

Korean National Commission for UNESCO

## UNESCO Category 2 Centres

International Centre for Creativity and Sustainable Development (ICCSD)

International Centre for Engineering Education (ICEE)

International Centre for Higher Education Innovation (ICHEI)

International Centre for the UNESCO ASPNET (ICUA) in Sanya

International Centre for Theoretical Physics Asia-Pacific (ICTP-AP)

International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG)

International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage (HIST)

China

International Knowledge Centre for Engineering Sciences and Technology (IKCEST)

International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED)

International Research and Training Centre for Science and Technology Strategy (CISTRAT)

International Research and Training Centre on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES)

International Research Centre on Karst (IRCK)

International Training Centre for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (CRIHAP)

Teacher Education Centre in Shanghai

World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP)

International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management (ICHARM)

Japan

International Research Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (IRCI)

Mongolia

International Institute for the Study of Nomadic Civilizations (IISNC)

Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU)

Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas (GCIDA)

International Centre for Documentary Heritage in the Republic of Korea

International Centre for the Interpretation and presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC)

ROK

International Centre for Water Security and Sustainable Management (i-WSSM) at the K-Water Institute

International Centre of Martial Arts for Youth Development and Engagement (ICMAYDE)

International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP)

## UNESCO Chairs Programme/UNITWIN

UNESCO Chair on Creativity and Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

China

UNESCO Chair in Green Transition for Carbon Neutrality and Climate Change

UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence in Education	China
UNESCO Chair on Cinematic Arts and Cultural Diversity	
UNESCO Chair for Living Heritage and Community Development	
UNESCO Chair on Deep-time Digital Earth and Mineral Resources	
UNESCO Chair on Digitalization in Technical and Vocational Education and Training	
UNESCO Chair on Global Health and Education	
UNESCO Chair on Asia-Pacific Water-Food-Environment (WFE) Nexus	
UNESCO Chair on Technology and Engineering Education for Children and Youth	
UNESCO Chair on World Traditional Handicrafts: Inheritance and Innovation	
UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism in UNESCO Designated Sites	
UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage Law	
UNESCO Chair on Heritage Conservation Planning and Sustainable Social Development	
UNESCO Chair on Industrial Heritage	
UNESCO Chair on Peace Studies	
UNESCO Chair on Ceramic Culture: Preservation and Creativity	
UNITWIN Network for Higher Education in the Performing Arts	
UNESCO Chair in South-South Cooperation on Science and Technology to Address Climate Change	
UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education	
UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning	
UNESCO Chair in Entrepreneurial Education	
UNESCO Chair on Cooperation Between Higher Engineering Education and Industries	
UNESCO Chair in Media and Gender	
UNESCO/COUSTEAU Ecotechnie Chair	
UNESCO Chair in Teacher Education	
UNESCO/EOLSS Chair in Science and Technology Policies	
UNESCO Chair in Copyright and Neighboring Rights	
UNESCO Chair in Higher Education	
UNESCO Chair in Continuing Engineering Education	
UNESCO Chair in Cultural Management	
UNESCO Chair on Education for Human Dignity, Peace and Sustainability	
UNESCO Chair On Intergenerational Learning For Sustainable Development	
UNITWIN Network for Engineering Education towards Sustainable Pathways	
UNESCO Chair on Education in Biosphere Reserves for Sustainable Societies	
UNESCO Chair on Education for Peace, Social Justice and Global Citizenship	
UNESCO Chair on Water, Energy and Disaster Management for Sustainable Development	
UNESCO Chair on Gender, Vulnerability and Well-being in Disaster Risk Reduction Support	
UNESCO Chair on Geoenvironmental Disaster Reduction	
UNESCO Chair on Global Health and Education	

UNESCO Chair on Engineering Education for Sustainable Development	Japan
"Africa-Asia University Dialogue for Educational Development (A-A Dialogue)"	
UNESCO Chair on Cultural Heritage and Risk Management	
UNESCO Chair in Research and Education for Sustainable Development	
UNITWIN-UNESCO/KU/ICL Landslide, Earthquake and Water-related Disaster Risk Management for Society and the Environment Co-operation Programme	
UNESCO Chair for Social Transformation and Sustainability	
UNESCO Chair on Environmental Sciences in Eastern Central Asia	
UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Groundwater Management	
UNESCO Chair in Global Citizenship Education and Cultural Diversity	
UNESCO Chair for the Promotion of Sustainable Energy System and Clean Environment	
UNITWIN Cooperation Programme for Quality Teacher Education	
UNESCO Chair on Capacity-Building for the Preservation and Restoration of the Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage	
International Network on Sharing Knowledge and Experiences of Distance Education in Higher Education	
The International Network for Women's Empowerment through ICT Skills and Leadership Education	
UNESCO Chair in the Development of Youth through Sports Activities	
UNITWIN Network on Capacity Building of Sustainable Development in Developing countries in the Asian Region	
UNESCO Chair in Communication Technology for Women	
<b>Education Sector</b>	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	
International Labour Organization (ILO)	
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	
UN Women	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	
United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC)	
World Bank (WB)	
World Health Organization (WHO)	
<b>Government Entities</b>	
Henan Provincial Education Department	
Ministry of Education	
Shandong Provincial Education Department	China

Ministry of Education	DPRK
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)	Japan
Mongolian Ministry of Education and Science	Mongolia
Ministry of Education	ROK
<b>Academic and Research Organizations</b>	
Beijing Normal University	
China Higher Education Association	
China National Academy of Educational Sciences (CNAES)	
Communication University of Zhejiang	
Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK)	
Liaoning University	
Ningbo Adult Education Collegae	
Peking University	
Shaanxi Polytechnic Institute	China
Shanghai Normal University	
Shanghai Open University	
Shenzhen Polytechnics University	
Southern University of Science and Technology	
Tsinghua University	
Zhejiang Normal University	
Zhejiang Technical Institute of Economics	
Zhejiang University	
Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO	
Bunkyo Gakuin University	
Kyushu University	Japan
Okayama University	
Tohoku University	
Mongolian National Institute for Education (MNIER)	
Mongolian University of Science and Technology	
National University of Mongolia	Mongolia
UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability	
Vocational Education Training Partnership	
Handong Global University	
Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation	
Korea National Open University	
Korea National University of Education	
Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training	
Sookmyung Women's University	ROK

<b>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</b>	
International Computer Driving Liscence	Global
China Adult Education Association	
Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control	
China Education Association for International Exchange	
China Family Planning Association	China
China Sexology Association	
National ESD Working Committee	
Zhejiang Provincial Federation for Science Popularization	
Institute of Teachers' Professional Development of Mongolia (ITPD)	
Mongolian National Council for Education Accreditation	Mongolia
Mongolian National Institute for Education Research"	
Mongolian Student Association	
Asia Pacific Women's Information Network Center	ROK
<b>Natural Sciences Sector</b>	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	
Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), UNESCO	
The Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO	
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe	
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	
United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS)	
World Bank	
World Food Programme (WFP)	
UNDP office in Beijing	
UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UN-OOSA)	China
UN-SPIDER Beijing Office	
World Health Organization (WHO) DPRK	DPRK
UNDP office in Korea	ROK
<b>Government Entities</b>	
Administrative Bureau of Sanya Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City San Ya Municipal City	
China Global Geopark Network	
Baiheliang Underwater Museum (Chongqing)	China
Changjiang Civilization Museum	

China Science and Technology Exchange Center (CSTEC), Ministry of Science and Technology	China
Chinese Academy of Science and Technology for Development (CASTED), Ministry of Science and Technology	
Chinese IHP National Committee at the Ministry of Water Resources	
Chinese National Committee for MAB	
Department for International Development	
Fujian Forestry Society	
General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design (GIWP), Ministry of Water Resources	
Hainan Institute of National Park	
Hangzhou Municipal Government	
Heihe Municipal People's Government	
Heilongjiang Forestry and Grassland Administration	
Ministry of Commerce	
Ministry of Land and Resources	
Ministry of Water Resources	
National Forestry and Grassland Administration	
National Water Museum of China (Hangzhou)	
Publicity and Education Center, Ministry of Water Resources	
Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City	
Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden	
Ministry of Education and Science	
Ministry of Environment and Green Development	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Mongolian MAB National Committee	Mongolia
National Science and Technology Council	
Office of the President of Mongolia	
DAEGU TECHNOPARK	
Korea National Park Service (KNPS)	
MAB National Committee of the Republic of Korea	ROK
Ministry of Environment	
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)	
Japanese MAB National Committee	Japan
MAB National Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	
MAB National Committee of the Russian Federation	
Ministry of Natural Resources	Russia
Sikhote-Alin State Nature Biosphere Reserve n.a. K.G. Abramov	
MAB National Committee of Kazakhstan	
	Kazakhstan

Academic and Research Organizations
Alliance of International Science Organizations (ANSO)
Changjiang River Hydrological Information and Forecasting Center
China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR)
China Meteorological Administration Training Centre (CMATC), China Meteorological Administration
China National Engineering Research Center for Human Settlements
China Science Center of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences (IEAS)
Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE)
Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS)
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
Chinese Academy of Social Science Research Center for Sustainable Development
Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Earth System Science, Tsinghua University
Hainan University
Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Tsinghua University
Institute of Industrial Economics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
International Center on Small Hydro Power
Northeast Institute of Geography and Agroecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Peking University
Qingdao Technological University School of Environmental & Municipal Engineering
School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University
School of Environment, Tsinghua University
Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences
Sichuan Agricultural University
Techno-Economic Research Department, Development Research Center
Tsinghua University
State Academy of Sciences
Institute of Ecology and Geobotany
Japanese National Committee
United Nations University
YOKOHAMA National University
Japan Science Council
Computer Science and Management School, Mongolian University of Science and Technology
Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Sciences
Mongolian Academy of Sciences
Mongolian State University of Agriculture
The National University of Mongolia
National Geopark Committee of Mongolia

Korea Aerospace Research Institute	ROK
Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)	
Korea University	
Science and Technology Policy Institute	
Altai Academy for Economics and Law	Russia
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)	
<b>Private Sectors</b>	China
Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service Co., Ltd.	
ByteDance Ltd.	
Shanghai Shimao Construction Co., Ltd	
Xinhua Water Resources Holding Group Corporation	
Xinhua Water Resources Assets Management Co., Ltd	Global
<b>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</b>	
Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)	
China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation	
China Youth Development Foundation	
Chinese Association of Science and Technology (CAST)	
Energy Foundation Beijing Office	
Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC)	
Greenpeace	
Mercedes-Benz Star Fund	
The International Water Association	Japan
The Nature Conservancy	
World Animal Protection	
World Resources Institute (WRI) CHINA	
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-Beijing Office	
Asia-Pacific Water Forum, Japan Water Forum	
The Nature Conservation Society of Japan	
The Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific (FEIAP)	
Hustai National Park Trust	
Strengthening Protected Area Network	
ASIA Water Council	Malaysia
Russian Foundation for Basic Research	
Stockholm International Water Institute	

<b>Media</b>	China
China Water & Power Press	
Chinese Journal of Population, Resources and Environment	
Global Board Room	
Global Times	
Popular Science Press	
<b>UNESCO Designated Sites in Collaboration</b>	Vietnam
Fangshan UNESCO Global Geopark	
Hantangang UNESCO Global Geopark	
Non Nuoc Cao Bang UNESCO Global Geopark	
Xiangxi UNESCO Global Geopark	
<b>Individual Partners</b>	China
Director of Management Committee of Wudalianchi World Biosphere Reserve	
<b>Social and Human Sciences Sector</b>	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
United Nations University (Macau)	
World Health Organization (WHO)	
All-China Women's Federation	
Changsha Municipal Government	
Nanjing Municipal Government	
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection,	
<b>Academic and Research Organizations</b>	Mongolia
Mongolia's National Committee for the Management of Social Transformations Programme	
British Embassy	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
Artificial Intelligence Research and Promotion Center, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)	
Changsha Normal University	
China Women's University	
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)	
Institute of Artificial Intelligence International Governance, Tsinghua University	
Nanjing University	
<b>Individual Partners</b>	UK
Shandong Women's University	
Mongolian Academy of Sciences	

Research and Business Development Foundation	ROK
Sookmyung Women's University	
King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok	Thailand
<b>Private Sectors</b>	
Ant Foundation	
Changsha Development Center of Media Arts	China
Intel China	
Nanjing Creative Center	
Nanjing Literature Center	China
Tencent Research Institute	
<b>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</b>	
Save the Children Foundation - Palestine	Palestine
The Asia Foundation - Mon	Mongolia
Zorig Foundation - Mon	Mongolia
Qisehua Kindergarten - China	China
<b>Individual Partners</b>	
Climate Change Ethics Expert, Prof. Johan Hattingh	
<b>Culture Sector</b>	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
World Bank	
International Bamboo and Rattan Organization	
<b>Government Entities</b>	
Beijing Municipal Cultural Heritage Bureau	
Beijing Central Axis Protection Foundation	
Chishui Municipal Forestry Bureau	
Dunhuang Municipal Government	
Gansu Provincial Government	
Gansu Department of Culture and Tourism	China
Guizhou Province Forestry Administration	
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	
National Cultural Heritage Administration	
Quanzhou Maritime Silk Road World Heritage Nomination Center	
Quanzhou Municipal Government	

Shilin Yi Autonomous County Scenic and Historic Area Management Bureau	
Songtao Miao Autonomous County Culture, Sports, Broadcasting, Television and Tourism Bureau	China
Wolong Special Administration Region Management Bureau	
National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (NAPCH)	DPRK
Agency of Cultural Affairs	Japan
Culture and Arts Authority, Implementing Agency of the Government of Mongolia	
Department of Culture, Arts, Tourism and Youth of Umnugovi province	
Department of Environment and Tourism of Umnugovi province	
Governor's Office of Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province	
Governor's Office of Manlai soum, Umnugovi province	
Governor's Office of Umnugovi province	Mongolia
Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism, and Youth	
Mongolian National Film Council	
National Center for Cultural Heritage	
Police Unit for Combating Illegal Trafficking of Historical and Cultural Monuments	
Small and Medium Enterprise Support Center of Ulaanbaatar	
Ulaanbataar Municipal Government	
Korea Heritage Service	ROK
<b>Academic and Research Organizations</b>	
Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage	
Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS)	
Communication University of China	
Dunhuang Academy	
Fudan University	
Macao University of Tourism	China
Northwest Normal University	
Palace Museum	
Peking University	
Sun Yat-sen University	
Suzhou Art and Design Technology Institute	
National University of Mongolia	
School of Culture, Mongolian National University of Arts and Culture	Mongolia
Mongolian Academy of Sciences	
Citi University	
<b>Private Sectors</b>	
Beijing Dequan Management and Consulting Co., Ltd.	China

Beijing Mercedes-Benz Sales Service Co., Ltd.	China
Tencent	
Rio Tinto	
Oyu Tolgoi LLC	Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar Tourism Association	
Mongolia Quest LLC	
<b>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</b>	
China Youth Development Foundation Mercedes-Benz Star Fund	China
Nanjing Qitu Network Technology Co., Ltd. (Rare & Roll)	
Asia-Pacific Cultural Center for UNESCO	Japan
Arts Council of Mongolia	
Creative Industry Innovation Center	Mongolia
Munkhnogoon Galba NGO	
<b>Media</b>	
Beijing Daily	
Beijing News	
China Global Television Network (CGTN)	
China Media Group (CMG) - CCTV 17	China
China News Service	
China Today	
Xinhua News Agency	
<b>Communication and Information Sector</b>	
<b>UN Organizations/Programmes</b>	
ILO	
UNFPA	
<b>Government Entities</b>	
China Disabled Person's Federation	
Hunan Disabled Person's Federation	
The Institute of Scientific and Technical Information of China ((National Committee of the Information for All Programme)	China
The National Archives Administration of China (National Committee of the Memory of the World Programme)	
The Ministry of Digital Development and Communications	Mongolia

<b>Academic and Research Organizations</b>	
China's Women University	
Communication University of China	
Communication University of Zhejiang	
Information Accessibility Research Association	
Suzhou Deep-time Digital Earth Research Centre	China
Tsinghua Institute for Accessibility Development	
Wuhan Eastlake Public Interest Center	
Wuhan University of Technology	
Youth Media Literacy Subdivision of the China Education Society	
Grand People's Study House	DPRK
Mongolian Culture and Art Research Institute	Mongolia
<b>Private Sectors</b>	
ByteDance Ltd.	
Honor Device Co., Ltd	China
NetEase, Inc.	
Tencent Co., Ltd	
<b>Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs)</b>	
Beijing Enable Sister Center (BEST)	
Beijing Youren Development Center for Social Work	
China Association of Person with Visual Disabilities	
Internet Society of China	
Rare & Roll	
Youren Foundation	
Community Radio Association of Mongolia (CRAMO)	
Faro Foundation	
Globe International Center	
Media Council of Mongolia	Mongolia
Nest Center for Journalism Innovation and Development (Nest Mongolia)	
Press Institute of Mongolia	
Media Diversity Institute	UK
<b>Media</b>	
China.com.cn	
Phoenix Satellite Television	

Intersectoral Partnership	
<b>Government Entities</b>	
All-China Youth Federation	China
China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)	
Guizhou Provincial Government	
National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA)	
<b>Private Sectors</b>	
China Railway Real Estate Group	China
Huawei	
<b>International and Local Organizations (Non-UN)</b>	
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)	
<b>Media</b>	
China Media Group	China
<b>"Promoting Sustainable Tourism in Mongolia through UNESCO Cultural and Geo Heritage" Project Stakeholders Engagement for the Project Implementation and Consultation</b>	
<b>Government Entities</b>	
Citizen's Representative Khural of Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province	
Department of Culture, Arts, Tourism and Youth of Umnugovi province	
Department of Environment and Tourism of Umnugovi province	
Department of Minerals and Petroleum	
Governor's Office of Khanbogd soum, Umnugovi province	
Governor's Office of Manlai soum, Umnugovi province	
Governor's Office of Umnugovi province	
Ministry of Culture, Sports, Tourism and Youth	
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources	
Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO	
National Center for Cultural Heritage	
National Geopark Committee	
State Great Khural of Mongolia	

Private Sectors	
Gobi Junior Sanctuary	
MAK LLC	
Mongolia Quest LLC	
Munkhnogoo Galba NGO	
Oyu Tolgoi LLC	
Rio Tinto Mongolia	
Tourism Association Gaikhamshigt Gobi of Umnugovi province	
Ulaanbaatar Tourism Association	
<b>Academic institutes, colleges, and universities</b>	
Citi University	
Mongolian Academy of Sciences, and its institutes (Archaeology, Geology, Paleontology, History and Ethnography, Geography and Geoecology)	
Mongolian University of Science and Technology	
National Geological Survey	
National University of Mongolia	
<b>International partners</b>	
Asia Pacific Geopark Network (APGN, branch of GGN)	
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	
Chinese Geoparks Network	
Fudan University, China	
Global Geopark Network (GGN)	
Integrated Research on Disaster Risk	
Japan Geoparks Network	
Macao University of Tourism	
UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Tourism	
United Nations Mongolia (Resident Coordinator's Office)	
<b>Local communities</b>	
Community members from Khanbogd and Manlai soums, Umnugovi province	
<b>Media</b>	
"Ayalguut Soroka" media company	
Mongolian National Broadcasting Agency (MNB)	



## **UNESCO Regional Office for East Asia**

(The Democratic People's Republic of Korea,  
Japan, Mongolia, the People's Republic of China,  
and the Republic of Korea)

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