



中国教育国际交流协会

CHINA EDUCATION ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

About China Education Association for International Exchange

Founded in 1981, China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) is the largest non-profit organization conducting international education cooperation in China. CEAIE is committed to expanding international cooperation in education at all levels, bringing new opportunities for dialogue, promoting development of education, culture, science and technology, and strengthening mutual understanding and friendship among peoples in a global community.

CEAIE delivers a broad spectrum of programs, including teacher/student exchanges, capacity building, academic seminars, educational exhibition and international education quality assurance. With many actions CEAIE has taken, promoting quality and equality of education, enhancing well-rounded development of human, harnessing the potential of technological innovation and entrepreneurship to sustainable development are at the heart of its missions and goals. Through its endeavors over 40 years, CEAIE has become one of the most prominent and influential NGOs recognized by the international education community in China.

CEAIE was granted the Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2006. In 2008, CEAIE became the NGO Associated with the Department of Global Communication of the United Nations. In 2009, CEAIE established official relations with UNESCO. In 2011, CEAIE became a member of the UN Academic Impact. In 2015, CEAIE was granted affiliated membership by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. In 2016, CEAIE became the associate member of the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education. In 2022, CEAIE was elected to be the official member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee member. CEAIE supports UN's mandate by enhancing trust and mutual understanding through dialogue, educational exchanges, and cooperation.

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July 17, 2023

China Education Association for International Exchange's Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of China

Protection of the Rights of Education in China

1. China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) is the largest non-profit organization conducting education international cooperation in China. CEAIE holds the Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, maintains official partnership with UNESCO in consultative status, and has been elected to be the official member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. CEAIE supports the UN's mandate and the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by enhancing trust and mutual understanding through dialogue, educational exchanges, and cooperation and strengthening friendship among peoples in a global community.

2. This report is based on the status-quo of the development of China's Education. Coming from the perspective of the rights to education with the work of CEAIE, the report seeks to present the achievements and discuss challenges facing the human rights, especially from the rights to education, since the 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of China.

3. Education is a cause that attracts the most concern and enjoys the most support from the public in China. The Chinese government is committed to promoting equality and quality improvement in education. Recent years have seen that educational spending is becoming the highest expenditure item in China's general public budget. According to the Report of the Work of the Government at the First Session of the 14th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese government kept annual budgetary spending on education at over 4 percent of GDP.¹

4. Equal access to opportunities plays a fundamental role in ensuring that each child receives an education and stopping poverty from being passed on to the next generation. It is noticed that the Chinese government has issued a number of guideline documents such as the Guiding Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Accelerating the Development of Education in the Central and Western Regions,² indicating its focus on western, rural, and ethnic minority areas when making educational policies and allocating educational resources and its aim to narrow regional differences through education system reform.

5. In order to further promoting parity in education in China, CEAIE has organized programs for education poverty alleviation, providing training sessions every summer

¹ REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, Delivered at the First Session of the 14th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on March 5, 2023, https://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202303/15/content_WS64110ba2c6d0f528699db479.html

² Guiding Opinions of the General Office of the State Council on Accelerating the Development of Education in the Central and Western Regions, State Council Gazette Issue No. 18 Serial No. 1557 (June 30, 2016), the State Council of People's Republic of China, http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/state_council_gazette/2016/06/30/content_281475383150708.htm

that combined pedagogical education with English training for English teachers from central and western regions of China. By equipping teachers, children of underdeveloped and less developed regions would have the opportunity to enjoy the same educational resources that are provided to the developed areas. It's a step forward towards equitable quality education. Through Summer English Training and Hand in Hand Project-English Teacher Development Program and other capacity building training programs for English teachers, CEAIE has introduced English language teachers who are native speakers to English teachers of ethnic minority regions from Sichuan, Yunan, Guizhou, Gansu, and Qinghai provinces and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region. By doing so, they would receive lessons on how to better prepare for classes which enrich their professional capabilities. By 2023, the total number of trained teachers has reached 120,000 people. In support of the Rural Vitalization Policy, CEAIE has offered online English training for English teachers of Liangshan Prefecture of Sichuan Province, Yanhe County, Congjiang County, Weining County and Nayong County of Guizhou Province, Longlin County of Guangxi Province, Lubu City of Yunnan Province, Danfeng, Baihe and Luyang County of Shaanxi Province and other deeply impoverished and underdeveloped areas. It is a small class constituting of renowned English teachers in China and native English speakers. In 2022, CEAIE has officially become the organizer of the "National Training Plan" demonstration project, a nationwide training program supported and sponsored by Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. Inviting teachers from Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Tibet Autonomous Region, Qinghai Province and other less developed regions, CEAIE organized the senior research and training programs for leading junior high school English teachers. The programs dedicate to promoting cultural and ethnic exchanges and integration, improving English teaching concepts, introducing scientific research methods, covering classroom activities and language skills to help English teacher understand the world while learning a foreign language. Ms. ZHANG Yan from Mianyang Foreign Languages School participated the program. She later shared with the staff: "From this training session, I not only was able to study the most up-to-date theories concerning teaching English as the second language, but also get to hear from my peers from Beijing and other developed regions about their experiences in teaching. From theory to practice, I have learned a lot from the training this time. " Last year, CEAIE also organized training program for 98 Japanese language teachers from 98 universities from Sichuan, Gansu, Jiangxi, and other provinces.

6. China adheres to the basic state policy of gender equality and has long been committed to lifting impoverished women out of poverty and guaranteeing access to education for girls, women, and disadvantaged groups. It is noticed that the Outlines for Women's Development in China (2021-2030) released in 2022 emphasizes the importance of ensuring girls' equal rights and opportunities to receive compulsory education and proposes to prioritize meeting the diversified learning needs of women and establishing a more open and flexible lifelong learning system and education system.³

7. CEAIE plays to its strengths to answer the call for Sustainable Development Goals.

³ Outlines for Women's Development in China (2021-2030), State Council Gazette Issue No.29 Serial No.1748 (Oct 20, 2021), the State Council of People's Republic of China, http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/statecouncilgazette/202110/20/content_WS616f535ac6d0df57f98e3870.html

Using its own platform, it established the Education, Women and Sustainable Development Special Committee to identify issues around empowering women. In 2021, the Special Committee organized *the Forum on Education, Women and Sustainable Development 2021: Development of High-Quality Education System and Female College Students*, bringing attention to parity, quality, and accessibility of women's education and seeking to broaden conversations on topics from women's development in the post-pandemic world to university students' perceptions, attitudes, and coping response to sexual harassment. In addition, on the platform of Annual Conference in International Education & Expo (CACIE), one of the largest and leading international education events in Asia-Pacific hosted by CEAIE, CEAIE invites relevant parties as well as female speakers to share their researches and studies related to women's education and development. While sharing experiences of advancing equality and quality for education from different nations, CEAIE will continue to use this platform for the development of women's education.

8. CEAIE has hosted the China Celebration of the International Day of Education since 2021 under the patronage of UNESCO and with the support of Chinese National Commission for UNESCO to reiterate the importance of education. 2022 China Celebration centered on the theme *SHE TRANSFORMS: Girls' and Women's Education and Sustainable Development* in responding to the emerging needs of transformation for education. It invited a variety of representatives from international organizations, diplomatic corps, Chinese national and provincial education departments and social organizations to share experiences in responding to this major educational topic. Mr. TIAN Xuejun, Former Chinese Minister of Education, and Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO, delivered video remarks. The event attracted over 800,000 audiences from more than 20 countries participating online via live-stream. The views of the media coverage of the event hit 35 million. Guljahan Amat, a history teacher at No.3 High School of Yecheng County, Kashgar Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, participated the observance of the China Celebration in 2021. She not only pursued scholastic excellence, but also was a well-rounded student. She was an honored student (San Hao student)⁴ from primary school to high school and was awarded with scholarship. She studied at Department of History of Beijing Normal University (BNU) as a state-funded student. During her time at BNU, she studied hard and became a volunteer teacher at Yecheng County, Kashgar Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. In her speech, she shared the words that she used to encourage her students: "Changing the mindset of 'waiting and relying on others' is vital. While enjoying the preferential policies of Chinese government and the support and targeted aids from other provinces to Xinjiang, we need to work hard and contribute to the development of our hometown and the motherland."

9. In recent years, China has made significant progress in protecting the right to education, yet there are areas where continued efforts by all concerned parties are needed. In the digital age, for example, access to digital educational resources, including electronic devices and internet access, is crucial to ensuring equal right to education, which is a common challenge. In this regard, CEAIE suggests that the Chinese government continues to roll out relevant policies and measures with a focus on underdeveloped areas to secure funding for education, prevent people from sinking back into poverty through education, offset the negative impacts of place of birth, ethnicity, gender, family background and socioeconomic status on the right to

⁴ San Hao Students: a title rewarded to students that are well-rounded.

education, and channel more educational resources to disadvantaged groups to ensure the accessibility, applicability and sustainability of education.