

## Briefing Note: Guest of Government visit to New Zealand by China Minister of Education, H.E. Huai Jinpeng, August 2023

|   |  |                     |               |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>To:</b>                                    | Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education |                     |               |
| <b>Cc:</b>                                    |  |                     |               |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 7 August 2023                          | <b>Priority:</b>    | Medium        |
| <b>Security Level:</b>                        | In Confidence                          | <b>METIS No:</b>    | 1314424       |
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| <b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b> | No                                     | <b>Round Robin:</b> | No            |

### Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- note** the information provided in the briefing pack attached to support the Guest of Government visit to Aotearoa, New Zealand by H.E. Huai Jinpeng, Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 August 2023.
- note** that Secretary for Education Iona Holsted, Deputy Secretary - Policy, Andy Jackson, Ministry of Education, Grant McPherson, Chief Executive, Education New Zealand, and Ian Funnell, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, New Zealand Qualifications Authority will accompany you to the 11<sup>th</sup> New Zealand – China Joint Working Group on Education and Training being held on Wednesday 16 August in Parliament, Wellington.
- note** you will have a short Co-Chairs bilateral meeting with Minister Huai at the beginning on the Joint Working Group and a signing ceremony of education arrangements, gift exchange, and an official photograph at the conclusion.
- note** that you are hosting an official dinner for Minister Huai, with senior officials and education representatives, following the Joint Working Group at the Bolton Hotel.
- note** that on Thursday 17 August, you will host Minister Huai at the New Zealand International Education Conference Ki Tua, in Christchurch and provide the keynote speech at the Gala Dinner (speech notes and briefing for the conference have been provided by Education New Zealand to your office). Minister Huai will follow with a short speech and toast, as the Country and Guest of Honour.
- agree** to share the briefing pack with the Hon Jo Luxton, Minister of Customs and Associate Minister of Education, who will join the mihi whakatau at Parliament.

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

### Proactive Release

1. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing following the visit, with information pertaining to the bilateral relationship with the People's Republic of China withheld under Section 6(a) of the Official Information Act as the information it contains may prejudice the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.



Daniel Tasker  
**Senior Manager**  
**Te Pou Kaupapahere**

07/08/2023



Hon Jan Tinetti  
**Minister of Education**

15/08/2023

Agree / Disagree

# **Briefing: Guest of Government Visit of H.E. Huai Jinpeng, Minister of Education, People's Republic of China**

Hon Jan Tinetti

Wellington and Christchurch, New Zealand

Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 August 2023

**Updated Monday 14 August 2023**

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## Visit overview

Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China (China), H.E. Huai Jinpeng will be visiting Aotearoa New Zealand as a Guest of Government, Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 August 2023. This will be the first visit by a Chinese Minister of Education since 2012 (Minister Yuan Guiren, accompanying State Counsellor Liu Yandong). This follows on from recent high-level visits including the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology Wang Zhigang visit to New Zealand in May 2023 and Prime Minister Hipkins' visit to China in June 2023.

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## Programme

On Wednesday 16 August, Minister Huai's programme in Wellington will include a meeting with Prime Minister Hipkins, a mihi whakatau, co-Chairing the 11th Joint Working Group on Education and Training (JWG) with you and an official Ministerial dinner.

Minister Huai will visit Te Pūkenga (Whitireia and Weltec), Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington and have a lunch at the Chinese Embassy on Thursday 17 August.

In Christchurch, Minister Huai will join you at the New Zealand International Education Conference Ki Tua (NZIEC KI TUA) Gala Dinner and provide a toast following your speech.

Minister Huai will give a keynote address during the NZIEC Global Plenary on Friday 18 August. The Christchurch City Council will host the Minister for lunch, and then he will undertake field visits to the University of Canterbury, and Lincoln University. Minister Huai will have the opportunity to visit Burnside High School and observe Mandarin language learning.

On Saturday 19 August, before departure, Minister Huai will have the opportunity to visit Rewi Alley Memorial Park and engage with the Consulate.

## Specific Objectives

- Reaffirm Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to our bilateral education relationship with China. 6(a)
- Follow up on the momentum from Prime Minister Hipkins' trade mission to China, and further support the post-pandemic recovery of Aotearoa New Zealand education providers. The education elements in the Prime Minister and delegation's programme helped to highlight education as a key theme during the visit and brought higher visibility to New Zealand as an education destination for Chinese students.
- Continue to position and increase the visibility of Aotearoa New Zealand as an attractive destination for Chinese students.
- Facilitate Minister Huai's attendance at the flagship New Zealand International Education Conference Ki Tua (NZIEC KI TUA) at which Minister Huai will deliver a keynote address during the conference and a toast at the Gala Dinner. This will enable the wider accompanying delegation and officials to engage with a range of stakeholders in the international education space.
- Showcase the high-quality New Zealand education and research offering, specifically through engagements with tertiary education institutions.

- Share cultural experiences, to promote Aotearoa New Zealand as a study destination that offer a unique, safe and welcoming experience.
- Promote the enabling architecture for our education relationship by holding the 11th Joint Working Group on Education and Training, at which Ministers 6(a) witness the signing of an Education Cooperation Arrangement between Education New Zealand (ENZ) and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and a Memorandum of Understanding between Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and China Centre for International People-to-People Exchange (CCIPE).

## **Delegation**

### **Delegation from China**

- H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education
- LIU Zicheng, Director General, Department of Comprehensive Reforms, Ministry of Education
- LIU Jin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- YOU Jia, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- CHEN Yanzhe, Deputy Director, The General Office, Ministry of Education
- SHAN Zizhang, Deputy Director Level Official, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education.

### **Supporting Delegates from China**

- CHEN Dali, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- YANG Cancan, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education

### **Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Wellington**

- WANG Genhua, Charge d'Affairs
- DONG Zhixue, Counsellor,
- WAN Ding, Third Secretary

### **Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Christchurch**

- HE Ying, Consul General
- XU Li, Consul
- SHEN Jian, Consul
- LI Muqing, Deputy Consul

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## Event Briefings

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# 11<sup>th</sup> NZ-China Joint Working Group on Education and Training

**Type of event:** Roundtable Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2023

**Time:** 17.00 – 19.00

**Venue:** Māui Tikitiki-a-Taranga, Parliament House, Parliament Buildings, Wellington (Bilateral Co-Chairs' Meeting will be held in Select Committee Room 7)

**Language:** Mandarin, English, with simultaneous interpretation.

## Who is attending on Aotearoa New Zealand side:

- Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education
- Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education and Chief Executive of the New Zealand Ministry of Education
- Grant McPherson, Chief Executive Education New Zealand
- Andy Jackson, Deputy Secretary Policy, New Zealand Ministry of Education
- Ian Funnell, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Division, New Zealand Qualifications Authority
- Andrew McSweeney, Deputy Chief Executive, Te Pūkenga
- Chris Whelan, Chief Executive, Universities New Zealand

## Who is attending on China side

- H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education China
- LIU Jin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education China
- MA Jianfei, Director-General, Center for Language Education and Cooperation
- SHENG Jianxue, Secretary-General, China Scholarship Council
- YU Yufeng, Secretary General, China Education Association for International Exchange
- Xia Jianhui, Deputy Director-General, Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange
- LIU Zicheng, Director General, Department of Comprehensive Reforms, Ministry of Education
- WANG Genhua, Chargé D'affaires of the Chinese Embassy (*at table but non-speaking*)

## China Officials attending in support (non-speaking):

- CHEN Dali, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- YOU Jia, Director, Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- CHEN Yanzhe, Deputy Director, The General Office, Ministry of Education
- YANG Cancan, Deputy Director, Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- SHAN Zizhang, Deputy Director Level Official, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- YUAN Li, Director, Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, Center for Language Education and Cooperation
- LIU Chao, Deputy Director, Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, China Scholarship Council
- ZHOU Lidong, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, China Education Association for International Exchange
- YU Haiying, Director, Division of International Cooperation, Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange
- DONG Zhixue, Education Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China Embassy in New Zealand
- WAN Ding, Third Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China Embassy in New Zealand.

## New Zealand Officials attending in support (non-speaking):

- Dan Tasker, Senior Manager International Cooperation and Engagement, Ministry of Education
- Wendy Hart, Chief Advisor International Cooperation and Engagement, Ministry of Education

- Erin Morriss, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Reo Tanaka, Team Leader International, New Zealand Qualifications Authority
- Michael Zhang, Regional Director - Greater China, Education New Zealand
- Rosemary An, Education Manager, Education New Zealand
- Alanna Dick, International Market Manager, Education New Zealand
- Grace McFarlane, Private Secretary Education, Minister's Office
- Esther Robinson, Senior Ministerial Advisor, Office of Minister Tinetti
- Sue Zhu, Team Administrator, Visits and Ceremonial Office, Department of Internal Affairs
- Lorena Bruzzzone, Department of Internal Affairs
- Jon Smith, Department of Internal Affairs

## Meeting Outline

The Joint Working Group on Education and Training (JWG) aims to support education cooperation and exchange, enhancing the relationship between Aotearoa New Zealand and China. The meeting will include exchanges on cooperation in early childhood and language learning, cooperation on vocational education and training, cooperation in higher education, and quality assurance. You and Chinese Minister of Education Huai will provide opening remarks and alternate chairing for each section.

Ministers will **6(a)** witness the signing of an Education Cooperation Arrangement between Education New Zealand (ENZ) and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), a Memorandum of Arrangement between Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and China Center for International People to People Exchange of the Ministry of Education of China (CCIFE), and an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria University, Wellington (VUW) and China Scholarship Council (CSC). Chinese and New Zealand media may be present for the signing ceremony.

### *Description of Arrangements*


The Education Cooperation Arrangement between Education New Zealand and China Education Association for International Exchange, will support education exchange and collaboration between the education sectors of New Zealand and China. ENZ and CEAIE currently work closely to support school and higher education cooperation. The arrangement provides a platform for the agencies to build and expand their relationship formally. The arrangement will be signed by Grant McPherson, Chief Executive, Education New Zealand and YU Yunfeng, Secretary-General, China Education Association for International Exchange.

The Memorandum of Arrangement between Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and the China Center for International People to People Exchange of the Ministry of Education of China jointly establishes the New Zealand – China Vocational Education Cooperation and Development Alliance, a forum for discussion and enhancing cooperation. The Memorandum of Arrangement will be signed by Andrew McSweeney, Deputy Chief Executive Learner and Employer Experience and Attraction Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and LIU Jin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchange, Ministry of Education of China.

The amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria University of Wellington and China Scholarship Council will increase the number of Chinese students who may be selected and sponsored to pursue PhD degrees at Victoria University of Wellington from ten to twenty.

## Runsheets

| Time                                  | Item  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 16.25                                 | <p><b>Mihi Whakatau</b><br/> <i>Led by Parliamentary Kaikōrero Nate Rowe</i><br/> Hon Jo Luxton, Associate Minister of Education<br/> Supported by officials from Ministry of Education, Education New Zealand and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Joint Working Group participants.</p> <p>Waiata: to be confirmed</p> <p>Tea and light refreshments</p> <p>Venue: Māui Tikitiki-a-Taranga, Parliament House</p>  |
| 17.00-17.05                           | <p><b>Minister Tinetti and Minister Huai Co-Chair's Meeting</b></p> <p><i>Meeting between Ministers, opportunity for brief introductions between the Ministers and to familiarise each other with co-chairing process.</i></p> <p>Venue: Select Committee Room 7, Parliament House</p> <p><i>Hold other delegates for Chairs' pre meeting</i></p>   |
| Item One: 10 minutes<br>17.05-17.15   | <p><b>Joint Working Group Commences: Opening remarks</b><br/> Chair: Minister Tinetti</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opening remarks by Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education, New Zealand (5 minutes)</li> <li>○ Opening remarks by HUI Jinpeng, Minister of Education China (5 minutes)</li> </ul> <p>Venue: Māui Tikitiki-a-Taranga, Parliament House</p>   |
| Item Two: 20 minutes<br>17.15-17.35   | <p><b>Cooperation in school and early childhood, and language learning</b><br/> Chair: Minister Huai</p> <p><b>Cooperation in School and Early Childhood Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grant McPherson, Education New Zealand (5 minutes)</li> <li>○ Liu Jin, China Ministry of Education (5 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Cooperation in language learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Iona Holsted, New Zealand Ministry of Education (5 minutes)</li> <li>○ Ma Jianfei, Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (5 minutes)</li> </ul> |
| Item Three: 20 minutes<br>17.35-17.55 | <p><b>Cooperation in vocational education and training</b><br/> Chair: Minister Tinetti</p> <p><b>Future Collaboration Opportunities in Vocational Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yu Yunfeng, China Education Association for International Exchange (9 minutes)</li> <li>○ Andy Jackson, New Zealand Ministry of Education (4 minutes) &amp; Andrew McSweeney, Te Pūkenga (5 minutes)</li> </ul>   |
| Item Four: 20 minutes<br>17.55-18.15  | <p><b>Cooperation in higher education</b><br/> Chair: Minister Huai</p> <p><b>Scholarship and Research, and Higher Education Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grant McPherson, Education New Zealand (4 minutes) &amp; Chris Whelan, Universities New Zealand (5 minutes)</li> <li>○ Sheng Jianxue, China Scholarship Council (9 minutes)</li> </ul>   |
| Item Five: 20 minutes<br>18.15-18.35  | <p><b>Quality assurance</b><br/> Chair: Minister Tinetti</p> <p><b>Strategic Cooperation in Recognition of Overseas Qualification</b></p>   |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Xia Jianhui, China Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (8 minutes)</li> <li>○ Ian Funnell, New Zealand Qualifications Authority (8 minutes)</li> </ul>  |
| Item Six: 5 minutes<br>18.35-18.40    | <p><b>Concluding remarks</b><br/>Minister Huai provides closing remarks (2 minutes)<br/>Minister Tinetti provides closing remarks (2 minutes)</p> <p>6(a)</p>  <p><b>Gift Exchange.</b></p> <p><b>Minister Tinetti announces conclusion of the Joint Working Group</b></p>   |
| Item Seven: 15 minutes<br>18.45-19.00 | <p><i>Move to Galleria</i><br/><i>Media may be present</i></p> <p><b>Signing Ceremony</b><br/><i>MC for signing ceremony: Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Ministry of Education</i></p> <p><b>Short statement by Minister Tinetti (2 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>1. Education Cooperation Arrangement between Education New Zealand and China Education Association from International Exchange</b><br/><i>Introduced by MC for signing ceremony: Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education</i></p> <p>Signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Zealand: Grant McPherson, Chief Executive Education New Zealand</li> <li>○ People's Republic of China: Yu Yunfeng, Secretary-General, China Education Association For International Exchange</li> </ul> <p>Witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education People's Republic of China</li> <li>○ Hon. Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education, New Zealand</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Memorandum of Arrangement on the Establishment of the New Zealand-China Vocational Education Development Alliance between Te Pūkenga-New Zealand Institute for Skills and Technology and China Center for People to People International Exchange</b><br/><i>Introduced by MC for signing ceremony: Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education</i></p> <p>Signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Zealand: Andrew McSweeney, Deputy Chief Executive Learner and Employer Experience and Attraction Te Pūkenga New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology</li> <li>○ People's Republic of China: LIU Jin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchange, Ministry of Education</li> </ul> <p>Witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education People's Republic of China</li> <li>○ Hon. Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education, New Zealand.</li> </ul> |

|       |   |
|-------|---|
|       | <p><b>3. Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria University, Wellington (VUW) and China Scholarship Council (CSC)</b></p> <p>Introduced by MC for signing ceremony: Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education</p> <p>Signatories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New Zealand: To be confirmed Victoria University of Wellington</li> <li>○ People's Republic of China: SHENG Jianxue, Secretary-General, China Scholarship Council</li> </ul> <p>Witnesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education People's Republic of China</li> <li>○ Hon. Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education, New Zealand.</li> </ul> <p>Group photographs on Grand Steps, Galleria</p> |
| 19.05 | <p><i>Ministers and official party proceed to Bolton Hotel for dinner</i></p> <p><i>Other delegates and officials proceed to The Thistle Inn for dinner</i></p>   |

### Key objectives

- Reaffirm New Zealand's high-level commitment to the ongoing development of the New Zealand-China education relationship, as an important strand of the overall bilateral relationship.
- Further underline New Zealand's credentials as a strategic education partner to China, our shared Asia Pacific connection, the quality of our education system, and our value as a partner with whom to trial initiatives.
- Make progress or set a course for progress towards shared goals in the bilateral education work plan.
- Set the context and direction for the education relationship for the next few years, when the next JWG meeting will likely be held; and
- Present New Zealand education agencies as a cohesive, joined-up network, operating in NZ Inc fashion.

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## REMARKS AT SIGNING CEREMONY– 2 minutes

- Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou kātoa.
- Nǐ hǎo 6(a) Dàjiā hǎo 6(a)
- Today I welcomed His Excellency Huai 6(a), Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China and his delegation to Aotearoa New Zealand.
- This is the first visit of an education minister from China since 2012 and comes just weeks after Prime Minister Hipkins' very successful visit to China.
- New Zealand values our long-standing education links with China, it is a relationship that is based on reciprocity and partnership that have been developed through many years of two-way student mobility, high-level dialogue, and research collaborations.
- Education cooperation and exchanges are a critical pillar of the bilateral relationship between New Zealand and China. Education contributes to deepening understanding between peoples of our two countries and supports future generations to develop as global citizens.
- Even when our borders were closed, research and academic collaboration with Chinese partners remained strong through virtual engagement. We are delighted to be welcoming back Chinese students, academics, and education officials back to New Zealand to share our education and cultural experiences.
- This afternoon, I co-chaired the 11th Joint Working Group on Education and Training with Minister Huai. We reaffirmed our commitment to mutually beneficial education cooperation. This encompasses areas of common interest across all levels, including early childhood education, schools, higher education, technical and vocational education, language learning, and quality assurance.
- I am also very pleased to witness the signing of important education cooperation arrangements, here with Minister Huai, this evening.
- During the Minister's stay he will have the opportunity to visit schools and education institutions, and meet a range of students, teacher, providers, and stakeholders at the New Zealand International Education Conference Ki Tua being held in Ōtautahi Christchurch.
- Minister Huai, once again welcome to New Zealand.
- Whaowhia te kete mātauranga. I trust we may both fill our baskets of knowledge during your visit.

## Background

### *Joint Working Group on Education and Training mechanism*

1. The Joint Working Group (JWG) is a mechanism for information exchange and regular consultation between China and New Zealand on education matters. The JWG maintains high level official engagement, sets the direction for joint government-level projects and provides a useful structured forum for dealing with issues of student safety and quality assurance.
2. The JWG mechanism is a key provision of the Arrangement on Education and Training between the New Zealand and Chinese Education Ministries. It was initially agreed that the JWG meetings should take place annually. 6(a)

3. 6(a)

4. 6(a)

In April 2013, then Prime Minister John Key visited China and the two sides signed the China-New Zealand Arrangement on The Recognition and Guidance of the Strategic Partnership in Education.

5. 6(a)

6. Minister Hipkins' visit to China in 2018 reaffirmed New Zealand's strategic education partnership with China, including the formal education initiatives between the two countries, as well as New Zealand's commitment to being a quality and safe destination for Chinese students.

7. 6(a)

8. 6(a)

Education Partnership remained strong during 2020 with several virtual meetings taking place, and in-person meetings between New Zealand's Education Counsellor to China and the China Ministry of Education, China Education Association for International Exchange, China Service Center for Scholarly Exchange and Central Institute for Vocation and Technical Education.

9. The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the 9th JWG was held virtually for the first time in its history.

*The 10<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group*

10. The special 10th Joint Working Group (JWG), which took place virtually on 22nd November 2022, was held out of cycle as part of the 50th anniversary of the China-New Zealand bilateral diplomatic relationship.
11. Then Minister of Education Chris Hipkins and Chinese Minister of Education Huai Jinpeng gave opening remarks at the JWG. Ambassador Wang (China Ambassador to New Zealand) and former Ambassador Fearnley (New Zealand Ambassador to China) also provided remarks. Secretary of Education Iona Holsted and Vice Minister of Education Tian Xuejun co-chaired the meeting.
12. The topics covered during the 10th JWG included:
- Reflections on 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NZ-China Early Childhood Education Symposium and outcomes
  - Cooperation in language learning
  - Overview of Vocational Education Reform in China and future collaboration opportunities
  - Vocational Education Reform in New Zealand and collaboration opportunities
  - Scholarship and Research Partnerships Update
  - New Zealand-China Higher Education Forum
  - Strategic Cooperation in Recognition of Overseas Qualifications and update of Recognition of Distance Learning Qualifications and JSJ Study Abroad List.
13. As part of the JWG, the Addendum to New Zealand-China Arrangement on Cooperation in Education and Training was signed by Iona Holsted and Tian Xuejun. The Addendum outlines the main areas of cooperation between the two countries, including early childhood education, language teaching, basic education, applied education, higher education, and distance education.

# Ministerial dinner

**Type of event:** Official welcome ministerial dinner

**Date:** Wednesday 16 August 2023

**Time:** 19.15-21.00

**Venue:** Private Dining Room, Artisan, Bolton Hotel

## Who is attending on Aotearoa New Zealand side:

- Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education
- Esther Robinson, Senior Ministerial Advisor
- Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education and Chief Executive of the New Zealand Ministry of Education
- Ian Funnell, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Division, New Zealand Qualifications Authority
- Grant McPherson, Chief Executive, Education New Zealand
- Michael Zhang, Regional Director China/Education Counsellor, Education New Zealand
- Andrew McSweeney, Deputy Chief Executive, Te Pūkenga
- Chris Whelan, Chief Executive, Universities New Zealand
- Paula Wilson, Divisional Manager, North Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- To be confirmed, Victoria University of Wellington
- *Interpreter for Minister Tinetti and New Zealand side* 9(2)(a) .

## Who is attending on China side

- H.E. HUAI Jinpeng, Minister, Ministry of Education
- LIU Zicheng, Director General, Department of Comprehensive Reforms, Ministry of Education
- LIU Jin, Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- CHEN Dali, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- YOU Jia, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education
- CHEN Yanzhe, Deputy Director, The General Office, Ministry of Education
- WANG Genhua, Chargé D'affaires, Embassy of the People's Republic of China
- DONG Zhixue, Education Counsellor, Embassy of the People's Republic of China

## Key objectives


- Welcome Minister Huai to New Zealand, as a guest of our government in a more informal dinner setting and build your relationship with your ministerial counterpart. We recommend you give welcoming remarks and a toast, which Minister Huai will respond to.
- Deliver key high-level messages about the bilateral education relationship and give visibility to the key elements of cooperation.
- Reinforce New Zealand's efforts to re-engage with China on education post-reopening and help the sector recover and re-engage with their Chinese partners.
- Signal that Aotearoa New Zealand is reopened and committed to recovering and strengthening our education relationships in China.

## Runsheets

| Time  | Item   |
|-------|--|
| 19.05 | Departure from Parliament for Bolton Hotel – private dining room at Artisan  |
| 19.15 | Drinks on arrival<br><b>Welcoming remarks and toast from Minister Tinetti</b><br>Responding remarks from Minister Huai |
| 19.30 | Course 1   |
| 20.00 | Course 2   |
| 20.40 | Course 3   |
| 21.00 | Tea/Closing  |

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# Background Briefing

## New Zealand-China Education Relationship

1. Aotearoa New Zealand's education relationship with China is underpinned by the recently renewed Education Cooperation Arrangement (ECA), which was signed by respective Education Ministers in August 2022. It reaffirms both countries' commitment to the relationship and is supported by the Addendum to the Arrangement on Cooperation in Education and Training.
2. The special 10th Joint Working Group (JWG) on Education and Training was held on 22 November 2022 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations. The JWG is a mechanism for information exchange and regular consultation between China and Aotearoa New Zealand on education matters. It maintains high level of official engagement, sets the direction for joint government-level projects, 6(a)

3. 6(a)

4.

5.

6.

7. Over thirty New Zealand education providers exhibited at the Education New Zealand Agent Seminars in May 2023 in Guangzhou and Beijing, the first New Zealand-hosted agent seminars since COVID-19.

## Education Cooperation Initiatives and Internationalisation

8. In addition to the JWG, other recent high-level engagements have included forums on early childhood education (September 2022 with the next one planned to be held Nanjing, China in September 2023), vocational higher education (September 2022), and higher education (November 2022).
9. New Zealand institutions recently received approval from China Ministry of Education for 2 Joint Institutes and 3 Joint Programmes with Chinese partner institutions. There are now over 50 joint programmes and institutes running between New Zealand and China.
10. The New Zealand Prime Minister's Scholarships to Asia (PMSA) has awarded funding to 798 individual and group recipients for programmes in China, making China the main destination for scholarship recipients since the PMSA started in 2013.
11. The most recent Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia group awardees in June 2023 include three recipients to Greater China. The groups are from Te Pūkenga, EBH Group and the University of Waikato (Taiwan).
12. The New Zealand – China Tripartite Partnership Fund awarded funding to three research projects from University of Auckland and Massey University in May 2023. The Fund aims to facilitate new or established tripartite relationships between New Zealand and Chinese universities.

## The New Zealand Centre at Peking University

13. The New Zealand Centre (NZC) at Peking University is a strategic partnership between Peking University and New Zealand universities. The Centre was established in 2007 as a collaborative project between Peking University and the University of Auckland.

14. Since 2014, all eight of New Zealand's universities are now represented in the project of high-level engagement with Peking University across a broad range of departments and faculties. New Zealand government agencies Education New Zealand (ENZ), the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) are also key stakeholders in the project.
15. NZC is charged with raising the profile of New Zealand at China's leading tertiary education institution, enhancing academic and cultural exchange between China and New Zealand, and providing a unique venue to increase understanding between New Zealanders and Chinese.
16. Peking University has collaborated on many joint research projects with New Zealand universities under the New Zealand-China Tripartite Partnership Programme. Peking University is also a popular choice for kiwi students studying in China under the Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia. There will be New Zealand students returning to Peking University this year (2023).
17. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins visited Peking University in June 2023, where he met with university leaders and gave a keynote address on New Zealand and China cooperation in education and post-pandemic reconnection.

#### **Rewi Alley Professorship**

18. The NZC New Zealand Advisory Board, in conjunction with the NZC at PKU Directors with Peking University, have established a new visiting professorship programme, originally intended to start in 2020 but delayed by the pandemic. PKU requested that the professorship carry the name of Rewi Alley in recognition of his significant contribution to New Zealand-China relations.
19. The Professorship was launched in June 2023 during the visit by Prime Minister Chris Hipkins to Peking University.
20. The Rewi Alley Professorship is a prestigious award with funding from ENZ, which runs in Beijing during the Peking University International Summer School. The Peking University Summer School International (PKUSSI) first opened its door in 2009. Since then, the number of students enrolled in the programme has grown significantly. Professor Lawrence Simmons from the University of Auckland was the first New Zealand academic under this Professorship and taught a "Visual Communication for a Global World" course in July 2023.
21. An iconic New Zealander in China, Rewi Alley (1897-1987) was the founder and inspiration for the New Zealand China Friendship Society, dedicating 60 years of his life to his adopted country, while remaining a New Zealander at heart. Rewi Alley also pioneered technical training schools across China, some of which still exist today.

#### **The New Zealand Centre Visiting Fellows programme**

22. The New Zealand Centre Visiting Fellows Programme has been important for developing and deepening research collaboration between New Zealand and China. Academics have come from a range of disciplines and most New Zealand universities.
23. There were 10 Fellows selected from all eight NZ universities for this programme in 2020 but couldn't travel due to the pandemic. In 2023, three fellows are set to travel to undertake this fellowship:

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24. Two of the ten fellows have either left the institution or New Zealand and are no longer eligible to receive the funds. The remaining five have plans to travel in 2024.
25. The breadth of the relationship is reflected in publication data too:
  - There are 146 co-authored publications with New Zealand universities between 2017-2022 (with less than ten authors).
  - The top three collaborating universities were University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, and Auckland University of Technology.

- The top five subject areas for collaborations were Social Science (31), Computer Science (24), Medicine (24), Business and Management (23) and Engineering (23).

### High-level engagement

26. On 17 July 2018, Prime Minister Hipkins met with then President of Peking University, Professor Lin Jianhua and a roundtable focusing on China – New Zealand relations.
27. On 27 July 2022 Prime Minister Hipkins attended and provided remarks at the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, a hybrid signing ceremony between New Zealand's eight universities and Peking University.
28. On 18 August 2022 Prime Minister Hipkins met virtually with Minister Huai Jinpeng for the first time, with the key outcome of that meeting being the signing of the Arrangement on Cooperation in Education and Training between New Zealand and China. They met again on 22 November 2022 to give the opening remarks of the 10th New Zealand-China Joint Working Group on Education and Training, a significant event marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries.
29. In March 2023, Foreign Minister Mahuta visited Beijing. There was a strong focus on the role of education in our enduring people-to-people links in the programme.
30. In May 2023, you met with Vice Minister Chen during the International Summit on the Teaching Profession (ISTP) in Washington D.C.
31. In June 2023, Prime Minister Hipkins led a trade delegation to China, including education agencies and sector representatives.

### *Education outcomes of the Prime Minister's visit to China 25-30 June 2023*

32. The Prime Minister led a delegation of 29 business and education leaders to the People's Republic of China, in the first Prime Minister-led visit to China since the COVID-19 pandemic. The education elements in the Prime Minister and delegation's programme helped to highlight education as a key theme during the visit and brought higher visibility to New Zealand as an education destination for Chinese students.
33. The education delegates were:
  - Grant McPherson, Chief Executive, Education New Zealand
  - Andy Jackson, Deputy Secretary of Education, Ministry of Education
  - Professor Frank Bloomfield, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), University of Auckland
  - Peter Winder, Chief Executive, Te Pūkenga
  - John van der Zwan, Executive Director, Schools International Education Business Association (SIEBA)
  - Kim Renner, Executive Director, English New Zealand
  - Wiremu Doherty, Chief Executive Officer, Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī
34. Rt Hon Chris Hipkins and Premier Li witnessed the signing of the Arrangement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications in Higher Education between the Ministry of Education of New Zealand and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China. The Arrangement is one of seven bilateral cooperation documents signed at the Great Hall of the People on 28 June 2023 and the only education arrangement included in the Joint Statement.
35. The delegation visited Peking University. Prime Minister Hipkins met with university leadership and gave an address to students, media and the New Zealand delegation on 28 June 2023 which has gained media coverage in both Chinese and English media outlets. Students had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the speech.
36. The Prime Minister, with Hao Ping, Chair of Peking University Council, and Gong Qihuang, President of Peking University, the Ambassadors of New Zealand and China, and representatives of the New Zealand Centre at Peking University, jointly launched the Rewi Alley Professorship.
37. Education New Zealand (ENZ) signed a Strategic Partnership with Air New Zealand on 30 June 2023 in Shanghai to support international education mobility and joint promotion in China. ENZ and Air New Zealand will agree on a partnership framework with potential joint activities and assign a designate within two months of signing to take the strategic partnership forward. Minister Henare witnessed the signing

ceremony in Shanghai as Grant McPherson, ENZ and Jonathan Zheng, General Manager – Asia, Air New Zealand signed the Statement of Intent.

38. As part of this visit, a call on China Ministry of Education Vice-Minister Chen, ministry officials, and affiliated agencies was also made. The meeting was a chance to showcase the education sectors present within the New Zealand delegation and discuss areas of existing and potential cooperation.

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### **Mandarin Language Assistants**

42. The New Zealand Ministry of Education supports Chinese (Mandarin) language learning, and especially the programme that sees Mandarin Language Assistants in New Zealand schools. The placement of Mandarin Language Assistants in New Zealand schools encourages the learning of the Mandarin language and will improve the quality of Mandarin language teaching and shared cultural understanding.
43. The Ministry of Education supports Chinese (Mandarin) language learning in New Zealand schools, and as part of our commitment to the Free Trade Agreement, provides partial funding - nearly NZD\$100,000 annually - for 12 Mandarin Language Assistants each year.
44. Mandarin Language Assistants are Chinese tertiary students who work in New Zealand schools for one academic year to assist classroom teachers with delivering Mandarin language learning opportunities. The placement of Mandarin Language Assistants in New Zealand schools aims at encouraging the learning of the Mandarin language and improves the quality of Mandarin language teaching.
45. As a result of the FTA Upgrade, there are now up to 300 visa places for Mandarin Language Assistants, with school placements managed by the three Confucius Institutes based at Auckland University, University of Victoria, Canterbury University, and other institutions that promote Chinese language and culture across New Zealand.

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### **Sector Engagement**

47. New Zealand institutions recently received approval from China Ministry of Education for two Joint Institutes and three Joint Programmes with their Chinese partner institutions. The approved programmes now total 52 officially recognised joint programmes between New Zealand and China, showcasing strong cooperation in higher education between our countries.
48. The Fourth New Zealand – China Early Childhood Education Symposium is scheduled for 20-22 September 2023 co-hosted by China Centre for International People to People Exchange under the China Ministry of Education and Education New Zealand. The conference will be available virtually to participants in New Zealand with an in-person conference held at Nanjing Normal University for presenters from both New Zealand and China.
49. Up to 41 New Zealand schools and institutions have registered for the Agent Seminars in China held 30 October to 3 November 2023. Education New Zealand is arranging a New Zealand pavilion with New

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#### **Arrangement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications in Higher Education with China**

57. The Arrangement on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualifications in Higher Education between the Ministries of Education of China and New Zealand was renewed during the Prime Minister's meeting with the Chinese Premier in Beijing on 28 June 2023.
58. It is a refresh of the arrangement made between the two countries in 2014. Its purpose is to promote education cooperation and enhanced mobility of students between New Zealand and China, by recognising the qualifications awarded to students in one country for entry to further academic studies in the other country.
59. The arrangement is between the Ministries of Education of each country, and in New Zealand the operationalisation of the arrangement is designated to NZQA. NZQA worked with Education New Zealand staff in Beijing to update the arrangement. The Ministry of Education and MFAT supported the delivery and signing of the arrangement.

# China Country Paper



## Political situation

1. 6(a) [REDACTED] The removal of Presidential term limits in March 2018 set the scene for Xi to remain as Head of State once his second term concluded in March 2023. Xi was confirmed for a third term as Communist Party General Secretary at the Party's 20th National Congress in October 2022. Xi was appointed to a third term as President at the "Two Sessions" meetings of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and the National People's Congress (NPC) in March 2023.
2. 6(a) [REDACTED] Shortly following the meeting of the National People's Congress in March 2017, the Party announced an expansion of its role 6(a) [REDACTED] These state and Party reforms reflect President Xi's stated commitment to "strengthen the Party's ability to set and implement policy" and to ensure that Party "leadership extends over everything".
3. President Xi has an ambitious vision that centres on China's "national rejuvenation" as a major power. This, and delivering prosperity and security 6(a) [REDACTED]
4. As part of this vision of national rejuvenation, President Xi set out what he described as the "Two Centenary Goals", defined as China becoming a "moderately prosperous society" by the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party in 2021; and a powerful modern socialist country by the centenary of the People's Republic in 2049. China has recently reported achievement of the first centenary goal, via its elimination of extreme poverty and the doubling of GDP per capita since 2010.
5. Since late-2020, the Chinese government's vision has shifted to realising the second centenary goal in 2049, with an intermediate goal of "basically realising" a modernised socialist country by 2035 (which would include having a middle-income country's per capita GDP of around US\$20,000 – double the current level). The double-digit growth rates of much of the previous decade are giving way to a greater emphasis on "high-quality development". China's latest "dual circulation" policy, which seeks to make domestic production and consumption the main focus of China's economic model, and its quest for



technological self-sufficiency are part of this drive for growth 6(a)

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|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| President              | Xi Jinping  |
| General Secretary, CPC | Xi Jinping  |
| Premier                | Li Qiang  |
| Chair, NPC             | Zhao Leji   |
| Chair, CPPCC           | Wang Huning   |
| Vice Premiers          | Ding Zuexiang, He Lifeng, Zhang Guoqing, Liu Guozhong   |
| State Councillors      | Li Shangfu, Wang Xiaohong, Wu Zhenglong, Shen Yiqin, Qin Gang   |
| Key Ministers          | Wang Yi Foreign Affairs<br>Liu Kun Finance<br>Li Shangfu Defence<br>Wang Xiaohong Public Security<br>Wang Wentao Commerce<br>Huai Jinpeng Education<br>Pan Yue National Ethnic Affairs Commission<br>Zheng Shanjie National Development & Reform<br>Li Xiaopeng Transport |

### Economic situation

7. China remains the world's second-largest economy and growth is primarily driven by industrial output, infrastructure spending and exports. The government has long been focused on rebalancing the economy towards more consumption driven growth, but this effort has stalled as a result of the impacts of COVID-19.

8. China faced a number of significant challenges to its economy in 2022 6(a)

As a result, China's economic growth slowed to one of its lowest rates in decades, growing by 3% in 2022, compared to 8.1% recorded in 2021. Analysts are optimistic that the Chinese economy will strongly rebound in the second half of 2023.

### China-New Zealand Relations

9. New Zealand and China marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022. Over the last five decades the bilateral relationship has grown to become one of New Zealand's most important, complex and wide-ranging. New Zealand is committed to our one-China policy, which is the basis of our relationship with China. New Zealand Prime Minister Hipkins spoke on the relationship at the recent China Business Summit held in Auckland in July 2023: [Prime Minister's speech to the China Business Summit | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

10. China is New Zealand's largest trading partner and largest export destination, and, pre-COVID, a significant source of tourists and students. Much of the growth in the relationship has been supported by

the New Zealand-China Free Trade Agreement, which entered into force on 1 October 2008. An upgrade to the agreement entered into force in April 2022.

11. On international affairs, China is increasingly active regionally and globally. New Zealand and China engage on a range of issues from APEC to the ASEAN-centric East Asia Summit, climate change, cooperation around the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business criteria, with active people-to-people links.  
6(a)
12. There are areas where New Zealand does not see eye-to-eye with China. This is to be expected with any country, in particular where we have our own distinct political systems, histories and cultures. New Zealand engages with China consistently, predictably, and respectfully and advocates for approaches and outcomes that reflect New Zealand's interests and values, consistent with our independent foreign policy. Our differences need not define us, but we cannot ignore them. This will mean New Zealand will continue to speak out on certain issues.
13. The relationship is supported through regular high-level contacts and a range of official dialogues. During President Xi's visit to New Zealand in November 2014, Leaders agreed to characterise the relationship as a "comprehensive strategic partnership". Premier Li Keqiang visited New Zealand in March 2017, which marked the 45th anniversary year of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and China.
14. In 2018, Politburo Member and Guangdong Party Secretary Li Xi visited New Zealand, including a call on the Prime Minister. During 2018, various New Zealand Ministers (Foreign Affairs; Education; Forestry; Research, Science and Innovation; Climate Change; and Trade and Export Growth), also visited China.
15. In April 2019, former Prime Minister Ardern visited Beijing, meeting President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. 2019 also saw visits to China by the Ministers for Trade and Export Growth (twice); Defence; Agriculture; and Tourism (twice). Chinese Minister of Tourism Luo Shugang visited New Zealand in March 2019, and the Gansu Party Secretary Lin Duo visited in September 2019.
16. March 2023 saw the Minister of Foreign Affairs visit Beijing, the first Ministerial-level visit following the lifting of Covid-19 border restrictions. During the visit, she met with former Foreign Minister Qin Gang, and the Director of the Central Foreign Affairs Commission Wang Yi. And in June 2023, Prime Minister Hipkins, together with Minister of Trade and Export Growth, Damien O'Connor, and Minister of Tourism, Peeni Henare, led a trade mission to China.
17. During 2020, 2021, and 2022, engagements were undertaken virtually and in the margins of international meetings:
  - In November 2022, the PM met with President Xi on the margins of the APEC Leaders meeting.
  - In June 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had a phone call with her counterpart Wang Yi, followed by an in-person meeting in the margins of regional meetings in Cambodia in August.
  - In February 2022, the Minister for Trade and Export Growth held a videoconference call with his counterpart to confirm the entry into force of the FTA Upgrade. The two also spoke ahead of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in May, well as in Geneva in the context of MC12.
  - The Minister of Defence met his counterpart in the margins of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore in June 2022.
  - The Minister of Education met his counterpart virtually in August.
  - Science Ministers and Climate Ministers met virtually in September and October, respectively.

## Representation

18. New Zealand is represented in China through the New Zealand Embassy in Beijing. New Zealand also has Consulates-General in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has closed the Consulate-General in Chengdu.
19. Nine New Zealand government agencies have staff in China:



- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (Immigration; Science & Innovation)
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Education New Zealand
- Tourism New Zealand
- New Zealand Customs
- New Zealand Police
- New Zealand Defence Force.

20. China is represented in New Zealand through the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Wellington and has Consulates-General in Auckland and Christchurch.

### **Cultural linkages**

21. The 2018 Census recorded 250,000 people who identified as being of Chinese descent were resident in New Zealand, up by 47% on the 2013 census (172,000).

### **Sister cities**

22. The establishment of sister-city relationships between New Zealand and Chinese cities and provinces has contributed significantly to the people-to-people dimension of the bilateral relationship. There are more than 30 Chinese cities/regions that have a sister or friendly city relationship with a New Zealand city or district, including the following:

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wellington                    | Beijing Municipality          |
| Christchurch                  | Gansu Province                |
| Auckland                      | Guangzhou, Guangdong Province |
| Auckland (former Waitakere)   | Ningbo, Zhejiang Province     |
| Auckland (former North Shore) | Qingdao, Shandong Province    |
| Dunedin                       | Shanghai Municipality         |
| Christchurch                  | Wuhan, Hubei Province         |
| Hamilton                      | Wuxi, Jiangsu Province        |
| Hastings                      | Guilin, Guangxi Province      |
| Wellington                    | Xiamen, Fujian Province       |

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, July 2023*

# China Education System<sup>2</sup>

## Governance

1. 6(a)
2. To manage the vast territory and huge population, China's Constitution provides for three levels of administration, excluding the central government: provincial level, county level and township level. Of these, the provincial-level division is the highest level of classification. The primary responsibility for education lies with counties, including managing and delivering primary and secondary education, whereas higher education falls under the jurisdiction of provincial authorities.
3. The Ministry of Education of People's Republic of China is the agency of the State Council that oversees education throughout the country. State Council is the chief administrative authority in China and is chaired by the Premier. It is responsible for carrying out the policies of the Communist Party of China as well as the regulations and laws adopted by the National People's Congress.
4. At the provincial level in China, there are departments of education or commissions that are in charge of education. At the county level, bureaus of education are in charge. Policies and strategies designed by the Ministry of Education are implemented by local departments of education, or universities under its direct management.
5. Local education authorities, departments and bureaus of education often formulate policy documents that correspond to national policy and include local adjustments and guidelines for specific implementation. As policies are implemented by local governments, more practical guidelines are added. As such, policies generated by the central government aim to set general goals rather than dictate specific methods. By the time these policies and strategies arrive in the schools and other relevant institutions, they include practical guidelines.

## System performance

*Educational participation and attainment (based on latest available OECD data)*

6. Upper secondary attainment is often seen as a minimum qualification for successful labour market participation. In China, 37% of 25–64-year-olds had achieved at least an upper secondary qualification in 2020, compared to 83% on average across OECD countries. Of these, about half had achieved upper secondary education as their highest education attainment, while the remainder had completed a tertiary programme.
7. Given the large size of the tertiary education system in China, foreign students represent less than 1% of all tertiary students (of these, 30% comes from neighbouring countries). However, foreign students in China represent 4% of all international and foreign students in OECD and other participant countries.
8. China has one of the lowest percentages of 25–64-year-olds whose highest education level is a master's or equivalent tertiary education degree. Enrolment rates are lower among the population aged 25 and above. In China, 1% of the 25–29-year-olds and less than 1% of 30–64 year-olds were

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<sup>2</sup> Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *Overview of the education system* (EAG 2022); Yang, Y., Chia, YT. 'Reflection on China's higher vocational education entrance examination: lessons from the imperial examination in modern China'. *Asia Pacific Educ. Rev.* (2023); Australian Government Department of Education, *China's Education Modernisation Plan Towards 2035* (2020).

enrolled in tertiary education in 2020.

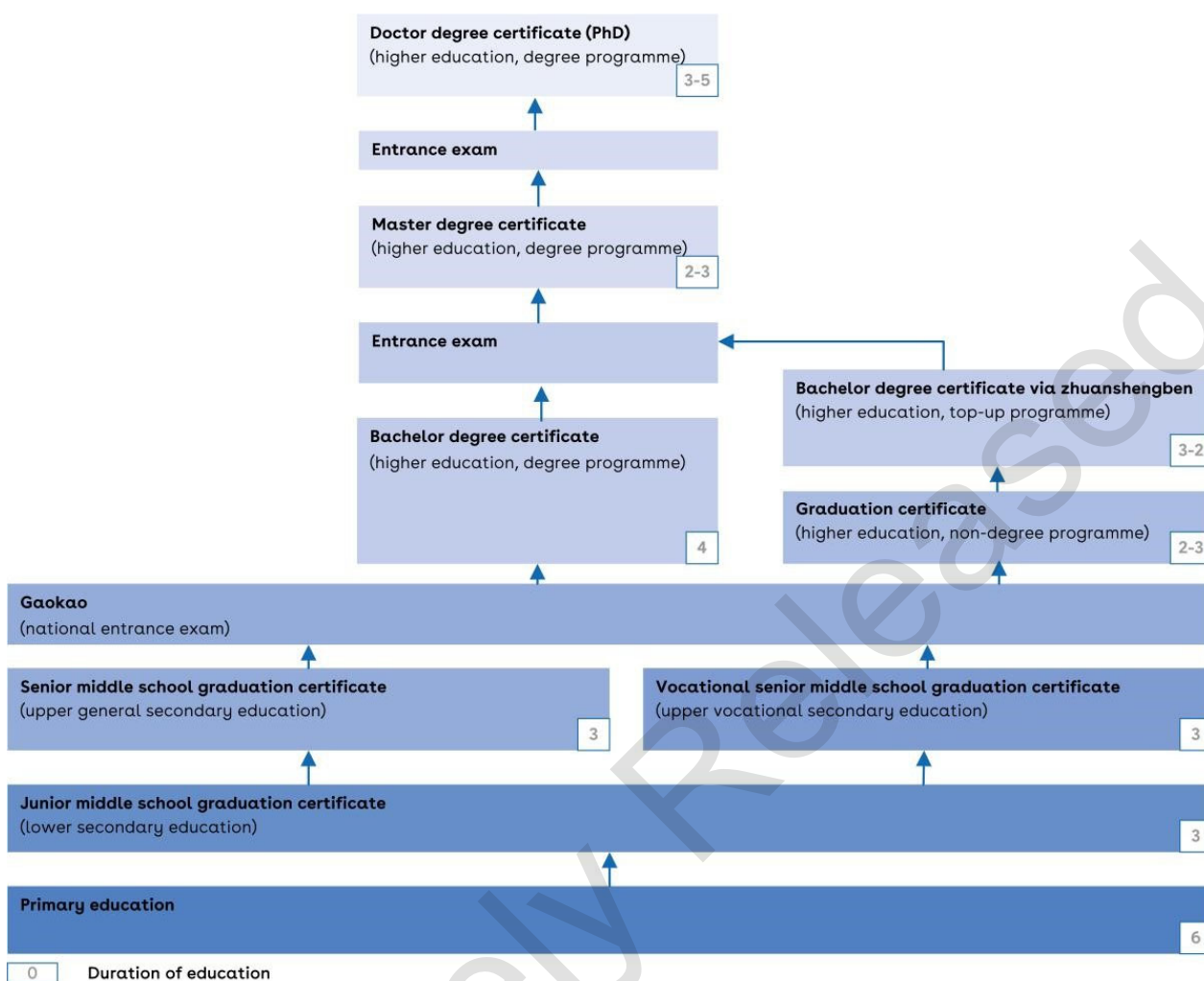
9. In 2020, the share of female graduates from upper secondary general and tertiary programmes is one of the smallest among OECD countries and partner economies with available data. (46.9%).
10. Among 25-64-year-olds in China, short-cycle tertiary qualifications are the most common tertiary attainment at 10% of the population followed by bachelor's degrees at 8% and master's and doctoral degrees combined with 1%. This is different from the OECD average, where bachelor's degrees are most common (19%), followed by master's degrees (14%) and short cycle tertiary qualifications (7%).
11. In China, the large majority of tertiary students (85%) are enrolled in public educational institutions (OECD average: 71%), while only a small portion are enrolled in private institutions (15%). The share of tertiary students enrolled in private institutions remained constant between 2013 and 2020.
12. Enrolment rates are lower among the population aged 25 and above. In China, 1% of the 25- 29 year-olds and less than 1% of 30-64 year-olds were enrolled in tertiary education in 2020.

#### *Teachers and the learning environment (based on OECD 2020 data)*

13. The ratio of students to teaching staff at the lower secondary level in private institutions is especially high in China. (16.1 Ratio).
14. In China, the number of students per teacher in all private secondary education is one of the highest among OECD and partner countries with available data. (16.9 Ratio).
15. The share of women among teaching staff in primary education is one of the smallest among OECD and partner countries with available data. (70.2%).

#### **Education system**

16. China has the largest education system in the world. In June 2022, there were 11.93 million students taking the National Higher Education Entrance Examination (Gao Kao) in China. International students have enrolled in over 1000 higher education institutions throughout the country. As of 2022, investment in education accounts for about 4% of total GDP in China.
17. In China, education is divided into three categories: basic education, higher education, and adult education. By law, each child must have nine years of compulsory education from primary school (six years) to junior secondary education (three years). Basic education in China includes pre-school education (usually three years), primary education (six years, usually starting at the age of six) and secondary education (six years).



### Pre-school education

18. In urban areas, pre-school education is mainly kindergartens, which could be full time, part-time, boarding, or hourly. In rural areas, pre-school education is mainly nursery classes and seasonal kindergartens in addition. In the aging, minority, remote and poor areas, besides the normal preschool education, education is irregular and takes various forms, such as children activity centres, game groups, mobile aid centres, and mobile service called "caravan".
19. During recent years, pre-school education in the mass rural areas, particularly in remote, poor and minority areas, has developed rapidly. The kindergartens combine childcare with teaching so with the aim to help children develop physically, morally, and intellectually in a harmonious way to get ready for their formal school education.
20. To enhance the management and guidance of kindergartens, the state has formulated a series of regulations, including "Regulations on The Management of Kindergartens" and the "Regulations on Kindergarten Work" placing the management of kindergartens on scientifically sound and institutionalised basis.
21. The state has also formulated regulations and rules concerning the qualification of kindergarten teachers and the assessment of their performance. At present, the normal schools devoted to the training of kindergarten teachers and the discipline of pre-school education have made big stride and

the training system of pre-school teachers at considerable scale has taken shape.

### *Primary education*

22. In China, primary school education is compulsory, and it lasts 5-6 years. Children start schools at age six (seven in some areas).
23. The language of instruction is Mandarin Chinese with the exception of the primary schools that mainly admit ethnic minority students.
24. A typical school year is comprised of two semesters and runs from the month of September to July. Students attend classes five days a week and primary school education currently includes nine compulsory courses, which include Chinese, Mathematics, Social Studies, Nature, Physical Education, Ideology and Morality, Music, Fine Art, and Labour Studies. Foreign Language is normally offered as an elective course (according to the 2022 Compulsory Education Curriculum Plan issued by China MoE, Foreign Language learning is required from Year 3, or Year 1 and 2 if conditions permit).
25. Students move on to 3-4-year junior (lower) secondary schools (chuzhong 初中) after graduating from primary schools.

### *Secondary education*

26. Secondary education has two routes: academic secondary education and specialized/vocational/technical secondary education. Academic secondary education consists of junior (three to four years) and senior middle schools (three years).
27. Junior (lower) secondary education lasts three to four years following the completion of primary school. In order for students to obtain a certificate of graduation, students are required to pass graduation examinations and meet minimum physical education standards. The graduation examinations are designed and administered by individual schools according to guidelines set by the provincial educational bureaus or by local educational authorities. Students are typically examined in the following subjects for graduation: Chinese, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Foreign Language, and Politics. Completion of junior (lower) secondary education also marks the end of a 9-year (6+3 or 5+4) compulsory education programme.
28. After the completion of junior (lower) secondary school, students will choose two different streams depending on their academic achievements: to enter either general (academic) senior secondary school or vocational senior secondary school. General (academic) senior secondary school lasts 3 years and vocational senior secondary school lasts 3 or 4 years.
29. Senior secondary school is known as (gaozhong) and vocational senior secondary school is known as (zhongzhuan) in China. Students wishing to continue their study in the general (academic) track must pass the entrance examinations for general senior secondary schools, which is also known as (zhongkao) in China.
30. Designed and administered by provincial educational authorities, the entrance examination includes the same subjects as the junior secondary graduation examination. At the end of their final school year, graduates of senior secondary schools seeking admission to post-secondary education are required to take the National Higher Education Entrance Examination, also called National College Entrance Examination (NCEE), commonly known as (gaokao) in China. Gaokao is a highly competitive exam. A total of 12.91 million students registered to attend Gaokao in 2023.

### *Higher education*

31. Higher education is provided by institutions of various types including general and technical universities, specialised institutions, professional universities, military institutions, medical schools and colleges, independent colleges, and adult higher education institutions of various types.
32. Entry to university depends primarily on how well the students perform in the entrance examinations. Students with outstanding academic performance in their secondary schools can also possibly be granted an exemption from the entrance examination and be recommended directly to the university of their choice through a method called (baosong 保送).
33. In addition, some private institutions are exempted from the NCEE (gaokao) and accept all students who can afford the tuition fees. Prestigious universities (key institutions) maintain higher admission standards, and therefore require higher NCEE (gaokao) scores than other institutions. Entry to higher education in China is highly competitive.
34. Higher education institutions in China are either government-owned or private institution. State-owned universities are divided into (regular) universities, independent colleges and higher vocational colleges.
35. Higher education is further divided into two categories:
  - universities that offer four-year or five-year undergraduate degrees to award academic degree qualifications; and
  - colleges that offer three-year diploma or certificate courses on both academic and vocational subjects. Postgraduate and doctoral programmes are only offered at universities.
36. In the recent years, Chinese higher education system has gone through structural reform. In the field of education provision reform, the old system in which the state undertook the establishment of all HEIs has been broken, and a new system in which the government take main responsibility with the active participation of society and individuals has been taking shape. The development of HEIs run by social forces are fully encouraged and supported.

### *Vocational education*

37. Vocational education programs are offered at both the secondary and post-secondary levels. Vocational senior secondary schools provide subject and occupation specific education and training. Vocational senior secondary education is highly employment-oriented and graduates normally enter the workforce. However, it does offer some access to further education, particularly in the technical/vocational specialties.
38. Higher technical/vocational education is available at the zhuanke (专科) level, which require two or three years of full-time post-secondary study. It is possible for graduates of higher vocational education programs at the zhuanke level to obtain a "benke 本科" degree (Bachelor's degree) certificate through an upgrading program, but in a limited number of fields. Vocational higher education institutions are currently administered at the provincial level.

### *Chinese vocation education reform<sup>2</sup>*

39. On April 20, 2022, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress passed the revised [Vocational Education Law](#) (the "Law"). The Law, which came into effect on May 1, 2020, upgrades the status of vocational education in China and encourages enterprises and schools to improve their vocational education capacity.

40. The Law is one of several measures that the government has released that is poised to strengthen the country's vocational education system. Facing a changing manufacturing landscape and increasing demand for skilled workers, the Chinese government is promoting investment in vocational education with increasing urgency to improve the technical capabilities of its workforce.
41. The Law eliminates the distinction between secondary schools and secondary vocational schools, while encouraging traditional secondary schools to offer courses on vocational education subjects. According to the Law, vocational education is equally important to general education, and consequently vocational education graduates should enjoy equal education and career opportunities.
42. Before the new Law, middle school students could enrol in either traditional secondary schools or vocational secondary schools depending on the [quality of their exam scores](#). As a result, students with poor grades often went to vocational secondary schools, feeding into the social perception that students should avoid such schools.
43. Policymakers hope that these provisions will improve the social perception of vocational education, which is generally viewed as inferior to general education. Vocational education's poor reputation in China is a contributor to talent shortages in technical vocations, as many students avoid pursuing vocational education because of social norms and expectations.
44. In addition to elevating the status of vocational education, the Law contains other measures to improve the quality of China's vocational education system. The Law states that China should have a modern vocational education system basically in place by 2025, with improved conditions and quality. By 2035, China should have a world-leading vocational education system, and the social status of technical and skilled workers should be greatly improved.
45. The Law also contains multiple provisions encouraging international cooperation, including to establish Sino-foreign cooperative education projects and expand exchange platforms. These provisions also encourage Chinese vocational education schools to go abroad alongside the globalisation of Chinese companies.

#### *Adult education*

46. Adult education ranges from primary education to higher education. For example, adult primary education includes Workers' Primary Schools, Peasants' Primary Schools in an effort to raise literacy levels in remote areas; adult secondary education includes specialised secondary schools for adults; and adult higher education includes traditional radio/TV universities (now online), most of which offer certificates/diplomas but a few offer regular undergraduate degrees.

### **Key education policies**

#### *Nine-Year Compulsory Education in China*

47. Nine-year compulsory education policy in China enables students over six years old nationwide to have free education at both primary schools (grade 1 to 6, in some cases 1 to 5) and junior secondary schools (grade 7 to 9, in some cases 6 to 9). The policy is funded by government, tuition is free. Schools still charge miscellaneous fees. Senior secondary school (grade 10 to 12) and college education are not compulsory and free in China.

#### *China's education modernisation plan towards 2035*

48. In September 2018, President Xi Jinping remarked at the National Education Conference that China's focus should shift from 'capacity' to 'quality', and that the modernisation of education should support the modernisation of China. In 2019, the Chinese State Council published two significant plans to drive continued reform in and advancement of China's education sector, drawing on the



range of preceding reforms since China's opening up in 1978 - China's Education Modernisation 2035 Plan and the Implementation Plan for Accelerating Education Modernisation (2018-2022).

49. According to the 2035 Plan, China's broad education goals are:

- o Establishing a modern education system
- o Achieving universal attendance in quality pre-school education
- o Providing high quality and balanced compulsory education (years 1 – 9)
- o Achieving maximum attendance in senior high school (years 10 - 12)
- o Significantly improving vocational education
- o Building a more competitive higher education system
- o Providing adequate education for disabled children/youth, and
- o Establishing a new education management system with participation from the whole society (i.e. not solely relying on government support).

50. In order to achieve these goals, the 2035 Plan identifies several 'tasks' including:

- o improving teacher quality and the education infrastructure (laws, policies, qualifications framework, evaluation and assessment);
- o reducing disparity and universalising access to education;
- o promoting life-long learning;
- o and modernising all education sectors with a particular focus on preschool and VET.

51. The Implementation Plan sets out actions for achieving those tasks, including in areas that have been prioritised in other national strategies, for example the integration of industry in vocational education in the "Implementation plan on National Vocational Education Reform", the "Belt and Road" education action plan, and mid-west region development promoted in plans like "The State Council General Office Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Education in the Midwest" and "Midwest Higher Education Promotion Plan (2012-2020)."

#### *Online education*

52. China's internet population grew by 35 million in December 2022 compared to a year ago. This figure included 232 million online education users. In 2022, China accounted for about one-fifth of the 5.3 billion internet users worldwide. The 2035 Plan requests "educational reform in the information age" be accelerated by building intelligent campuses and utilising technology as a tool for teaching, learning and resource sharing.

53. Seven months after the release of the 2035 Plan and Implementation Plan, in September 2019, the Ministry of Education issued a joint circular together with 10 other central government agencies to set the direction for online education development into the future.

54. The document sets out guidance for improving China's online education infrastructure in 2020. The internet, big data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are set to be used more widely in education with greater variety of educational resources and services. China is seeking to perfect online education delivery.

#### *Artificial Intelligence*

55. The Chinese Government has been calling for the acceleration of smart technologies in education for some time. In 2017, the State Council released a development plan on the use of AI, including supporting AI education in primary and middle school.



56. A specific action plan on AI for higher education was issued in April 2018. The plan encourages students to study abroad in countries with quality development in AI, and institutions to engage in greater international collaboration on AI. Top universities including Peking University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University have set up research institutes/centres on AI which commenced in 2018.
57. In January 2020, the China Ministry of Education, together with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Finance, issued a joint circular to further promote postgraduate education in AI technology. The China MOE has since announced a list of newly approved undergraduate level majors for Chinese higher education institutions. The “AI technology” major had the largest number of new approvals – more than 100 Chinese higher education institutions were approved to set up this major at undergraduate level.

#### *Vocational education and training*

58. In the same month that the 2035 Plan was published, the State Council issued a comprehensive reform plan on VET. Since February 2019, work has been underway on the VET plan's key initiatives including Shuanggao (Double High Initiative) and the 1+x model. In December 2019, the Ministries of Education and Finance published the final decision for inclusion in the Shuanggao initiative, which listed a total of 197 higher vocational institutions (56 for institution development and 141 for discipline development).
59. In line with the commitment to enhanced industry integration in VET, the NDRC and MoE released a work plan in October 2019 to have medium to large sized private enterprises run apprenticeship type programs by 2022. Initially, 20 enterprises are expected to participate from a range of sectors including agricultural, manufacturing, ICT, automotive and shipbuilding, aerospace, steel and metallurgy, energy and transportation, energy-saving and environmental protection, construction and assemblies, finance, and social services. Shanghai is leading in this area having fully implemented its modern apprenticeship system in 2019, which it had been piloting since 2016. The pilot programme has trained over 8,600 apprentices in Shanghai.
60. One of these notable and significant initiatives is the reform of the higher vocational education entrance examination, as it is crucial not only for the improvement of Chinese vocational education system but also for the promotion of economic development and national prosperity and strength as well.

#### *Course development and curriculum design*

61. The 2035 Plan calls for course materials and curricula in primary, secondary and higher education to be comprehensively reformed. Content related to ‘Socialism with Chinese characteristics’ will be added to all school education courses and strengthened at higher education level.
62. In January 2020, the MoE published a Gaokao (College Entrance Exam) assessment system handbook clarifying the core function of Gaokao, describing it as being to “educate individuals with good morals; serve the purpose of selecting professionals; and provide guidance to teaching”. The handbook prioritises evaluating the well-rounded development of an individual (not just academic outcomes), including a student’s morals, intellectual and fitness abilities, as well as their appreciation of aesthetics and hardworking spirit.
63. In March 2020, the Chinese State Council announced that “Labour Education (劳动教育)” will become a compulsory course for all primary, secondary schools and higher education institutions. “Labour education” is a component of the ‘Chinese socialist education system with Chinese characteristics’. The purpose of “labour education” is to “cultivate (students with) a right view of the

world, life and values and develop an interest in doing labour”.

*Further internationalisation*

64. According to the 2035 and Implementation Plans, an important part of modernizing the education system is strengthening efforts on “opening up” – i.e., international cooperation and exchange. The MoE’s 2019 budget saw a 36% increase in outbound study abroad funding and an 18% increase for inbound studies. By the end of 2020, China aimed to have 500,000 international students. In 2018, there were 492,185. The top 15 source countries in 2018 were: Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, India, United States of America, Russia, Indonesia, Laos, Japan, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Bangladesh, France, Mongolia and Malaysia – out of which 11 have signed Belt and Road agreements with China as of January 2020. Over 60% of all in-bound international students in 2018 came from Asia and the Pacific region.

## Background on the Chinese government education agencies

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### Ministry of Education (MoE)

- The Ministry of Education is the key government body responsible for the development of China's education system, from early childhood education through to higher education. Key focus areas include the development of national strategies, policies and plans for education reform and development. It has a particular focus on raising the quality of education provision, following the earlier focus on "massification".
- The Department of International Cooperation and Exchange coordinates the Ministry's engagement with foreign countries. Its key functions include:
  - Managing and guiding international education cooperation and exchanges;
  - Drafting guidance and policies for the management of Chinese students studying abroad, international students studying in China, Chinese-foreign cooperative joint ventures and schools for foreign children;
  - Supervising international cooperation and exchanges in the education sector;
  - Guiding the work of education departments/divisions in Chinese embassies/consulates;
  - Planning, coordinating and guiding the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language;
  - Conducting educational cooperation and exchanges with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region and Taiwan Region of China.

### The Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC)

- Formerly Hanban, or Confucius Institute Headquarters, CLEC is the new name for this not-for-profit professional educational institution focusing on international Chinese language education. Affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education, CLEC is committed to providing quality services for people from all over the world to learn Chinese and understand China. It also intends to build a platform for friendly collaboration on language education and cross-cultural learning.
- The main functions of CLEC are:
  - Providing services for the development of international Chinese language education and language education exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries, coordinating the work on building an international Chinese language education resource system, participating in the formulation and implementation of relevant standards for international Chinese language education;
  - Supporting the provision of teaching resources, including the training of international Chinese language education teachers, development of textbooks and curricula, and facilitating relevant disciplines and academic research;
  - Hosting certification tests for teachers and students such as CTC SOL and HSK series, conducting relevant evaluation, accreditation and certification;
  - Operating international Chinese language education programs such as the Chinese Bridge series, China Studies Program, and International Chinese Language Teachers' Scholarship.
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### **China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)**

- CEAIE was founded in 1981 as a not-for-profit organisation to encourage international exchange and cooperation. It is a key organisation in facilitating foreign engagement with the Chinese education system.
- Headquartered in Beijing, it has provincial associations for international exchange in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in China, as well as local chapters in 16 major cities. It has relationships with more than 170 education organisations in more than 50 countries (including Universities New Zealand). CEAIE has been granted Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and has established official relations with UNESCO.
- Among its activities, CEAIE supports major people-to-people dialogue and exchange mechanisms with partner countries and provide quality assurance services for China-Foreign cooperative transnational education programmes.

### **China Scholarship Council (CSC)**

- Founded in 1996, CSC is a non-profit institution affiliated to the Chinese Ministry of Education which exists to develop educational, scientific and technological, cultural exchanges, and economic and trade cooperation between China and other countries. It provides scholarships to Chinese citizens wishing to study abroad, and to foreign citizens wishing to study in China. CSC is largely funded by government, but also accepts donations from other sources. It has a wide range of programmes with foreign countries, including joint scholarships to support PhD, joint PhD, postdoctoral research, visiting scholar programmes with all eight New Zealand Universities.

### **China Centre for International People-to-People Exchange (CCIPLE)**

- CCIPLE is a public institution affiliated to the Ministry of Education of China. Established in 2017, CCIPLE has key functions including:
  - Carrying out policy research and basic research on people-to-people exchange, participating in top-level design of people-to-people exchanges between China and other countries;
  - Taking part in the organization and arrangement of high-level meetings on People-to-People Exchange Mechanisms, bilateral conferences and activities;
  - Coordinating the connection and communication with foreign committees, of the high-level People-to-People exchange mechanisms;
  - Organizing and implementing programs of international People-to-People exchange mechanisms;
  - Building a variety of platforms for international People-to-People exchange between China and other countries;

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### **Chinese Service Centre for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE)**

- Initially founded in 1989, CSCSE is a public organisation under China Ministry of Education. CSCSE specializes in offering professional services for international scholarly exchanges, including Chinese students and scholars studying abroad, returnees from overseas, and international students and scholars coming to study in China.
- CSCSE is also dedicated to promoting the internationalisation and capacity building of Chinese higher education institutions, as well as introducing the best practice of education resources through international exchanges and collaboration.

- CSCSE is the only official organization that provides overseas credential evaluation and recognition services in China. The statement of comparability of overseas qualifications issued by CSCSE is widely recognized by Chinese employers and institutions from various sectors. CSCSE is an active member in the international education community who facilitates global talent mobility and improves international recognition of qualifications. 6(a)

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## China Customs and Protocol

### Greetings

- Hello: Nǐ hǎo [*knee-how*]; Hello everybody: Dàjiā hǎo [*Dah-jar-how*]
- Thank you: Xiè xiè [*share-share*]
- Goodbye: Zài jiàn [*tsai-jen*]

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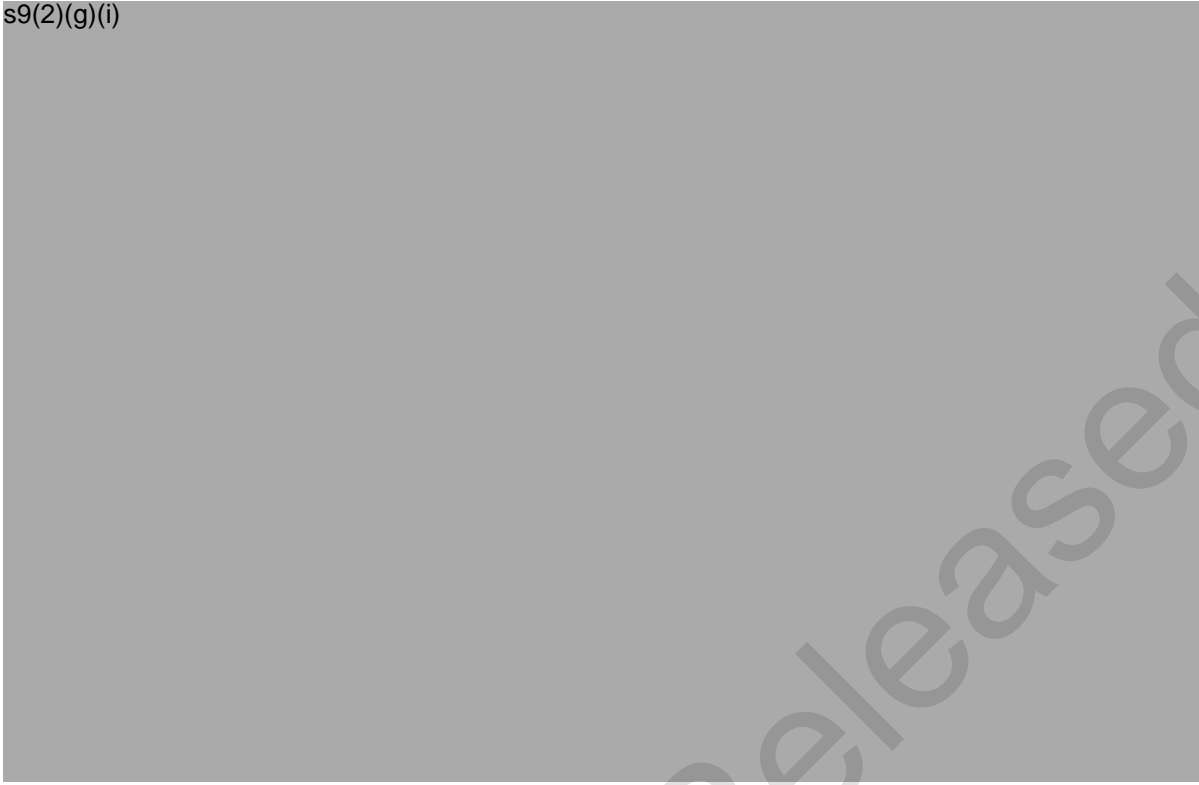


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**Te Tāhuhu o  
te Mātauranga**  
Ministry of Education

We **shape** an **education** system that delivers  
**equitable** and **excellent outcomes**

He mea **tārai** e mātou te **mātauranga**  
kia **rangatira** ai, kia **mana taurite** ai ōna **huanga**

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