

Education
2030



UNESCO International Research and
Training Centre for Rural Education



INRULED

BIENNIAL REPORT

2022-2023

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Foreword

It is with a profound sense of purpose and commitment that we reflect on the journey of the UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED) over the past two years. This report encapsulates our unwavering dedication to ensuring that every learner is endowed with equal opportunities for educational excellence that will lead to the sustainable development of the rural community.

As the world enters a critical juncture marked by the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we find ourselves at a crossroads, faced with unique challenges and unprecedented opportunities. The global landscape of education has been reshaped by technological advancements, socio-economic shifts, and environmental concerns. In this evolving context, our mission to bridge the urban-rural educational gap gains even greater significance. We acknowledge the complexities of this endeavour, yet remain optimistic about the transformative power of education in driving sustainable development.

During 2022-2023, INRULED has been especially focused on “Working as a Network”, expanding our reach, and strengthening our role as a platform for exchange and collaboration. This initiative has been instrumental in fostering dialogues, sharing best practices, and encouraging innovation in rural education. By connecting diverse stakeholders - from policymakers and practitioners to researchers and community leaders - we have cultivated a rich tapestry of perspectives and expertise, essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges of rural education.

INRULED’s Governing Board convened its Session on 9 December 2023, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to rural education and sustainable development. This Session has endorsed the new leadership team, the Mid-Term Strategy (2024-2029) as well as the 2024 Workplan and Budget, which has built momentum for INRULED’s programmes and activities in the coming years.

Recognising that sustainable development is rooted in robust institutions, we have dedicated resources and efforts to strengthen the capacity of institutional governance management and staff performance. In addition to these areas of enhanced effort, INRULED has continued driving progress and innovation in our main domains of work, including conferences, research and publication, and capacity building.

As we look towards the future, we reiterate our commitment to the targets of Education 2030, which can be reflected through every activity that we have organised. Therefore, we invite you to delve into this report and walk alongside us in our continued pursuit to drive educational development in rural communities.

Director, INRULED

Conferences and Events

International Seminar on Inter-sectoral Collaboration for Community Learning Centres (CLC)

Theme: Promotion of Education for Intangible Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development, Ecological Civilization and Rural Revitalization

Date: 25 January 2022

Venue: Ningbo, China

Participants: Close to 1000 participants, including managers and personnel from CLCs all over China, officials in education and culture, representatives from the Ningbo Municipal Education Bureau, and delegates from the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) in Japan and SEAMEO Secretariat in Thailand



The seminar was co-organised by UNESCO Office Beijing, INRULED and the Ningbo Municipality Education Bureau, hosted by Ningbo Adult School, with joint support from the Chinese Ministry of Education and the Chinese National

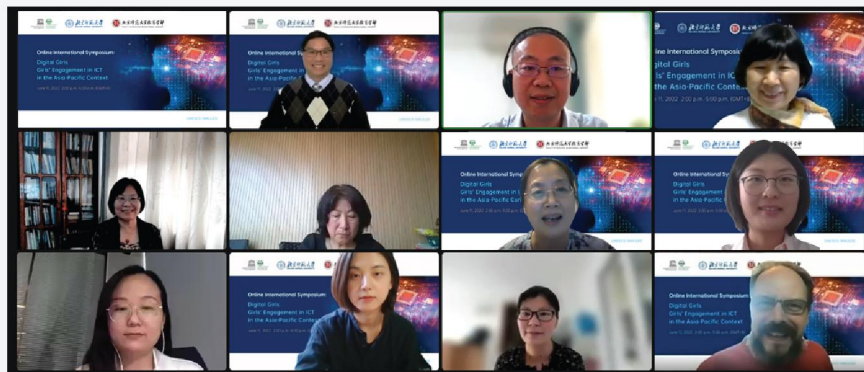
Commission for UNESCO. This seminar was among the first actions of UNESCO at country level to implement the inter-sectoral initiative of “Education and Culture together in action to advance the SDGs”. The major outcome is the adoption of “Ningbo Consensus” which is an overall guiding framework to promote and strengthen integration of education and cultural joint actions at local levels in CLC programmes in China.

International Symposium on Digital Girls: Girls' Engagement in ICT in the Asia-Pacific

Date: 11 June 2022

Venue: Online

Participants: Participants from academia, enterprises and social organisations



The symposium held by INRULED aimed to understand the digital divide faced by rural women and girls and explore its causes, share practices related to promoting digital skills of girls and women, and build collaborative networks. The symposium provided a platform for experts, researchers,

young scholars and others to share their knowledge and practices, to discuss the conceptual development of “digital girls”, and seek solutions to bridge the digital gender divide.

Side-event of 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers Conference (APREMC-II)

Theme: Transforming teaching and learning through new digital technologies

Date: 6 June 2022

Participants: School leaders, teachers and researchers from the Asia-Pacific

INRULED organised a side-event during the APREMC-II, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, the Thai National Commission for UNESCO, the International Institute of Education and Management, and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). The session aims to contribute to the regional discussion on transforming teaching and learning towards 2030 and beyond. INRULED shared findings and insights gained from case studies conducted in primary and secondary schools on the uses of new digital technologies in teaching and learning.

China-Africa Deans of Education Forum

2022 Theme: Reimagine Teacher Education Towards a Shared Future

Date: 15-16 June 2022

Venue: Online

Participants: Deans of the schools of education in Africa, officials from the Ministry of Education in China, representatives from six universities in China and universities and organisations in 12 African countries



The two-day event, co-organised by INRULED, the Faculty of Education (FOE) of Beijing Normal University (BNU), and UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), aimed to explore the development of teacher education institutions, policies, and practices that enhance teacher capacity, and to address the challenges associated with supporting teachers' professional

development. The forum was built on the *Education 2030 Framework for Action and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025)*, which emphasise the importance of revitalising the teaching profession to ensure quality and relevance at all levels of education. The event also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.C, which calls for international cooperation to increase the supply of qualified teachers in developing countries.

2023 Theme: Transforming Education for Resilient Futures

Date: 15 November 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: Deans of the Schools of Education from 10 universities in Africa, including Gambia, Rwanda, Zambia, Nigeria and Tanzania, representatives of UNESCO IICA and TTF, deans of the Faculties of Education of 13 universities in China, and over 200 audiences and about 4000 viewers online



The forum was co-organised by the Faculty of Education of Beijing Normal University, INRULED, UNESCO IICBA, and the China Institute of Education and Social Development. The forum provided an important platform for education exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa. The China-Africa Deans of Education Network was launched during the forum. The deans expressed knee

interest in actively participating in the network to enhance the capacity of education institutions and foster a high-quality teaching force in China and Africa.

Global Smart Education Conference 2022 & 2023

Sub-forum: Forum on Smart Village and Transformation of Rural Education

Date: 19 August 2022 & 20 August 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: Representatives from government agencies, international organisations, universities, non-governmental organisations, and enterprises worldwide



INRULED participated in and hosted a sub-forum of the Conference that explored the opportunities and challenges of digital technology for rural education and rural transformation. The forum focused on the current development status of smart villages and rural education transformation in various countries and regions, and the planning, implementation and evaluation of the sustainability of smart villages and rural development.

The International Symposium on Transforming Education for Girls and Women in the New Era: Inclusion, Equity, and Quality

Date: 28 March 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: Over 100 representatives, experts, and scholars from nearly 30 countries, including China, Belarus, Mongolia, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, South Korea, Japan, and international organisations such as UNESCO, and UN Women



The symposium was organised by Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, All-China Women's Federation, and Beijing Normal University, and hosted by INRULED. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on topics such as "Implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda - Leave no Woman or Girl Behind", "Improving the Scientific, Technological,

Engineering and Mathematical Skills and Capacities of Girls and Women", and "Promoting Digital Skills for Girls and Women". The symposium has promoted the recognition and understanding of the importance of transforming education for girls and women, and built momentum for future collaboration.

International Seminar on Girls' and Women's Education

Date: 28 September 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: Representatives from the International Jury and 2023 laureates of the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, experts from higher education institutions, and UNESCO Headquarters, and over 40 international students from more than 10 countries



The seminar was co-organised by Beijing Normal University and China Women's University and co-hosted by the China Institute of Education and Social Development and INRULED. The seminar aimed at sharing global experience and achievements in promoting education for girls and women, and strengthening exchange and cooperation with relevant

experts and institutions in the field of girls' and women's education.

Project launch event for the Capacity Building Project for Rural Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in China

Date: 11 December, 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: 120 representatives from 75 CLCs spanning 20 provinces across the country



Organised by INRULED, China Adult Education Association, the Open University of China (OUC), this event featured a case study report on rural Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in China and an outline of the next project phase. A seminar focused on “Promoting Rural Revitalisation and Sustainable Development through Rural

Community Learning Centres” followed, where participants shared best practices and committed to advancing a learning society and supporting China's rural revitalisation and the Sustainable Development Goals through rural CLCs. Initiated by INRULED and its partners, the Community Learning Centres Project has entered into its 4th phase, which has engaged 75 institutions (with 50 newly recruited and 25 from the previous phases).

China-Southeast Asian Symposium “Towards Ecological Civilisation: Education for Sustainable Rural Development”

Date: 15-16 December 2022

Venue: Online

Participants: Over 400 scholars, youth representatives, university teachers and students, and NGOs delegates from more than ten countries, including China, Laos, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia



The symposium was supported by the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO, hosted by Beijing Normal University (BNU), and organised by INRULED) Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University, China Zigen Rural Education and Development Association, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The symposium fostered the exchange of practices and

experiences in ecological civilisation and introduced the initiative on youth-led actions in education for sustainable rural development, laying the foundation for cooperation and exchanges between China and Southeast Asian countries in this field.

Date: 10-11 December, 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: Over 200 experts, scholars, youth representatives, university teachers and students from China, Canada, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia, and around 4,000 online audience



Building upon the achievements of 2022 event, this year's symposium aims to further explore the theme “Towards Ecological Civilisation: Education for Sustainable Rural Development”, and call upon the youth to take responsive actions to support rural sustainability.

INRULED organised this symposium, in collaboration with China Zigen Rural Education and Development Association, China Institute of Education and Social Development at Beijing Normal University, Chinese National Working Committee for UNESCO on Education for Sustainable Development, Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), and Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat, and with the support of Beijing Normal University, the Secretariat of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO, and UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office for East Asia (UNESCO Beijing). During the symposium, the report *Towards 2030 - Practices of Poverty Alleviation through Education in China* was officially launched.

Capacity Building

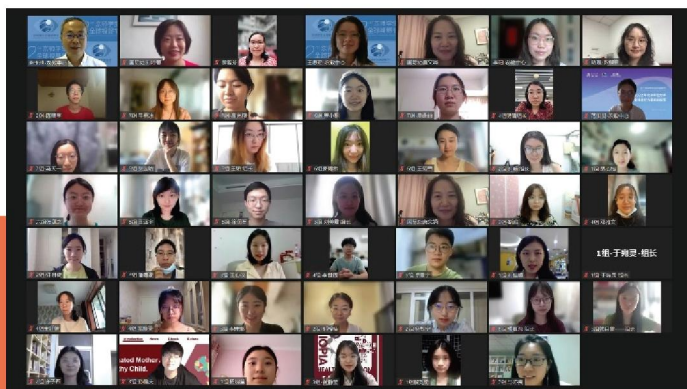
INRULED has dedicated resources and efforts to enhancing the capabilities of students, education practitioners, policymakers, and educational institutions worldwide. Through facilitating knowledge transfer, we aim to empower individuals and institutions to become agents of change, driving progress and innovation in their respective communities.

Annual Jingshi Global Vision Festival and Global Competency Summer Camp

Date: 4-9, July, 2022; 3-10, July, 2023

Venue: Beijing, China

Participants: 42 university students from Beijing Normal University each year



For two consecutive years, INRULED has organised a series of lectures and workshops for university students to enhance youths' understanding of international development and promote global competencies. Students engaged in discussions with senior and young professionals from a wide range of international organisations on the various scopes of work carried out in different fields, and completed a project proposal for their chosen topic using the framework of Results-Based Management. The summer camp was held online in 2022 and onsite at Beijing Normal University in 2023, where a selected group of students also went on a study tour in Thailand to visit different international organisations.

TVET Leadership and Management Benchmarking Programme and Training Workshops

Date: 14-20 August, 2023

Venue: Beijing and Tianjin, China

Participants: More than 30 directors, principals and managers of vocational schools and education departments from 8 Southeast Asian countries



Co-organised by the UNESCO Chair on AIED, INRULED, and the TLIVTC, the workshop aimed at exploring innovative ways to use digital technology for a more effective and flexible TVET system. During the workshop, scholars and industry experts discussed the current state and future trends of vocational education, shared cases demonstrating how digital technology advances vocational technical education, and identified the hindrances facing

vocational education development in Southeast Asia's digital age.

Capacity Building Workshop on Building Digital Learning Spaces in Schools

Date: 21-24, August 2023

Venue: Xing'anmeng, China

Participants: Over 40 ICT teachers in ICT and other subjects from Xing'anmeng

INRULED brought together experts and practitioners in digital learning to conduct the workshop that aims to promote teachers' initiatives and motivations in planning and building digital learning spaces in schools. The teachers acquired concepts of digital learning spaces through Project-Based Learning and deepened their understanding through case studies on digital learning practices.



Study Tour for African Deans of Education

Date: 14-16, November 2023

Participants: Deans of the schools of education from Ethiopia, Gambia, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Ghana, Namibia, and Kenya

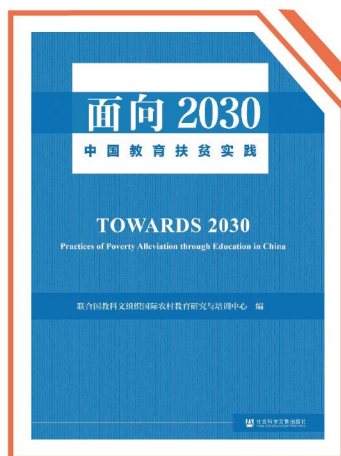


Alongside the 2023 China-Africa Deans of Education Forum, INRULED in collaboration with Faculty of Education at Beijing Normal University held a study tour for the deans from African countries, visiting four sites in Beijing, introducing the deans to the educational development in China from early childhood to higher education, and from teacher

training to educational technology. The deans visited Jinsong No.1 Kindergarten, Beijing Academy of Runfeng Branch, iFLYTECH, and Beijing Haidian Teachers Training College. The deans engaged in dynamic discussion with the students, teachers, and school leaders, exchanging the educational philosophy between China and African countries.

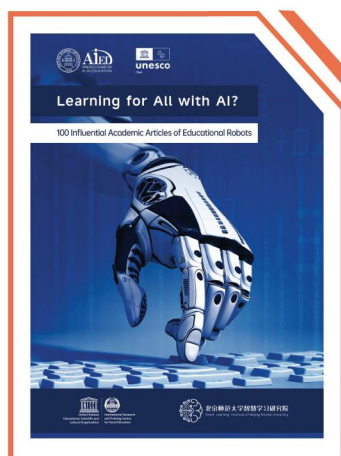
Research and Publications

Towards 2030: Practices of Poverty Alleviation through Education in China



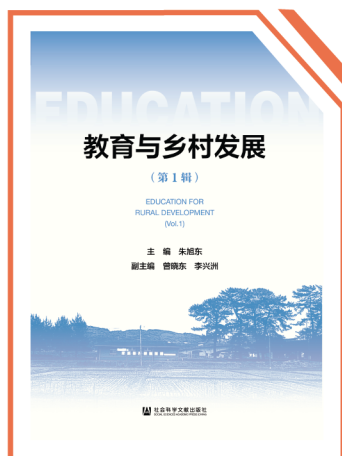
This publication aims to explore how quality education (SDG 4) can contribute to poverty reduction (SDG 1) in China. It presents 38 cases of China's practices on education for poverty reduction for the reference of the international community. The cases cover five pillars of practices on ensuring the universality and equity in education, improving the quality of education in poverty-stricken areas, empowering poor families in China through technical and vocational education and skills development, boosting rural industrial and economic development by higher education institutions and vocational schools, and cross-sector collaboration for poverty alleviation through education.

Learning for All with AI? 100 Influential Academic Articles of Educational Robotics



INRULED jointly published the handbook with the UNESCO Chair on AI in Education and the Smart Learning Institute at Beijing Normal University in 2023. The handbook discusses how educational robotics can facilitate learning and tackle emerging challenges in education. The goal of the handbook is to promote the public's comprehensive understanding of the application of robots in learning across ages, contexts, and disciplines. The handbook organised the articles into 7 topics related to the application of robotics in various education settings and targeting different groups. Including STEM education, special education, language learning, and for seniors.

The first volume of *Education and Rural Development*



Education and Rural Development fulfills INRULED's function to strengthen international cooperation for the achievement of SDG4 and forward the global education agenda based on research and innovation. This publication focuses on the five thematic priorities of INRULED, providing insights into emerging themes in rural education within the context of rural revitalisation. The articles shed light on global trends in education for rural and disadvantaged groups. The publication aims to create a dialogue and exchange platform for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners to share the latest findings and reflections on theories and practices in education and rural development and advance knowledge production and international cooperation in this field.

Research on Teachers' Collaborative Learning in County-Level Middle Schools

Rural teacher development is one of the priorities of INRULED. As county middle schools are facing serious challenges such as the loss of students and quality teachers, INRULED conducted research from the perspective of teachers' collaborative learning to explore innovative pathways to promote teachers' development and the equality of education. A summary meeting was held at the end of the research cycle to share research outcomes, identify shortcomings, and arrange for follow-up actions.

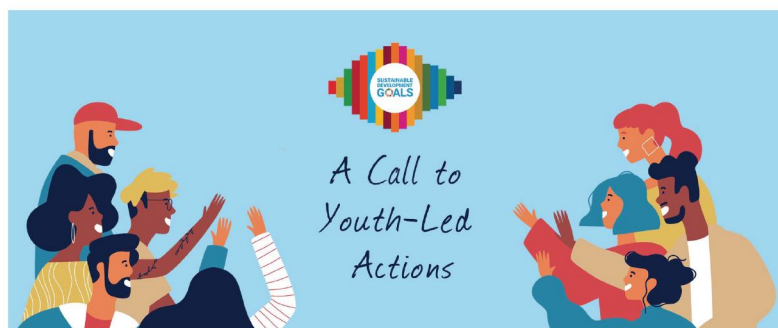
Research on Community Learning Centres (CLC)

The Community Learning Centres (CLC) project team visited project sites in six provinces and engaged in discussions with local CLC administrators, government officials, and teachers to gain an in-depth understanding of the development of CLC projects in the area. The findings from the research will be included in the report titled *A Review of the China Rural Community Learning Centre Project (1998-2020): Trends and Best Practices*, which is scheduled to be published in late 2023.

To understand how CLCs can promote family-school-community collaborations, the CLC project team also conducted a situation analysis. The team observed the environment and teaching facilities and engaged in interviews with the school teachers to understand the development of local preschool education and community education. The findings of this research will be included as part of a research report titled *Situation Analysis of Family-School-Community Collaborations in Education in Rural Areas of China*, which is expected to be published in 2024.

As part of the CLC project team's plan to organise capacity-building activities for teachers in rural CLCs, the project team visited Xiong'an and Dingzhou City of Hebei Province. The experts exchanged experiences and advice on the development of the family-school-community model with local officials and school representatives.

Youth-led Action for Rural Sustainable Development Case Collection



In December 2022, INRULED partnered with the China Zigen Rural Education and Development Association to launch *A Call to Youth-led Actions: Promoting Sustainable Rural Development towards Ecological Civilisation*.

Based on this initiative, INRULED organised a global case collection activity under the

theme of ‘Youth-Led Action for Rural Sustainable Development’, recognising youth as key actors in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and offering a platform for sharing best practices and experiences. A case study based on the collection is planned to be published in 2024.

Other Ongoing Research Projects

Utilising the organisation’s advantage in disseminating the experiences of education development in China, INRULED is formulating two reports on China’s experiences and practices in strengthening the teacher workforce and education for girls and women. These two reports, namely the **Qiangshi Project Report** and the **Progress Report on Girls’ and Women’s Education in China** are scheduled to be published in 2024. **A global case study on digital literacy for girls** is also under development.

Institutional Capacity Building



INRULED's Governing Board convened its Session on December 9, 2023, highlighted that INRULED has well fulfilled its responsibilities and missions, contributing towards Education 2030. The Board Session reviewed INRULED's work (2017-2023), and approved its Mid-Term Strategy (2024-2029) and work plan and budget for 2024. During the Session, Prof. ZHOU Zuoyu who is

the Vice-President of Beijing Normal University was nominated and approved as the new Director of INRULED. The Board encourages INRULED to enhance its international reach and global impacts through mobilising more external resources and strengthening partnership.

INRULED recognises the instrumental role of institutional capacity building in the long-term development of the organisation. A series of activities are held to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of management and governance during this time. Consultation



meetings are held to enhance the professional knowledge and competency of project staff and acquire expert advice on the development of the projects.



Activities Attended by INRULED

Event	Date	Venue
SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2022	26-27 July, 2022	Online
2 nd Cross-Strait, Hongkong and Macau Service-Learning Seminar	2-3 September, 2023	Online
48 th APEC Human Resources Development Working Group Meeting 2023	16-19 May, 2023	Detroit, USA
14 th Asian Adult Education (Pre-Conference in Conjunction with AERC 2023)	31 May- 4 June, 2023	Online
Social Talents Exchange on Rural Revitalisation and Sustainable Rural Development	2 July, 2023	Beijing, China
International Symposium on High-Quality Development of Education	4 July, 2023	Beijing, China
12 th APEC Conference on Cooperation in Higher Education in the Asia-Pacific Region	11-13 September, 2023	Vladivostok, Russia
Jolii-Gintl Global Conference 2023: Education for the Future	15-17 August, 2023	Helsinki, Finland
APEC Workshop on Digital Competency of Younger Older Adults	25-27 October, 2023	Beijing, China
Expert Consultation Meeting for the UNESCO Chair on Women and Media	6 November, 2023	Beijing, China
Symposium on Lifelong Learning for Rural Revitalisation and Fostering Talents for Sustainable Rural Development	7 November, 2023	Hebei, China
Seminar on 2023 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report	30 November, 2023	Hangzhou, China

Partnership Building

Working as a Network is one of the core principles guiding INRULED's work. Over the past two years, INRULED has welcomed exchange from a variety of fields and institutions to explore the potential of joint initiatives to advance efforts on sustainable development in rural areas.

Dialogue Meeting on Partnership for UNESCO's Priority Africa



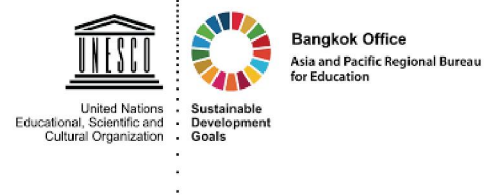
On 1 August 2023, INRULED supported the Dialogue Meeting on Partnership for UNESCO's Priority Africa. Mr. Firmin Matoko, Assistant Director-General for Priority Africa and External Relations at UNESCO, Mr. DU Yue, Senior Advisor to UNESCO ADG for PAX, ambassadors from 6 African countries and China, and over 60 representatives from UNESCO category II centres, UNESCO Chair, enterprises and higher education institutions joined the dialogue meeting. Mr. Firmin Matoko recognised the pivotal role INRULED played in promoting education development in rural areas and bridging cooperation between China and Africa. Overall, the meeting has strengthened communication and collaboration for relevant stakeholders under UNESCO's framework.

Partnerships for Fulfilling Our Mission

Academia



UNESCO family



unesco

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International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa

International and Social Organisations



Government Sectors

Ningbo Municipality Education Bureau

Ningbo Adult School

Educational Bureau of Ningbo

Chinese National Commission for UNESCO

China National Working Committee for UNESCO on Education for Sustainable Development

Education for Rural Transformation



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