

Kunming Declaration

On December 3, 2019 all the friendship cities joined the host city of Kunming for the International Friendship Cities Cooperation & Development Conference organized by Kunming Municipal People's Government. All participants took part in extensive and in-depth discussions themed on strengthening international education cooperation and promoting educational development, whereupon we agreed to make the following declaration:

I. The Friendship Cities recognize that as a fundamental cornerstone for national revitalization and social progress, education plays a decisive role in improving the comprehensive quality of the people, promoting integrated development of the individuals and enhancing the national dynamics of innovation.

II. The Friendship Cities recognize that expanding the opening up of the education sector for all-around international communication and cooperation on multiple levels in wide-ranging areas is a key measure to drive educational development and upgrade education quality that plays an irreplaceable role in facilitating exchanges among different cultures and advancing the progress of human civilization.

III. The Friendship Cities agree to further expand the communication and cooperation, tighten the partnerships and share the success stories in education sector among the participants; and to establish discussions and dialogues among Kunming, the friendship city governments and education sectors.

By facilitating equal negotiation among the counterparts, expanding channels for communication and upgrading the scale of exchange and cooperation, we hope to construct an open education system based on coordinated collaboration among inside and external partners, sharing of resources, extensive participation and benefit-for-all.

IV. The Friendship Cities agree to consolidate the strengths of various sources including the government authorities, diplomatic and consular missions, universities and colleges, primary and middle schools, private institutions and social organizations to construct platforms for sharing of information & resources and conduct in-depth communication and cooperation on multiple channels.

V. The Friendship Cities agree to step up cooperation among premier educational resources and prestigious educational institutions, facilitate collaborative programs and build on the attraction, influence and the power of radiation of educational internationalization.

VI. The Friendship Cities agree to support Kunming in promoting investment from foreign education brands in joint ventures and facilitating high profile and standardized development of such joint ventures; to support qualified premier schools in Kunming to set up joint programs or start branches in foreign countries as part of the efforts to expand the horizon of educational internationalization.

VII. The Friendship Cities agree to initiate the Teacher's

Program for Communication and Exchange of Visits. This program is intended to be developed as a long-term project to organize exchange of visits, learning opportunities, training sessions and workshops for prominent teachers from primary, middle, vocational schools and higher education institutions of friendship cities.

VIII. The Friendship Cities agree to take a series of measured steps to foster sister school partnerships across the friendship cities, institute mechanism for exchange of visits and communication, enrich the forms and areas for international collaboration among the students and teachers and increase the number and ratio of exchange and visiting students in Chinese and foreign schools.

IX. The Friendship Cities call for efforts to actively research on relevant policies conducive to education communication and cooperation as well as moves to push for improved policy systems for openness in the education sector by the national governments. We shall work for stronger policy support for international communication and cooperation in education sector including coordination of student status management, mutual recognition of academic qualification and credit, connection of admission & enrollment, streamlining of foreign affairs' review and approval protocols, collaborative programs & joint ventures. We shall also move towards mutual recognition of vocational training & qualification to unleash additional vibrancy for internationalization of education.

Signed by:_____ Date:_____