ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | BEIJING

Photo by Columbia College
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Photo by Vic Sun
Lee C. Bollinger

President of Columbia University

The network of Columbia Global Centers that now spans the world is promoting teaching, research, public outreach, and local and regional engagement in Jordan, Turkey, Tunisia, Kenya, Brazil, Chile, China, India and France. Through their extraordinary contributions to our University community, the Centers are fulfilling their promise, individually and collectively, and making Columbia a global university for the 21st century.
As one of the nine Columbia Global Centers, the Beijing Center (the “Center”) serves as an important academic hub for the Columbia University community in China and East Asia, facilitating and promoting academic exchange, research, and scholarship programs in the region. We provide our faculty, students, and alumni with a broader global view and international experience by forging connections with regional intelligence.

Given recent global health, economic, and security challenges, the Center’s work for the 2021-2022 academic year has focused on the concepts of “hardship and resilience”. While Columbia’s campus operations for the most part have been resumed following the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University’s overseas activities and programs, especially in China, have not fully recovered. Public health risks have not been fully contained and travel restrictions persist. Limitations on in-person activities, transportation mobility hardships, and supply chain disruption caused by tensions among different geo-political alignments have brought about a modified pedagogical paradigm that has managed still to adhere to Columbia’s educational standards. The Center has liaised successfully with Columbia utilizing the internet as a key communications platform for scholarship exchange.

In the active regional community, the Beijing Center maintained our relationships with our faculty, students, alumni, partners and friends, allowing them to continue to benefit from the essential services of sustaining connections and exchanges, enriching meaningful partnerships, increasing learning and career opportunities, and engaging in diverse global contexts. These noteworthy accomplishments gave us the footing and confidence to achieve our goals and targets for the coming year.
Faculty and School Engagement

- Climate School: 10
- SEAS: 7
- CUIMC: 7
- SIPA: 6
- SPS: 6
- TC: 5
- GSAS: 2
- SSW: 2

- 40 Faculty
- 143 Alumni
- 38 Programs
- 369 Students
- 340 Public visitors
Enhancing Students’ Regional Experience

The Beijing Center is committed to encouraging students to get out of their comfort zone and explore academic and professional life in the global setting. The Center offers ongoing support for any student or student organization planning to host events engaging students and regional scholars, leaders, and policymakers through a wide range of services, such as program development, event operation, local transaction, media management, and community engagement.

Policy and Public Affairs Thematic Conference
Columbia China and the World Forum, with SIPA Students

Business Thematic Conference
Columbia China Business Conference with CBS Students

Education Thematic Conference
US-China Education Forum with TC Students

Psychology Thematic Conference
Columbia China Psychology Forum with TC Students

Student Engagement

The Center serves as a conduit where undergraduate and graduate students are engaged in a variety of programs, services, and activities that enrich their academic, social, and professional growth in and outside of the classroom. To cater to the needs of our diverse student body, the Center’s student engagement program offers exciting opportunities to turn program ideas into reality, gain valuable career connections, and fulfill unlimited potential.

Chinese students, comprising the largest group of foreign students at Columbia, benefit greatly from the specific efforts of the Center. The Center highlights our student engagement program, a resource portal that offers incoming and current students and their parents “up-to-date” information about academic programs, campus activities, internships, student life, security advisories, visa and immigration information, and more.

During the summer preceding student matriculation at Columbia in the fall, the Center hosts or co-hosts local orientations and networking events designed to allow students to learn more about Columbia, campus life, and New York City life, all of which offer students the opportunity to meet peers, potentially future Columbia classmates/schoolmates.

Photo by Zeyu Liu
BUILDING EFFECTIVE NETWORKS FOR SMOOTH TRANSITIONS

The Beijing Center hosts gatherings for diverse groups of students and alumni enabling them to establish valuable networks for their academic and professional development. For students who are new to China, we help familiarize them with various aspects of local culture, giving them a richer and deeper understanding of the modern country with an ancient civilization and its diversity. This program has established a mutual learning platform for future engagement and collaboration with young leaders and their peers.

Columbia Undergraduate Class of 2026 Bonding Event

Columbia University International Student Welcome Event in Beijing
Class of 2022 Graduation Celebration in Beijing

Furthermore, the Beijing Center helps make the transition of newly admitted students to life at Columbia University and in New York City as smooth as possible. Over the summer, local orientations and networking events co-hosted by the Center are designed to allow students to learn more about the university life, make new connections with peers, and explore tremendous resources and opportunities provided by the Global Centers during and after their time at the University. The events focus on introducing students to the Columbia community, and empowering and preparing them before their arrival on campus.
INTegrating International Students INTO THE COLUMBIA Community

International students from China are at the heart of the Beijing Center’s student engagement program. Given that Chinese students form the largest cohort of international students at Columbia University, the Center strives to support our students and scholars to succeed in their academic and professional endeavors during their time at Columbia and beyond.

Since 2021, we have published 13 editions reaching 14,000 views from the international student and scholar community.

Helping 1,318 Students Find Jobs

The Beijing Center prioritizes the career development of our students and recent graduates. Our career development program partners with schools and departments to help students and alumni explore a diverse range of career options and build a meaningful network in China.

Throughout the year, we host virtual career fairs, an industry insights series, and a bi-weekly job column. These events assist students in obtaining a full-time job or internship via our partner networks as well as gain insights into the current job market and the skills needed to succeed.

Taking advantage of the Center’s social media reach and influence on the international student community, we partner with the International Students and Scholars Office to roll out a monthly online Chinese-English bilingual column. Each edition includes the most up-to-date information about visa acquisition, immigration, campus activities, and valuable resources that help students adjust to life and culture at Columbia and in the U.S.
Virtual Career Fairs

10 schools

3000+ students

56 companies

70+ positions

Over the past academic year, we directly connected students and recent graduates from the Columbia University community with 65 local employers in finance, technology, education, healthcare, and other industries. Not only did these Columbians make valuable connections, but many were also able to secure internships and job posts among 76 positions offered.
A REGIONAL PORTAL TO EXPLORE THE UNIQUENESS OF COLUMBIA

For many Chinese students applying to U.S. universities, the application process can appear alien, requiring entirely different materials such as personal statements and recommendation letters, along with extracurricular activities that are not part of the Chinese college entrance examination system.

Given the deep interest among Chinese students in applying to Columbia University, the Beijing Center has served as the foremost resource portal to offer prospective students and parents first-hand and timely information about academic programs, admissions, student life, and more.

The Center works closely with schools to host online and in-person information sessions targeting potential students who meet eligibility. Besides event planning and operation, the Center helps improve two-way communications and boost student interest by addressing their questions and concerns and directing them to the needed resources, contacts, and information. This effort not only strengthens applicants' confidence in the University's programs, but also gives Columbia a leg up on other prestigious universities that excellent prospective students are also considering.

Our efforts in the past year supported 400 Chinese students through information sessions or live chats during their admission and enrollment process.

Columbia Engineering Virtual Asia Road Show

Columbia GSAPP Admissions Information Session
Alumni

GSAPP Alumni Event: Panel Discussion on Wood Architecture and Sustainability

In partnership with American Institute of Architects, Shanghai

Engagement

Teachers College Alumni Panel Discussion and Networking Event

Trends and Opportunities for China’s Education Sector
The Center has developed thematic program series in diverse disciplines and, in so doing, leverages the prestige of Columbia faculty’s scholarship and expertise to make positive impacts on regional academic fora. Moreover, such discussions encourage and inspire continued research and professional development through the Center.

The themes represent Columbia’s core values and include, but are not limited to, the fields of Environment and Sustainability, Health and Medicine, Global Competence Education, Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

The environment provides for life, and the Center navigates discussions and debates on a meaningful method to sustain the environment for the future with minimal depletion of natural resources by marshaling and expanding many powerful academic resources to focus on environmentalism.

Resonating with the University’s commitment to bringing scholarly brilliance and creativity to confront environmental challenges, the Beijing Center serves as a bridge between the academic expertise of the University’s faculty and local insights and efforts in the region, so they can learn from one another and join forces to mobilize more research and resources for advancing existing fundamentals and technologies.

Examples of the environment and sustainability efforts of the Center follow:

* SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT *

June 8
Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Development
Investing for a sustainable future requires sound policies and practices by national and international stakeholders. But the current international legal regime is not conducive to attracting the powerful development enablers. The discussion reviewed processes to motivate stakeholders by improving the legal framework so as to mobilize investment for the success of sustainable development.

Dec.21
Evaluation Report on the Sustainable Development of China
The Evaluation Report, published by leading U.S. and China think tanks, addresses how China is making new progress to develop a more balanced and sustainable economy and society, including access to resources, emission control, protection, and governance in the post-pandemic era and is the highlighter in the Center’s sessions.

May 18-20
Promoting Waste-to-Energy Technology for Mitigating Climate Change
Energy and metals recovery from urban wastes (Waste-to-Energy) is one of the key areas that can help tackle climate change. The three-day conference focused on waste-to-energy technologies, their applicability, and the best practices in different countries and regions.

June 11
Managing Environmental Conflict
To avoid conflict escalation, the Center furthers the theory and practice of collaborative approaches to managing environmental disputes and commits to promoting social capital to resolve them.

April 28
How to Engage State-Owned Enterprises in Climate Action
State-owned enterprises (SOEs) are major drivers of greenhouse gas emissions, at both national and global levels. But they are also major players in providing low-carbon alternatives. These companies, however, typically respond to different incentives framework than their private sector counterparts.

Sept.29
How are China’s Companies Responding to China’s 2060 Carbon Neutrality Goal
Leading Chinese companies in energy and heavy industry sectors are global giants and account for a significant share of greenhouse gas emissions in industries ranging from oil and gas to cement. How such companies react to the climate/environmental challenges is critical to meet China’s aims for “Carbon Neutrality by 2060”.

COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | BEIJING
Health and Medicine

Recognizing that health and medicine are key concerns for human welfare throughout the world, the Beijing Center draws on the activities and expertise of Columbia University to advance this important topic in China, through close collaboration with Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC), a world-class reputation in basic, preclinical, and clinical research, medical and health sciences education, as well as innovative patient care.

The Center hosts a variety of relevant activities, featuring critical concepts and research projects, as well as runs career fairs in health and life science. In this regard, the Center taps into the efforts of Columbia on women’s heart health.

For women worldwide, cardiovascular disease is a major, yet under-recognized cause of morbidity. In celebration of American Heart Month in February, the Center spotlighted women’s heart health to advance access to primary and secondary preventative care.

“Women are not treated the same way as men. Often, women’s hearts diseases go unrecognized, undertreated, and result in poor outcomes.”

- Sonia Tolani, Co-Director of the Women’s Heart Center at Columbia University

“Many women, in comparison with men, present with different symptoms of cardiovascular diseases. Education is one modifiable risk factor component that can help them understand the presentations of their symptoms.”

- Dr. Elaine Wan, Esther Aboodi Associate Professor of Medicine in Cardiology and Cardiac Electrophysiology at College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University Medical Center
GLOBAL COMPETENCE EDUCATION

Recognizing that Education plays an essential and fundamental role in all areas of society, and is most responsible for the development of civilization and human wellbeing, Columbia, the home of the historically renowned Teachers’ College, is proud to be a resource for China and the world in developing new theories and solutions in education.

Accordingly, in view of the educational topics affecting the population in the region and worldwide, the Center, in featuring the research of Columbia scholars, invites them to dialogue with local scholars and practitioners to facilitate the exchange of ideas and stimulate change in practices. This thematic program receives far-reaching attention and generates many opportunities for collaboration for the Center. Specific aspects of this thematic program include, but are not limited to the following.

Mar.28
Empowering Lesson Preparation Groups
Presented recent findings on how the group leaders of lesson preparation groups facilitate group learning and reflective practice in Chinese public high schools, which help develop strategies for effective lesson preparation.

Aug.30
Building Schoolwide Excellence in English Reading and Writing
To develop robust literacy skills in students, effective and innovative pedagogies and teaching strategies are critical. The panelists discussed ways to create a strong learning environment for reading and writing in schools, and features of a systematic and comprehensive teacher training program.

Nov.06
Reflecting the Philosophy and Best Practices of Holistic Education
This forum presented the latest research and practice in the field of holistic education, explored valuable experiences of implementing holistic education at schools, and cultivated the ecological environment for the long-term development of holistic education.

Mar.25
Bridging the Gap between Research and Public Policy
Built on the important findings from the 2021/22 UNESCO study on initiatives, networks, and platforms that promote the use of evidence in policy, planning, and implementation, panelists elaborated on the significance of greater use of evidence-based research for policy formulation and implementation in achieving SDG4 from both theoretical and practical perspectives.

June 28
Children's Art and Technology Exhibition
The exhibition, titled ‘One World’, integrates art and technology in education and draws on the expertise Teachers College has in the field. A major goal of the project is to showcase child art education that promotes children's global competence through participation as curators, artists, storytellers, and global citizens.
BUSINESS INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Driven by the country’s efforts to promote mass entrepreneurship and innovation in recent years, a record number of alumni from Columbia University and other institutions who have studied overseas are returning home to start their own businesses. For students and alumni seeking to land and grow their early-stage, innovative projects in China, the Beijing Center’s business incubation program supports Columbia entrepreneurs in bridging the gap between plans and execution within an energetic and collaborative environment.

Since 2021, we’ve been accelerating 30 startups founded or led by fellow graduates, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and connections needed to increase their chances of success; providing legal and financial advisory across industries, such as technology, education, mental health, and consumer goods; and building a robust and vibrant network of 2,000+ local entrepreneurs, investors, and venture capital funds. A major accomplishment of the Center related to this thematic goal is the Center’s collaborative innovation Business Incubation Project with Zhongguancun Collaborative Innovation Center.

Each “start-up” accepted to this incubation project is given full access to the Center’s exclusive resources and services, including one-on-one coaching and mentoring of alumni investors, hosting business acceleration camps, salon series, pitching roadshows, one-on-one office hour activities, exclusive networking events, and more. The thematic program has attracted over 400 participants, as well as 30 start-up applications, via maintaining a vibrant community and making in-demand resources available.

OPENMIC ROADSHOW

Our roadshow stage provides startups with the opportunity to showcase their business innovations, reach a larger audience, exchange business ideas, and attract partners and investors.

MENTOR COUNSELING

The Center invites business leaders and venture capitalists as mentors to provide one-on-one or small group coaching. Mentoring is designed to help young entrepreneurs with specific questions by sharing their knowledge and contacts gained from their years of experience.

FOUNDERS’ ACCELERATORS

The Center provides incubation services, in partnership with local partners, to Columbia entrepreneurs, including free co-working spaces, business registration, legal and financing advice, policy interpretation, market orientation, and more.

INDUSTRY INSIGHT SHARING

We host virtual panel discussions that address business in China and opportunities for startups in the industry. Experts share their stories of business success and failure and provide insights to help students and alumni start, grow, or transform their businesses.

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4
2021-2022
Special

BOUNCE BACK FROM COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Center has conducted a great deal of discussions on technical topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Two years after its first outbreak, the pandemic’s impact has spread far and wide, affecting business, education, mental health, and everything in between.

The objective of our special program this year was to facilitate healing and promote recovery. We feature valuable content generated from books, and borrow business savvy and life wisdom from alumni veteran entrepreneurs, in reviewing what happened and recognizing it, building up resilience, and adjusting to the new normal with equipped techniques.

A Conversation with Steven Pan
CBS ’88: Turning Adversity into Opportunity

Book Talk and Panel Discussion for “The Wuhan Lockdown”
OUR COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING ASIAN FACULTY COMMUNITY

In response to the growing demand for action to foster an inclusive community and eliminate ethnic and racial bias, the Center has taken the initiative in and contributed to Columbia University-wide efforts to address anti-Asian bias by developing and financing actionable solutions to obviate bigotry, hate, and discrimination.

Specifically, through launching the "Stand in Solidarity" thematic project, supporting the establishment and operation of Columbia University Asian Faculty Association (CUAFA), the Center aims to counter anti-bigotry voices to ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all community members.
Strategic Communications and Outreach

Our Presence on WeChat

WeChat is the main social media platform we use to engage Chinese audiences. We broadcast one article or short video daily to amplify information about programs, initiatives, and stories launched by the Center and the University. We also share content that promotes faculty, students, and alumni accomplishments by translating and repurposing engaging stories or creating original content, such as student and alumni interviews, Columbia China history, and tips for raising admission chances.

Columbia China Community Online

The Beijing Center maintains and enhances a highly engaged, vibrant community on WeChat, consisting of 6,000+ current and prospective students, alumni, parents, scholars, and friends. To better serve our global audiences, the Center runs nine Chinese social channels and five English channels, where we provide content that facilitates connections with the Center and the University and enhances community engagement.
Spotlight/HIGHLIGHT

WeChat Channels Short Videos

Honorary Degree Recipient and Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Shared Impromptu Remarks at Columbia's 2022 Commencement Ceremony

50,000+ shares
27,000+ likes
1,580,000+ views

7 Most-Viewed Videos

Congratulations, Columbia Class of 2022
President Bollinger's 2022 Commencement Address (Part 2)
Let There Be Light at Columbia

reaching 500,000+ views

Most Popular WeChat Articles

News | President Bollinger’s 2022 Commencement Address
News | Omicron Update: Thoughts From Columbia's Infectious Diseases Chief
News | Why Chinese Americans but not Indian Americans are Underrepresented in Leadership Positions

reaching 100,000+ views

Columbia China Psychology Forum, April 9-10, 2022

Livestream Platforms

14th Annual Columbia China Business Conference

3,000+ Views

2,000+ Views
MEDIA PARTNERSHIP

The Beijing Center works closely with our media partners to elevate the Center and the University’s visibility and enhance the public’s understanding of our impact on global communities. Our team interacts with print, broadcast, and online media to strategize and arrange media opportunities for faculty to highlight their research expertise; publicize news of academic programs and happenings through proactive outreach and tactics; and respond to inquiries. Our partners include many of the most notable outlets, such as People’s Daily, CGTN, China Daily, Caixin, Pengpai, and iFeng.

WeChat Live Streaming Channel: “Chasing Light” Book Talk and Discussion Series — The Wuhan Lockdown,
May 21, 2022
2,700+ Views

iFeng Live: 2022 Columbia China and the World Forum, April 25, 2022
21,000+ Views

Equipped with a well-developed Columbia China public program platform and strong brand influence, the Center has been able to successfully deliver bespoken events to the public in support of designated programs and projects.

EVENT OPERATION
Columbia Global Centers | Beijing
List Of Events
2021-2022

September 2021

Sept. 12
Pioneer Open Mic’ Third Roadshow: The Next Big Social Media Apps

Sept. 15
SPS China Virtual Career Fair

Sept. 22
Quantitative Finance Virtual Career Fair

Sept. 29
How are China’s Companies Responding to China’s 2060 Carbon Neutrality Goal?

November 2021

Nov. 05
Columbia Engineering Virtual Asia Road Show

Nov. 06
International Forum on Holistic Education

Nov. 13
An Extraordinary Game: What’s So Good about Peking Opera?

December 2021

Dec. 11
Teachers College Alumni Panel Discussion and Networking Event: Trends and Opportunities for China’s Education Sector

Dec. 21

January 2022

Jan. 28
University Leadership Series | Columbia’s New Climate School: How It Plans to Make a Difference

February 2022

Feb. 16-17
Spring 2022 Columbia Engineering Virtual China Career Fair

Feb. 23
Spring 2022 Columbia University Virtual China Career Fair-Healthcare and Life Sciences

February 2022

Feb. 25
Wood, Architecture and Sustainability

March 2022

Mar. 25
Bridging the Gap between Research and Public Policy: the Call for Evidence in an Era of the Digital Economy

Mar. 25

Mar. 28
How could we improve group learning and reflective practice in lesson preparation groups?

April 2022

Apr. 09-10
The Fourth Columbia China Psychology Forum

Apr. 23-24
Columbia China Forum

May 2022

May 21
Book Talk and Panel Discussion on the Wuhan Lockdown

May 29
How to Start a Business in China: Your First Legal Steps

May 30
Healthcare in China: How to Tap into the Right Business Opportunities?

June 2022

June 9
Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Development

June 11
World Environment Day 2022: Managing Environmental Conflict

July 2022

July 16
Columbia Undergraduate Class of 2026 Bonding Event

July 17, 23, 24 and 30
Columbia University International Students Welcome Event in Beijing, Shenzhen, Shanghai and Chengdu

July 18-31
Virtual Tech Startup Camp 2022: Equip Adventures with Gear

July 19-20
Class of 2022 Celebration in Beijing

July 23-25
The 14th Columbia China Business Conference

July 24
Closing Ceremony and Panel Discussion for the Virtual Tech Startup Camp 2022
Faculty Advisory Committee

**X. Edward Guo**
Chair of the Department of Biomedical engineering; Stanley Dicker Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Professor of Medical Sciences (in Medicine)

**Merit E. Janow**
Dean Emerita of the School of International and Public Affairs; Professor of Practice in International Economic Law and International Affairs

**Thomas J. Christensen**
James T. Shotwell Professor of International Relations and Director of the China and the World Program

**Lydia H. Liu**
Wun Tsun Tam Professor in the Humanities; former Director of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society

**David B. Sandalow**
Inaugural Fellow of the Center on Global Energy Policy; Senior Research Scholar; and Co-Director of the Energy and Environment Concentration

**Lucy M. Calkins**
Robinson Professor in Children’s Literature; Director of the Literacy Specialist Program; and Founding Director of the Reading and Writing Project

**Mingfang Ting**
Lamont Research Professor in the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; Adjunct Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences; Associate Director of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory; and Co-Director of the Masters in Climate and Society Program

**Weiping Wu**
Interim Dean; Professor of Urban Planning; and Director of the Urban Planning Programs at Columbia GSAPP

**Tian Zheng**
Professor of Statistics and Department Chair

**Wei Shang**
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**Haruo Shirane**
Shincho Professor of Japanese Literature; Vice Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures; and Faculty Director of the Donald Keene Center

**Deliang Tang**
Associate Professor of Environmental Health Sciences

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Professor of Social Policy and Social Work; Founding Director of the China Center for Social Policy
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Roberta Lipson
BUS ’77, CEO and President, Chindex International, Inc.

Junbao Shan
President of CICC Capital Co., Ltd

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Zhe Sun
GFS99, GFS00, P: CC ’14, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar in the Faculty of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University

Allen Wang
GSAS ’89, Founder and CEO of Babytree

Boming Wang
SIPA ’88, President of Stock Exchange Executive Council; Editor in Chief, Caijing magazine; Chairman of SEEC Media Group Limited

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Alex Zhang
CC ’03, Executive Director of Eco-Forum Global

Hejuan Zhao
Founder and CEO of TMTPOST Tech Group and ChainID
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Helena Xiao
Associate Director

Chenchen Duan
Senior Program and Communications Officer

Miaomiao Bai
Senior Operations Officer

Xuan Liang
Office Manager

Claire Cai
Program Coordinator

Xinyu Kang
Communications Coordinator

MEET THE BEIJING TEAM
LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Zhongguancun Collaborative Innovation Center
Beijing Tsinghua Changgung Hospital
BJMEDICAL VALLEY of Capital Medical University.
Xuanwu Hospital
Global Waste-to-Energy Research and Technology Council (GWC)
BNU-ANOBO Children’s Global Competence Research Committee
American Institute of Architects (AIA), Shanghai
Yingke Law Firm
Meridian Medical Network Corporation
Global Green Development Capital
Infinite Brain Technologies (IBT)
China Social Enterprise and Impact Investing Forum (CSEIF)
Global Shaper Community Beijing
China Center for International Economic Exchanges
AllResearch
Philips China
Peking University Education Foundation (North America)
Ziran Education Foundation

LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

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