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December	<u>The Last GEC Global Top Scientific Forum in 2023: Academic Open Lecture Explores Value Evaluation and Decision Optimization</u>

2023 Faculty Meeting Calendar

Date	Topic
February 28th, Tuesday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	<u>GEC Team Role Clarification</u>
April 27th, Thursday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	<u>2023 Summer Research Program Info Session</u>
August 2nd, Wednesday, 19:00-20:30, Beijing Time	<u>Onsite Seminar on the Impact of ChatGPT on Education at SJTU</u>
October 25th, Wednesday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	<u>A Comprehensive Looking Back on Summer Research Program</u>

January

International Education Forum on Building Innovation Capability for the Future & Grand Opening of GEC Academy Suzhou Regional Office



GEC Academy, in collaboration with the Academy of Future Education, Xi'an Jiao Tong-Liverpool University (XJTLU), OxfordAQA, and SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies held the International Education Forum on Building Innovation Capability for the Future for education leaders, professionals and experts from international schools, colleges, and universities on December 18, 2022, in Suzhou. The event also highlighted GEC becoming an official partner of XJTLU and the opening of GEC's new branch office in Suzhou.

Themed “Building Innovation Capability for the Future”, the forum featured keynote speeches and an in-depth discussion on topics including international innovative talents cultivation, emerging trends in education, and education in the context of globalization, and explored strategies for future educational development. The forum also called for promoting International Competence Development which played an increasingly significant role in strengthening inter-school exchanges and academic cooperation, facilitating mutual understanding and development between Sino-foreign institutions, and boosting further academic exchanges in the post-pandemic era.

Dr Xiaojun Zhang, Executive Dean of XJTLU Academy of Future Education, shared his perspectives on the possible changes in future education in the face of digital technology and artificial intelligence development. “Emerging digital tools have brought about changes to people’s lives, but we didn’t see such advanced information technology effectively applied in today’s education. We need to grasp every opportunity to seek innovative development in education to keep pace with the trend,” he said.



David Shen, CEO of GEC Academy, spoke of the experiences GEC has accumulated in research-oriented programs and in international talent training with the purpose of cultivating innovative international talents in the past three years. He emphasized, “it is our desire to provide excellent courses of various types to better serve our students, parents and international schools and universities.”



January



Zhinan Zhang, Director of the SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Professor in the School of Mechanical Engineering at SJTU, noted the importance of developing innovative and interdisciplinary thinking methods from the perspectives of teenagers' individual development, innovative practice and research-oriented learning. As a non-profit platform, we have been working hard on building innovative, interdisciplinary, and practical capacities for young people. And we hope to support the development of future interdisciplinary researchers by creating more research opportunities," he added.

Followed by two round-table sessions, the keynote speeches section concluded with an online address from Caroline Terquem, Professor of Physics in the Department of Physics at University of Oxford. Professor Terquem has been working with GEC for several years, and she sent her warm-hearted wishes to all the present attendees. She said, "I have been very happy to teach students for programs organized by GEC in the last couple of years. I have taught students from high schools in China and students from universities, both in China and abroad. It has been a very rewarding experience, as most students have been very enthusiastic and eager to learn. The vibrant environment that Suzhou offers will make this new office of success."



The two round-table discussions highlighted the exchange of diverse ideas and views on the future of education and the most-needed talents and skills for the future. More than ten principals from international schools in Suzhou participated in the discussion centering on "the future development of international schools and the new trend of the integrated curriculum," and "international school's talent cultivation and training system for the future". They brought about insightful and in-depth perspectives on the international schools' education goals, curriculum design, and talent training mode, which provided instructive viewpoints on cultivating students' global competence for their better involvement in the world.

Xin Pan, Principal at Suzhou Industrial Park Foreign Language School, stressed that international schools should pay great attention to students' development in knowledge, skills, attitudes and values. "To help students excel in today's international community, we need to encourage them to be more confident, open-minded, and inclusive," he said.

January



Jianlan Zhang, Professor & Dean of ILEAD-XJTLU, also talked about how education workers should react to the ever-quickening changes in education. He put forward, “We are unlikely to know exactly what education will look like in the future. But we should never let our fire for education go out. We need to keep up with the trend with great passion. That’s the exact attitude that we, as education workers, should always hold on to.”

While discussing “the definition of talent”, Richard Wang, COO at GEC Academy, explained, “Typically, the current standardized examinations tend to evaluate students’ logic and analytical skills, but I believe the meaning of successful talent is more than that. Critical thinking, problem-solving and students’ creativity should also be included.”



Mr. Jianlan Zhang, Mr. David Shen, joined with Yu Zuo, Co-Director of SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, Richard Wang, and others cut the ribbon to celebrate GEC’s new collaboration with XJTLU and its new branch office.

At the end of the forum, GEC Academy made two important announcements: **GEC signed a framework agreement with Academy of Future Education, Xi’an Jiao Tong-Liverpool University; New GEC regional office opened in Suzhou, both in an effort to “Building Innovation Capability for the Future”.** In the near future, GEC and XJTLU will carry out multi-dimensional and in-depth cooperation in curriculum design, training experience exchange and talent development and jointly design, facilitate and organize more exciting training programs and other academic and cultural exchange activities. Furthermore, with a new branch office opened in Suzhou, GEC will explore new forms of collaboration with international schools, institutions and universities in Eastern regions.

With the objective of cultivating the innovators of tomorrow, GEC will continue to provide dedicated service and excellent course delivery in more areas and will be expecting more academic and research opportunities created by the institutional affiliations.

February

Exciting Job Opportunities to Work in China! - SJTU Excellent Young Scholars Program (Overseas) for 2023

The School of Mechanical Engineering of Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) is a world-class engineering school committed to high-level education and cutting-edge research. As one of the top Schools of Mechanical Engineering in China, it strives to increase its international competitiveness and global presence through quality teaching, advanced research and close collaboration with leading universities in the world.

With an aim to build a decentralized and borderless academic platform to foster innovative, interdisciplinary endeavors and boost cross-disciplinary collaboration among young researchers, GEC Academy and Shanghai Jiao Tong University jointly established SJTU – GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies in 2021. In the past year, the center worked with SJTU School of Mechanical Engineering, successfully co-hosting two Liyuan-GEC Interdisciplinary Science & Future Technologies Overseas Forum on power engineering, nuclear science, and the exploration and coexistence of human life and machine life, as well as a Master Distinguished Lecture on the reconstruction of cryo-electron microscopy. These activities have scholars from world-leading institutions, who have also been working with GEC for several years, and a Nobel Laureate, Dr. Joachim Frank, to deliver lectures in related fields.

Program Goal

The Excellent Young Scholars Program aims to attract and encourage overseas outstanding young scholars (including non-Chinese residents) who have made good research outputs in Mechanical Engineering, Energy and Power Engineering, Nuclear Science and Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Materials Engineering and related interdisciplinary subjects to work in China.

Benefits

1. Research Fund: RMB 4-8 million start-up fund
2. Other Support:
 - Highly Competitive living allowance + subsidies
 - Research grant, laboratory and office space
 - Research assistants and financial support for admitting graduate students
 - Collaborations with world-leading research center
3. SJTU Mechanical Engineering will set up Foresight Science Research Center for the young scholars who have been working on foresight science and interdisciplinary studies, and provide them with necessary support.

Eligibility

Applicants should meet the following conditions:

1. Abide by the laws of the People's Republic of China and have good ethics in science
2. Were born on or after 1st January, 1983
3. Research interests focus on Mechanical Engineering, Energy and Power Engineering, Nuclear Science and Technology, Biomedical Engineering, Materials Engineering and related interdisciplinary subjects, etc.
4. Prior to 15th April 2023, have no less than three years' continuous research or teaching experience outside China in prestigious universities or R&D institutes; (Exceptions will be given to applicants who have obtained the doctorate degree overseas with extraordinary research achievement);
5. Provide evidence of research excellence which can be demonstrated by a record of contributions and endorsements by scholars of high filed standing
6. Are living outside or move to China after 1st January 2022, and willing to work full time for three years in China with no full-time employment overseas

How to Apply

CV and other supportive documents of those interested can be sent to **Guoqing Zhang**, Vice-Director of SJTU-GEC Joint Research Center, at guoqing.zhang@geccademy.cn with the subject "Application Intention for Overseas Outstanding Youth Project" **before 1st March 2023**. All qualified applicants are welcome.

CEI - OB Initiative: GEC Running New Experiment on Feedback with Professor from CJBS in February

This month, GEC Academy will run a social experiment on feedback together with a professor at Cambridge Judge Business School, as a project of Collaborative Experimentation Initiative for Organizational Behavior (CEI - OB Initiative), aiming to study organizational behavior in organizations and to build a better work environment. It is the first experiment since GEC Academy and Cambridge Judge Business School formally signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Behavioral Research Collaboration. More details of the experiment can be found in this [FLYER](#).

Co-directed and co-founded by GEC Academy and Cambridge Judge Business School in October 2021, the CEI-OB Initiative (Collaborative Experimentation Initiative for Organizational Behavior) was established to provide a fundamental research platform to support the scientific development of Organizational Behavior (OB) studies. With a mutual interest in research, development, education and technology transfer, GEC Academy and the Cambridge Judge Business School made an MOU last July to undertake a collaboration in the area of behavioral research on a non-commercial basis, including joint experimental/behavioral research projects, participation pool establishment, experiment debrief zoom meeting, etc., and to seek solutions for global business, industrial and social problems.

Launched to connect students with top researchers across the world, this initiative allows students to participate in research projects with a variety of front-edge topics. So far, GEC has conducted two collaborative experiments - Leadership Preference Study by the end of 2021, and Survey about Daily Work Structure in early 2022. These joint experiment projects have provided student researchers with additional learning experiences and networking opportunities. With the diverse participant pool provided by GEC, CEI-OB aspires to further contribute to the understanding of human psychology and behaviors at the workplace.

CALL for Research Collaborations!

Over the past few years, GEC has made great efforts to promote university-industry collaboration and create research opportunities for students, young scholars, and teachers. And we are more than happy to work with our faculty and partner institutions and explore any possibility for collaborations in research. Till now, we have connected hundreds of research participants and assistants, and young scholars with professors and institutions. If you need to, for example, recruit student volunteers or research assistants for your research, or simply an idea for research collaboration or experiment collaboration, please contact [Katie Wang](#) at ke.wang@gecademy.com.

March

GEC Held the International Interdisciplinary Innovative Talent Cultivation Forum at the 23rd China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education

The 23rd China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education (CACIE) was held both online and offline at the Beijing International Conference Center on February 17, 2023, with the theme of “Reshaping Education: Adaption and Transformation”. Organized by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), the event brought together educators, scholars, and representatives from various universities, institutions, and academia to discuss the current state and future of education.



People attending the Plenary Session of China Annual Conference and Expo for International Education at Beijing International Conference Center (Picture released by China Education Association for International Exchange)

Sponsored by CEAIE, GEC Academy and Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Academy Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies hosted the **International Interdisciplinary Innovative Talent Cultivation Forum** to discuss directions and goals of nurturing international, interdisciplinary, and innovative talents amid global changes. Hundreds of educators, university leaders, teachers, and relevant experts were invited to join in the conversation for this parallel session.

Followed by guest speeches, Mr. Andre Schlesinger, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills at The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Professor Jonathan Michie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Kellogg College at Oxford University, and Secretary-General Wang Yongli of CEAIE, delivered their opening speeches and warmly welcomed every audience respectively.

Professor Jonathan Michie explained governmental efforts on interdisciplinary research in the UK and the endeavor on innovation at Oxford during his speech. “In Britain, we have a Research Exercise Framework (REF), and the exercise takes place every five or six years where the founders of universities look at the research exercise at different universities to decide how much of the national funding should go to each university. I’ve been arguing for a long time - I’ve been involved in this process for a long time at different universities - that the funding process has to take proper care of interdisciplinary publications. Recognition in disciplinary work is very important. I’m pleased to say that in Britain, that research exercise framework now has incorporated interdisciplinary panel members who review the work.” He noted.

Several experts were invited to give keynote speeches during the session.

March



Mr. Shen giving a speech during the sharing
(Picture released by China Education Association for International Exchange)

Mr. Shen Cong, CEO of GEC Academy, started his speech with a sharing of the goal of GEC Academy, “GEC Academy is committed to cultivating the next generation of talents with global competence, promoting the developments of talent nurturing from within.” He then summarized GEC’s efforts to achieve the goals in the past few years.

Mr. Shen Cong asserted that global competence is not only crucial for language major students, but for all students. “Especially in the backdrop of confronting complex international issues, students of science and engineering require more global competence training”, he said.

According to Zhao, interdisciplinary research plays a crucial role in the development of energy technology. “To advance the creation of new energy technologies and achieve carbon neutrality goals, both talent cultivation and research and development require interdisciplinary collaboration”, Zhao stated. Zhao’s remarks underscore the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in achieving breakthroughs in the field of energy technology.



Ms. Liu giving a speech during the sharing
(Picture released by China Education Association for International Exchange)

Ms. Liu Hong, President of Dalian University of Foreign Languages, emphasized both the importance of the understanding of one’s identity and the necessity of constant communication with the world. She pointed out that, “in the process of cultivating foreign language talents, we should maintain active communication and cooperation with the international community. Therefore, the transformational training of foreign language talents is very important.”

After several speeches given by the experts, two roundtable sessions were held to discuss topics such as “Research and Practice on International and Merit-Based Innovative Talent Training Model” and “Discussion on the Practice of Internationalization and Cross-disciplinary Talent Cultivation in the Post-Epidemic Era”.

All the participants reached the consensus that international collaboration and exchange are crucial solutions for building interdisciplinary and innovative talent cultivation models. The importance of interdisciplinary studies and talent cultivation in shaping a nation’s scientific and technological capabilities was also highlighted.

With the objective of cultivating the innovators of tomorrow, GEC will continue to provide dedicated service and excellent course delivery in more areas and will be expecting more academic and research opportunities created by the institutional affiliations.



Mr. Zhao giving a speech during the sharing
(Picture released by China Education Association for International Exchange)

Mr. Zhao Tianshou, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chair Professor at the Southern University of Science and Technology, who is a renowned expert in the field of energy technology, shared insights on talent cultivation and interdisciplinary research in the field of carbon-neutral energy.

April

GEC Academy Announced GCD Project 2.0 at the Shanghai Training Conference for Chinese Universities

On March 25th and 26th, with an aim to share best practices and achievements in the Global Competence Development (GCD) course implementation, as well as exchange ideas and experiences in internship and practice programs among Chinese universities, the Training Conference on GCD Project for Chinese Universities was held in Shanghai. Organized by the International Competence Development Committee in the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy (CSEDS) and co-hosted by the UNESCO Teacher Education Center at Shanghai Normal University and GEC Academy, the two-day event brought together more than 90 representatives from 46 Chinese universities who have implemented the GCD Project.



People attending the Shanghai Training Conference on GCD Project for Chinese Universities

The [GCD Project](#) was co-developed by the GEC team and the International Competence Development Committee, aiming at cultivating students' awareness and competence in creating a harmonious and collaborative global community that values diversity and promotes mutual learning through various teaching methods, including case studies, real-life project and thematic workshops. Currently, 46 universities have enrolled in the GCD Project, representing an important step forward in preparing students for successful future studies and careers in the global marketplace.

During the conference, representatives from 18 universities exchanged experiences in offering GCD courses at their schools, discussed students' achievements, and offered suggestions for future improvement. They also exchanged ideas on how to organize internships and practices that enhance students' global competency in a more practical way. Additionally, 9 members of the GCD Project teaching team, including former senior officials from international organizations, discussed key challenges and difficulties in developing global competence among university students and proposed to add specialized workshops to the curriculum.

Together with the International Competence Development Committee, GEC Academy announced an upgraded version (2.0) of the GCD course, expanding on business skills training and adding courses in psychology and career planning, with an aim to support students in better preparation for future work at international organizations.

During the conference, Mr. Ning Zhang, President of the International Competence Development Committee in the CSEDS, provided a detailed introduction to GCD Project 2.0, which was developed based on feedback from universities that offer the course and extensive interviews and surveys with students interning at international organizations. The updated version of the course covers a wider range of business skills training and includes additional courses on psychology and career planning. These changes were made with the intention of providing better support to students as they prepare for their future work in international organizations.

April



Mr. Ning Zhang introducing GCD Project 2.0 in detail

Three members of the GCD Project teaching team, including Mr. Changchui He, former Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Mr. Genxin Li, former Legal Advisor of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and Mr. Yuxue Xue, former Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program in Afghanistan and Director of the National Bureau in Indonesia, unveiled their design philosophy of four specialized workshops. These four themed workshops - International Organization Project Management Workshop, International Organization Conference Workshop, International Organization Document Writing Workshop, and International Organization Protocol Workshop - offer targeted theoretical lectures and practical training to provide more specific guidance for students on the real-life problems they will face when working in international organizations.

In addition, seven internship and practice programs were announced with the aim of better meeting students' practical needs and enhancing teachers' international competence. These include a specialized workshop to celebrate the 200th anniversary of The Lancet journal, a museum-based research and study workshop, as well as a workshop for teachers and students from both domestic and overseas universities.

During the following roundtable meetings, six universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Zhejiang University, Wuhan University, Nankai University, and Beijing Foreign Studies University, shared their accomplishments and expertise in devising and executing a diverse array of training activities both on and off campus. By capitalizing on their individual strengths and leveraging available resources, these institutions have achieved remarkable success in implementing effective programs.

Moving forward, GEC Academy will not only continuously update and develop the GCD Project based on universities' feedback but also strive to assist students in finding more internship and practical opportunities, with an aim to promote international cooperation, understanding, and academic exchanges in international organizations.

Over the past two semesters, several GEC teaching faculties have served as instructors for the GCD Project. The knowledge and expertise that they have brought to the project have been instrumental in ensuring that students are well-prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation. For GCD Project 2.0, GEC anticipates even greater inspiration and support from our faculty members. Collaboratively designed pre- and post-course assessments by the GEC team and our expert committee have demonstrated a significant impact on students' competencies and learning opportunities. We welcome additional overseas experts to join us in cultivating students' awareness and competence in respecting diversity, embracing mutual learning, and fostering a harmonious coexistence of humanity. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative, please contact [Wendy Wang](mailto:wendy.wang@gecacademy.com) at wendy.wang@gecacademy.com.



Roundtable meetings at the conference

GEC 2023 College Admissions Results (Updated in May 1st, 2023)



In this May, we are thrilled to announce that, with the guidance of GEC's exceptional teaching faculty, our 2023 students have achieved outstanding results in their college and university applications. Our students have received offers from some of the most prestigious universities in the US and UK, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Princeton University, Yale University, University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, Imperial College London, and more. We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements, and we recognize that these results would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our dedicated teaching staff. We value your hard work and efforts immensely.

Moreover, this success is a testament to GEC's commitment to excellence, and we will continue to provide our students with the resources and support they need to succeed in the competitive admissions landscape. We are confident that our track record of placing students into top colleges and universities will remain consistently high, and we look forward to continuing to work with our talented students and faculty towards achieving even greater success in the future.

(Please note that the statistics that follow are derived from feedback provided by students and may not be representative of the overall results of student admissions.) Based on feedback from students, we have collected data indicating that in 2023, GEC students received approximately 1,500 offers, including 1,021 for master's programs and 465 for undergraduate programs. These students achieved a strong performance, receiving offers from highly-ranked institutions featured in the US News & QS World University Rankings list. Many students received offers from multiple schools on this list. In particular, eight students were admitted to Ivy League schools - three for undergraduate programs and five for master's programs. Additionally, over 60 students were offered admission to G5 universities.

The tables presented in the following pages provide an overview of the admission results for GEC students, including their acceptance to highly-ranked universities and colleges. These include the 2023 Admissions Results for US News Top 50 Universities, 2023 Admissions Results for Top Liberal Arts Colleges, 2023 Admissions Results for QS Top 50 Universities in the UK, and 2023 Admissions Results for QS Top 50 Universities in Other Countries and Regions. [If you are interested in learning about the admission results of your own students, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we would be delighted to update this list as admissions decisions are released.](#)

GEC General Admission Results

	Number of Acceptance from US universities	Number of Acceptance from UK universities	Number of Acceptance from universities in other countries and regions	Total
Graduate Program	408	415	198	1021
Undergraduate Program	219	194	52	465
Total	627	609	250	1486

2023 Admissions Results for US News Top 50 Universities

University	Number of Acceptance (Graduate Program)	Number of Acceptance (Undergraduate Program)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	-	1
Stanford University	-	2
Princeton University	1	-
Yale University	1	-
University of Chicago	3	-
University of Pennsylvania	3	2
Johns Hopkins University	11	3
California Institute of Technology	1	-
Duke University	3	1
Vanderbilt University	1	-
Rice University	4	-
Northwestern University	3	-
Brown University	1	-
Washington University in St. Louis	3	8
Cornell University	3	3
Columbia University	9	2
Carnegie Mellon University	5	6
University of Notre Dame	-	1
University of California, Berkeley	-	2
University of California, Los Angeles	-	1
Emory University	3	5
Georgetown University	2	-
New York University	7	25
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	-	1
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2	1
Boston University	1	3
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	1	2
University of Southern California	-	5
University of Virginia	-	3
University of Georgia	1	-
Brandeis University	-	2
Case Western Reserve University	-	1
Ohio State University	-	1
Wake Forest University	-	2
University of Rochester	-	3
University of California, Davis	-	1
University of Wisconsin-Madison	-	1
Rhode Island School of Design	1	1

2023 Admissions Results for Top Liberal Arts Colleges

University	Number of Acceptance
Smith College	1
Vassar College	1
Colgate University	2
Wesleyan University	2

2023 Admissions Results for QS Top 50 Universities in the UK

University	Number of Acceptance (Graduate Program)	Number of Acceptance (Undergraduate Program)
University of Cambridge	1	19
University of Oxford	2	9
Imperial College London	11	8
University College London	8	4
London School of Economics and Political Science	5	2
University of Edinburgh	4	2
University of Manchester	2	7
King's College London	2	2
University of Bristol	2	1
University of Warwick	2	5
University of Leeds	2	-
University of Southampton	-	1
University of Glasgow	-	1
University of Birmingham	-	1
University of Sheffield	-	1
Loughborough University	1	1

2023 Admissions Results for QS Top 50 Universities in the Other Countries and Regions

University	Number of Acceptance (Graduate Program)	Number of Acceptance (Undergraduate Program)
National University of Singapore	10	-
Nanyang Technological University	4	-
University of Hong Kong	14	10
McGill University	2	2
University of Toronto	1	3
Chinese University of Hong Kong	9	-
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	5	-
University of British Columbia	1	1
City University of Hong Kong	4	-
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	8	-
Hong Kong Baptist University	2	-
Singapore Management University	1	-
University of Alberta	1	-
University of Macau	1	-
Western University	-	1
McMaster University	-	1
Queen's University	-	1
Swiss Hotel Management School in Lausanne	-	1

June

International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation for the Future & GEC Education Summit First Held in Western China

On May 25th, Xi'an played host to the first-ever International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation for the Future & GEC Education Summit in the western China area. Co-hosted by GEC Academy and SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, and co-organized by OxfordAQA, this event saw over 200 distinguished educators, scholars, and representatives from various China and overseas universities, international schools, and international organizations gather to share their insights for international education development in the new era.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the highlights at the forum on YouTube

The forum employed a mix of keynote speeches and roundtable discussions to delve into key topics such as international innovation talent cultivation and global competence development, with a specific focus on ideas and experiences exchanges between international high schools and universities, given the unique industrial structure and talent development trends prevalent in the western region of China.



Mr. Sheng Yan giving an opening address for the forum

Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy, delivered an opening speech for the forum, highlighting the significance of international innovation talent development in the new era. He also shared with the audience GEC's extensive experience in developing international and innovative talent through project-based and research-oriented learning over the past several years.

After the opening remarks, GEC's teaching faculty, Professor David Johnson, Chartered Educational Psychologist, Director of Oxford Education Analytics, and Professorial Fellow in St Antony's College at the University of Oxford, conveyed his warm greetings to all the attendees through online addresses.

Professor Johnson expressed his pleasure in welcoming attendees to the forum held in Xi'an, which he referred to as his favorite city in China. He stressed that "teachers are the lifeblood of the educational system. And attending this forum is an essential part of your personal and professional development. There is no better organization than GEC to facilitate your learning. I've been working with GEC for the last 2 years. And I've been thrilled to share ideas with many students and young professionals during this time. "

June

During the keynote speech, Mr. Zhijia Wang, who formerly held positions as the Director of International Cooperation at the National Environmental Protection Agency and as a Special Coordinator at the United Nations Environment Program, emphasized that global competence encompasses a wide range of capabilities, including the capacity to analyze regional, global, and cross-cultural issues, appreciate and understand different perspectives, engage in effective interactions with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, and take practice in collective well-being and sustainable development. He advocates for a well-rounded education that balances international perspectives with practical skills. "STEM students, in particular, should broaden their horizons by studying humanities, arts, and philosophy to better engage with the world beyond academia. Crucial competencies such as communication, teamwork, and innovative thinking are highly valued by both domestic and international employers. Innovation cultivation will be essential for achieving success upon the foundation of current accomplishments in the post-pandemic era. Therefore, it is imperative to encourage students to develop this skillset", he stated.



Mr. Zhijia Wang giving a keynote speaking on global competence development



Mr. Chengbin Ma introducing the Global Institute of Future Technology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Dr. Xiaoli Fan, Dean of Queen Mary College at Northwestern Polytechnical University, discussed the engineering college's approach to cultivating international talent. She pointed out some of the challenges faced by universities in this area, including the rigidification of teaching models and outdated educational philosophies.

Mr. Chengbin Ma, Assistant Dean of the Global Institute of Future Technology at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, believes that a significant shift in mindset is necessary for cultivating talent. Rather than taking a teacher-centered and subject-focused approach, he suggests adopting a student-centered and question-oriented approach. This approach prioritizes individual students' needs and aims to develop innovative, research-oriented talents. According to Mr. Ma, "modern science and technology are characterized by large-scale interdisciplinary development and the ultimate goal of engineering education is to apply knowledge to practice, which requires creating an immersive environment for shared learning and living. Therefore, it is essential to establish a conducive learning and living environment for students and foster a culture of communication and collaboration. By doing so, we can ensure that future generations of engineers and scientists have the skills and knowledge necessary to solve 'bottleneck' problems and make significant contributions to society. "

June

The event then proceeded into three illuminating roundtable discussions. Over ten esteemed principals and educators from China international schools participated in these thought-provoking discussions, which delved into several key topics.

The first discussion focused on cultivating versatile talents with robust global perspectives and intercultural competencies, as well as their efforts in cultivating talent. They also engaged in lively discussions about how schools can assist children in adapting to the changes brought by the era of artificial intelligence and prepare them for the future. Ms. Li Liu, Principal of Xi'an Liangjiatan International School, emphasized that in the age of information technology, it is crucial for educators to help children improve their data processing and critical thinking skills. This will enable them to effectively use information and accelerate the development and progress of society.



Mr. Haibo Wang, COO at GEC Academy, hosting the first roundtable discussion

While discussing the challenges and innovations inherent in integrating curriculums within international schools, Ms. Qingqing Duan, the International Department Director at Yinchuan No.1 School Affiliated to Jiaotong University in China, emphasized the need for high-quality teachers who possess a thorough understanding of both local and international curricula. She also noted, "parental attitudes towards education can vary, making effective communication between educators and parents crucial in addressing any concerns or reservations about the curriculum. "

The final roundtable explored ongoing trends in admissions for overseas universities. The panelists discussed the types of students that are highly sought after by international institutions, including those with exceptional specialized skills and a well-rounded range of abilities spanning academics, sports, and arts. They also shared strategies for addressing the impact of the pandemic on international education and preparing students for a future that is rapidly changing.



A group photo of some of the guest speakers after the forum

This forum provided valuable insights and strategies for addressing the challenges facing current international education and offered new ideas for developing innovative and versatile talent in a rapidly changing world. With the objective of providing new perspectives and approaches for international education, GEC Academy is committed to seeking opportunities in promoting international education development and continuing to explore new perspectives and approaches together.

July

GEC Academy Takes the Lead: Hosts International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation & Global Competence Development in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Urban Agglomeration!

In a momentous event held on June 30th, the International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation and Global Competence Development took center stage in Beijing. Organized by GEC Academy in collaboration with the Beijing Education Association for International Exchange, the forum brought together an impressive lineup of educational leaders and experts. With strong collaborative support from GEC Academy and SJTU - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, and Oxford AQA, this gathering of minds aimed to explore and deepen the understanding of crucial educational themes.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the highlights at the forum on YouTube

Under the expert guidance of Mr. Haibo Wang, COO of GEC Academy, the forum brought together more than 300 esteemed educators, university leaders, teachers, and experts, fostering an immersive environment for vibrant and enlightening conversations. The diverse topics covered included global competence development, interdisciplinary talent cultivation, strategies for fostering student creativity, and the expanding global influence of higher education institutions.

The forum commenced with guest speeches from Mr. Kan Huang, President of the Beijing Education Association for International Exchange, and Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy. They emphasized the importance of embracing international education and fostering globally competent individuals in response to the changing dynamics of the world.

Mr. Huang underscored the significance of actively embracing the new global landscape and seamlessly integrating international education throughout the talent cultivation process. He stated, "To navigate globalization successfully, we must proactively adapt and organically incorporate international education."



Mr. Yan, in his remarks, highlighted that the cultivation of innovative talents with global competence and the establishment of a robust talent pool have become paramount concerns for educational professionals. He remarked, "Fostering individuals with international competency and building a workforce of innovative talents have garnered significant attention and engagement."

July

Several experts were invited to give keynote speeches during the session.



Mr. Ning Zhang, President of the International Competence Development Committee in the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, emphasized that disciplinary backgrounds are not the central factor in cultivating talents with global competence. He stressed the significance of nurturing a global perspective, promoting international mobility, fostering effective communication, encouraging collaborative teamwork, developing leadership and management skills, and fostering understanding and respect for diversity among Chinese youth.

Mr. Hongxiang Sun, Vice President of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT), shared the university's noteworthy experience in cultivating innovative talents through internationalization. He highlighted the long-standing collaboration between BUPT and Queen Mary University of London, which has produced over 8,000 graduates and achieved an impressive 80% admission rate to the world's top 100 universities. Mr. Sun expressed the university's commitment to further enhancing the quality of international talent cultivation through international joint training programs and distinctive approaches.



Mr. Qingfeng Xia, Principal of Beijing Academy, emphasized the importance of nurturing students' curiosity and thirst for knowledge. He advocated for problem-solving as the primary learning approach, encouraging students to explore research topics derived from their daily experiences. Mr. Xia also proposed the establishment of practical workshops to foster critical thinking, creativity, and inclusiveness among students.

Dr. Henan Cheng, Deputy Director of the Center on Chinese Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, highlighted the remarkable contributions of esteemed American education historian and Columbia University professor Paul Monroe in advancing international education and fostering educational exchange and cooperation between China and the global community over the past century. Dr. Cheng also acknowledged the active involvement of Chinese students studying abroad in academic research and educational surveys, effectively showcasing Chinese education to the world.



July



Ms. Xiaozhi Wang, Co-founder of GEC Academy, shared insights on cultivating international innovative talents based on GEC's experiences in research-oriented learning, interdisciplinary studies, and global competence development. She expressed GEC's commitment to further exploration and practice in the development of international and innovative education, aiming to better serve students and partners.

Following a series of expert speeches, two roundtable sessions were held to delve into important topics such as cultivating innovation talents with a global perspective within the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei Urban Agglomeration. Another focal point was the promotion of integrated international high school curricula in fostering innovative talents.



All participants reached a consensus on the imperative of advancing online and offline international academic exchange activities and fostering in-depth integration and widespread participation in international communication within the realm of international education in the post-pandemic era. Regarding the internationalization of basic education, there was unanimous agreement that integrated curricula will persist in guiding parents and students to transition from a score-driven mindset to a process-oriented experiential learning approach. This educational shift aims to nurture a larger cohort of students with pronounced international competence and a seamless affinity for embracing international education.

The International Education Forum on Innovation Talent Cultivation and Global Competence Development served as a remarkable platform for educational leaders and experts to come together and explore crucial themes in international education. With a commitment to excellence, GEC Academy will eagerly look forward to forging new institutional partnerships that will unlock abundant academic and research opportunities, further advancing the field of international education.

August

International Interdisciplinary Innovation Talent Development and Research Forum along with Grand Commencement of the 2023 GEC Summer Research Program



A milestone was achieved as the International Interdisciplinary Innovation Talent Development and Research Forum and the commencement of the 2023 GEC Summer Offline Research Program, co-hosted by GEC Academy and supported by Jiushi Tourism Group — International Youth Growth Camp, received an enthusiastic response. This event served as a vibrant nexus, drawing together a diverse assemblage of nearly 500 distinguished guests. Among them were esteemed scholars and experts representing prestigious Chinese universities, government officials, and notable business leaders.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the video on YouTube.

The occasion also welcomed approximately a hundred accomplished professors hailing from internationally acclaimed universities and revered research institutions worldwide, many of whom hold esteemed positions within the GEC teaching faculty. This collective gathering, alongside over 2,500 students who participated in the 2023 GEC Summer Research Program, delved into critical topics including innovative talent cultivation, global competencies, cross-border talent exchanges, and dynamic academic-industry collaborations. The collaborative momentum of this event set a robust course for fortified global educational partnerships while underscoring the shared mission of the GEC teaching faculty in shaping a more interconnected educational landscape.

August

The forum kicked off with several opening speeches. Mr. Baoli Liu emphasized the broader scope of education internationalization in his opening address. He noted, “Education internationalization encompasses comprehensive enhancements to educational systems, the sharing of high-quality educational resources, the alignment of talent development with global standards, the establishment of digital networks for international education, and the expansion of platforms for educational collaboration dialogues.”



Mr. Baoli Liu, Executive Secretary-General of the Organizing Committee of China-ASEAN Education Communication Week and Former Inspector of the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges at the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China



Mr. Ning Zhang, President of the International Competence Development Committee in the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy

Mr. Ning Zhang talked about the global surge in student mobility, stating that “while it brings opportunities for cross-cultural exchanges and mutual respect, it also poses challenges like intercultural understanding and language barriers.”

Mr. Sheng Yan warmly welcomed and expressed gratitude to the forum’s attendees, especially to over a hundred professors from esteemed international institutions and research bodies, convening in Shanghai, and to the students participating in the 2023 GEC Summer Research Program. Mr. Yan underlined the continuous pursuit of cultivating international interdisciplinary innovation talents in his speech, recognizing the coexistence of challenges and opportunities along this path.



Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy



Professor Chas Bountra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Innovation and Professor of Translational Medicine at the University of Oxford

The forum was enriched by a special address delivered by Professor Chas Bountra, whose keynote speech, aptly titled “**Collaborative Solutions for Global Challenges**,” shone a spotlight on the pivotal role of international cooperation in tackling global issues. Professor Bountra’s focus extended to the realm of medical advancements and the nurturing of innovative talents. He underscored the indispensability of visionary leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs in driving scientific exploration and industrial progress to create tangible change.

August

The keynote speeches delivered by six distinguished guests were a cornerstone of this forum, covering a diverse range of topics, and offering insightful perspectives on international innovative talent development.



Professor William Eskridge, the Alexander M. Bickel Professor of Public Law at Yale Law School



Professor Hui Li, Professor and Doctoral Supervisor at Peking University

Professor Eskridge's exploration of **“An Innovative Path to International Talent Cultivation”** began by examining the dynamics between ordinary individuals within society. He underscored the paramount importance of global cooperation, particularly in confronting worldwide challenges and propelling educational innovation. Notably, he highlighted the universality of the challenges the world grapples with, encompassing climate change, pandemics, and nuclear weapon threats. In a compelling call to action, Professor Eskridge advocated for collaborative endeavors across humanity to address these concerns. He aptly cited, “Projects like those embraced by GEC Academy stand as prime illustrations, fostering mutual comprehension and cross-cultural learning among disparate nations, cultures, and academic spheres.”

Professor Li's keynote address centered on **“Building a Community of Shared Future in Cyberspace”**, shedding light on the predominant challenge of managing digital and cyberspaces. He proposed innovative solutions, emphasizing collaborative network governance. His talk also included insights from blockchain technology and hyperbolic geometry research, such as applying Lobachevskian geometry to streamline cyberspace.



George Malliaras, the Prince Philip Professor of Technology at the University of Cambridge



Dr. Kan Huang, President of the Beijing Education Association for International Exchange

Professor Malliaras drew from personal experiences in his address themed **“Perspectives on International Multidisciplinary Graduate Education.”** He delved into the realm of global interdisciplinary education and examined diverse graduate training models across top U.S. universities. He emphasized the importance of nurturing students with a robust professional base and fostering interdisciplinary learning during graduate studies. Moreover, he underscored how practical experience and soft skills play a pivotal role in developing students into well-rounded individuals.

August

During his talk titled **“Internationalized Innovation Talent Development and the Responsibility of Universities,”** Dr. Huang explored the importance of nurturing global innovation talent from a governmental standpoint. He highlighted the crucial role that universities should undertake in this endeavor, shedding light on China's higher education institutions' practical approaches to international innovation talent cultivation. Dr. Huang also underlined the evolving nature of talent development as a shared societal responsibility, calling for active participation from both businesses and government bodies.



Professor Edward Mullen, Willma and Albert Musher Professor Emeritus at Columbia University



Mr. Zhijia Wang, Expert of the International Competence Development Committee and Former Director of the International Department of State Environmental Protection Administration of China

Professor Mullen's discussion centered on **social sciences**, highlighting research methods' role in decision-making, understanding complex societal aspects, amplifying diverse voices, and driving change. He stressed the need for structured frameworks in social science research to navigate human behavior intricacies. In his remarks, Professor Mullen also encouraged Chinese students to engage in social science research, nurturing sociological imagination and skills that reflect today and shape tomorrow.

Mr. Wang delivered a speech on **“International Competence Cultivation and the Requirements of International Organizations for Interdisciplinary Innovation Talents.”** He emphasized how interdisciplinary innovative talents play a crucial role in addressing global challenges, highlighting the significance of the cultivation of globally adept individuals with diverse skills and versatile abilities.

The forum continued with three roundtable discussions. The first roundtable, themed **“New Trends for Talent Development in the Post-Pandemic World,”** was skillfully moderated by Dr. Yukteshwar Kumar, Ex-Deputy Mayor of Bath and Senior Lecturer at the University of Bath. This engaging conversation featured esteemed participants from the GEC Teaching Faculty, who collectively explored emerging trends and future prospects in top-tier university talent development within the post-pandemic landscape.



From left to right, the individuals in the photo are: Professor Sophia Koutsogiannaki, Assistant Professor; Professor David Johnson, Professorial Fellow in St Antony's College at the University of Oxford; Professor Slav Hermanowicz, Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley; Professor Gregory Kesden, Associate Teaching Professor and MS ECE Faculty Advisor at Carnegie Mellon University; and Professor Joshua Edel, Professor of Biosensing and Analytical Sciences at Imperial College London.

The discourse delved into the pivotal role of soft skills in talent cultivation, the integration of creativity and lifelong learning opportunities in education, and the transformative influence of technology on teaching. Building on the innovative role of GEC Academy in talent development, the participants also examined strategies to seamlessly incorporate modern technology into education, fostering teaching innovation and facilitating international collaboration.

August

In the subsequent two panels, participants shifted their focus to the significance of interdisciplinary approaches from the vantage points of higher education and foundational learning. They emphasized how interdisciplinary approaches stimulate novel ideas and facilitate breakthroughs. Furthermore, the panels explored methods to nurture adaptable talents, empowering students to navigate future challenges within interdisciplinary and cross-cultural contexts. Additionally, the discussions encompassed international collaboration in cultivating innovative talents and advancing foundational education at the secondary school level.

The forum concluded with a closing address by Mr. Jianrong Yang, Director of Shanghai Advisory Committee on Technological Innovation Education. He underscored how, in our current era of globalization, educational exchanges function as vital connectors that bind the world together while nurturing friendship and cooperation between nations. Highlighting the essence of interdisciplinary collaboration involving two or more fields, he emphasized the need for robust communication and cooperation among scholars from diverse disciplines and regions.

This forum, hosted by GEC, stood as an expansive platform that united educators from around the world. Together with the esteemed members of GEC teaching faculty, we will continue to make efforts in fostering vibrant discussions and collectively exploring cutting-edge ideas and practices in interdisciplinary innovation talent development.



September

2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week: GEC Academy Hosted Interdisciplinary Innovative Talent with Global Competence Cultivation Forum



The 2023 China-ASEAN Education Exchange Week kicked off in Guizhou with a triumphant start with GEC Academy's Parallel Forum on Interdisciplinary Innovative Talent with Global Competence Cultivation. Organized by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and co-hosted by GEC Academy and Guizhou University of Finance and Economics, this prestigious forum attracted esteemed professors and scholars from both domestic and international universities, with a primary objective of strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange among universities, both nationally and internationally.

Beyond academia, the event was a beacon for nurturing students' international perspectives and fostering their global competence. It also served as a catalyst for driving innovation and cultivating talent in the dynamic realm of interdisciplinary studies, fostering closer ties between China and ASEAN nations.



Guests delivering opening remarks at 2023 China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week

Professor Zhinan Zhang, hailing from the School of Mechanical Engineering at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, delved into SJTU's hands-on experience and journey in fostering students' innovation capabilities through project-based learning in his opening remarks. He provided a comprehensive exploration of how project-based learning plays a pivotal role in nurturing engineering innovation talents, examining it from various angles, such as its education system development, curriculum design, case studies, etc.

Mr. Ning Zhang, who serves as the President of the International Competence Development Committee within the Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy, delivered a thorough examination of the concept of global competence. In his address, he took into account the context and core prerequisites of international competence, and highlighted the role of interdisciplinary innovation talents, as well as the effective strategies for nurturing international competence.

Mr. Yu Zuo, Co-founder of GEC Academy, shared his insights into how GEC Academy can empower domestic universities to cultivate international innovative talents, using the establishment of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Academy Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies as a prime illustration. He also underscored GEC Academy's practical experience in advancing university-industry collaborations to bolster the development of innovative talents.

September



Mr. Yu Zuo delivering a speech on nurturing innovative talents

In the subsequent keynote speeches, distinguished professors from leading Chinese universities also contributed their insights from multiple viewpoints. These included discussions on interdisciplinary talent development, fostering leadership capabilities in international entrepreneurship, and exploring effective models for nurturing exceptional innovation talents.

Professor Lei Yan, a distinguished member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and a faculty member of Institute of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems at Peking University, provided valuable insights into the evolution of remote sensing technology and its significance within the context of interdisciplinary studies. Then, Professor Haixia Zhang, from the School of Integrated Circuits at Peking University, discussed how the "iCAN University Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition" helped nurture innovation and entrepreneurial talents. Finally, Professor Luping Xu from Tsinghua University explored an overarching vision for synergistic enhancements in both the quantity and quality of innovation talent development.



Keynote speeches at the forum

This forum has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration between China and ASEAN countries in the field of education, with a particular focus on enhancing global competence and nurturing interdisciplinary talent. The GEC team takes immense pride in being a part of this significant initiative, contributing to the establishment of a more innovative, inclusive, and sustainable China-ASEAN education community.

Notably, the Global Competence Development (GCD) Project, co-designed by the GEC team and the Expert Committee of International Competency Talent Training, represents a tangible manifestation of best practices in nurturing interdisciplinary innovators with global competence. Recently, it has undergone a significant update (GCD Project 2.0) and is now officially launched in top universities across China for the current fall semester.

GCD Project 2.0 adopts a blended learning approach that seamlessly integrates both online and offline components. It has evolved from its initial 48-credit-hour online curriculum into a comprehensive program, now comprising 67 credit hours of foundational courses. Furthermore, an additional 24 credit hours workshop segment has been introduced, focusing on daily conferences, project management, document writing, and diplomatic etiquette at international organizations. This enhanced course extends its coverage to a broader range of business skills training and incorporates supplementary modules on psychology and career planning.

Moving forward, GEC Academy remains committed to continuously seeking new avenues for collaboration with universities, with an aim to advance the cultivation of a larger pool of interdisciplinary innovators, well-equipped with global competence, all within a sustainable framework for international competence development.

October

Shenzhen Office's Milestone Move and Oxford University Interviewer Forum

On September 23rd, the GEC Shenzhen Regional Office celebrated a momentous occasion by commemorating its relocation, signifying a pivotal moment in GEC's growth story. This move reflects a substantial step forward for the GEC Shenzhen Regional Office, highlighting its dedication to delivering innovative educational programs and services in partnership with prominent entities in the academic and technology sectors within the Greater Bay Area. It also signifies the beginning of a new chapter in GEC's mission to continue providing enriched and accessible learning experiences for students.



A Chinese-Style Relocation Ceremony

The relocation ceremony was a vibrant blend of traditions and modernity, as a captivating lion dance performance, symbolizing good fortune and prosperity, kicked off the festivities. Esteemed representatives from GEC's partner organizations, including ArnoBio, OxfordAQA, Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, etc., graced the event. Colleagues from GEC's offline marketing, business development, and consultancy departments were also in attendance, sharing the joy of the moment.



Ribbon Cutting Moment at Shenzhen Regional Office



Office View of the New GEC Regional Office in Shenzhen

October

As part of the grand relocation celebration, GEC also hosted the Oxford University Interviewer Forum immediately following the unveiling of the Shenzhen office. This forum provided a dynamic platform for over 100 distinguished guests from the Greater Bay Area, including university leaders, pioneers in the technology and innovation sector, outstanding student representatives, and experts in international education. Together, these diverse participants engaged in multifaceted, multi-perspective discussions and explorations centered around the theme of nurturing internationalized innovative talent.

During the forum, Mr. Lingbo Lyu, the Academic Director of OxfordAQA International Qualifications, presented an insightful analysis of A-level data and trends for 2023. The forum also had the privilege of hosting Professor Arhat Virdi, a Senior Faculty member from the University of Oxford, who shares a profound appreciation for GEC's education philosophy and has enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with GEC Academy as an instructor for years, brought experience as an admissions interviewer for the Finance and Economics Department at the University of Oxford. He shared invaluable insights into the admissions criteria and processes at the University of Oxford. The forum concluded with a stimulating round-table discussion exploring the topic of Cultivating Future-Oriented Internationalized Innovative Talent. Through this deep exchange of ideas, it provided invaluable insights to shape the future of international education.



Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy Giving Opening Address at the Forum



The Round-table Discussion on Cultivating Future-Oriented Internationalized Innovative Talent (From left to right, the individuals in the photo are: Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy; Professor Arhat Virdi, Senior Faculty at the University of Oxford; Mr. Lihao Yang, Head of Quality Education for AP & A-Level Programs at Guangzhou Foreign Language School; Miss Shuchen Li, a G12 Student Representative at Shenzhen College of International Education.)

At GEC, besides sharing the excitement of the Shenzhen office's relocation, we would also like to express our gratitude for the dedication of our teaching faculty, the support of our business partners, and the contributions of our GEC colleagues. Looking ahead, we will remain committed to expanding collaborations with additional educational resources and Chinese universities to enhance educational services for a broader student community.



A Group Photo at the Forum

November

GEC Hosted Future-oriented International Scientific and Innovative Talent Cultivation Forum at CACIE 2023

The 24th China Annual Conference & Expo for International Education (CACIE) unfolded its success from October 26 to 28, 2023, at Beijing National Convention Center. Organized by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), CACIE responded to the call of the United Nations Education Summit with the compelling theme, “Advance and Connect: Converging the Power of Education.” This dynamic conference not only decoded the latest international education policies and global developmental trends in China and beyond but also emerged as a nexus for over 5,000 educators and industry influencers from more than 50 countries and regions, demonstrating a shared commitment to advancing education on a global scale.



Hosted by CEAIE, the Future-oriented International Scientific and Innovative Talent Cultivation Forum was a collaborative effort involving the GEC Academy, GEC Advanced Studies Institute (GEC-ASI) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Academy Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies. This parallel session delved into the global development of scientific and innovative talents, touching on themes like industry-education integration, educational system advancement, international cooperation, and the creation of platforms for technological innovation. As an inclusive exchange platform, the forum aimed to facilitate meaningful collaboration among domestic and international academic institutions, as well as businesses, with the objective to provide a more diverse, effective, and innovative approach to cultivating globally-oriented scientific and innovative talent.



Ms. An giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIE)

The forum saw its opening ceremony presided over by Ms. Yan An, Deputy Secretary-General of CEAIE. Ms. An underscored the pivotal research focus on leveraging the strengths of government, businesses, and universities to nurture science and innovation talents with global competitiveness. She highlighted the strategic collaboration between CEAIE and GEC forged last year, “This collaborative effort actively promotes exchange and cooperation in cultivating scientific and innovative talents among domestic universities, establishing a platform for international communication within the education industry and making substantive contributions to the progress of international education cooperation and exchange”, she said.

November



Mr. Yan giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIIE)



Professor Schekman giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIIE)

Mr. Sheng Yan, Executive Director of GEC-ASI, underscored GEC's unwavering commitment to cultivating globally-minded scientific and innovative talent. Highlighting GEC's substantial efforts in delivering high-quality international talent development and cooperative exchange programs, he noted the collaborations with over 1,000 professors and scholars from world-class universities. These initiatives have benefitted over 100 domestic universities, secondary schools, vocational colleges, and tens of thousands of Chinese students and teachers. Since its establishment, GEC has been at the forefront of fostering global collaborations and delivering impactful educational programs. Looking ahead, Mr. Yan emphasized, "GEC will continue to coordinate integrated development, enhance connectivity and sharing, and focus on breakthrough innovation, with an aim to cultivate more talents with international perspectives, interdisciplinary integration capabilities, and a spirit of scientific and innovative entrepreneurship."

In his video address, Professor Randy W. Schekman, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley emphasized the crucial role of scientific and technological innovation in nurturing specialized talents. Professor Schekman highlighted the importance of fostering creativity in students during their teenage years. He said, "in the teenage years, students should be challenged to do their own creative explorations with simple, independent projects on and displays that are exhibited for other students and family members to enjoy it".



Professor Malliaras giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIIE)



Dr. Marcel giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIIE)

"I believe that the cultivation of talent for technological innovation is a multifaceted effort that requires the collective commitment of individuals, of educational institutions, of businesses, and governments." Professor George Malliaras, the Prince Philip Professor of Technology at the University of Cambridge, articulated a comprehensive perspective on crucial role of education in talent development, urging adaptive measures in educational institutions to align with the dynamic landscape of technology and innovation. Prof. Malliaras also underscored the essential components of mentorship and collaboration in nurturing talent, encouraging experienced professionals and organizations to actively engage with emerging talent by providing guidance, resources, and real-world experience. He highlighted the imperative of creating an innovation-friendly environment. This involves not only acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of innovators but also establishing policies and frameworks that support entrepreneurship and research and development.

November

Dr. Pop Marcel, Director of International Relations at Semmelweis University, eloquently underscored the importance of cultivating a cross-cultural exchange and learning environment, drawing on the example of Semmelweis University. With evident delight, Dr. Marcel expressed his enthusiasm about the potential to forge a strong partnership with GEC Academy. This partnership, he noted, represents a significant stride toward the cultivation of global leaders and the shaping of the future landscape of international healthcare and education. The emphasis on collaborative efforts and shared visions is poised to create a meaningful impact in the realms of academia and beyond.

Several experts were invited to give keynote speeches during the session.



Professor Hermanowicz giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIE)

Diving into the question of “Will international education thrive?” Professor Slav W. Hermanowicz, Professor in the Graduate School at UC Berkeley, offered a comprehensive analysis. Drawing upon recent research reports and data, he illuminated the current state of international education, navigating through a landscape of both challenges and opportunities. Offering a set of strategic proposals, Prof. Hermanowicz outlined pathways for fostering high-quality and sustainable development in international education. In his exploration of various teaching methodologies, he highlighted the transformative impact of scientific and technological advancements, such as the metaverse, virtual reality, and ChatGPT. These innovations, according to him, have opened unprecedented avenues for international education. Notably, he emphasized the crucial necessity of harnessing these cutting-edge technologies to provide essential support to international education. This involves the effective integration of real and virtual teaching environments, a paradigm shift aimed at delivering enhanced educational resources and support to students, thereby cultivating a more diverse, globalized, and enriching learning experience.



Mr. Hou giving a speech during the sharing (Picture released by CEAIE)

Mr. Gang Hou, Deputy Director of GEC-ASI, elucidated the foundational principles of the institute, underscoring its pivotal role in international industry-education integration. Emphasizing successful collaborations in educational partnerships and the establishment of educational communities, Mr. Hou detailed GEC-ASI's initiatives across seven key areas. These encompass the creation of a globally connected education network, the enhancement of educational service capabilities, the promotion of industry-education collaboration, the driving force behind research and innovation, the encouragement of civil exchanges, and the establishment of novel educational cooperation networks. Mr. Hou also emphasized the GEC-ASI's responsibility to society and its dedication to upholding the core values of collective thinking.



GEC Academy Received the Platinum Partner Award from President Limin Liu of CEAIE

November

After several speeches given by the experts, two roundtable sessions were conducted, addressing topics such as “Industry-Education Integration and the Cultivation of Scientific and Innovative Talent: A Collaboration of Universities, Government, and Industry” and “Future-Oriented International Scientific and Innovative Talent Training: Collaborative Strategies.” The discussions in both forums were insightful, blending theory with practical insights. All the participants reached the consensus on the crucial importance of actively promoting industry-education integration and fostering globally-oriented scientific and innovative talent across different educational stages.



Group Photo of the Forum (Picture released by CEAIE)

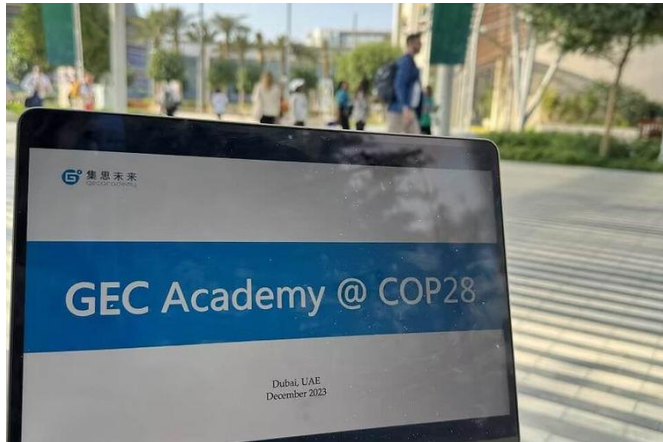
As a crucial element of CACIE, the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement between GEC Academy and the Suzhou Industrial Park Development Promotion Association illuminated the night during the GEC Evening Gala. Representing both entities, Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy and Executive Director of GEC-ASI, and Mr. Yuan Shen, Secretary-General of the Suzhou Industrial Park Development Promotion Association, formally sealed the strategic partnership. This signing ceremony signifies the commitment of both parties to deeper exploration and collaboration in advancing industry-education integration and collaborative talent cultivation models, aiming to jointly establish an international cooperation network for scientific research and applied technology education innovation.



Signing Ceremony of GEC Academy and the Suzhou Industrial Park Development Promotion Association (Picture released by CEAIE)

Looking ahead, GEC Academy is dedicated to advancing high-level international educational exchange and fostering deep cooperation while actively engaging in cultural exchanges. Our commitment extends to driving the integration of industry and education, harmonizing science and education, and forging deeper collaborations across industry, education, and research to cultivate well-rounded individuals. Positioned as a dynamic force in international educational exchange and cooperation, GEC will continue to significantly contribute to the cultivation of globally innovative talents and propel the development of high-quality education. With a shared commitment, we eagerly anticipate shaping the landscape of international education, ushering in a new era of excellence, and continuously striving towards the common goal of preparing the next generation for a globally competitive future.

December



GEC at COP28 Dubai: Igniting Young Minds for a Sustainable, Green Future!

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a key global event hosted by the United Arab Emirates, is set as a vital platform for addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. This much-anticipated gathering focuses on fostering worldwide collaboration and concerted efforts towards sustainable development and environmental protection. During this influential assembly, Mr. Edison Yan, the dynamic Executive Director of GEC-ASI, is playing a pivotal role, driving forward the agenda and making waves with his contributions.



The event brought together diverse perspectives to seek effective solutions to the climate crisis and inspire the younger generation to actively participate and contribute to this pressing issue. As one of the distinguished members of the official delegation at COP28, Mr. Yan engaged with experts and scholars in the education sector from around the globe to explore the imperative of global youth and scholars' involvement in researching and taking action against global warming and climate change.



December

Engage, Educate, Empower

COP28, marked by its inclusive and diverse participation, provided a unique forum where voices from various cultural backgrounds worldwide harmonized in a collective effort to address climate challenges. Inspired by insightful speeches and discussions, and rich experiences visiting various pavilions such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) pavilion, we are now more resolute than ever in developing green skills and promoting dual carbon education. Our overarching goal is to instill environmental literacy in young minds, contributing wisdom and strength to foster a sustainable and green future.



Unite, Act, Deliver

Mr. Yan noted that a sustainable future hinges on embracing green education, recognizing the pivotal role of youth participation and insights in shaping the world and addressing the climate crisis. “GEC is dedicated to fortifying its educational mission, and continually cultivating a global perspective and fostering sustainable development awareness among the youth is our commitment. We aim not only to educate but also to support them into future leaders and catalysts for transformative change,” he highlighted at COP28.



Nurturing a new generation prepared to address the challenges of climate change has consistently been GEC Academy's ongoing commitment. As the driving force behind this mission, we are ready to assume a central role in providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary for a sustainable and green future.

Inaugural International Research and Academic Exploration Forum in Southeast China, alongside GEC Academy's Regional Educational Exchange Gala



On November 23rd, the Inaugural International Research and Academic Exploration Forum in Southeast China, in conjunction with GEC Academy's Regional Educational Exchange Gala, successfully concluded in Xiamen, Fujian. Co-hosted by GEC Academy, the British Council, and US NEWS, and co-sponsored by the International EPQ Learning Center and Choice Education Group, the event garnered support from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University - GEC Academy Center of Innovative Design for Interdisciplinary Studies, TopSchools, and the OxfordAQA International Examination Bureau. With a robust attendance of over 200 participants, including educators from international schools and institutions, representatives from international examination bodies, and frontline experts in international education, the forum provided a dynamic platform to delve into global education trends, engage in discussions about talent development, and international education in Southeast China.



Mr. Meijin Guo, Vice President and Southern Region Director of GEC Academy, delivering an opening address

In his opening address, Mr. Guo eloquently anchored his speech in the indomitable spirit found in traditional Chinese myths – a spirit characterized by an unwavering resolve in the face of adversity and a bold readiness to confront challenges. Against the backdrop of a post-pandemic economic resurgence, Mr. Guo called upon industry peers to unite in their efforts, emphasizing the collective responsibility to contribute to the dynamic growth of the international education sector.

Mr. Tang went on to underscore the extraordinary transformation witnessed in Xiamen's international education scene over the last decade. Foreseeing a rejuvenation of industry benchmarks and resources in the post-pandemic era, Mr. Tang articulated his belief that this Xiamen forum would play a pivotal role as a catalyst for Southeast China's international education, fostering meaningful exchanges and collaborations among the distinguished participants.



Mr. Linqi Tang, East Asia Regional Director of the OxfordAQA Examination Bureau

During his keynote address, Mr. Yan delved into the theme of **Research Empowering International Talent Development, Enhancing Competitiveness in Study Abroad**, showcasing GEC Academy's profound expertise in project-based and research-oriented learning. Reflecting on his personal educational journey, Mr. Yan underscored GEC's dedication to ensuring equitable access to educational resources and advancing the internationalization of scientific and technological talent. "The blurring of disciplinary boundaries and the virtualization of campuses are reshaping trends in the admission of international talents by prestigious overseas institutions," highlighted by Mr. Yan, "Through meticulously designed research-oriented programs, GEC aims to shift students' learning from passive to proactive, empowering them in their pursuit of admission to renowned institutions. Our central focus remains on nurturing genuinely forward-thinking, application-driven talents that seamlessly align with the evolving global landscape."



Mr. Sheng Yan, CEO of GEC Academy delivering a keynote speech



Mr. Jingwei Yu, the Director of Business Development for the British Council's examination services in China explaining Trust and Connect

Mr. Yu centered his keynote speech on the pivotal concepts of Trust and Connect. He articulated his vision for international schools and institutions globally to cultivate trust by incorporating the IELTS examination into scenarios like student admissions testing and English proficiency assessments.



Mr. Wang Rui, Senior Manager at US News Global Education talking about Reassessing the Value of Rankings for Choosing Majors and Universities

Conducting a meticulous examination of the shifts in this year's U.S. university rankings, Mr. Wang provided a nuanced perspective on students' decision-making concerning both their choice of universities and fields of study. He underscored the significance of not fixating solely on rankings when making these decisions, advocating for a comprehensive consideration of the university's culture and its capacity to offer students a diverse array of opportunities and resources.



The following two roundtable sessions brought together distinguished guests to explore the vital role of international education in amplifying students' soft skills and competitiveness during the pandemic. Discussions also delved into perspectives on academic pressures and the lying flat phenomenon, with a strong emphasis on defining and nurturing soft skills, including cross-cultural understanding. The two roundtable sessions also underscored the necessity for clear goals in academic competitiveness and advocated for collaborative planning between parents and students. Additionally, the importance of supporting the mental health of students throughout their developmental journey was a key highlight.



Dr. David Tidswell, the Foreign Principal of Fuzhou Rongqiao Sino-Canadian School delivering closing remarks

In the closing session, Dr. Tidswell delivered remarks on the theme Beyond Scores: Unleashing Students' Potential in University Applications. He emphasized, "As educators, we hold a significant responsibility for the development of our students. Given the rapid and sustained growth in international education, it is crucial for us to fully tap into students' potential and guide them toward broader cultural exposure."

Moving ahead, GEC Academy is committed to fostering close collaboration with peers in the international education sector. We will work collaboratively to contribute to the cultivation of innovative global talents and the advancement of high-quality education and to play a significant role in the thriving development of international education.

December

Strategic Cooperation Agreement Signing Ceremony: Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone Partners with GEC Academy



Mr. Gang Hou, Vice Director of GEC-ASI, and Mr. Zhouhua Shi, Deputy Director of Sino-German Innovation Industrial Park (Xuzhou), signing the strategic cooperation agreement

On November 26th, 2023, a pivotal moment unfolded in Xuzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, as the Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone and GEC Academy came together for a strategic partnership signing ceremony. This collaboration is geared towards establishing a vibrant platform that encourages seamless collaboration among industries, universities, and research institutes. For GEC Academy, this marks a significant milestone, highlighting our commitment to integrating talent, innovation, and industry chains, and holding immense importance in seamlessly bringing them together.



Mr. Yinghua Mo delivering a speech at the signing ceremony



Mr. Sheng Yan delivering a speech at the signing ceremony

December

Mr. Yinghua Mo, Vice Director of the Management Committee of Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone, emphasized that this collaboration demonstrates the Zone's unwavering commitment to fostering industry-academia-research integration and accelerating the development of a modern industrial park. This initiative also plays a pivotal role in propelling Xuzhou towards its goal of becoming a thriving innovation hub, aligning seamlessly with the city's vision of promoting high-quality education and creating a “new hub” for innovative talents. “We are steadfast in our dedication to treating entrepreneurs as valued partners, prioritizing their interests, and fostering enterprise growth by providing an optimal business environment,” he added.

Mr. Sheng Yan, Executive Director of GEC-ASI, highlighted the pivotal role of GEC in forging a new regional development landscape and advancing the holistic development of industries, universities, and research institutes. He underscored that this collaboration represents a key initiative for GEC Academy to expand its footprint within the Huaihai Economic Zone. According to Mr. Yan, “GEC Academy is committed to promoting the commercialization and application of achievements by establishing a demand-driven, technology-supported, market-guided, and project-propelled research and development system.” The agreement also involves creating communication channels to enhance service connections, and strengthening talent support for industries, universities, and research institutes.



Mr. Gang Hou delivering a speech at the signing ceremony

Mr. Gang Hou, Vice Director of GEC-ASI, delivered a keynote speech on Constructing the Industry-Academia-Research Cooperation Platform. During his address, Mr. Hou offered a comprehensive overview of GEC Academy's notable breakthroughs and achievements in industry-academia-research cooperation in 2023. He highlighted the GEC's commitment to leveraging international innovation platforms, talent teams, cooperation projects, and accomplishments to provide consulting, intellectual support, and international resources to higher education institutions and industry enterprises.

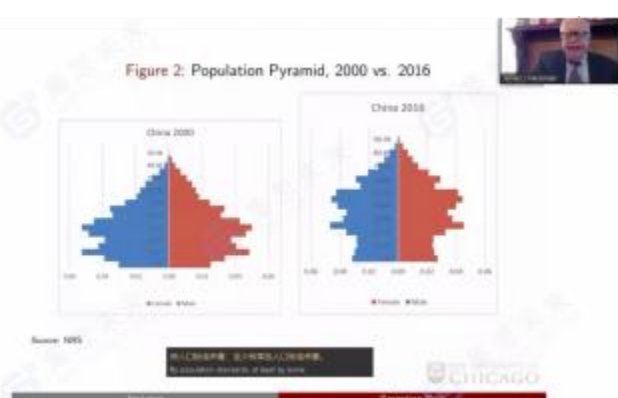
With a shared commitment to deeply integrate into the global scientific and technological innovation chain and collaboratively establish talent centers, GEC Academy remains dedicated to enhancing the quality of industry-academia-research cooperation. The ongoing efforts of both Xuzhou Economic and Technological Development Zone and GEC are geared towards propelling the effective implementation of the industry-academia-research cooperation platform, paving the way for a mutually beneficial future. Together, these initiatives underscore a collective dedication to advancing innovation and fostering a dynamic synergy for sustained progress and growth.

GEC Held the 2nd GEC Global Top Scientists Forum with Nobel Laureate Prof. James J. Heckman

The 2nd GEC Global Top Scientists Forum, organized by GEC Academy, was held online on March 20th. Covering topics such as biomedicine, bioelectronics, chemistry, applied physics, electronic engineering, business, etc., the Global Top Scientists Forum series, launched at the end of 2022, is an initiative aiming at promoting cross-cultural exchange and collaborative research while helping Chinese university students expand their research horizons and sharpen their scientific sense.

With a theme of “Promoting Skills to Promote Social Mobility”, the event emphasized the importance of individual economic value through skill acquisition and potential development. It featured a speech given by Nobel Laureate Prof. James J. Heckman, Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy and Director of the Center for the Economics of Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Chicago, who during the forum shared the insights in his paper “Economics of Human Development and Social Mobility”, published on Annual Review of Economics in 2014. Over 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students from 60 top universities in China participated in the event.

Before his speech, Prof. Heckman first gave a warm welcome to all the students and scholars who joined the forum. He started his presentation by discussing the opportunities and challenges that China may face in terms of its socio-economic development. He highlighted China's economic structure, demographics, and vast population as instrumental in driving its impressive economic growth over the past few decades. He also pointed out potential challenges, such as environmental issues and income inequality, which require immediate attention. In particular, he drew attention to the worsening income gap between urban and rural areas in China and emphasized the need for measures to promote educational equity and equal economic opportunities.



Prof. Heckman compared the population pyramid of China while discussing its socio-economic development in the past decades.



Prof. Heckman explaining non-cognitive characteristics in early childhood

In addition, Prof. Heckman highlighted non-cognitive characteristics such as physical and mental health, perseverance, motivation, self-confidence, and socio-emotional qualities in transforming various aspects of life. He also discussed how skills gained and learned in early childhood can have significant impacts on employment and earning prospects, as well as overall health.

Followed by the discussion session, Prof. Heckman ended his sharing by emphasizing that improving the early lives of disadvantaged children through predistribution is more effective than simple redistribution in promoting social inclusion and economic efficiency.

Students from different universities contributed to the discussion session moderated by Mr. Edison Yan, President of GEC Academy. Participating students asked Prof. Heckman about how to overcome obstacles brought by AI and how to effectively maximize its potential to enhance learning. Prof. Heckman emphasized that AI can be used as a tool to develop effective learning systems and track children's growth but also highlighted the importance of human skills such as social and emotional intelligence, suggesting that "AI is not a rival, and children who are better trained and better equipped can face it and take it in a way that would be constructed so that it can be used wisely."

Students also explored whether new technologies like renewable energy can improve people's lives. Prof. Heckman stated that while new technologies may bring opportunities for those who adapt to them, they may also exacerbate inequality in younger generations in the long term.

Mr. Yan also had a discussion with Prof. Heckman about the development of online education resources. According to Prof. Heckman, online education can help alleviate the inequality faced by many students who cannot access quality education due to various reasons. However, he also stressed the importance of offline interaction for teaching and the need to focus on the quality of offline teaching and teacher training.

- **What's Next**

After several months of planning and organizing, GEC announced the Global Top Scientists Forum series by the end of 2022 to be open to all GEC students and partner institutions. The first forum in the series held in December 2022 featured a lecture by Prof. Randy W. Schekman, 2013 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine and Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley on "Secretory Pathway: How Cells Package & Traffic Proteins for Export." On April 19th, the next event will take place in-person at the campus of Imperial College London. Prof. Joshua Edel, Professor of Biosensing & Analytical Sciences at Imperial College London who has been working with GEC for years, will give a speech on "Biosensing in Early Diagnosis and Screening of Diseases."

Moving forward, GEC Academy will continue to invite renowned global scientists, esteemed international award winners, influential humanitarians, and accomplished professionals, including GEC's teaching faculty to present the latest cutting-edge technologies and share their extensive knowledge in humanities across various fields with Chinese university students. For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist [Katrina](mailto:katrina.wang@gecacademy.com) at katrina.wang@gecacademy.com. For GEC faculty who might be interested in giving a speech at our next **Global Top Scientists Forum**, please contact your academic manager.

May

GEC Academy Successfully Hosted the April Global Top Scientists Forum at Imperial College London

The Third Global Top Scientists Forum, co-hosted by GEC Academy and the Chinese Students & Scholars Association of Imperial College, came to a successful close on April 19th with the theme of "New Strategies and Technologies in Biosensing & Analytical Chemistry". The keynote speaker for this academic seminar was Professor Joshua Edel, Professor of Biosensing & Analytical Sciences in the Department of Chemistry at Imperial College London, who has also been working with GEC for many years. Notably, this academic seminar marked the first time since the inception of the Global Top Scientists Forum that an offline lecture format was adopted, while utilizing online live streaming to encourage greater interaction among students from both UK and China. This event was also the first academic seminar hosted onsite since the Pandemic outbreak.



A glimpse into the forum at Imperial College London

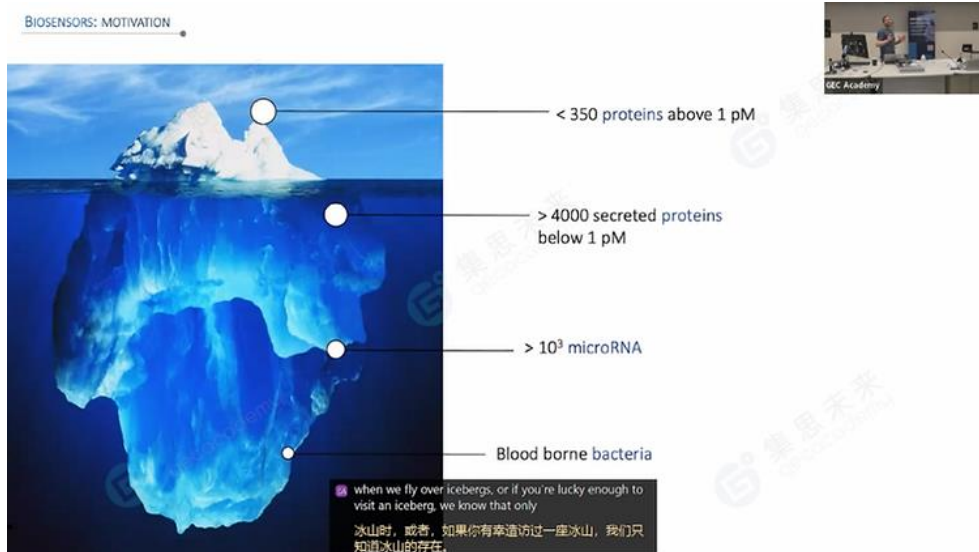
At the beginning of the lecture, Professor Edel shared his personal experience in biosensing research. He explained that his passion for this field was sparked during his senior year at the University of British Columbia while working on a synthetic chemistry project involving nanotechnology. To deepen his understanding of this concept, he delved into the works of Richard Feynman, the Nobel Laureate in Physics in 1965. Feynman's proposal of manipulating atoms to create matter was the origin of nanotechnology and captured Professor Edel's attention.



Professor Edel introducing biosensing technology

May

During the lecture, Professor Edel also emphasized the importance of biosensing research and designing smaller and more precise biosensors. He used the metaphor of an iceberg, “as we know when we fly over icebergs or if you’re lucky enough to visit an iceberg, we know that only the tip of the iceberg is exposed to the local environment. So we’re flying over an iceberg, we could see the tip of the iceberg. But the majority of the iceberg is below sea level. So by simple visualization, we won’t be seeing the majority of the iceberg.” He then noted that conventional instruments may only detect high peak concentrations of protein A in a serum sample, similar to how only a small portion of an iceberg is visible above water. However, more advanced biosensors can detect protein B, which is difficult to identify and present at much lower concentrations than protein A. This highlights the need to design and research better detection products for biomolecules.



Professor Edel using the metaphor of an iceberg to highlight the importance of biosensing research and designing smaller and more precise biosensors

In response to inquiries from students about preparing nanopores, Professor Edel offered two methods: using biological molecules and DNA sequencing. He explained that using biological molecules involves utilizing existing channels found in biological systems, such as protein channels, to prepare nanopores. This method has the advantage of using natural molecular structures to prepare pores, which can be further modified and optimized with genetic engineering techniques. Using DNA molecules to prepare nanopores provides highly uniform pores, and pore size and shape can be adjusted by controlling the DNA sequence.

The Third Global Top Scientists Forum highlighted the significance of advancing biosensing research and designing more precise biosensors. The upcoming Global Top Scientists Forum will also focus on biosensing technology, specifically Bioelectronic Sensors, and will be presented by GEC’s teaching faculty, George Malliaras, Prince Philip Professor of Technology at the University of Cambridge on May 17th from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM via [Zoom meeting](#). The forum is open to all interested individuals, and the meeting ID is **868 9252 9438**.

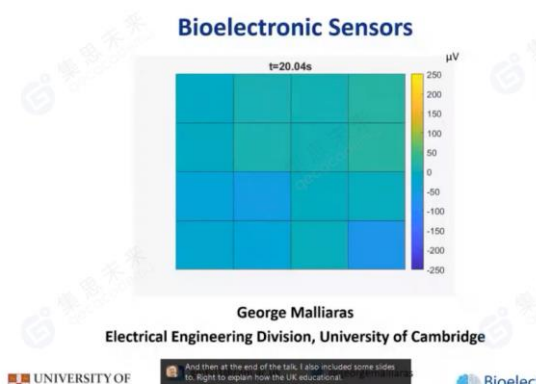
Moreover, as part of our commitment to providing a well-rounded education to Chinese university students, GEC Academy will continue to invite distinguished individuals, including international award recipients, renowned global scientists, influential humanitarians, accomplished professionals, and our own faculty members, to share their extensive knowledge on cutting-edge technologies and various fields of humanities. GEC will also explore opportunities to host offline lectures, bringing together experts in different fields to showcase innovative technologies and inspire students to succeed in their future academic and professional pursuits.

For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist Katrina at katrina.wang@gecacademy.com. For GEC faculty who might be interested in giving a speech at our next Global Top Scientists Forum, please contact your academic manager.

The Fourth GEC Global Top Scientists Forum Sparks Excitement with Insights on Bioelectronic Sensors

On May 17th, GEC Academy hosted the Fourth Global Top Scientists Forum, featuring an online keynote lecture by one of GEC's teaching faculties, Professor George Malliaras, the Prince Philip Professor of Technology at the University of Cambridge. The lecture focused on the fascinating field of Bioelectronic Sensors, which has become a hot-button topic provoking conversations over the past few years.

The audience for this online lecture primarily comprised students from various Chinese universities, studying medicine and biology, who greatly benefited from Professor Malliaras' profound expertise in this field. Apart from sharing valuable insights into bioelectronic sensors, Professor Malliaras also offered a glimpse into how UK educational system works from the admission perspective and shared tips on how to apply to graduate programs by taking the University of Cambridge as an example. Overall, it was a highly informative and enriching experience for all attendees.



Professor Malliaras expressing his gratitude and pleasure for giving a lecture at the forum



Professor Malliaras expounding on the common methods for detecting diseases

The discussion began with a focus on the benefits of bioelectronic sensors, particularly as highlighted by Professor Malliaras who emphasized their critical role in disease treatment. By allowing for the tracking of disease origins and early detection, sensors have become indispensable tools in promoting effective treatment. He also noted that the use of sensors has played a pivotal role in advancing precision agriculture and ensuring the preservation of our planet's ecological environment.

Professor Malliaras then delved into the common methods used to detect diseases, with Immunoassays and PCR gaining momentum as a result of their effectiveness in combating the pandemic. He also drew attention to two novel diagnostic approaches that are gaining popularity: wearable sensors for continuous health monitoring and in vitro biosensors for detecting metabolites and disease markers. These approaches show great promise in revolutionizing diagnostics.

Apart from discussing the advantages and methods of bioelectronic sensors, Professor Malliaras also raised the ethical issues brought by these sensors. He explained that with the proliferation of wearable devices, sensitive data about the wearer and their surroundings are collected and uploaded to the cloud. As a result, ethical issues and concerns about privacy and data protection have emerged due to the lack of regulation and legislation. Regulatory frameworks like the EU's General Data Protection Regulation aim to address these issues.

Privacy issues for wearable devices

- Shift towards direct-to-customer medical technology
- Wearables can generate wealth of sensitive data
 - Often coupled with cell phone, uploaded on cloud
 - Easy to identify wearer, surroundings
- Traditionally lacking legislation
 - Who owns the data?
 - How can the data be used?
 - How is the data protected?
- General Data Protection Regulation
 - Law as of May 25, 2018
 - "Data subject"



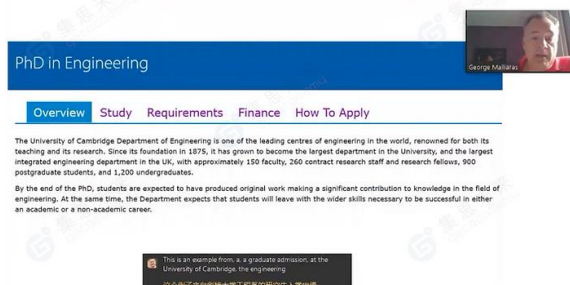
Professor Malliaras introducing the ethical issues raised owing to the development of wearable devices

After the discussion about the topic of bioelectronic sensors, Professor Malliaras drew upon his extensive experience in managing admission exams to provide valuable insights on students' applying to universities and colleges in the UK. He introduced the subtle differences in the educational systems across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which compose the UK's academic system, and emphasized the important role of university's admission websites in providing information on programs, departments, and expectations, and advised students to make good use of these websites to learn about the requirements of the programs and universities or colleges they are interested in. To illustrate, he discussed at length the University of Cambridge's admission process, stressing the crucial role of interviews in evaluating candidates' performance and achievements, particularly for graduate programs. He also underscored the importance of finding a suitable supervisor and recommended that prospective graduate students take the initiative to reach out to students in the supervisor's group to gain a deeper understanding of the laboratory's research direction and ensure alignment with their personal interests.

During the Q&A session at the forum, students from various universities contributed significantly to the discussion on British university applications and bioelectronic sensors. Some students asked whether exceptional research skills could increase their competitiveness in university applications if their GPA was not a strong suit. Professor Malliaras explained that while impressive research achievements can have an impact, good grades are still essential prerequisites for admission at each institution. In addition to good grades, Professor Malliaras stressed the importance of reference letters and extracurricular activities in a CV.

Students also asked about the replaceability of needles in glucose monitoring devices. Professor Malliaras confirmed that the needles are consumable and should be replaced regularly to ensure accuracy and hygiene. He emphasized the importance of maintaining device performance and safety, reminding students to promptly replace needles when using glucose monitoring devices.

Example from University of Cambridge



An example from graduate admission of the Engineering program at the University of Cambridge

Since the announcement of the Global Top Scientists Forum series in late 2022, GEC has made efforts to create an interactive platform for global scientists and students, facilitating the dissemination of knowledge and ideas. The initiative seeks to broaden horizons and deepen understanding among students by providing insights into cutting-edge developments across diverse fields. The forum has covered a wide range of topics, including biology, chemistry, medicine, economics, and finance, providing valuable resources for students' development. Lectures offer important insights into school applications and expert guidance for students navigating their academic journeys. The most recent forums have focused on bioelectronic sensors and new strategies and technologies in biosensing and analytical chemistry.

The upcoming Zoom meeting on June 21st, from 9:00 am to 10:00 am (Beijing time), will feature Professor Randy W. Schekman, 2013 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine and Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. The focus will be on tackling Parkinson's disease with basic science via [Zoom Meeting](#) and the meeting ID is 810 9533 7808.

For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist, [Katrina, at katrina.wang@gecademy.com](mailto:Katrina.wang@gecademy.com). GEC faculty who are interested in giving a speech at the next Global Top Scientists Forum should contact their academic manager.

Nobel Laureate Dr. Randy W. Schekman Took the Stage Again at GEC Global Top Scientists Forum to Explore Innovative Approaches to Parkinson's Disease

On June 21st, GEC Academy successfully hosted the Fifth Global Top Scientists Forum, featuring an online keynote lecture by Nobel Laureate Dr. Randy W. Schekman on the theme of *Tackling Parkinson's Disease with Basic Science*. Students from diverse Chinese universities, studying medicine and biology, made up the majority of the audience for this online lecture and derived significant insights of Parkinson's Disease from Dr. Schekman's expert perspectives in this domain.

Dr. Schekman is a Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, and he was elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences in 1992 and in 2000 became a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. For his insights into the genetic mechanisms underlying vesicle transport, Dr. Schekman was awarded the 2013 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. This was the second time that Dr. Schekman had been invited to deliver a speech at our Global Top Scientists Forum. His initial speech, held in December 2022, was titled *Secretary Pathway: How Cells Package and Traffic Proteins for Export*.



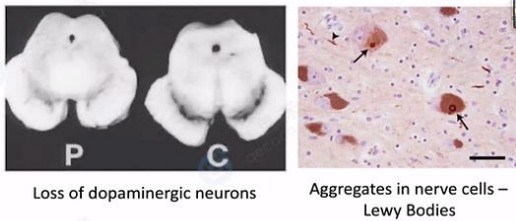
Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy, hosted the meeting and graciously introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Randy W. Schekman to the audience. He also recalled their American exchange at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine during GEC Academy's one-month visiting tour to meet with some of collaborating faculty and friends the first time after the pandemic.



Dr. Randy W. Schekman (left) and Mr. Sheng Yan (right) at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine in the United States

During the lecture, Dr. Schekman delved into the nature of Parkinson's disease, the increasing global incidence, and the complexities involved in its diagnosis and treatment. He emphasized the importance of recognizing Parkinson's as a spectrum disorder, highlighting its genetic intricacies and the need for multidimensional research methods. To facilitate precise treatment, Dr. Schekman also mentioned the common features of Parkinson's disease, making it essential to understand the variety of forms and a deeper comprehension of the disease.

Loss of DA neurons, Lewy bodies and α -syn



Loss of dopaminergic neurons

Aggregates in nerve cells –
Lewy Bodies

α -syn accumulation first, of the loss of the cells and the bit. Now

ADP E46K A53T 40 AA

正在进行中。让我告诉你，帕金森氏症最常见的特征之一就是细胞的积累，首先是细胞的丢失。现在，

Dr. Schekman introducing the common features and one of the major molecular features of Parkinson's disease

As Mrs. Schekman was in decline and after she died, Dr. Schekman received a research invitation from the Sergey Brin Family Foundation, with the hope that he could develop a program of basic science to gain a better understanding of Parkinson's disease at the molecular and cellular levels. Consequently, Dr. Schekman and his colleagues initiated an organization called "Aligning Science Across Parkinson's", with the aim to "build out a research roadmap which identifies large-scale, innovative solutions to address key knowledge gaps in our fundamental understanding of how Parkinson's disease develops and progresses."

Dr. Schekman and his team were committed to searching for new therapeutic methods, forging collaborations with other scientists, research institutions, and medical scholars, and pooling their expertise and resources in pursuit of groundbreaking solutions to alleviating the burden that Parkinson's disease imposed on patients and their families.

The forum concluded with an insightful Q&A session where Dr. Schekman discussed the importance of exercise for people with Parkinson's disease. He also mentioned an ongoing study on the hormone Irisin, which demonstrated promising effects on the aggregated form of α -synuclein. While the relationship between Parkinson's disease and stress or depression remained unclear, depressive symptoms were frequently observed among individuals with Parkinson's disease. Dr. Schekman further highlighted the impact of physical damage and toxins on the development of Parkinson's disease, noting a higher incidence among people working in chemical factories and a negative correlation with smoking. The merits of music in the treatment of Parkinson's disease were also underscored for individuals who had lost their verbal communication ability.

This Global Top Scientists Forum hosted by GEC Academy, focused on the progress of Parkinson's research and treatment. As the keynote speaker, Dr. Randy W. Schekman brought thought-provoking perspectives and the latest research on Parkinson's disease to college students. Dr. Schekman hoped that this academic forum could deepen the understanding of university students on Parkinson's disease, and continue to explore its mechanism and treatment direction in the future academic field to make a profound contribution to the research and treatment of the disease.

Global Top Scientists Forum is an initiative to create an interactive platform for global scientists and students to exchange ideas. GEC Academy is very pleased to have our faculty to bring insights on a wide range of topics across diverse fields. For those who might be interested in working with GEC, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist, Katrina, at katrina.wang@gecacademy.com. GEC faculty who are interested in giving a speech at the next Global Top Scientists Forum should contact their academic manager.

Dr. Schekman also shared his personal experience of his wife's battle against Parkinson's disease. Mrs. Schekman presented with early signs of movement disorder, including impaired sense of smell and other related manifestations, ultimately leading to a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. Despite initial treatment with dopamine replacement therapy, her condition progressively declined. While Deep Brain Stimulation provided temporary respite, her subsequent diagnosis of dementia had a significant detrimental effect on her psychological health and worsened her condition.



forms of alpha synuclein, but that is just a speculation well, as time went on her movement

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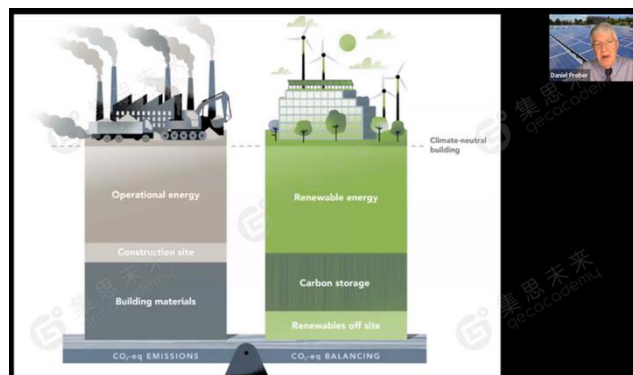
Dr. Schekman sharing his personal experience of his wife's battle against Parkinson's disease

A Fresh Perspective on Green Development of Cities for a Sustainable World: Yale Professor Daniel Prober's Open Lecture at GEC Global Scientists Forum

The August Global Top Scientists Forum, thoughtfully organized by GEC Academy, played host to an inspiring online open lecture delivered by Professor Daniel Prober from Yale University, who also obtained the prestigious Yale Science and Engineering 2019 Award for the Advancement of Basic and Applied Science, as well as the esteemed IEEE Council on Superconductivity Lifetime 'Achievement Award, 2018,' recognizing his enduring and substantial contributions to the domain of superconductive electronics.

With a resounding theme centered around "Green Cities in the Mid-21st Century," Professor Prober's online lecture stood as a beacon of insight in the ever-evolving landscape of sustainable urban development. As the world grapples with the pressing need for environmentally conscious urbanization, Professor Prober's discourse delved deep into the prevailing trends, shedding light on the application and progression of "clean" power generation technologies within the realms of urban architecture and transportation, making a profound impact on the audience, particularly on students from Chinese universities specializing in Physics and Energy and Environmental Engineering. This event ignited a fresh commitment to creating greener and more sustainable cities for the future..

The forum commenced with Professor Prober expressing his gratitude for the invitation and providing a concise preview of the lecture's contents. He began by drawing insightful comparisons among various methods of electricity generation, highlighting the detrimental impact of traditional fossil fuel usage on the sustainable development of urban environments. Additionally, he introduced the innovative concept of carbon capture and storage as a pivotal step towards greener cities in the future. Professor Prober passionately advocated for the vigorous development of clean energy sources, promoting a transformative shift from high-carbon to low-carbon energy solutions while moving away from fossil fuels. Among the promising options, he spotlighted renewable sources such as solar energy and wind power as the leading contenders to guide our cities toward a more sustainable, environmentally-conscious future.



Electric power traditionally produced with fossil fuel vs. electric energy produced with renewable solar panels or wind

In terms of Yale University's Technological Innovations, Professor Prober revealed that Yale University's approach to power generation involves the utilization of natural gas, a resource at the forefront of sustainable practices. Yale University also strategically employs oil as a backup energy source and adopts energy-efficient "co-generation" to reduce dependence on traditional energy sources, significantly lowering harmful emissions like carbon dioxide while greatly improving energy efficiency.

Energy Technology for the 21st Century and Carbon Neutral Cities

- Daniel Prober, Prof. Applied Physics, Physics, and EE
Yale University

- Today - Fossil fuels, Power plants
- Today - Yale innovations
- Tomorrow - Electric autos, electric buildings
- Future – maglev, H economy, all-solar+wind



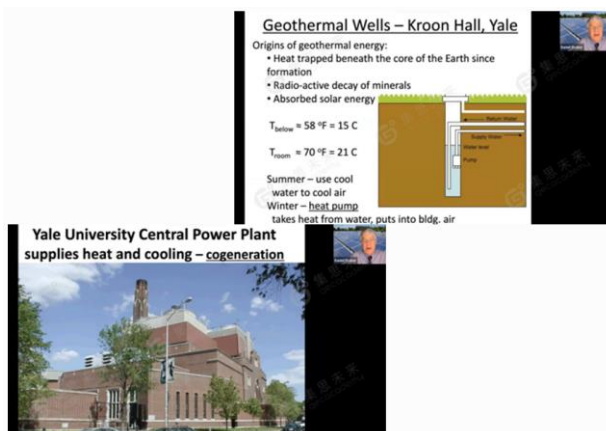
Professor Prober's lecture overview

Professor Prober further delved into the realm of urban transportation, explaining the application of diverse green power generation methods. These methods included solar energy, wind power, hydrogen fuel cells, Vehicle to Grid Connectivity, and the revolutionary technology of magnetic levitation. Additionally, Professor Prober emphasized two pivotal future directions for cities in the realm of transportation. Firstly, he underscored the importance of localized transportation units as a means to reduce the carbon footprint and promote sustainability within urban areas. Secondly, he highlighted the trend towards diminishing personal vehicle ownership, emphasizing the significance of shared mobility solutions and their potential to transform urban transportation for the better.



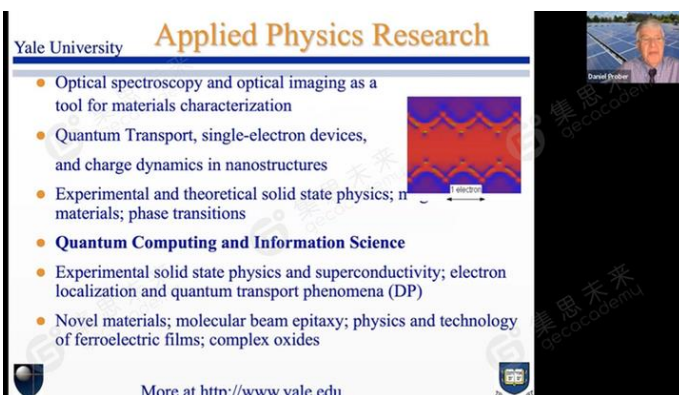
Application of diverse green power generation methods in the field of urban transportation

The forum concluded with an insightful Q&A session, during which Professor Prober addressed doubts and questions from students regarding the lecture. He noted that most universities offer energy-related majors and that students have diverse opportunities to unlock their potential. He used his students at Yale as examples to showcase impressive research results, providing inspiration for students to clarify their research directions. Some students also inquired about applying advanced technologies to underdeveloped areas. Professor Prober highlighted that different regions can secure funding and technological support by leveraging their distinctive advantages, providing compelling examples.



Technological innovations introduction of "co-generation" and "geothermal heating and cooling"

Towards the lecture's conclusion, Professor Prober offered valuable insights from his experience working with the admission committee at the Yale Engineering School. Beyond addressing common challenges students face when applying for undergraduate or graduate programs, he delved into prospective career pathways for Yale University graduates.



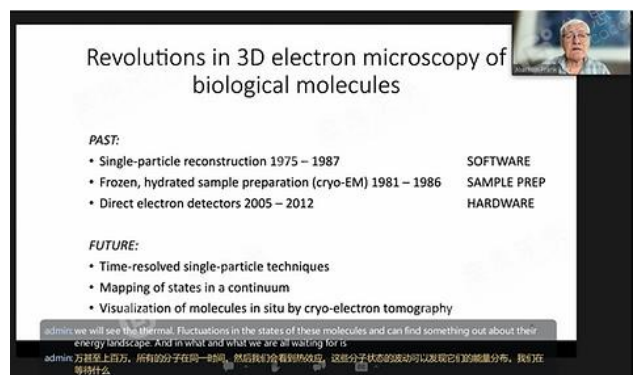
Research areas of Applied Physics at Yale University

The Revolutionary Power of Single-Particle Cryo-EM: Visualizing Reactions Between Biological Molecules with Nobel Laureate Joachim Frank

On September 27th, GEC Academy successfully hosted the Global Top Scientists Forum featuring an illuminating online open lecture delivered by Professor Joachim Frank, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics and of Biological Sciences at Columbia University. The lecture on the theme of **Visualizing Reactions Between Biomolecules by Single-Particle Cryo-EM** drew a diverse audience comprised mostly of university students specializing in Physics, Biology, and Chemistry. It provided a comprehensive overview of the current hot topic of cryo-electron microscopy, delving into its recent developments, exploring its prospects in great depth, as well as shedding light on the capability of single-particle cryo-EM in visualizing biomolecular interactions, inspiring attendees to push the boundaries of biomolecular research and chart new courses in scientific discovery.

The development of cryo-electron microscopy is largely attributed to Professor Frank's groundbreaking work on image-processing techniques, for which he was granted the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. He was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences in 2006, and he was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Biophysical Society in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the scientific community.

Cryo-EM has shown itself to be an invaluable tool in the field of structural biology research, Professor Frank stated, the three-dimensional structure and biological interactions of biomolecules can be reconstructed with atomic resolution in a near-natural state. Therefore, cryo-electron microscopy has been widely used as an important tool to reveal the structure of biomolecules including viruses, ribosomes, proteins, and protein complexes, and Cryo-EM could be able to capture the transient structural states of functional macromolecules on a time scale of 1ms.



Revolutions in 3D electron microscopy of biological molecules

PAST:

- Single-particle reconstruction 1975 – 1987
- Frozen, hydrated sample preparation (cryo-EM) 1981 – 1986
- Direct electron detectors 2005 – 2012

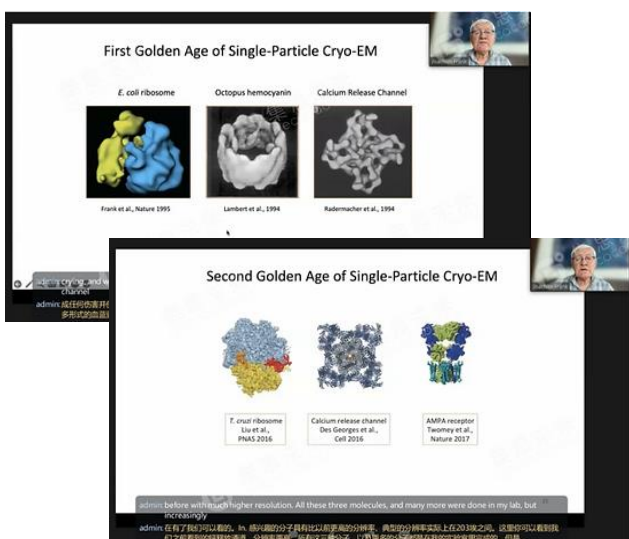
SOFTWARE
SAMPLE PREP
HARDWARE

FUTURE:

- Time-resolved single-particle techniques
- Mapping of states in a continuum
- Visualization of molecules in situ by cryo-electron tomography

admin: we will see the thermal fluctuations in the states of these molecules and can find something out about their energy landscape. And in what and what we are all waiting for is
admin: 万组以上百万, 所有的分子在同一时间, 然后我们会看到响应, 这些分子状态的波动可以反映它们的能量分布, 我们在等待什么

The revolutions in 3D electron microscopy of biological molecules and its future



First Golden Age of Single-Particle Cryo-EM

E. coli ribosome
Frank et al., Nature 1995

Octopus hemocyanin
Lambert et al., 1994

Calcium Release Channel
Rademacher et al., 1994

admin: before with much higher resolution. All these three molecules, and many more were done in my lab, but increasingly

admin: 在有了更好的分辨率, 我们以前做的分子是比这有更低的分辨率, 我们做的分辨率是在200埃左右, 但是你可以看到现在分辨率可以达到更低的, 分辨率可以达到二埃, 所以这些分子是在我的实验室做的, 但是

The First and Second Golden Age of Single-Particle Cryo-EM Introduction

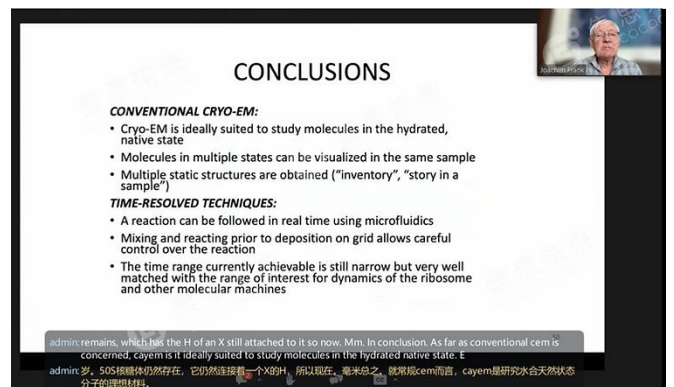
Professor Frank gave a thorough overview of the three evolutionary steps that three-dimensional electron microscopy of biological molecules has taken, as well as the future paths that the field is expected to take. He noted that single-particle cryo-EM saw its first golden age after the first and second revolutions, when the exquisite structures of the ribosome, various hemocyanin forms, and the calcium release channel were obtained, revealing detail never seen, albeit at a relatively low resolution. Single-particle cryo-EM, which boasted structural resolutions as high as 2Å to 3Å, began its second golden era after the third revolution. In addition, Professor Frank emphasized the recent significant advancements in this field, such as time-resolved cryo-electron microscopy, mapping states in a continuum, and cryo-electron tomography representations of molecules in situ.



Innovations of PDMS-based microfluidic biochip

An innovation of Cryo-EM of PDMS-based microfluidic chip was highly emphasized by Professor Frank, which was designed by his student Dr. Xiangsong Feng. A high-efficiency mixer, SO₂ coating preventing molecular adhesion, a 3D sprayer, and control of ice thickness were setup on Cryo-EM. The purpose of the microfluidic chip is to prepare biological samples that are more in line with the requirements of the experimental level. So, when compared to conventional methods, Feng proposed is more practical, more cost-effective, and more efficient. On the other hand, the topic of the combination of Cryo-EM and biochips will become one of the important development directions.

At the end of the lecture, students had a heated discussion on the application of cryo-EM in medicine with professors Frank. Moreover, he pointed out that technological breakthroughs in single-particle cryo-electron microscopy have pushed structural biology into a new era. With the development of many new technologies, the field of cryo-electron microscopy also has many aspects that can continue to improve. Examples include optimizing image contrast, new sample preparation techniques, and even incorporating more physics, materials science, and computer science techniques

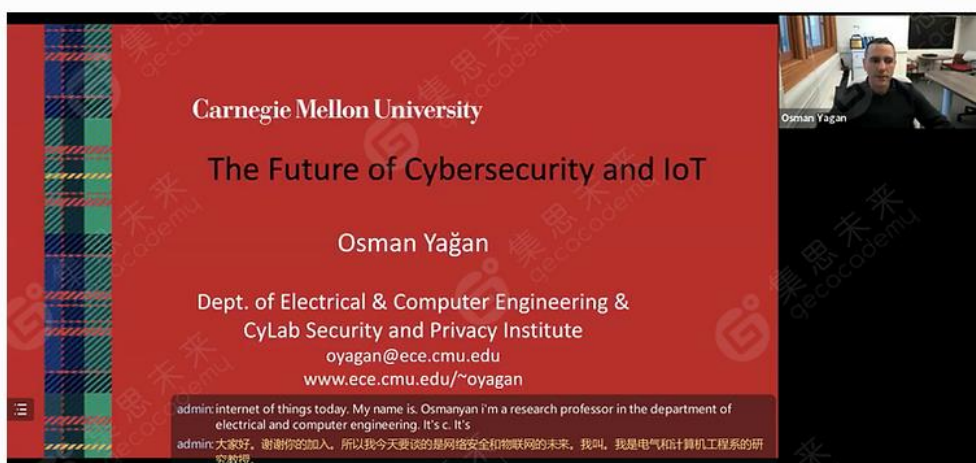


Features comparison between conventional cryo-EM and time-resolved techniques

Journey into the World of Cybersecurity and IoT: Discovering New Technologies and Anticipating Trends at GEC October Global Top Scientists Forum

On October 18th, GEC Academy successfully hosted the Global Top Scientists Forum on the theme of **The Future of Cybersecurity and the Internet of Things (IoT)** delivered by **Dr. Osman Yağan, a Research Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University**. This enlightening online open lecture covered the current hot topics in the fields of cybersecurity and IoT, attracting a diverse audience primarily comprised of university students specializing in computer science. It provided a detailed introduction to the current landscape of cybersecurity and IoT, engaging participants in immersive discussions regarding the novel opportunities and formidable challenges that permeate these two prominent domains.

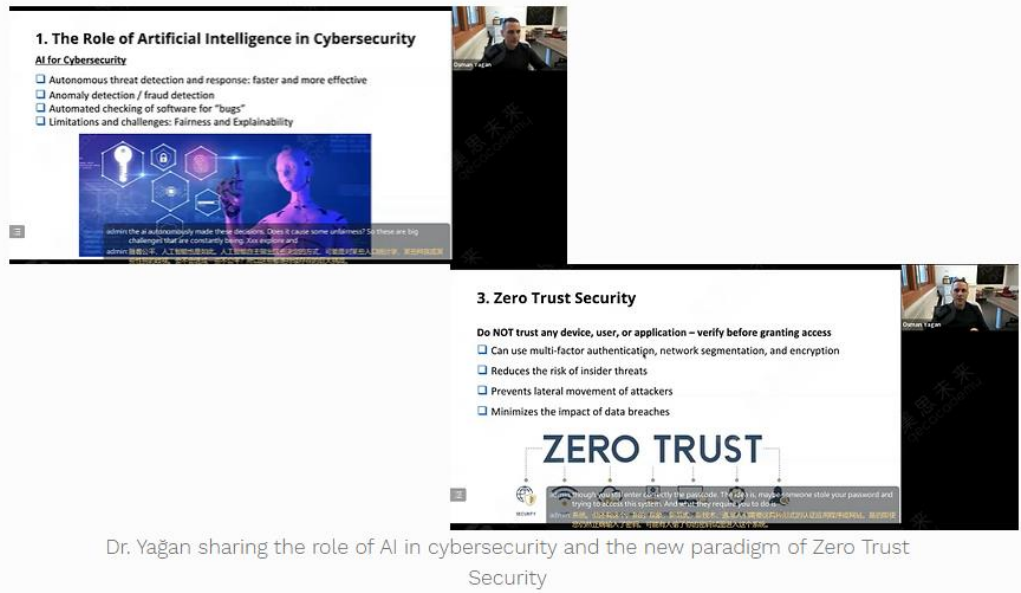
Dr. Yağan, the keynote speaker of the October Global Top Scientists Forum, is not only a Senior Member of IEEE, but also an active member of the Technical Program Committee member of several international conferences, including IEEE GLOBECOM, PIMRC, ICC, and WiOpt. His research interests encompass modeling, design, and performance evaluation of engineering systems with particular emphasis on communication systems and networks, including topics such as wireless communications, security, random graphs, social and information networks, and cyber-physical systems. Furthermore, Dr. Yağan has cultivated a longstanding partnership with GEC, collaborating on a multitude of projects both online and offline, and spearheading project-based learning programs in various Computer Science domains. These programs cover diverse subjects such as Introduction to Machine Learning and Data Science, Introduction to Multi-armed Bandit Algorithms, Analytical Design and Performance Evaluation, etc..



Dr. Yağan introducing lecture overview

The entire forum is centered around two primary themes: network security and the Internet of Things (IoT).

When shedding light on the current panorama of cybersecurity, he pointed out that **in recent years, cybersecurity has faced complex and ever-evolving challenges**, including but not limited to the growing frequency and severity of attacks, rampant ransomware, the escalating cost of cybercrime, expanding scope of network attacks, as well as the scarcity of cybersecurity professionals. **He also introduced the role of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity, the main challenges facing data privacy, the paradigm of "Zero Trust Security," and the emerging field of social cybersecurity.** He mentioned that while AI-driven automation technology has undeniably improved the speed and efficiency of detecting attacks, it has also engendered a host of challenges, such as limitations in explanation and fairness.



1. The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Cybersecurity
AI for Cybersecurity

- Autonomous threat detection and response: faster and more effective
- Anomaly detection / fraud detection
- Automated checking of software for "bugs"
- Limitations and challenges: Fairness and Explainability

3. Zero Trust Security

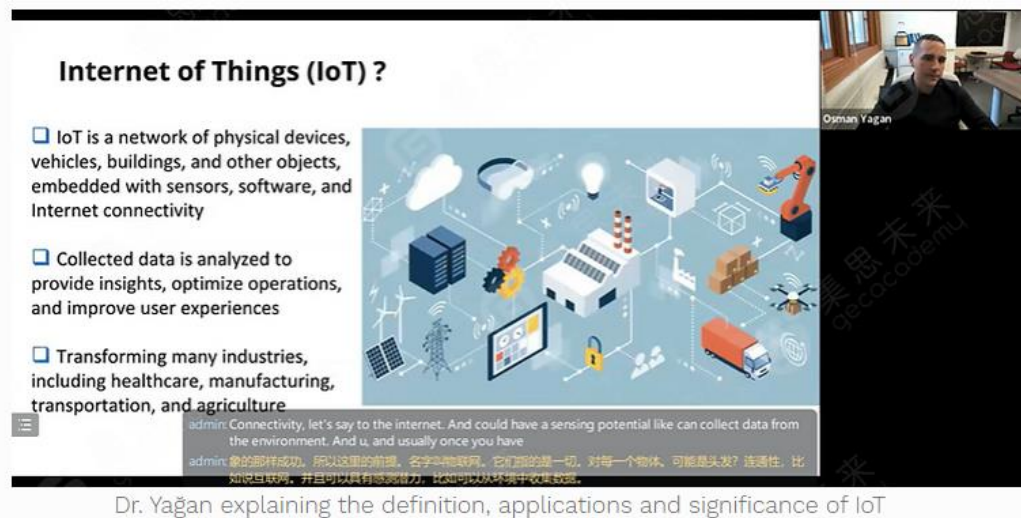
Do NOT trust any device, user, or application – verify before granting access

- Can use multi-factor authentication, network segmentation, and encryption
- Reduces the risk of insider threats
- Prevents lateral movement of attackers
- Minimizes the impact of data breaches

ZERO TRUST

Dr. Yağan sharing the role of AI in cybersecurity and the new paradigm of Zero Trust Security

While talking about IoT, Dr. Yağan delved into the essence and evolving trends of IoT, elucidated the pivotal role played by AI in this technological domain. He also introduced the concept of "Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)," and explored the inherent security and privacy concerns regarding IoT. Dr. Yağan emphasized how IoT technology has enriched human life with manifold benefits, including home automation devices, agriculture, transportation, manufacturing, and healthcare monitoring. However, he also pointed out the new challenges posed by IoT technology, particularly in the realms of security and privacy. To solve the problems out, he proposed several strategies to tackle these challenges, including establishing transparent mechanisms for privacy protection, formulating more comprehensive policies and regulations, and clearly defining which data can be collected and shared with other entities.



Internet of Things (IoT) ?

- IoT is a network of physical devices, vehicles, buildings, and other objects, embedded with sensors, software, and Internet connectivity
- Collected data is analyzed to provide insights, optimize operations, and improve user experiences
- Transforming many industries, including healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, and agriculture

Dr. Yağan explaining the definition, applications and significance of IoT

Followed by a lively Q&A session where students engaged in an in-depth discussion with Dr. Yağan on topics such as data security issues in IoT technology, the relationship between IoT and ChatGPT, and potential career pathways in the field of cybersecurity, the forum came to a close. Dr. Yağan summarized that there is a vast array of untapped opportunities awaiting exploration within the realms of cybersecurity and IoT. He then emphasized the promising prospects for aspiring students, asserting that cybersecurity is poised to become a high-demand field in the coming years, making it an excellent career choice for those interested.

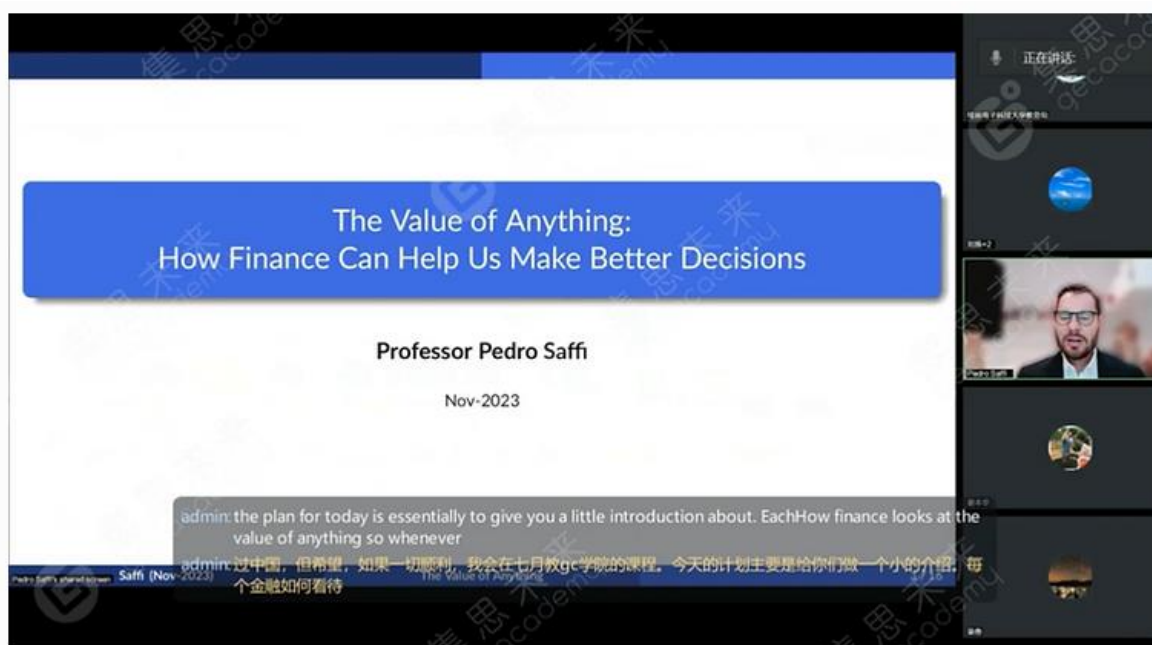
What's next

November 21st will witness the upcoming Global Top Scientists Forum on the theme of "The Value of Anything: How Finance Can Help Us Make Better Decisions" via **Tencent meeting** from 20:00 to 21:00, Beijing time. The forum is open to all interested individuals, and the meeting ID is 742-279-293.

The Last GEC Global Top Scientific Forum in 2023: Academic Open Lecture Explores Value Evaluation and Decision Optimization

On November 21st, GEC Academy successfully concluded its last 2023 Global Top Scientists Forum delivered by Professor Pedro Saffi on “The Value of Anything: How Finance Can Help Us Make Better Decisions”. The illuminating online open lecture shed light on the assessment of value from a financial perspective, providing a nuanced examination of the costs and benefits inherent in each of our choices. It facilitates a more profound scrutiny of the underlying financial considerations, thereby empowering individuals to make decisions that are judicious and well-informed.

As Professor of Financial Economics and Director of Master of Finance Degree at Cambridge Judge Business School, Professor Saffi’s previous teaching experience includes courses for MBA, EMBA, MPhil and Executive Education students at Cambridge Judge Business School, IESE, London Business School, etc. His research interests include security lending markets, short selling, liquidity risk, and how differences of beliefs affect trading volume. His consulting experience is centered on valuation, including work as an expert to international arbitration courts, and the analysis of pharmaceutical firms’ value. He has also presented his work in the most prestigious academic conferences and contributed with articles to popular press, like *the Journal of Finance*, *the Review of Financial Studies*, *Management Science*, and the *JFQA*.



Professor Saffi introducing lecture overview

The main topic of the lecture was value evaluation and decision optimization. Professor Saffi placed particular emphasis on the notion that the value of anything is a function of the future benefits that making this decision will bring. He posited that the value of a choice is not solely contingent upon its monetary worth, but also encompasses a multitude of non-monetary factors that yield tangible advantages.

While talking about **how to evaluate the worth of our choices and make well-informed decisions**, Professor Saffi provided insights into two pivotal concepts during the lecture: **cash flows and the time value of money**. To quantify value, it is imperative to convert all costs and benefits to monetary flows. He underscored the dynamic nature of money’s value over time, necessitating the conversion of future money into its equivalent in the present.

2023 Faculty Meeting Calendar

Date	Topic
February 28th, Tuesday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	GEC Team Role Clarification
April 27th, Thursday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	2023 Summer Research Program Info Session
August 2nd, Wednesday, 19:00-20:30, Beijing Time	Onsite Seminar on the Impact of ChatGPT on Education at SJTU
October 25th, Wednesday, 22:00-23:00, Beijing Time	A Comprehensive Looking Back on Summer Research Program

If you want above four recordings, please contact us.

GEC Team Role Clarification

The introduced teams include the Leadership Team, the Teaching Team, the Academic Team, the Academic Branding Team, the Product Management Team, the Application Team, and the Finance Team. Their aims and responsibilities have been elaborated on in detail.

Additionally, the roles of each team have been clarified, including the president, the director, the leading instructor, the teaching fellow, the academic manager, the program coordinator, etc. The clarification centers on their responsibilities, and their names, titles, photos were also attached. Click [HERE](#) to access the recording.

Please download GEC Team Introduction [HERE](#).

Recap of 2023 April Faculty Meeting on the On-site Summer Research Program

On April 27th, GEC Academy held an information session during the April Faculty Meeting for approximately 30 professors who had expressed interest in the upcoming 2023 GEC On-site Summer Research Program. Mr. Sheng Yan, President of GEC Academy, presented important details on program arrangements, available support, and useful tips for the attending professors. In addition to Mr. Yan's presentation, two members of GEC's teaching faculty, Professors David Shimko from New York University and Professor Pavlos Protopapas shared their personal experiences at GEC's on-site camps. Their insights proved to be valuable in providing the attending professors with a clear understanding of what they could expect during their stay in China.

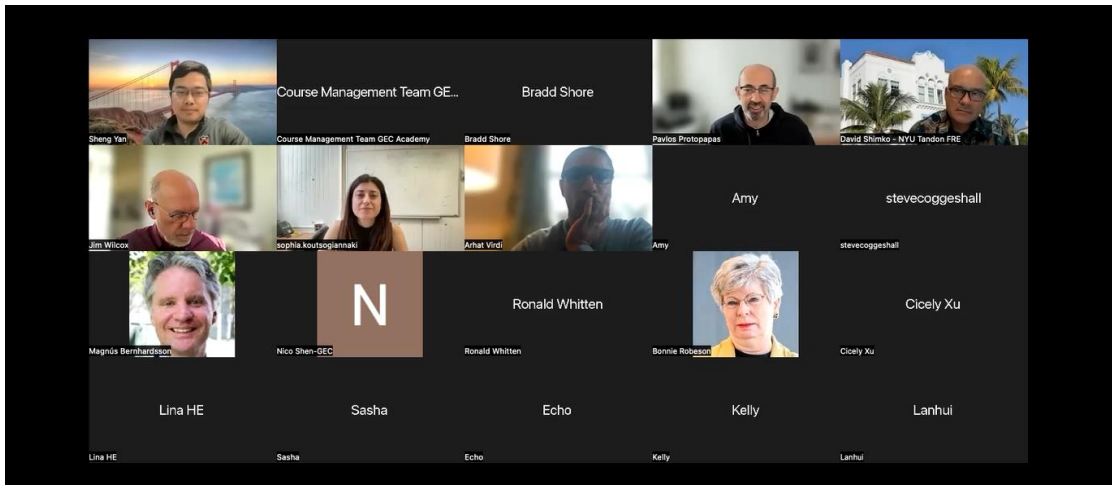


The 2023 Summer Research Program will mark the return of on-site summer camps after the pandemic outbreak. For the past three years, all professors have conducted their teaching virtually. Therefore, we are thrilled to bring the on-site camp back in person for this event, which also presents a great opportunity for us to meet GEC's teaching faculty face-to-face and offers an unforgettable learning experience for students. The Summer Research Program will take place across four campuses: Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China, Cambridge campus and Oxford campus in the UK, and Columbia campus in the US. Over 40 professors have committed to joining the program, and more than 800 students are enrolled to participate in GEC's Biggest Summer School Campaign at Shanghai Jiao Tong University in China. Topics covered during the Summer Research Program include business & finance, science & engineering, computer science & AI, and humanities & social sciences.

Arrangements for the Summer Research Program

- **July 8th & 15th:** Two online courses
- **July 23rd:** Professors suggested to arrive on campus
- **July 24th & 25th:** ICAID & opening ceremony
- **July 25th afternoon:** Program officially starts!
- **August 4th:** Camp closing ceremony

Recap of 2023 April Faculty Meeting on the On-site Summer Research Program



By the end of the meeting, Professors Shimko and Professor Protopapas shared their experiences at GEC's on-site camps. They talked about how impressed they were by the staff of GEC Academy and Chinese students, what they did and learned during their stay in China, and offered tips for professors. Professor Shimko said, "I have been collaborating with GEC Academy for many years. I was really surprised by the quality of the students in general. Chinese students are typically used to very formal classroom settings, so this is an opportunity for them to have less formal and more productive learning sessions. From that point of view, I found it to be very positive. My favorite part is that we can go out to dinner for a casual local meal with the students, form personal relationships, stay in contact, and the students may become young friends for you over time. There is also a great spot called French Concession to visit in Shanghai, full of historical meaning. Besides, I learned quite a bit of Chinese, being able to read street signs and give people directions."

Professor Protopapas added, "I know GEC Academy grew from small to big. They are well-organized and take good care of things. My first comment is about the students who are hard-working. They consistently surprise me with how much progress they make and how well they do. Additionally, it gives me the opportunity to make friends with the students, go out for a drink, and play basketball with them. I also took the opportunity to visit Chengdu and Xi'an to see Terracotta. I cannot say a single word in Chinese, but I tried everything when I was there, and I'm looking forward to seeing Shanghai. A little bit of warning is that you have to figure out how to use WeChat Pay because you have to pay for everything with it."

In addition to the Summer Research Program, GEC will co-host the International Conference on AI for Design (ICAID) on July 24th with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The summit aims to integrate science and technology subjects with literature and business subjects, bringing together professors from renowned universities in China and abroad, as well as experts and scholars from various industries. We warmly welcome interested teaching faculty to participate in this summit, which provides an excellent opportunity for networking and exchanging ideas with professionals in different fields.

If you have further questions, thoughts, or ideas about this program or ICAID, please feel free to contact your academic manager. For new professors, please feel free to contact our outreach specialist Katrina at katrina.wang@gecacademy.com. Click [HERE](#) to access last month's faculty meeting recording.

Recap: Onsite Seminar on the Impact of ChatGPT on Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

On August 2nd, GEC held the August Faculty Meeting on the theme of The Impact of ChatGPT on Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which coincided with the 2023 Summer Research Program and marked the very first time for us to organize such an on-site event since the outbreak of COVID-19. Wendy Wang, Co-founder and Academic Director of GEC Academy, started the roundtable meeting by graciously introducing the keynote professors and welcoming the audience for attending this activity. We would like to thank everyone who joined in the meeting, especially thanks to our beloved professors who were invited to share their thought-provoking opinions on the topic.



A glimpse into the meeting at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Distinguished Professors Sharing Thoughts on The Impact of ChatGPT on Education

Five professors from diverse disciplines were invited to share their insights on this subject. Through their distinct experiences, they engaged in a captivating exchange of ideas, offering thoughtful commentary that created a truly captivating intellectual experience for the audience.

- **Professor Bradd Shore, Professor of Anthropology, Emory University**

Professor Shore maintained that “Many technologies have freed human beings from certain kinds of tasks and allowed learners to go on to a higher level of learning. ChatGPT was no exception.” He said that people should not underestimate where ChatGPT could go by sharing with us several personal experiences and demonstrating that it was able to come up with creative ideas which we never would have dreamed it would do. Besides, ChatGPT presented the possibility of personalized and high-quality instruction by serving as a very powerful supplement to education. What was necessary to remember was that human beings were by nature adaptable creatures, and we should learn to incorporate new technologies in teaching.

- **Professor Francis Steen, Professor of Communication Studies, UCLA**

Professor Steen harbored the view that the development of technology had changed society dramatically and revolutionized education by overcoming geographical barriers. However, he suggested that “people should be skeptical to ChatGPT as it was trained on large language models and sometimes it could not be trusted”. Students were advised to focus on improving their own perception and skills they excel.

Onsite Seminar on the Impact of ChatGPT on Education at Shanghai Jiao Tong University

- [Professor Gina Antonello, Professor of Sport Management, New York University](#)

Professor Antonello insisted that both educators and students should move with the times and realize the potential of ChatGPT as a long-term tool by incorporating it into teaching and learning rather than banning it. That being said, she encouraged students to evaluate ChatGPT critically and with caution and take advantage of their smart brains by giving us vivid examples and pointing out that it could not replace analytical and problem-solving skills.

- [Professor Pavlos Protopapas, Scientific Program Director](#)

Professor Protopapas was intimately involved in the field of artificial intelligence. He kindly introduced the underlying logic, working mechanism and availability of ChatGPT to the audience. To his understanding, ChatGPT was more of a help than a hindrance to education because he thought that it had greatly increased efficiency and accuracy for doing academic research.

- [Professor Alberto Grünbaum, Professor Emeritus of Applied Mathematics, UC Berkeley](#)

Professor Grünbaum gave recognition to artificial intelligence since it had enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in medical diagnosis. However, he pointed out that it was a real problem if people believed everything coming out from ChatGPT by showing his personal experience. He suggested that students should have more confidence in themselves, put more emphasis on human communication and view problems through a critical lens.



A glimpse into the Q&A session of the meeting

The round-table meeting concluded with an insightful Q&A session where both guest professors and students participated in the discussion and made comments. Questions related to working mechanism, ethical considerations, authenticity, and influence regarding ChatGPT were put forward, which provoked more new understanding of this tool. The whole session was conducted in a very lively and interactive manner, captivating everyone in the audience.

GEC is deeply honored to have our esteemed teaching faculty generously share their unique and invaluable insights. GEC's unwavering commitment lies in harnessing the collective wisdom of distinguished scholars worldwide, alongside our accomplished faculty members, to illuminate cutting-edge technologies and diverse realms of the humanities. This collaboration seeks to ignite inspiration in students, propelling them toward excellence in their forthcoming academic and professional journeys.

Please click [HERE](#) to access the recording.

October Faculty Meeting Recap: 2023 Summer Research Program - Looking Back on the Past and Shaping the Future

On October 25th, GEC Academy brought together our esteemed teaching faculty and teaching fellows in a virtual gathering to reflect on their enriching experiences and insights gained during the 2023 Summer Research Program. This October faculty meeting not only served as a platform for sharing accomplishments but also ignited profound discussions on mapping out a visionary course for the future.

Tracy Zhou, Head of the Academic Management Team, set the tone for the faculty meeting with a gracious introduction of the speakers and a comprehensive overview of the program's success. From the meticulous organization of the campsite to the program's scale of enrollment, the abundance of teaching talent, and the glowing student ratings, every aspect was meticulously summarized. For an in-depth exploration of the summer's triumphs, please kindly delve into the pages of the [2023 GEC Summer Camp Report](#).

• **Insights from GEC Teaching Faculty**

Presented by Edward Mullen, the Willma and Albert Musher Professor Emeritus at Columbia University

Professor Mullen expressed his appreciation for the inspiring intensive summer research program with intelligent and highly-motivated students, and he described it as one of the best experiences of his life. "Something that I was not anticipating that I think is important is the lunch with my students at the restaurant, and that was a highlight. The students loved it because they really felt special, and it was an opportunity for a lot of photos afterwards. As far as the faculty, I think another highlight is that this is a rare opportunity, I think, for a faculty of such diversity, and from disciplines, from countries, from cultures, for all of us as a faculty to mingle and get to know one another."

Presented by Jonathan Flombaum, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at Johns Hopkins University

Professor Flombaum enthusiastically characterized the onsite program as an enriching blend of work, social engagement, and horizon-expanding experiences. Reflecting on his teaching stint at the Nord Anglia campus in Shanghai, he emphasized the advantageous availability of ample breakout spaces on the high school campus. "One particularly beneficial aspect," he shared, "was the freedom to say, 'Now, let's explore wherever you wish - be it the library, the dining hall - work in your teams on your projects.' This dynamic allowed for flexibility, with me circulating and teaching fellows engaging, assessing progress, and subsequently reconvening as a group to discuss overall observations. The ability to seamlessly transition between formal and informal spaces significantly contributed to the success of the class. This model, if replicable, holds considerable value."

