

2009 U.S. – CHINA WORK PLAN ON EDUCATION ACTIVITIES CHINESE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MOE) AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (ED)

Appreciating the importance of deepening ties grounded in the: 2008 Minutes from First High-Level U.S.-China Consultation on Education and Exchange (MFHLC); 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); 2002 Memorandum of Understanding on E-Language (MOU-EL); and, 2000 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), the Chinese Ministry of Education and the U.S. Department of Education formulate the following work plan for exchange and cooperation activities between the two countries, subject to the availability of appropriations and programmatic authority.

Part One: Higher Education

Based on 2008 MFHLC and 2006 MOU, Part 1:

Zhou Ji, Chinese Minister of Education, and Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, signed on April 16th a new 2009 Joint Statement of Exchange and Cooperation (JSEC). To fulfill the activities found in the 2009 JSEC, ED and MOE proposed the following joint activities:

- The U.S. Network for Education Information (USNEI) website be expanded to include links to the academic accreditation website in China and other countries (timeline 2009 and forward), and MOE links to USNEI.
- Consultation with the higher education community (academic institutions and organizations) take place on direct collaboration with China or the United States that includes the sharing of best teaching practices and deepening of existing ties (timeline 2009-2013).

Part Two: Language Learning and Teaching

Based on 2008 MFHLC, 2006 MOU, Part 2 and 2002 MOU-EL:

2.1 The Chinese Ministry of Education and the U.S. Department of Education will continue to fulfill the 2002 MOU regarding the U.S.-China E-Language Project to:

- Promote the Chinese Cheng Feng in the United States.

- Complete the evaluation of the Open Language Learning Initiative (OLLI).

2.2 Explore a new 2009 Language and Culture Initiative to advance and develop language education and collaboration based on mutual interests. Both the MOE and ED recognize the importance of deepening the existing partnership in language learning and culture.

- ED will encourage programs that teach the Chinese language and develop Chinese studies in American Institutions of Higher Education.
- MOE will encourage programs that teach the English language and develop American studies in Chinese Institutions of Higher Education.

Part Three: Primary and Secondary Education

Based on 2008 MFHLC and 2006 MOU, Part 3:

3.1 A successful joint China-U.S. Math Experts Meeting was held in November 2008, which led to a demand for meetings between experts in math, science and other content areas to share best practices. As a result, ED and MOE agree to:

- Consult on content for and timing of a second math experts meeting. Focus could be on: (1) education of high school gifted mathematics students – China’s suggestion; (2) grade 3-6 students who have difficulty with math concepts – U.S.A.’s suggestion; and (3) teacher training (with particular attention to such subject matter as problem solving, fractions, ratio, proportion, and middle school geometry) – U.S.A.’s suggestion.
- Consult on content for and timing of a science experts meeting. Topics could include how to attract and retain students who would major in university science related subjects, and how to overcome gender bias against girls interested in pursuing science, math or technology.
- Consult on other topics, such as educational benchmarking and vocational education where it is useful for experts to meet and discuss their research and concerns.
- Consult on best practices in these content areas.
- Include conversations on the use of open education resources as a part of all expert discussions, as is appropriate.

3.2 Promote a new 2009 initiative on K-12 International Partnership of Schools by building on the theme of 30 years of joint cooperation between

our two countries. Encourage the “twinning” of 15 American schools with 15 Chinese schools on joint projects that promote language and cultural studies among other topics:

- MOE would identify 15 high schools studying English and American Studies; ED would identify high schools studying Chinese and Asian Studies.
 - ✓ Students could meet twice in person – once in the spring in the U.S. and once in the fall in China.
 - ✓ During the year, students could engage in digital videoconferencing (DVC); blogging; e-mailing; using technology for peer presentation and review on language learning and cultural studies.
 - ✓ Teachers could share best practices with their partner schools.

- In addition, MOE and ED would share information about the importance of an international education, especially the benefits of being involved in a sister school relationship or participating in international activities like International Education Week, Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment(GLOBE), and Oracle’s Thinkquest.org.

Part Four: Regular Consultation

Based on MFHLC and 2006 MOU, Part 4:

4.1 Continue High-Level Education Consultations. In April 2008, the Chinese Vice Minister and the U.S., Under Secretary met to discuss policy issues of mutual concern. Building on this meeting, the next high-level policy meetings would focus on community colleges and vocational education. The partnership plan could be updated and high-level policy meetings could be scheduled once or twice a year, with meeting locations alternating between China and the U.S.

4.2 Continue staff-Level Consultations. Staff from both ED and MOE will continue to consult with one another on an informal basis and provide information on their education policies and programs when requested.

Signed on April 16, 2009