

# Chinese New Year Greetings from GEC Team

## Chinese New Year is COMING!

We sincerely appreciate your kindness, knowledge, and support for the past year. May 2023 bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and a lot of new inspirations in your life !

Please click [HERE](#) to watch the video we made for you.



- [Greetings from the Academic Management Team](#)



- [Greetings from the Innovative Curriculum Development Team](#)



- [Greetings from the Program Coordinator Team](#)



## FEATURED STORY

## 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 (XJTU), 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 XJTU 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 XJTU 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.”



## FEATURED STORY



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.

## FEATURED STORY



Jianlan Zhang, Professor & Dean of ILEAD-XJTU, 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 XJTU 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 XJTU 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.

## Recap of 2022 Annual Faculty Meeting

On December 28th, GEC Academy held an annual faculty meeting for its faculties, professors, and instructors. This meeting concluded this year's performance and provided a vision for 2023. The meeting agenda is as follows: 1. Faculty Outreach Team sharing; 2. Academic Management Team sharing; 3. University Higher Education Team sharing; 4. Professor Representative sharing; 4. Teaching Fellow sharing; 5. Q&A part; and 6. "Lucky draw".

- **Faculty Outreach Team sharing - Presented by Katrina Wang, Faculty Outreach Specialist**

Following topics were presented: 1. What we have achieved in 2022; 2. New Initiatives & Projects launched in 2022; 3. Additional support for GEC faculty

[Faculty Outreach Team sharing.pdf](#)

- **Academic Management Team sharing - Presented by Amy Yang, Academic Manager**

Following topics were presented: 1. Who we are?; 2. What we do?; 3. Fruitful 2022; 4. Promising 2023

[Academic Management Team Sharing.pdf](#)

- **University Higher Education Team sharing - Presented by Heather Zhao, Academic Manager for Chinese Higher institution related affairs**

Following topics were presented: 1. About me; 2. What We Do; 3. What We Have Done; 4. Plans For Next Year

[University Higher Education Team sharing.pdf](#)

- **Professor Representative sharing - Presented by Richard Pettinger, Professor of Management Education at University College London (UCL)**

During Professor Pettinger's sharing, he provided details about the two programs he teaches at GEC and other courses and speeches delivered by him, which were offered to Chinese universities in 2022, as well as his overall working experience with GEC. He shared with the group some amazing teaching and working practices.

- **Teaching Fellow sharing - Presented by Pinar Kolancali, Post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Education, University of Oxford**

Dr. Pinar Kolancali has worked with GEC since 2019 and taught courses in psychology, education, and sociology. During Dr. Kolancali's sharing, she reflected on her own teaching experience at GEC and introduced to the group some important features of GEC program and offered suggestions to new instructors. She also pointed out some of the challenges and opened a discussion for future directions that can better improve the teaching experience for all instructors.

### "Lucky Draw"

Congratulations to Professor Daniel Prober and Professor Jefferey Green who are the winners of the 2022 GEC "Lucky Draw" who will receive FREE Disneyland tickets for them and their family.

**\*For all GEC faculty: Please contact your academic manager or outreach specialist (if you haven't been assigned to any GEC academic manager yet) for the meeting recording.**

### 2023 Faculty Round Table Meeting Schedule (Tentative & Welcome Suggestions!)

Feb: Role clarification and definition among program staff  
 April: Innovative use of IT in teaching/ Effective online teaching  
 June: GEC Research Seminar Series: Focusing on Biomedics Topics  
 August: Best practices working with TA's and mentors  
 October: Best practices in course development and delivery  
 December: Annual Meeting

Please [RSVP HERE](#) to attend our February faculty meeting !

## Faculty Work Gallery

*This month we introduced a paper from **Professor Michela Giorcelli**. If you are interested in showcasing your research, grants, book releases, conference presentations, or any work you deem valuable and interesting to share, please feel free to contact us.*

### Reconstruction Aid, Public Infrastructure, and Economic Development: The Case of the Marshall Plan in Italy

#### Author Information



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Michela Giorcelli

#### [Reconstruction Aid, Public Infrastructure, and Economic Development: The Case of the Marshall Plan in Italy](#)

Authors Michela Giorcelli, Nicola Bianchi  
Publication date 2023/6/1  
Journal Journal of Economic History  
Issue forthcoming, 2022

Description The Marshall Plan (1948–1952) was the largest aid transfer in history. This paper estimates its effects on Italy's postwar economic development. It exploits differences between Italian provinces in the value of reconstruction grants they received. Provinces that could modernize more their infrastructure experienced higher increases in agricultural production, especially for perishable crops. In the same provinces, we observe larger investments in labor-saving machines, the entry of more firms into the industrial sector, and a larger expansion of the industrial and service workforce.

#### Abstract

The Marshall Plan (1948–1952) was the largest aid transfer in history. This paper estimates its effects on Italy's postwar economic development. It exploits differences between Italian provinces in the value of reconstruction grants they received. Provinces that could modernize more their infrastructure experienced higher increases in agricultural production, especially for perishable crops. In the same provinces, we observe larger investments in labor-saving machines, the entry of more firms into the industrial sector, and a larger expansion of the industrial and service workforce.

Click [HERE](#) to find the paper online!

## GEC Culture Story

### Looking Back at 2022 & Looking Forward to 2023

At GEC, we held internal review meetings both quarterly and annually to exchange updates on current events and initiatives and find opportunities for improvement with an aim to better support our students, faculty, and staff. At Teaching & Research Center, we deem it particularly essential as we strive to move our company closer to the vision of providing unparalleled opportunities to access the world's most advanced and rigorous resources to students to help them succeed in academia and their careers. It has also become one of the important dates for team-building activities that are meant for deepening relationships and fostering cooperation among different teams. Besides, as the GEC team expands almost every month, internal review meetings provide an opportunity for introducing new faces in the team.

On December 25-28, 2022, all center staff across the country flew to Suzhou, also known as "Venice of the East", where GEC opens its newest regional office, and spent an amazing 3 days in this beautiful city together, sharing and celebrating efforts made in 2022 and taking a look ahead in 2023.



#### Here is a look at what the Teaching & Research Center of GEC was up to in 2022.

1. More than 1,000 online research programs were offered across all disciplines. GEC also provided over twenty universities with over 200 Open Lecture Talks as well as more than 50 customized programs on STEM, teacher training, and academic writing for undergraduates, graduates, and young teachers.

2. GEC welcomed over 100 new professors to join the network.

3. GEC and the International Competence Development Committee of Chinese Society of Educational Development Strategy has established formal cooperation on international competence development research and course development. We have worked together to design courses focusing on talent cultivation in international competence and built an academic exchange platform. Till now, 40 Chinese universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University, Zhejiang University, China Foreign Affairs University, Nankai University, and Beijing Institute of Technology, have introduced the Global Competence Development courses to their own curriculum and granted credit to students who finished the courses.

4. Despite the pressure caused by the pandemic and currency volatility, GEC successfully made several thousand international payments to our faculties abroad. The busiest months were July, August, and December. To make international payments smoother and faster, GEC has set up more payment centers in Qingdao, Beijing, and Singapore and updated the finance approval process.

## GEC Culture Story

### Looking Back at 2022 & Looking Forward to 2023

#### In the following year, GEC Academy will

- 1.involve more faculty members from diverse disciplines, and continue our efforts to provide critical information, resources, and support for our faculty, engage respectfully with professors and teaching fellows, listening to their voices through regular Faculty Roundtables and in-person visits (!!!).
- 2.welcome professors from all over the world to China for teaching and research.
- 3.continue to design and conduct joint research projects with our faculty and Chinese scholars.
- 4.explore new forms of cooperation with universities in wider areas, prepare course content in more areas of study, and offer a variety of course delivery formats according to the course goals and student learning objectives.
- 5.build cooperative Global Competence Centers with higher education institutions, and provide customized global competency training programs by updating course content and developing new seminars to help students increase global mindset capabilities.
- 6.develop and update the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) curriculum and expand cooperation with enterprises and schools to support young instructors, professors, professionals, and students with adequate and proper training.
- 7.expand institutional collaborations with universities, schools, and research centers, not only in the US and the UK, but also in other parts of the world, including the EU, Asia-Pacific, and more.

2022 was an exceptional year of growth for GEC. We are energized by the progress we have made and the momentum we have built and appreciate all our faculty and staff's tremendous contributions. As we look forward to the year 2023, we believe, with an open-minded, supportive, and creative mindset as well as abundant passion and commitment, we will accomplish greater things together.



## Introducing New Faces

We're pleased to welcome 2 new faces to the GEC team  
- **Changyu & Mingyao**

### 01 Educational background:

London School of Economics and Political Science  
MSc in International and Asian History

City University of Hong Kong  
BA in Chinese and History

### 02 What are your current duties?

I am appointed by the GEC Academy as an academic manager, and my role is to help with the course design and the academic output of our international research programs. Moreover, I am in charge of maintaining the company's cooperation with the professors.



**Name:** Changyu HOU

**Nick Name:** Changyu

### 03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

I am impressed by the ambition of the GEC Academy to build a bridge between the most pioneering experts worldwide and the Chinese audience. Besides, being both a teacher and a student before, I am able to view the education industry from a completely novel angle through this job.

### 04 What are your specialisms and interests?

I have many tags that somehow conflict with the public perception, if not stereotype, of a history student. In addition to my interests in social history, I am also a "quasi-professional" street dancer and a member of a street dance crew in Beijing. Besides, I started to play the piano at the age of 3. Furthermore, I am an aviation geek and a fanatic traveler.



### 01 Educational background:

Tianjin Foreign Studies University  
Master of Journalism and Communication

### 02 What are your current duties?

Currently, I work as a Vocational Education Teaching and Research Specialist, mainly responsible for the cooperation between domestic vocational colleges and foreign colleges in different professional fields, assisting Chinese colleges in professional construction and personnel training to meet international standards.

**Name:** Mingyao YUAN

**Nick Name:** Amara

### 03 What made you choose GEC Academy?

The working atmosphere among colleagues is warm, and there are many academic resources, which are also conducive to personal growth. It is my honor to be a member of GEC.

### 04 What are your specialisms and interests?

I love pets and keep two cute fancy rats and more than 23 years old tortoise.



## China's best-known test-prep school hopes to find new life in live-streaming e-commerce after crackdown on tutoring sector

*China's top private tutoring firm, which has helped millions of Chinese students pass English language proficiency tests, such as the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), has decided that its future lies in live-streaming e-commerce. Hong Kong-listed Koolearn Technology, the online training arm of New York-listed and Beijing-based New Oriental Education Technology Group, said on Thursday it would rename itself as East Buy to better reflect its current business direction.*

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story!

## LATEST NEWS OF CHINA EDUCATION

### Hong Kong signs MOU with Pakistan on education cooperation



*HONG KONG, Jan. 5 (Xinhua) -- The Education Bureau of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training of Pakistan to enhance education collaboration. The MOU provides a framework to facilitate strategic education collaboration between Hong Kong and Pakistan and covers mutually beneficial initiatives, including the exchange of expertise and experience, exchange of educational literature, teaching aids and demonstration materials, as well as exchanges of scholars, teachers, experts, students and other education personnel, according to an official press release..*

Click [HERE](#) to read the full story!

## AMAZING WORK FROM GEC STUDENTS

Each month, GEC will introduce some of our exceptional students' work in a specific research area to our audiences. This month we selected two articles from our previous students in the field of **Psychology**.

### **An Overview of Depressive Disorder in Chinese Adolescents**

With the promotion of examination-based education in China, Chinese adolescents are studying hard and facing the pressure of comparison and competition with others. This paper understands the etiology of current Chinese adolescent depression from physiological factors, psychological factors, and sociocultural factors. It provides the differences in using the spiritual evaluation standard manual between China and the United States, CCMD-3, and DSM-5. The purpose is to let readers better understand the comprehensive field of depression. At the same time, it makes readers not blindly believe in the psychological tools on the Internet. In addition, the Chinese government should train more psychological counselors and clinicians who can make high use of psychotherapy and physiotherapy.



Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!

### **Influencing Factors and Coping Strategies of English Learning Anxiety among Chinese Non-English Major Students**

Learning anxiety becomes a common mental problem among students nowadays. The main purpose of this article is to investigate what makes overseas Chinese students of non-English majors feel anxious about English learning and how to solve this problem and focus on the research on the English language and Chinese students that are learning in college overseas. After all, the main reason for the English learning anxiety of non-English major overseas Chinese college students is the fear of making mistakes and having tests. For the solution, it should be acted by the teachers as well as students themselves to increase learning motivation.



Click [HERE](#) to read the full text!

## WHAT PROGRAMS DOES GEC OFFER IN JANUARY 2022 SEMESTER?

In January, GEC launches a total of 218 online research programs in the areas of Computer Science, Mathematics, Psychology, Anthropology, sociology, and so on, and partners with Northwestern Polytechnical University to develop students' global competence through the GEC Global Competence Development Course. We will continue to gather students, faculty, and staff for an unrivaled academic experience. The tables - [GEC 2023 January Program List, Universities offering GEC Global Competence Courses in January 2023](#) - below show detailed information about the programs that GEC launches in January.

Please click [HERE](#) to find previous program/course offerings.

### PLEASE CLICK TO FIND MORE DETAILS

#### [GEC 2023 JANUARY PROGRAM LIST](#)

Universities offering GEC Global Competence Courses in January 2023	
School Name	Program
Northwestern Polytechnical University	Global Competence Development

#### Newsletter Improvement Survey

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on how we can improve your experience with our newsletter.

For your convenience, please click [HERE](#) to fill out the survey link.

**GEC Academy**

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