

**Memorandum of Understanding on Further Deepening Cooperation in Education**  
between  
Bureau of Education of Guangzhou Municipality, P.R. China  
and  
Education, Competence and Economic Development Services, the City of Tampere,  
Finland

## **Background and acknowledgement**

Bureau of Education of Guangzhou Municipality, P.R. China and Education, Competence and Economic Development Services, the City of Tampere, Finland (hereinafter referred to as “both parties”) acknowledge that Guangzhou, China and Tampere, Finland officially became sister cities in December 2008, and have close relationship of collaboration in politics, economy, trade, culture and education for many years. Both parties are committed to furthering bilateral relations by the educational exchanges and cooperation.

Both parties agree on the importance of strengthening education relations as the best means of building global and cultural understanding and fostering solidarity between peoples and countries.

Both parties believe that international education mobility programs contribute to the professional development of academy, society, culture, students and educators.

Both parties acknowledge that the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China and the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Finland on Strengthening Comprehensive Cooperation on Education was signed in June 2015.

Both parties will further deepen the educational cooperation relationship under the above collaborative framework for the development and implementation of international education initiatives by signing this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

### **I. General Principles**

Both parties will comply with the existing laws, regulations and compliances of their own countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefits in the field of educational exchange and cooperation. Both parties will try their best to provide the favorable conditions for the fruitful exchange and cooperation.

### **II. Objective**

Based on an in-depth exchange of views, both parties are committed to further strengthening their educational exchange and cooperation in a comprehensive manner, and to actively encourage respective educational and research institutions to share experience and develop existing and new cooperation schemes by jointly identifying priority areas at various levels.

### **III. Forms of Cooperation**

Both parties will, on the basis of existing cooperation, promote pragmatic collaboration at all levels in all types of educational and research departments and institutions through the following specific forms:

- Information sharing and dialogues on education policies and practices;
- Various kinds of educational cooperation (e.g. scientific and research joint projects among universities).

By means of the above forms of cooperation, both parties promote the close collaboration among the educational departments and institutions, which lays the foundation for long-termed development and cooperation.

#### **IV. Areas of Cooperation**

Both parties will carry out closer cooperation in the following areas:

##### **1. Basic education** (including primary, middle and high schools in China)

On the basis of the successful implementation of Sino-Finnish high school education cooperation and exchange projects, both parties will actively explore the possibility of the cooperation extended to the primary and junior secondary schools:

- Strengthen the communication among policy makers' and education experts', and carry out education policy dialogue;
- Conduct collaborative research in the development of curriculum and teaching materials of basic education;
- Policy and experience sharing on the implementation of teaching supervision and evaluation in basic education;
- Experience sharing in information construction and application in basic education;
- Carry out expert dialogue and collaborative projects to foster mental health and wellbeing of students in primary and secondary schools.

##### **2. Teacher continuing education and training**

Both parties agree to strengthen cooperation in teacher continuing education and training by:

- Conducting dialogues on teacher development policies and teacher training practices;
- Encouraging educational authorities and institutions to carry out teacher training and exchange.

##### **3. Development in languages and cultures**

Both parties share the opinion that language is an important tool and bridge to enhance mutual understanding and that learning of each other's language and culture has great significance in deepening friendship and exchange between both parties. Both parties will support the offerings of language and culture courses in the cities, and vigorously promote

the development and experiment of educational technologies of language and culture learning.

#### **4. Vocational Education**

Both parties agree to strengthen the exchange and cooperation in the field of vocational education and to:

- Launch the inter-governmental vocational education policy dialogue. Both parties will regularly exchange and share relevant information in the field of vocational education, and strengthen the common consensus in vocational education development strategy, macro-economic policies and institutional mechanisms;
- Identify the priority areas for cooperation in the field of vocational education. Both parties aim to make progress in student training, collaboration among industrial and educational sectors, development of study program, development of standards, health care and social services;
- Identify and implement the specific joint projects in vocational education. During the vocational education cooperation, promote the communication between the vocational education and industry, establish the stable cooperative relationship and jointly train the technical talents with the support of associations;
- Start a dialogue on vocational teacher training policy, explore and implement teacher training programs.

#### **5. Higher education and research**

In order to further deepen the cooperation in higher education and research, both parties will:

- On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Recognition of Higher Education Degrees between the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Finland which was signed in 2006, encourage the universities in both cities to establish close cooperative relations with each other;
- Support the two cities' institutions to recognize each other's credits, collaboratively building the study programs, promote student exchange and development of joint courses;
- Encourage and support institutions from both cities to conduct joint research, to establish joint research institutes and joint labs including those in the public private partnerships, and to make full use of governmental science and technology cooperation programs and Sino-Europe science and technology cooperation frameworks;
- Support joint research on learning, such as: learning and brain, memory and learning, biological mechanisms of learning, educational psychology, learning difficulties and personal strategies of learning, interactive learning, children's development and learning, game-based learning and elderly learning;
- Support the jointly-built research institutes and universities, and promote mutual understanding and trust.

#### **6. Mutual visits by the municipal education officers**

Both parties promote the municipal education officers' mutual visits, by which each other's education policies and implementation can be learned. The educational exchanges and

cooperation between the two municipalities will be further strengthened through mutual visits between the education officers in both cities.

#### **7. Educational cooperation in various fields**

On the educational cooperation platform between China and Nordic countries, both parties will continue to further deepen and enhance the existing educational cooperation in different fields such as sustainable development, and environmental education.

#### **V. Evaluation**

Both parties will jointly review the implementation status of the joint projects annually.

#### **VI. Duration**

1. This memorandum is valid for four years and takes immediate effect upon signing. It may be terminated by either party, provided that a written notice of at least 6 months in advance is given.
2. Within the validity of this memorandum, either party may add provisions for its improvement when agreed upon by both parties in written form.

#### **VII. No legal or financial obligations**

1. Each party will bear its own costs resulting from its participation in this memorandum, and will fund the activities referred in this memorandum with the resources subject to their respective budgets and their legislation, unless the use of alternative financial mechanisms for specific purposes is otherwise agreed upon by both parties.
2. This memorandum is not a legally binding agreement, but an expression and record of both parties' strong will of promoting educational cooperation for mutual interest. Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed so as to affect the juristical responsibility of either party or to impose any financial obligations on them.
3. This memorandum is signed in Chinese, Finnish and in English, and three versions are equally valid in Guangzhou, China and Tampere, Finland.

Agreed and signed in Tampere, Finland on 11 April 2016.



Qu Shaobin

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