

Europe-China University Presidents Dialogue Forum: Co-shaping Engineering Education and Global Cooperation in the Age of Intelligence (October 2025)

TONGJI DECLARATION

Education is the ladder to human progress. As a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation rapidly unfolds, universities must embrace openness, synergy, trust, and cooperation to better harness education for the benefit of humanity and contribute to the sustainable development of human civilization. As pioneers and contributors to Europe-China higher education collaboration, we —representatives from 45 leading universities and institutions across Belgium, China, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and Sweden— gathered at Tongji University in Shanghai from October 17 to 18, 2025.

We engaged in in-depth discussions on redefining the mission of universities in the era of artificial intelligence, fostering cross-boundary integration within the new ecosystem of engineering education, and effectively building international networks. Having reached broad consensus, we hereby declare the following:

I. Embrace Intelligence and Co-create the Future

We commit to breaking through traditional educational frameworks, leveraging AI technologies effectively, and jointly exploring new educational paradigms that integrate the virtual and real, and enable human-machine symbiosis. With the mission of cultivating future leaders who can harness AI, possess critical thinking, and demonstrate innovative capabilities, we will strengthen multilateral collaboration, pool collective wisdom, and uphold the principle of AI for Good. Together, we will develop AI-driven digital platform courses, deliberate on rules for AI-enabled social governance, and co-shape a smarter, fairer, and more insightful educational future.

II. Innovate Without Boundaries and Cultivate Talent Together

We commit to dismantling disciplinary barriers inherent in traditional engineering education, deepening the integration of industry and academia in talent development, and jointly creating an open, borderless, and collaborative ecosystem for innovation. In partnership with industry, we will enhance international cooperation, capitalize on complementary strengths, and jointly establish cross-national collaborative networks for talent cultivation through industry-academia integration. We will work together to develop globally recognized engineering education

standards and co-nurture outstanding engineering talent capable of adapting to, transforming, and leading the future in the intelligent age.

III. Collaborate Hand in Hand for Shared Development

We aspire to utilize the Europe-China University Presidents Dialogue Forum as a platform to promote the establishment of a more resilient and in-depth international cooperation network. With the vision of cultivating future leaders who can discern the trends of human development and progress and collaboratively address common challenges facing humanity, we will integrate traditional paradigms of international university cooperation —such as student mobility, faculty exchanges, joint educational programs, collaborative research, and co-publications. Together, we aim to build a multilateral ecosystem for knowledge sharing, talent co-development, and collaborative research, thereby constructing a new model of university cooperation networks.

We unanimously believe that through sustained joint efforts, we can contribute wisdom and solutions to the prosperity and sustainable development of Europe, China, and the world at large!

List of universities and institutions participating in the Dialogue (sorted alphabetically):

Technische Universität Braunschweig
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin (HTW Berlin)
Università degli Studi di Bergamo
University of Birmingham
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – BarcelonaTech (UPC)
Chongqing University
Covestro
Dalian University of Technology
Technische Universität Darmstadt
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD)
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Fudan University
TU9 German Universities of Technology
Université Gustave Eiffel
Universiteit Gent

Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France
Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Hauts-de-France (INSA Hauts-de-France)
Huazhong University of Science and Technology
Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
Kungliga Tekniska högskolan (KTH)
Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Lyon (INSA Lyon)
Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon
Loughborough University
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid
University of Nottingham-Ningbo
Università degli Studi di Palermo
Conservatorio di Musica "Cesare Pollini" di Padova
Università di Pavia
Università degli Studi Roma Tre
Groupe Institut National des Sciences Appliquées
University of Science and Technology of China
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Shandong University
Sichuan University
South China University of Technology
Southeast University
Tianjin University
Politecnico di Torino
Università di Trento
Grande école d'Ingénieurs de la Construction (ESTP)
Tongji University
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
Xi'an Jiaotong University