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China's Youth Actions in Achieving SDGs

Newsletter from All-China Youth Federation



NOTE

This e-magazine is a product of All-China Youth Federation, China Youth Daily and China International Youth Exchange Center to introduce the youth work and youth development in China on a regular basis. We hope that it can provide you with updated information about Chinese youth, youth policy and youth programs, and we sincerely look forward to feedbacks and suggestions from friends all over the world.

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China's Youth Actions in Achieving SDGs

In September 2015, the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development officially adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to comprehensively and completely address issues in social, economic and environmental development. Our world today is living through changes unseen in a century intertwined with the COVID-19 pandemic, as we witness major changes unfolding in ways never imagined before, which will influence our world, our time as well as human history. In light of unprecedented challenges, UN Secretary-General António Guterres points out that the SDGs still offers a well-received roadmap for building a better world.

China is a responsible supporter and contributor to the realization of the UN SDGs. At the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2021, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed a Global Development Initiative, calling the attention of the international community to development issues, promoting global partnerships, and advancing international cooperation, building momentum for the SDGs.

With enormous potential, young people are an important force in advancing global development and achieving the SDGs. For years, with concerns and support of the Communist Party of China and the



Chinese government, united and led by youth organizations, young Chinese have been active and hard-working on the path to sustainable development, making significant contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

This volume of Youth Reference demonstrates the achievements Chinese youth have made participating in global development, focusing on the roles China's youth and youth organizations are playing in the SDGs and the Global Development Initiative.

No Poverty

Poverty is one of the most common global development challenges. Under the leadership of the CPC, China has lifted all its rural residents out of poverty as defined by the existing standard by the end of 2020 and completed the poverty reduction target in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule. As the largest developing country with a population of 1.4 billion, China has eliminated extreme poverty and completed the building of a



In April 2020, local post-90s poverty alleviation grid workers were inspecting bamboo shoots in Qiandongnan, Guizhou.

moderately prosperous society in all respects.

In the process of poverty eradication, countless Chinese youth have answered the Party's call, and participated in the solemn drive as

volunteers, resident officials, entrepreneurs starting businesses in their hometowns, members of the poverty alleviation teams and other key players. Targeted policies consistent with local conditions have been implemented, leaving lots of

beneficial experience for poverty alleviation. More than 2,740 young officials from the All-China Youth Federation were stationed at 2,446 poverty-stricken villages, who made full use of their advantages and focused on the following actions:

1. Poverty alleviation through education.

Through engaging all sectors of society, the All-China Youth Federation put in practice the doctrine that poverty alleviation requires a change of attitude and the support of education. From 2018 to 2020, around 260,000 students from poor families were sponsored to complete their studies.



In 2000, colleges and universities in Beijing carried out the "Going to the Countryside" volunteer service, located in Lingjiu, Shanxi, the designated poverty alleviation point.



In June 2020, people were working in a "data poverty alleviation workshop" in Xinyang, Henan.

2. Poverty alleviation through employment and entrepreneurship.

The officials provided employment guidance, internships, skills training, market information, small loans and other services for impoverished youth. Since 2012, the All-China Youth Federation has helped more than 220,000 students from poor families find jobs, promoted the establishment of youth entrepreneurship service organizations in 758 poverty-stricken counties, and reached out to and helped 150,000 young people to start businesses in poverty-stricken areas.

3. Voluntary services in poverty alleviation.

The Chinese Young Volunteers Association has dispatched more than 160,000 volunteers to over 2,000 counties since 2012 through the "Go West" Program, providing voluntary services in fields such as primary education, health care, agriculture and youth work.



In December 2020, members of CPC and young volunteers were installing equipment at a poverty alleviation industrial base in Huaying, Sichuan.

Good Health and Well-Being

A nation will be strong only when its young people are strong. A strong body and a positive mentality are important prerequisites for young people to flourish. As the Chinese society advances in material and cultural wealth, its young people are having better understandings of health.

In 2011, the Chinese government launched a nutrition improvement program, providing nutritional meal subsidies for compulsory-education students in rural areas. By the end of 2020, more than 37 million rural students had benefited from the program, and their physical quality had been significantly improved.

Chinese youth organizations have drawn close attention to the psychological well-being of young people. In 14 years, the Communist Youth League of China has established 269 “12355” youth service centers across the country, maintaining close contact with more than 7,000 lawyers and psychological



In August 2021, a youth coach was guiding children to do physical exercise in Zhoushan, Zhejiang.

consultants. Collaborating with various functional departments, the service centers provide consultation services on adolescent issues, and rights and interests services directly to the young people. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, the “12355” youth service centers have received 142,049 phone calls and online consultation requests nationwide. A total of 16,053 psychological counselors and social

workers have provided support for 6,011 children of medical staff, 5,362 adolescents impoverished by the pandemic and 237 infected adolescents. Facing pressures from employment, education, housing, marriage and retirement issues, Chinese youth were able to maintain a positive and optimistic mindset under the care and support of the CPC, the government and youth organizations.

Quality Education

As the primary target of education, the young people benefit the most from educational development. China, an advocate for Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) led by the United Nations, has

prioritized education to provide more equal and better education for the young people. In 2021, the completion rate of compulsory education reached 95.4%; the gross enrollment rates reached 91.4% for

senior high school education and 57.8% for higher education; total number of students in school were 44.3 million, ranking first in the world. More and more people acquired access to education, an



In October 2021, the Raising the National Flag Together youth patriotism education activity were being held at Chongqing People's Square.

important path towards success.

In April 2017, the Chinese government issued the Medium- and Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016 - 2025) with the Communist Youth League of China as the leading enforcer. Youth Education, an important chapter in the Plan, sets clear objectives in such fields as right

to education, educational equity, higher levels of education, etc., and proposes measures for improved education quality, allocation of educational resources, social practice education, life - long learning and talent pool cultivation.

The Communist Youth League of China and the All - China Youth

Federation have carried out a series of fruitful explorations in youth education. A Supplementary Classroom Scoring System was launched in colleges and universities to engage college students in innovation and entrepreneurship, social practice, voluntary services and other extra - curricular activities, an improvement to the student evaluation system. They have established innovation space for college students, launched the Know About Business (KAB) entrepreneurship education program, held training camps and innovation and entrepreneurship competitions such as the Challenge Cup National College Students' Extracurricular Academic Science and Technology Contest and the Entrepreneurial Youth China College Students' Entrepreneurship Competition. Project Hope is implemented on a long - term basis, providing subsidies for out - of - school students, improving school conditions and promoting educational development in poverty - stricken areas.



In April 2016, the local KAB group were organizing a youth innovation and entrepreneurship publicity in Liuzhou, Guangxi.



In May 2022, fresh graduates of Zhejiang University of Technology were throwing their mortarboards into the sky in Huzhou, Zhejiang.



Gender Equality

Women are the pioneers of human civilization and promoters of social progress. The condition of gender equality and the level of all-round development for women are important indicators of a civilized society. The CPC and Chinese government attach great importance to the development of women and support them in giving full play to their role as “half of the sky.” In recent years, Chinese women have been increasingly empowered in economic and social development, their contribution rate of significantly improved, social status greatly elevated, and their legitimate rights and interests effectively protected. They now enjoy more diverse channels to participate in decision-making and management processes, and the social environment for women development has been increasingly optimized.

As one of the strongest advocates of gender equality, Chinese youth organizations have long been striving to safeguard the legitimate development rights and interests for young women. In terms of marriage, National Medium-term and Long-term Youth Development Plan (2016–2025) has formulated a special chapter on “Marriage of Young People,” which spells out the need to carry out sex education, strengthen publicity and education on good pre- and postnatal care, promote a marriage and childcare



Female firefighters from the Gansu Forest Fire Brigade were posing for a group photo on Women’s Day, March 8, 2022.



In May 2022, ten young couples were holding a collective wedding in Zhoushan, Zhejiang.

culture that is based on gender equality, and resolutely resist any fetal sex identification test for non-medical purposes or selective artificial abortion. Legal rights need to be protected for young women during pregnancy, maternity leave and breastfeeding.

In recent years, the Communist Youth League of China and the All-China Youth Federation have launched a number of public welfare assistance

programs to help young women better balance between work and family. More than 40,000 Youth Homes were established in communities. Assistance programs such as nursery schools in summer for public interest, Classroom at 4:30pm Program, low-rent housing, match-making activities, parent-child education workshops are extensively implemented for the young people, as effective pressure-relieving activities for young women in marriage and childcare.



Employment and Innovation



In July 2020, a special job fair attracted a large number of young job seekers in Huaian, Jiangsu.

Employment is the foundation of youth's livelihood and development. The CPC and Chinese government attach great importance to employment and have vigorously implemented pro - employment policies to improve the employment service system for young people. The Communist Youth League of China and the All - China Youth Federation leverage their strengths to guide young people through establishing a positive outlook on employment and career choice and work together with the government to carry out employment assistance for the young people.

First, we deepened the promotion plan for the employment of young people. In 2021, on-campus employment and recruitment services were extensively carried out across China. A total of 392 online and offline recruitment activities were held by the Communist Youth League organizations at all levels in cooperation with central enterprises, state - owned enterprises and professional service institutions,

providing more than 1.514 million pieces of job information for fresh graduates. Many officials of the Communist Youth League were paired up with impoverished students in colleges and universities to provide assistance and whole - chain employment services. The "Sailing Plan" was launched nationwide to provide internship opportunities for college students, offering a total of 438,000 internship posts in government and enterprises.

Second, we promoted youth entrepreneurship. The All - China Youth Federation launched the China Youth Entrepreneurship Campaign in



In July 2021, China College Students' Entrepreneurship Competition - Zhongguancun U30 Youth Science and Technology Innovation Event was being held in Beijing.

1998 to encourage young people to start their own businesses in response to the call of the government for mass entrepreneurship and innovation. In recent years, the All - China Youth Federation has held a series of training camps and innovation and entrepreneurship competitions such as the Challenge Cup National College Students' Extracurricular Academic Science and Technology Contest and the Entrepreneurial Youth China College Students' Entrepreneurship Competition, providing opportunities for skill training, exchanges, business incubation for the Chinese entrepreneurial youth. Youth entrepreneurial associations are established in county - level cities, including more than 1,170 entrepreneurial service activities and fundings for over 600 programs in 2021 alone.

Third, we safeguarded the legitimate rights and interests of the young people. Policy and social advocacy were carried out on young people's employment and protection of their rights and interests in new business forms and new professions, urging relevant departments to make supportive policies. With special attention on injustice and infringements of rights and interests that college graduates may encounter in job-hunting, necessary legal aids are provided to support and guide them to effectively protect their rights and interests.

Reduced Inequalities

Eliminating inequality and ensuring equal development opportunities for all are important prerequisites for sustainable development. As a socialist country, China, on the one hand, strives to liberate and develop social productivity to keep creating and accumulating social wealth, and on the other hand plays an active role in wealth distribution to prevent polarization and promote substantial progress in achieving all - round development and common prosperity for everyone.

By providing access to education, Chinese youth organizations have long been committed to protecting the rights to development of teenagers in poverty - stricken areas. The Communist Youth League of China and the China Youth Development Foundation have been implementing Project Hope since 1989, making it their mission to



In September 2019, a post - 90s young volunteer teacher was teaching children in rural primary schools in Shangrao, Jiangxi.

improve primary education facilities in poverty - stricken areas and help drop - out students return to school. As of 2021, Project Hope had received a total of 19.42 billion yuan in donations, supported 6.626 million students from poor families, and established 20,878 Hope Primary Schools in China.

In recent years, Project Hope has successively launched five major plans - promote education for students, health education, all - round development, emergency assistance and virtue education. It has also

carried out exploration on the Hope Kitchen and other public welfare programs. All their efforts effectively promoted the development of education in poverty - stricken areas and provided services for poor teenagers so that they won't fall behind others at the starting point of their personal growth.



Project Hope Symbolic Character - The Girl with Big Eyes



Medium and Long - Term Youth Development Plan

Young people gather in the city and the city thrives on young people. In the urbanization process around the world, the youth are both beneficiaries and contributors, and an important driving force for urban

Sustainable Cities and Communities

development. For young people to feel like home in the city, and to stimulate their creativity, it is necessary to build an urban community that helps the development of the young people.

Adhering to the philosophy of prioritizing youth development, the CPC and the Chinese government entrust the Communist Youth

League of China and the All - China Youth Federation to take the lead in implementing the Medium - and Long - term Youth Development Plan (2016 - 2025) and make continuous efforts to optimize policies and social environment for youth development. Up to now, all provinces have issued local youth development plans, and so have some cities and counties. Moreover, youth work liaison



In May 2017, young changemakers were completing the tasks related to creating a civilized city in Tonglu, Hangzhou.

mechanisms have been established in central, provincial, municipal and county levels.

Building on this basis, in order to meet the needs of the new urbanization strategy, Chinese youth organizations drew lessons from the best practices in China and abroad, coordinating with relevant government departments to promote building youth development – oriented cities and facilitating reciprocity between urban innovation and creativity, and between quality development of the youth and of the city. In youth development-oriented cities, the development rights of young people, namely rights to education, life, survival, labor and residence, are better protected, and better space, platform, environment, conditions are provided. As of now, more than 90 cities in China have started to build themselves into youth development-oriented cities. More and more young people are experiencing higher sense of gain, happiness and security in urban development.



In July 2020, a youth inn opened its doors to welcome guests in the West Coast New District of Qingdao.



In December 2018, a young couple were taking pictures on the Bund in Shanghai.



In February 2020, medical staff were working through the night in the Wuhan Economic Development Zone.



Combating COVID-19

The right to survival and development is the primary most fundamental human right. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the most important human rights action is to protect people's life and health. The CPC and the Chinese government adhered to the people-oriented epidemic prevention and control policy, provided support for other countries to the best of their ability, and found a path for the world to protect health while maintaining economic growth.

Chinese youth is the backbone of combating COVID-19. Among the 28,600 nurses in the medical teams sent to Hubei in the early stage of the pandemic, 90% were born in the 1980s and 1990s. Among the workers who worked in miraculous efficiency for the construction of mobile cabin

hospitals in Wuhan, 60% were young people. The Central Committee of the Communist Youth League immediately allocated a special fund of 12.69 million yuan for pandemic

prevention and control at primary-level youth league organizations. China Youth Development Foundation, China Guanghua Foundation and China Foundation for Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment launched a special campaign, raising more than 580 million yuan from society. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Communist Youth League of China and the All-China Youth Federation have recruited more than 320,000 youth task forces and 5.5 million young people for mobile cabin hospitals construction, medical rescue, supply transportation and other major tasks.

The All-China Youth Federation has engaged in international cooperation to combat COVID-19. The Federation sent heart-warming parcels containing epidemic prevention materials to young people



In January 2021, they were the youth anti-epidemic commando of the Second Hospital of Hebei Medical University in Shijiazhuang.

and international organizations in other countries. It worked with other youth organizations around the globe in dozens of online seminars to exchange opinions on themes such as combating COVID-19 and resuming work and

production. It joined hands with other organizations to unite the international youth against COVID-19, and held an advocacy event Remember the Moments: Fighting COVID-19, collecting and sharing youth stories across borders. It also

took model figures of Chinese youth combating COVID - 19 to the United Nations, and sent representatives to share their experience and practices in the UN conferences on China's response to the pandemic.



Climate Change and Green Development

Climate change is a common challenge faced by all mankind, and one that China makes great effort to address. As the largest developing country in the world, despite its own economic and social difficulties, China has implemented a series of strategies, measures and actions for the protection and sustainable utilization of marine resources and the terrestrial ecological system. Achievements were made in promoting green and low - carbon transition in the development model.

Chinese youth have played an active role in this process. Since 2019, the All - China Youth Federation has launched the Beautiful China - Youth Action to engage young



In September 2020, a young civil servant in Huainan, Anhui completed the "Clear the Plate" task through the APP.



In March 2021, youths from Hezhou, Guangxi were conducting voluntary tree planting.

people in building a beautiful China and promoting global sustainable development. First, further effort in the Mother River Protection campaign was made. Through a series of public welfare programs for environmental protection, a total of 25.556 million yuan was raised via crowd-funding, and 236 youth forest projects were completed, achieving 36,000 mu of afforestation. Second, sustainable consumption styles were advocated. To reduce smog, emissions and the use of plastics and conserve resources and energy, the Federation launched campaigns for

green transportation and water saving, working with industries and enterprises that are highly relevant to young people's lives such as the food delivery industry. Third, domestic waste sorting was promoted. A total of 12,000 awareness-raising activities have been held on domestic waste sorting, and about 2.05 million young people have participated in on-site activities.

The All-China Youth Federation has actively carried out international cooperation in ecological and environmental protection, and

engaged more than 500,000 Chinese teenagers and more than 20,000 foreign teenagers to plant over 660,000 mu of trees across China. The Federation shared China's experience in ecological and environmental protection and other

related fields in international exchange activities and strives to expand youth cooperation. For its efforts, The All -China Youth Federation was awarded the Champion of the Earth and Environmental Leadership Award of

the Billion Tree Campaign by the UNEP. In 2020, Liu Jichen, one of the champions of the Clear Plate Campaign, was named as one of the Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations.

Digital Economy

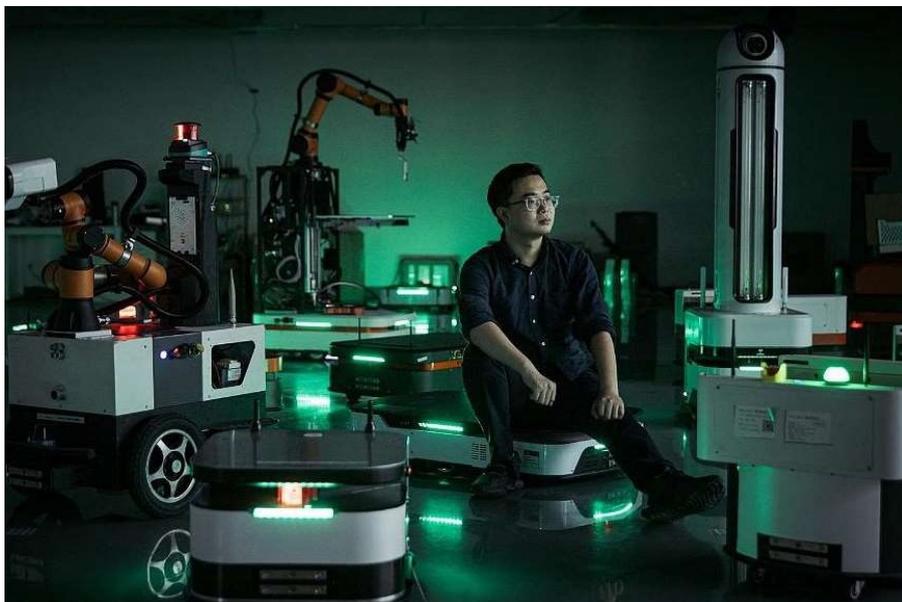
The digital economy is the latest economic form spawned by a new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation. The rapid development of digital economy based on Internet, big data, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, blockchain and other technologies in recent years has generated a large number of new industries, new business forms and new models, which have profoundly affected the development process of

the world and people's livelihoods. China attaches great importance to developing digital economy and has made it a national strategy. According to the 14th Five -Year Plan for the Development of Digital Economy issued by the Chinese government in December 2021, the added value of the core industries of China's digital economy accounted for 7.8% of GDP in 2020, and the number is expected to rise to 10% by 2025.

To engage more Chinese young people in digital economy, the All -China Youth Federation has carried out many explorations in leading them to participate in digital construction and governance. In an endeavor to promote rural revitalization through the digital economy, it launched a youth e -commerce cultivation project in 2021, produced a series of online courses on e -commerce named Digital Quality in Youth for the



In May 2022, young members of CPC in Nantong, Jiangsu, were peddling local special agricultural products through live broadcasts.



Zhang Zhaohui, CEO of Youai Zhihe Robot, and his robots.

China College Students' Entrepreneurship Competition in 2022, to encourage young people to transform and develop traditional industries with digital technology.

Through the "Belt and Road" Youth Entrepreneurship Incubator Program, the All – China Youth Federation actively encourages young people from all countries to deepen cooperation in digital technology, digital economy, digital security and other fields in international entrepreneurial exchanges and training activities, promote technology transfer and information sharing, and eliminate digital divides, technology gap, creating a new path for the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

young people and set up the Youth Cultivating China Alliance to help farmers by selling products through live – streaming. More than 2,500

online live – streaming events were held throughout the year. A special award was set for the digital economy in the 9th Entrepreneurial Youth



Connectivity

The world calls for connectivity, which means not only the exchange of commodities, but the communication and connection of people. In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, calling on the world to enhance connectivity in global infrastructure, strengthen the soft connectivity of policies, rules and standards, promote unimpeded trade, and unite people from different countries and regions for common development.



In October 2019, the 4th Asian – African Youth Festival were held in Beijing, with youth representatives from different countries participating .

As China opens its doors wider to the outside world, the country's young people today are embracing

the world and building a deeper understanding of international exchanges and cooperation. Under

the framework of the Chinese Youth Global Partnership, the All –China Youth Federation has established

exchange and cooperation relationships with more than 100 international organizations, government youth agencies, party youth organizations, and non-governmental youth organizations. The enhanced connectivity has contributed to enriching the content of partnership and strengthening the friendship and mutual trust of young people around the world.

In the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, Chinese youth have practiced the philosophy of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. Hundreds of thousands of young employees of Chinese enterprises overseas work hard in foreign countries to support local economic and social development. Furthermore, they carried out voluntary services,



In September 2021, international youths participated in the "Real China Campus" Beijing Summary Meeting and visited the Forbidden City.

charitable donations, cultural exchange activities there to enhance their friendship and cooperation with local young people. The All-China Youth Federation has implemented the B&R Youth Development Plan and the Chinese Young Volunteer Overseas Volunteering Programme, successfully held a number of pragmatic cooperation projects such as the the Sino-Russian Youth Business Incubator Exchange Program and the China-Laos Railway Youth Friendship Project, and created several influential brand activities for youth exchanges, such as the B&R Youth Story and the Bridge for the Future China-Central and Eastern Europe Youth Campus.



In June 2021, China-Central and Eastern Europe International Forum for Young Innovators was held in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province.

Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The world is now facing a grim reality for development, an increasing imbalance of economic development, ever-widening North-South income gap. There is an urgent need to revive global partnerships for sustainable development. As an important member of the international community, China has always been promoting South-South cooperation. On the basis of advancing its own sustainable development, China gradually

increases investment in foreign aid, and works together with other countries to build a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity.

China earnestly fulfills its responsibilities as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and actively participates in peacekeeping operations, to which Chinese young officers and soldiers are important participants and contributors. As of

2020, more than 40,000 Chinese soldiers have participated in 25



In October 2018, Chinese peacekeepers to Congo (DRC) were displaying the medal of "Peace Mission" in Xining, Qinghai.

peacekeeping operations, among whom 16 soldiers sacrificed their lives at an average age of less than 30 years old. Chinese young people are taking concrete actions to maintain world peace and stability and create a stable development environment for human society.

Facilitated by the All-China Youth

Federation, the Chinese Young Volunteer Action was launched at the end of 1993. Up to now, more than 150 million young people have been mobilized to provide more than 5.5 billion hours of volunteer services to society in such fields as poverty alleviation and development, community service, environmental protection, large-scale competitions,



In October 2015, a volunteer of the sixth batch for Mauritius was teaching local children to write.



In December 2014, Wen Hongyan, a volunteer of the sixth batch for Seychelles, was auscultating the sick child during home visits.



In August 2016, Jiang Hui, one of the first volunteers to aid Cambodia, was teaching table tennis skills to students.

emergency rescue and disaster relief, and overseas services. Launched in 2002, the Chinese Young Volunteer Overseas Volunteering Program has sent young volunteers to many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to provide services in fields such as medical and health care, agricultural technology, civil engineering, industrial technology, economic management and social development. They have contributed to local economic and social development, laying a solid foundation for strengthening the international partnership for sustainable development. The Chinese Young Volunteer Overseas Volunteering Program - UN Volunteers has sent young volunteers to the project locations of 14 UN agencies, playing an active role in promoting cooperation for international development.