

The Youth Reference



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2025 World Youth Development Forum — Unleash Youth Potential for Global Development



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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2025 World Youth Development Forum

— Unleash Youth Potential for Global Development

The 2025 World Youth Development Forum was held in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, from July 14th to 17th, under the theme “Unleash Youth Potential for Global Development”. The event brought together about 500 participants from more than 100 countries and 17 international organizations, including leaders of international organizations, heads of ministries, youth leaders, business leaders and other stakeholders. The

forum is co-hosted by the All-China Youth Federation, United Nations in China and the Organizing Committee of WYDF.

Along with the World Youth Development Forum, the Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development Programs was convened to empower young practitioners who promote the cause of sustainable development.



■ At the Opening Ceremony

At the opening ceremony, A Dong, Chairman of Inter-Ministries Meeting for Implementation of the Medium and Long – Term Youth Development Plan, First Secretary of the Secretariat of Central Committee of Communist Youth League of China; Xin Changxing, Secretary of the CPC Jiangsu Provincial Committee, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Jiangsu Provincial People's Congress; Nadia Rasheed, Chair of the United Nations Theme Group on Youth and Representative of UNFPA to China, and Country Director for UNFPA Mongolia delivered addresses.

Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs; and Gilbert Houngbo, Director – General of the International Labour



Organization (ILO) addressed online.

They articulated their expectations that the forum would inspire participants, empower them with strength, and foster collective efforts to enable every youth to shine, thereby contributing to the creation of a more peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future.

■ At the Dialogue with Ministers

Young representatives from various countries took the stage to pose questions to 12 ministers of youth affairs and leaders of youth organizations. The questions covered areas such as Technology & Innovation, Social Participation, and Youth Entrepreneurship.



■ At the In-depth Dialogue: The Possibilities of Potential

The forum had a special session of In-depth Dialogue, where youth representatives from different countries shared their stories on the theme “The Possibilities of Potential” from three aspects: breakthroughs in technology, dimensions of human potential, origins of civilization.



Xiao Zhimin

Captain of China's polar
icebreaker Xuelong 2



Walter Benjamin Collins

US creator of YouTube
and TikTok



Wang Ciye

Chinese synchronized swimmer
and Paris Olympic gold medalist



Elly Savatia Otiende

Founder & CEO of Signvrs,
Kenya



Li Haichao

Professor from the College of
Archaeology and Museology
at Sichuan University, China



Alberta Pelino

President of Young
Ambassadors Society, Italy



■ Outcomes

The forum launched the International Youth Advocacy on Unleashing Youth Potential for Global Development, which summarized the achievements of youth development and youth participation in the 30 years since the adoption of

the UN World Programme of Action for Youth, and urged the international community to meet new challenges and promote new changes, contributing youth wisdom and solutions to combat global governance challenges.



The forum launched the second batch of 100 *Excellence Actions of the Action Plan for Global Youth Development (APGYD)*.

Between 2022 and 2025, the APGYD selected 200 Excellence Actions from 63 countries in two batches. These programs focused on the following seven priority areas: poverty elimination, zero hunger and food security, future-oriented digital technology, climate action and green development, inclusive and



equitable quality education, health and well-being of youth, and youth employment and entrepreneurship.

■ Thematic Forums

Young participants joined three thematic forums on Green Consumption and Sustainable Development, Artificial Intelligence and Science and Technological Innovation, and Cultural Heritage Protection and Inheritance from July 16th to 17th.



■ The Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development

The forum launched the Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development.



The Acceleration Week for Global Youth Development Programs is a parallel event of the 2025 World Youth Development Forum. Young leaders of 200 programs selected from 60 countries in the field of sustainable development joined the Acceleration Week. It has provided a practical platform for program showcasing, capacity building, and cooperation among youth leaders of sustainable development.

The Acceleration Week includes a series of activities such as pre-meeting, launching ceremony, workshops, partnership meetings, cultural night, and field visits.

Aligned with the priority areas of the Global

Development Initiative and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, participants were grouped into ten Program Clusters covering topics such as “Poverty Alleviation and Food Security”, “Future-Oriented Digital Technology” and “Green Development”. Through mentor matchmaking, program roadshow, case study, entrepreneurship salons, and partnership meeting, the Acceleration Week has offered in-depth training and resource connections for program leaders from around the world.

In addition to the main events held in Suzhou, participants were grouped to conduct field visits and partnership activities in Shanghai, Changsha, and Xi'an.

面向未来推进数字技术使用项目舱 Program Cluster 2: Future-oriented digital technology



应对气候变化的行动项目舱 Program Cluster 3: Climate action







For more information about 2025 World Youth Development Forum, please refer to

www.wydf.org.cn



Social Media: World Youth Development Forum