

# **Speech at the International Conference of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network**

By Mr Du Yue

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尊敬的王路副省长，

曹献坤厅长，

Sabine Detzel 女士，

各位嘉宾，

女士们、先生们，

大家早上好！欢迎来到三亚，参加联合国教科文组织联系学校网络国际会议。此次会议由联合国教科文组织和中国教育部合作举办，由海南省教育厅承办。在此，我谨代表中国联合国教科文组织全国委员会，对会议的召开表示热烈祝贺！对为此次会议成功举办付出辛勤劳动、做了大量工作的教科文组织和海南的同事们，表示衷心感谢！

This Conference, themed as “contributing effectively to the implementation of SDG 4 and Education 2030”, aims to identify concrete actions for UNESCO Associated Schools Network to support the implementation of Education 2030. During this three-day event, ASPnet actors, such as National Coordinators

and teachers from around 50 countries, as well as policy makers and representatives from partner institutions will discuss how the network can be strengthened and further developed in the context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Since its establishment in 1953, the UNESCO Associated Schools Network has been acted as a driver for innovation and quality in education, and has played a very active role for the achievement of the goals of Education For All. In 2015, the United Nations adopted the Global 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and proposed 17 goals, in which education is emphasized not only in goal 4 but also as one of the key factors for the achievement of all the other SDGs. Later in the same year, UNESCO issued the Education 2030 Framework for Action, which is a roadmap for the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030. In this context, the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, with its over 10,000 member institutions, should and will make a major contribution to the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular for reaching targets 4.7 and 4.a of SDG 4.

China has always attached great importance to the educational cooperation with UNESCO. In the past years, 7 top-level Chinese schools have joined the ASPnet. Last week, I was very pleased to be informed that two schools from Hainan, namely the Hainan Middle School and the Ledong Huangliu High School have also been accepted as members by the Network. Principals of these schools are here today. I believe this Conference will provide them a unique opportunity to communicate and enlarge cooperation with other family members of the UNESCO ASPnet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to ASPnet, we come all around the world and gather together here. ASPnet is the tie of our friendship and partnership. It also provides a platform for us to transform teaching and learning and equip our children and young people to be agents of change, global citizens and peace-builders.

Hand in hand with you, my dear friends, China is willing to make its due contribution to the development of the ASPnet as well as the education of the world. Let's take this Conference as a new start, to promote the ASPnet to a higher level, and to promise our children a brighter future.

Thank you.