

Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future

【Basic Information】

Moderator:

Opening Remarks, Keynote Speech, Special Speech, Panel Discussion 1:

Zhong Shi CGTN News Anchor

Panel Discussion 2:

Wanghui Bilingual Host and Chief Reporter for China Global Television Network

Opening Remarks:

Leila Pakkala Director, UNICEF Supply Division

Keynote Speech:

Yao Ming Founder of the Yao Foundation, Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation

Zhang Yongmin Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy

Hugo Duminil-Copin Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques) and the University of Geneva, Fields medalist 2022

Special Speech:

Toily Kurbanov Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers

Panel Discussion:

Topic 1: Opportunities and Challenges Faced by Youth under Economic Globalization

Leila Pakkala Director, UNICEF Supply Division

Yao Ming Founder of the Yao Foundation, Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation

Christopher Thomas	Founder and Chairman of Integrated Insights Ltd., Board Member of the Atlantic Council, Former Visiting Professor of Tsinghua University, Former Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution
Maurice Louis-Dreyfus	Member of the Supervisory Board and Strategy Committee of Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V.

Topic 2: The Tide of Technological Advances – Innovation and Entrepreneurship by Youth

Zhang Yongmin	Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy
Yu Miaojie	President of Liaoning University
Hugo Duminil-Copin	Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques) and the University of Geneva, Fields medalist 2022
Bolor-Erdene Battengel	Strategic Engagement Advisor at SpaceX, Founder of AI Academy Asia, Former Vice Minister of Mongolia's Digital Development Ministry
Timothe Dupont	President of Lesaffre Asia Pacific Region
Abdullah Al Araf	Co-Founder and CEO, EcoTech Innovation

【Brief Introduction】

On November 6, 2024, the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future of the 7th Hongqiao International Economic Forum (HQF), hosted by the Ministry of Commerce of China and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), organized by China International Import Expo Bureau and Taihe Institute, was held at National Exhibition and Convention Center (Shanghai). The session focuses on exploring the opportunities and challenges faced by youth in the context of globalization, as well as hot topics such as technological development and youth entrepreneurship and innovation. Leaders of international organizations, internationally renowned experts and scholars, and representatives of young entrepreneurs are present sharing their insights on youth development.

全球化与青年发展：共享美好未来

GLOBALIZATION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: CREATING A SHARED BETTER FUTURE

主办单位: 商务部 联合国儿童基金会

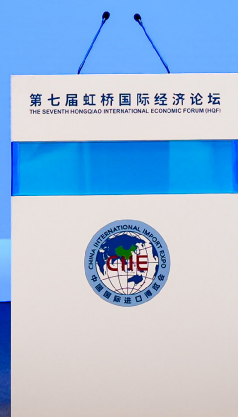
Hosted by: Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

承办单位: 中国国际进口博览局 太和智库

Organized by: China International Import Expo Bureau Taihe Institute

2024年11月6日
November 6th, 2024

中国·上海
Shanghai, China



[Opening Remarks]

Leila Pakkala, Director, UNICEF Supply Division,
attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future
and delivered Opening Remarks

Leila Pakkala, Director of UNICEF Supply Division, said that while the green and digital transitions will create numerous job opportunities, challenges such as educational inequality and employment issues, particularly for marginalized youth, remain. UNICEF is committed to supporting youth development through education, skill development, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities, with a focus on green and digital skills. UNICEF is actively promoting the “Generation Unlimited” initiative globally and has launched the “Generation Unlimited China” and “Climate Innovation Network” projects in China with local partners, providing training in green entrepreneurship and transferable skills to help young people amplify their voices. Youth are a key driver in the fight against climate change, and their active participation is crucial to building resilient communities and advancing climate adaptation.

【Keynote Speech】



Yao Ming, Founder of the Yao Foundation and Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and delivered a keynote speech

Yao Ming, Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation, stated that in the context of globalization, the rapid development of the economy and technology has provided more opportunities for young people to connect with a wider world and gain a global perspective. In addition to connecting with the world through mobile phones, young people should explore the world more physically. In this regard, sports play an important role, not only in helping young people build healthy bodies and minds but also in providing them with opportunities to explore the world and understand diverse cultures. At the same time, young people should pay more attention to the development issues in underdeveloped countries and other global challenges. Sports philanthropy can contribute to the physical and mental well-being of youth in impoverished areas and provide local students with valuable knowledge from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds.



Zhang Yongmin, Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and delivered a keynote speech

Zhang Yongmin, Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy, noted that France is not only the first Western country to officially establish diplomatic relations with China but also the first Western country to sign a government-level science and technology cooperation agreement with China. Over the decades, China-France youth exchanges and cooperation have fostered a mutually beneficial situation characterized by mutual learning and complementary advantages. For example, exchanges and cooperation between higher education institutions and research institutes in the two countries have created effective platforms for youth development and cultural exchanges. The China-France Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition has provided valuable opportunities for young people from both countries to showcase themselves and launch projects. 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France, as well as the China-France Year of Culture and Tourism. It is hoped that the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, including youth exchanges, will reach a new peak.



Hugo Duminil-Copin, Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques) and the University of Geneva, Fields medalist 2022, attended via video the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and delivered a keynote speech

Hugo Duminil-Copin, Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques), said that young people possess fearless courage and fresh perspectives that allow them to offer new points of view and ideas for solving problems. They are a driving force for technological innovation. In the context of economic globalization, governments, companies, and universities can work together to implement the following measures to fully tap the potential of youth in driving technological innovation and promoting socio-economic development: First, share knowledge as widely as possible and accelerate progress through open international scientific cooperation; second, emphasize on and support fundamental research and discipline development to strengthen the foundation of technological innovation; third, cultivate diverse research teams and encourage young researchers to travel abroad and engage in international exchanges to fully stimulate their creativity.

【Special Speech】



Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers, attended via video the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and delivered a special speech

Toily Kurbanov, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), extended warm congratulations on the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 79th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Over the years, China has made significant contributions to promoting global development and creating a better future, and its partnership with the UNV has flourished. Chinese youth have actively participated in UNV initiatives, contributing to efforts in areas such as combating climate change, achieving digital equality, and promoting agricultural development. Many countries have witnessed the dedication of Chinese youth volunteers. These young volunteers are not only citizens of China but also citizens of the world. He expressed his gratitude for China's contributions to volunteer service and he looks forward to further exchanges and cooperation.

【Panel Discussion】

Topic 1: Opportunities and Challenges Faced by Youth under Economic Globalization



Zhong Shi, CGTN News Anchor,
moderated Opening Remarks, Keynote Speech, Special Speech, and Panel Discussion 1 of the Parallel Session on
Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future



Leila Pakkala, Director, UNICEF Supply Division,
attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future
and participated in Panel Discussion

Leila Pakkala, Director of UNICEF Supply Division, highlighted that in the context of globalization, young people face challenges such as the unequal distribution of educational resources and skills mismatches, with women, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups being particularly affected. Data show that 20% of young people aged 15-24 are neither employed, in school nor in training, while 220 million young people face barriers to accessing the Internet. UNICEF's "Generation Unlimited" initiative links the public and private sectors with social forces to provide youth with skills training and employment opportunities. It is promoting green skills and entrepreneurship projects in China, while also developing alternative learning pathways in various countries to empower marginalized youth. Leila also specifically mentioned programs like "U-Report," which amplifies youth voices to influence policies and encourage their participation in climate action. She called for the promotion of cross-sector collaboration to help achieve a sustainable future.



Yao Ming, Founder of the Yao Foundation and Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Yao Ming, Vice President of the All-China Youth Federation, stated that international exchanges among young people often revolve around shared interests and hobbies. These common interests can foster lasting communication. Young people can discover new shared passions in each other's different cultures, creating a "fission effect." For instance, sports and e-sports events provide such opportunities, while music, culture, and emerging hobbies also serve as meeting points for young people. It is important to tap into the market demand for these interests by providing platforms and venues where young people with similar passions can come together. Universities can organize sports competitions that allow young people to immerse themselves in the world of sports and its rules, and can cultivate and showcase the leadership skills of young people.



Christopher Thomas, Founder and Chairman of Integrated Insights Ltd., Board Member of the Atlantic Council, Former Visiting Professor of Tsinghua University, Former Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Christopher Thomas, Founder and Chairman of Integrated Insights Ltd., said that becoming an expert in any field typically takes 10 to 15 years of focused effort, but today's youth are often distracted by short videos and social media. The first challenge in career development is to overcome the lack of focus. Young people should choose a field, start with the basics, and gradually deepen their understanding of its core principles. They should also seek opportunities to work with outstanding individuals and find mentors as early as possible, as this will help them to stand out more quickly in their respective fields. The mismatch between young talent and the job market is another pressing issue. Governments and society need to have serious discussions about educating young people in the context of technological development, and enterprises should broaden their recruitment channels and search for talent globally.



Maurice Louis-Dreyfus, Member of the Supervisory Board and Strategy Committee of Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V., attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Maurice Louis-Dreyfus, Member of the Supervisory Board and Strategy Committee of Louis Dreyfus Holding B.V., stated that cross-border exchanges of youth contribute to building a fair and equitable socio-economic system. Addressing sustainable development issues requires the collaborative efforts of multiple stakeholders, and multinational companies can play a key role by fostering youth skills in promoting sustainability through industry-academia-research collaborations. Louis Dreyfus has established leadership programs to enable young people to conduct in-depth research on global challenges; it also offers scholarship programs to support outstanding young people studying abroad, with the aim of cultivating talent to drive sustainable development. In addition, the group actively responds to China's rural revitalization strategy by supporting youth participation in rural social practices, helping nurture talent for sustainable agricultural development, and encouraging youth to contribute to the growth of agriculture, rural areas, and farmers in China.

Topic 2: The Tide of Technological Advances – Innovation and Entrepreneurship by Youth



Wanghui, Bilingual Host and Chief Reporter for China Global Television Network,
moderated Panel Discussion 2 of the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development:
Creating a Shared Better Future



Yu Miaojie, President of Liaoning University,
attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future
and participated in Panel Discussion

Yu Miaojie, President of Liaoning University, emphasized that university education should not only impart knowledge but also cultivate students' critical thinking, help them develop their ideas and theories, and form a correct understanding of life and success, which is essential for their future development. In the context of globalization, young people should not only have a global perspective but also an appreciation of local wisdom. Chinese youth need to understand the underlying factors behind China's rapid economic growth and the unique contributions China has made to globalization. Liaoning University places great importance on teaching that addresses real-world issues and engages with the practical world. Liaoning University encourages students not to be afraid of "getting their hands dirty" but to embrace practice and learning. Through the establishment of urban research institutes and internship programs, students are given opportunities to engage directly with local development challenges.



Zhang Yongmin, Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Zhang Yongmin, Academician of the French National Academy of Pharmacy, stated that the current international environment is favorable for scientific and educational exchanges and cooperation between China and Europe, and China's scientific and technological development has expanded the areas of bilateral cooperation. As the research cooperation between China and Europe has evolved from China "catching up" and learning from Europe to a stage where both sides are now "running in parallel," and China has even become a "leader" in some fields, equitable China-Europe scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation have become possible. In this context, China should adjust its traditional model of China-Europe scientific and educational exchanges, which has been focused on "learning from Europe," by shifting from sending young teachers and students to Europe for further study and inviting European experts to give lectures and guidance, to actively engaging in mutually beneficial exchanges and cooperation with Europe, fully tapping into the potential of China-Europe educational and research cooperation to strengthen innovation.



Hugo Duminil-Copin, Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques) and the University of Geneva, Fields medalist 2022, attended via video the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Hugo Duminil-Copin, Professor at IHES (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques), pointed out that innovation is the result of a collaborative chain, and if any link in the chain encounters problems, the overall efficiency will decline. Therefore, both the public and private sectors should share responsibility for funding basic research, education, and development. The public sector should remain flexible and adapt to the evolving landscape of emerging technologies, creating space for interdisciplinary collaboration. The private sector, in turn, should maintain close links with the public sector through initiatives such as doctoral training programs and support for basic research. It is crucial to promote open communication across disciplinary, as the Internet era enables researchers to exchange ideas freely. Collaboration among researchers from different backgrounds, cultures, and countries significantly enhances collective intelligence and creativity.



Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, Strategic Engagement Advisor at SpaceX, Founder of AI Academy Asia, and Former Vice Minister of Mongolia's Digital Development Ministry, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion

Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, Strategic Engagement Advisor at SpaceX, stated that each generation faces different challenges, but it is important to pursue one's dreams. At the same time, young people should also prioritize self-care. While working hard, they need to pay attention to their physical and mental health. Recently, there have been many reports in the media about young people suffering from depression, particularly in Asian families where expectations are often very high, putting a lot of pressure on young people. Digital transformation is essential in today's era, and digital transformation initiatives, along with relevant government platforms, can empower young women in underdeveloped regions through education and training. This can enable them to attend top universities, achieve personal growth, contribute to technological innovation and social development, and drive societal change.



Timothe Dupont, President of Lesaffre Asia Pacific Region,
attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future
and participated in Panel Discussion

Timothe Dupont, President of Lesaffre Asia Pacific Region, said that biotechnology is a cutting-edge, high-precision field, and that bioenergy plays a key role in sustainable development. Young people are driving the development of biotechnology in two ways. On the one hand, they are more attuned to the importance of sustainable development, which in turn stimulates the demand for bioenergy products. On the other hand, they are actively involved in biotechnology innovation. Biotech companies can help young people make greater contributions to the field by providing talent training, increasing visibility, and building strong collaborative networks. It is essential to create an environment where young people are encouraged to innovate and are not afraid of failure, fostering their ambition and curiosity. While companies should focus on KPIs, it's important to remember that failure is the stepping stone to success.



Abdullah Al Araf, Co-Founder and CEO, EcoTech Innovation, attended the Parallel Session on Globalization and Youth Development: Creating a Shared Better Future and participated in Panel Discussion Ecotech Innovation

Abdullah Al Araf, Co-Founder and CEO of EcoTech Innovation, stated that as a young entrepreneur from Bangladesh, his company is committed to developing innovative and sustainable energy solutions. It promotes the use of technology to simplify the product development process, making it more accessible and usable to drive sustainable development. Young entrepreneurs need to boldly pursue their vision, staying true to their dreams and innovations despite challenges. In addition, young entrepreneurs need international collaboration and mentorship programs to foster technological innovation and business growth. His entrepreneurial journey has benefited from UNICEF's "Generation Unlimited" youth entrepreneurship program. Young people should be courageous in identifying problems and leading solutions to address climate and energy challenges.