

## OECD inaugurates first Forum for World Education on the future of global education

**December 5, 2019** -- The U.S.-based non-profit organization Forum for World Education (FWE) launched its first annual conference at OECD headquarters in Paris, France on December 3. FWE is committed to promoting global economic growth through educational innovation and helping disadvantaged groups gain access and equality.

The conference drew more than 300 global business leaders, education policymakers, and well-known scholars from over 10 countries and regions participated in this two-day event, launching an ambitious and far-reaching dialogue on the future of global education. The conference hosted 10 panel discussions during the two-day forum, offering insights on education innovation and economic development over the next decade. China CCTV's Tian Wei and former UK Diplomat Tom Fletcher moderated these discussions.

Dr. Cheng Davis, co-founder of The Forum for World Education, opened up the forum with a speech paying tribute to Victor Hugo, one of the greatest French novelists.

“Victor Hugo is a true humanitarian and global citizen,” said Dr. Cheng Davis, “His philosophy, character, and posture towards outsiders is the spirit we want to carry on for today’s education. Education is the only way to build world citizens like him -- and we will find the way together to achieve that and make education a priority by gathering experts such as all of you here.”



*Caption: Dr. Cheng Davis, co-founder of The Forum for World Education*

With a broken link between today's education system and tomorrow's global workforce, business leaders can offer a unique perspective on how education can be repositioned and reformed in line with today's rapidly changing society.

In his speech, Andreas Schleicher, OECD Director for Education and Skills said: “The Forum for World Education provides a unique platform for global leaders and young people to discuss the future of education. It is clear that to transform education at scale we need not just a radical vision of what is possible but also make education everybody’s business.”

The two-day conference brought together global leaders from all over the world, with attendees such as Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, Jack Ma, Founder of Jack Ma Foundation, and Dhanin Chearavanont, Senior Chairman of CP Group in Thailand. They were joined by a group of former education ministers and policy makers including Olli-Pekka Heinonen of Finland, Hekia Parata of New Zealand, and Maria Helena Guimarães de Castro of Brazil. World-renowned academics also participated in the discussions, including Dr. Eric Hanushek of Stanford University, Dr. Oon Seng Tan of Former Director National Institute for Education Singapore, Dr. Christoph Metzger of the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, Dr. A. Lin Goodwin, Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong, and Dr. Pam Grossman, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania.

The forum began with keynote speeches by Princess Laurentien and Jack Ma, in which they discussed the developments and challenges of 21<sup>st</sup>-century education. Jack Ma said that innovation in education is crucial to keep pace with today’s fast-changing world: “In the current digital era, two things are increasingly important: not only should we give everyone the chance to receive an education but, first and foremost, it’s about offering students the right type of education and skillset that can prepare them to cope with the challenges the future poses.”



*Caption: Jack Ma, Founder of Jack Ma Foundation*

Jack Ma also called for better recognition of school personnel, from headmasters to teachers. “Education is

about the future. We should give teachers the best recognition, and equip headmasters with the proper training and resources to identify and retain the most capable educators. A good teacher can help 200 students in their lifetime at least. Being a teacher was my first job, and I hope my last job is working together with you, to do something to improve education globally.”

Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands also focused on recognizing children's innovation with a view to giving them a voice in the design of their education systems, emphasizing that "a good teaching method should not only help kids but also supports adults."

Nearly two dozen young future leaders from 17 countries attended the forum, engaging in discussions about their views and expectations for educational innovation, as well as challenges encountered in school and employment.



*Caption: **Tian Wei** moderator, **Fan Jesse Yang**, Young Leader from China , **Dhanin Chearavanont**, Senior Chairman of CP group, **Dani Bickel**, Young Leader from US, **Pam Grossman**, Dean of Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, **Maitha Al Memari**, Young Leader from UAE, **David Cruikshank**, Former Chairman Deloitte.*

The Forum for World Education has attracted attention from the education, economy, culture and arts sectors, as well as international organisations like UNESCO, policy makers, and many universities and non-profit organisations from around the world.