

# TSINGHUA

## 2026 ISSUE 2

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## Xi replies to letter from Chinese, U.S. students participating in "A Shared Voyage: China-U.S. Youth Friendship Program"

Chinese President Xi Jinping has replied to a letter from Chinese and U.S. students participating in "A Shared Voyage: China-U.S. Youth Friendship Program," encouraging them to make new contributions to the stable, healthy and sustainable development of China-U.S. relations.

"I am delighted to know that the students from both countries had embarked on an unforgettable friendship voyage aboard the China-U.S. Youth

Friendship vessel," Xi said, adding that the story of China-U.S. friendship is written by the people, and the future of China-U.S. relations is shaped by the youth.

Since the launch of the initiative of inviting 50,000 young Americans to China for exchange and study programs in a five-year span in November 2023, over 50,000 young Americans have visited China, achieving the target two-and-a-half years ahead of schedule, Xi said, adding that through these



Chinese and U.S. students exchange gifts on the deck of a research ship and perform classic songs from both countries.



interactions, young people from both countries have reached out to each other, deepened mutual understanding, forged profound friendships, and opened a new chapter in friendly exchanges between the two peoples.

Noting that young people, full of vitality and dreams, represent the future and hope of China-U.S. relations and of the world, Xi called on more Chinese and U.S. youth to take up the baton of friendship, learn from each other, progress together, and become "envoys of friendship" bridging the Pacific.

Recently, Chinese and U.S. students who took part in "A Shared Voyage: China-U.S. Youth Friendship Program" wrote to President Xi, thanking him for the "50,000 in Five Years" initiative, which has provided valuable opportunities for young people of both countries to engage in learning and exchange.

Among them are three students from Tsinghua University: Niu Lishan, a PhD student at the School of Environment (enrolled in 2022); Zhou Xinyi, a Master's student at the School of Journalism and Communication (enrolled in 2023); and Guo Shuohai, a PhD student at the School of Vehicle and Mobility (enrolled in 2025).

On the morning of June 2, a symposium was held at Tsinghua to thoroughly study and implement the spirit of President Xi's reply to the letter from Chinese and U.S. students participating in the "A Shared Voyage: China-U.S. Youth Friendship Program." Bai Benfeng, deputy secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee and vice president of the University, attended the event.

Niu Lishan recalled the moment when youth from both countries jointly sent a letter to President



*Chinese and U.S. students engage in traditional Chinese cultural activities.*

Xi. Zhou Xinyi reflected on the mutual learning and exchanges between Chinese and U.S. youth. Guo Shuohai highlighted how cultural exchanges, technology activities, and other activities helped deepen understanding between young people from the two nations.

"In the future, I will keep in mind the instructions of President Xi, learn from and grow together with young people around the world, and dedicate my youthful energy to promoting friendship between China and other countries and building a better world," Guo Shuohai said.

*A symposium was held at Tsinghua to thoroughly study and implement the spirit of President Xi's reply to the letter from Chinese and U.S. students participating in the "A Shared Voyage: China-U.S. Youth Friendship Program."*



## Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visits Tsinghua

On the morning of April 13, as Tsinghua University approaches its 115th anniversary, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez visited the University and delivered a speech at the "Distinguished Global Scholars Lecture".

Tsinghua University President Li Luming met with Sánchez prior to the speech. Both sides expressed a commitment to strengthening bilateral exchanges and explored possibilities for future cooperation between Spain and Tsinghua.

Sánchez delivered a lecture entitled "Spain-China Relations in the Global Landscape". Li Luming attended the event and delivered welcome remarks.

Yang Bin, Vice Chancellor of the University Council, presided over the event.

Li Luming extended a warm welcome to Sanchez on his visit. He noted that China-Spain relations have maintained a high-level of development in recent years, with solid progress achieved across various fields. Tsinghua University has always attached great importance to friendly exchanges with Spanish partners, and has developed deep and fruitful collaborations with leading Spanish universities and renowned enterprises in areas such as talent development, scientific research and innovation, and cultural exchange. Looking forward, Li expressed



*Sánchez delivers a speech at Tsinghua University.*





Group photo of the event

Tsinghua's hope to work closely with the Spanish government and its people to further promote comprehensive cooperation across multiple fields, explore joint efforts in emerging sectors such as new energy, digital economy, and artificial intelligence, and enhance mutual understanding between the two nations. These efforts, he noted, will contribute to a more strategically stable, dynamically growing, and internationally influential comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Spain.

In his speech, Sánchez highlighted that China and Spain, as well as China and Europe, had previously

achieved shared prosperity, and there is no reason why they cannot once again join forces to achieve this today. He emphasized that human progress stems from finding common ground, not from deepening divisions. He also noted that humanity itself is a miracle—the only miracle in the world—and that it is the responsibility of all people to ensure this miracle endures through mutual understanding and cooperation.

Sánchez began his address by recalling the legacy of Matteo Ricci, who traveled to China more than four hundred years ago to create world maps. He stressed

Sánchez meets with  
Tsinghua University  
students.Sánchez engages in a  
discussion with experts  
and scholars

that the current international order should not be viewed through outdated perspectives or zero-sum thinking, but rather with an open and inclusive mindset that embraces the reality of a multipolar world. To advance a more equal, orderly, peaceful, and prosperous multipolar world, Sánchez called for the development of a more efficient, transparent, and representative multilateral system, as well as a global trade framework that is more balanced and sustainable, with shared benefits and responsibilities. He also urged joint efforts to address pressing global challenges such as climate change, public health, artificial intelligence governance, and nuclear security. Sánchez further expressed high appreciation for China's positive role in global affairs, stating that China's engagement is crucial to the world. He concluded by calling for mutual understanding and cooperation to protect the planet and ensure the continuity of humanity's miracle.

During the subsequent expert exchange session, Sánchez held in-depth discussions with Chinese and

Spanish experts on the future direction of China-Europe relations and the prospects for China-Spain cooperation amid profound shifts in the international landscape.

The participating experts examined both the opportunities and challenges in global governance, regional security, economic and trade affairs, and technological development, and offered recommendations for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The discussion concluded that, under current circumstances, strengthening policy coordination and expanding the scope of cooperation between China and Spain is of great significance for advancing China-Europe relations and jointly addressing global challenges.

The event was attended by the Spanish diplomatic delegation, heads of relevant Tsinghua schools and departments, representatives of Spanish students studying at Tsinghua, and a large number of Chinese students.



## To Lam visits Tsinghua University, attends China - Vietnam Forum on Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation

On the afternoon of April 14, as Tsinghua University approaches the 115th anniversary of its founding, To Lam, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and president of Vietnam, visited Tsinghua and attended the China - Vietnam Forum on Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation, jointly organized by Tsinghua University and Vietnam National University, Hanoi, where he delivered a policy speech. Yin Li, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, and Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee, attended the forum and delivered remarks. Ren Youqun, vice minister of education, Hoang Minh Son, Vietnam's acting minister of education and training,

and Bui The Duy, president of Vietnam National University, Hanoi, delivered keynote speeches on the development of higher education and educational cooperation between the two countries. Chen Zhou, vice minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, and He Wei, Chinese ambassador to Vietnam, also attended the forum. The forum was chaired by Yang Bin, vice chancellor of Tsinghua University Council.

In his policy speech, To Lam expressed the hope that Vietnam-China cooperation will grow stronger in trade and investment as well as knowledge, technology, innovation and the capacity to shape the future. He said that Vietnam and China are neighboring countries sharing many cultural

similarities and longstanding ties nurtured over thousands of years of exchanges and strengthened by the peoples' shared aspirations for peace, stability and development.

"I believe that every Vietnamese student studying in China, including those at Tsinghua University, serves as a bridge of friendship, a cultural ambassador and a representative of the Vietnamese youth's spirit of learning, openness and aspiration to rise," To Lam said. "I also believe that each Chinese student coming to Vietnam to study, conduct research and gain practical experience will contribute to deepening mutual understanding between the two peoples."

Alongside high-level exchanges and cooperation among ministries, sectors and localities, greater attention should be given to people-to-people exchanges, youth exchanges, academic exchanges and cooperation in culture, education and tourism, so that every citizen and every young person in both countries feels a responsibility to preserve and further strengthen the Vietnam-China friendship, he said. He stressed the importance of strengthening youth exchanges so that younger generations become both inheritors of the traditional friendship and pioneers in shaping the future, working together to address major development challenges in areas such as

education, health care, environment, energy, smart cities, green agriculture and the digital economy.

To Lam also expressed his confidence that by building on the legacy of friendship, mutual trust, substantive cooperation and breakthroughs in science, technology and innovation with youth serving as a bridge to the future, Vietnam -China relations would continue to develop in a stable, healthy and sustainable manner, bringing tangible benefits to both peoples and contributing to regional and global peace and development.

In his remarks, Yin Li extended a warm welcome to To Lam. He said that China and Vietnam are neighboring countries linked by mountains and rivers, with a long history of friendly exchanges. In recent years, under the joint guidance of General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and Vietnamese President To Lam, cooperation between the two countries in education, science, and technology has grown ever closer, giving fresh momentum and vitality to relations between the two parties and the two countries. Today, scientific and technological innovation is advancing rapidly worldwide, and a new wave of technological



To Lam delivers a policy speech (Source: Beijing Daily)



Yin Li delivers remarks (Source: Beijing Daily)



revolution and industrial transformation is reshaping the global economy. China is fully implementing the 15th Five-Year Plan and making coordinated efforts to build China into a leading country in education, science and technology.

Following the important consensus reached by the top leaders of the two countries, he said, the two sides will deepen cooperation in education, expand partnerships between their universities, and promote exchanges among younger generations. They will strengthen collaborative innovation in science and technology, jointly undertake key technological research, enhance cooperation across industrial and supply chains, and foster new, quality productive forces to drive high-quality development. As China's capital, Beijing serves as the nation's political center, cultural center, center for international exchange, and center for scientific and technological innovation. With abundant resources in education, science, and talent, and a vibrant spirit of innovation and creativity, the city is well-positioned to deepen exchanges with its sister city, Hanoi, and more cities in Vietnam in education, science, and technology, and to work together in advancing the building of a China - Vietnam community with a shared future.

Qiu Yong, on behalf of the entire Tsinghua community, extended a warm welcome to To Lam on his visit to the University. Qiu said that during his two visits to Vietnam in 2024 and 2025, he had



To Lam enters the forum venue (Photo by Zhao Wenyu, China News Service)

deeply felt the profound friendship between the two sides as "comrades and brothers." As relations between nations are built on friendship between their peoples, universities, he said, have both the responsibility and the capacity to play a distinctive role in promoting people-to-people and cultural exchanges. In the face of the challenges of the times, universities should remain open and inclusive, take on global responsibilities, and uphold the core values of civilization.



During the forum at Tsinghua University

As a new wave of technological change reshapes higher education, universities should embrace it actively while carefully addressing potential risks. They should also ensure that humanistic values remain central to education, so as to fulfill their mission of supporting students' overall development and advancing social progress. He said that universities in China and Vietnam are connected by shared cultural traditions, common values, and similar aspirations, and should work to carry forward the traditional friendship between the two countries, deepen exchanges in education, science and technology, and the humanities, and contribute to building a China - Vietnam community with a shared future of strategic significance.

Following the forum's opening ceremony and keynote speeches, four parallel sessions were held on coordinated development of China-Vietnam higher education and the building of a regional

talent community, international cooperation in executive education and China-Vietnam industrial chain coordination, environment and sustainable development, and artificial intelligence and digital education. The event also facilitated the signing of 34 cooperation agreements or memorandums of understanding between 18 Chinese universities and 17 Vietnamese universities, covering a wide range of areas including talent cultivation, research collaboration, and faculty and student exchanges.

Attendees included members of Vietnam's Political Bureau and Vietnamese officials; Chinese officials from the International Department of the Central Committee of CPC, the Ministry of Education, the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee, and the Chinese Embassy; as well as representatives from universities and enterprises in both countries, including faculty and students from Tsinghua University.

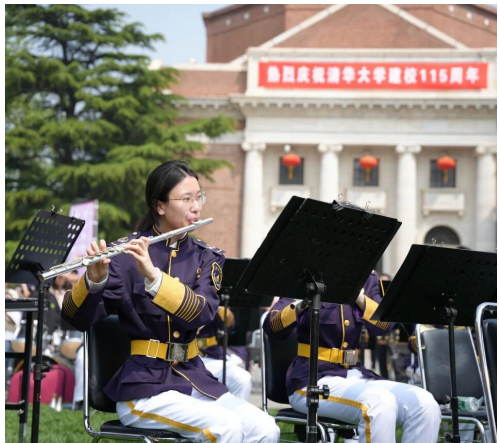


Group photo of leaders and guests (Source: China News Service)



# 115th Anniversary of Tsinghua

Tsinghua University hosted alumni from around the world for a weekend of reunions on April 26. The event featured various exhibitions, performances, and activities organized by schools and departments of the University.





## Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic visits Tsinghua

On May 26, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, who is on a state visit to China, visited Tsinghua University and delivered a speech as part of Tsinghua's Global Vision Lecture Series. Tsinghua University President Li Luming met with President Vucic, attended the speech, and delivered welcoming remarks. Li Ming, Chinese ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Cao Lei, deputy director-general, the Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Yan Xuetong, honorary president of the Institute of International Relations, School of Social Sciences, and one of the first Distinguished Professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University, attended the event. Yang Bin, vice chancellor of Tsinghua University Council, hosted the speech.

President Vucic delivered a speech on "Serbian-Chinese relations, current global political situation, individual development and political and economic achievements of Serbia in recent period."

"As my friend Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez used to say, I feel very honored and privileged here in a temple of knowledge at Tsinghua University," President Vucic remarked at the beginning of his speech. Drawing on his years of governing Serbia, President Vucic shared his insights on how to deepen the ironclad friendship between the two countries and explore pathways for global cooperation and shared success in a changing and turbulent world.

President Vucic said that China, with its distinctive development model, has achieved leapfrog breakthroughs in many fields, and its development achievements over the past decade and more are evident to all. Every time he visits China, he can genuinely feel the rapid and ever-changing progress, and this vibrant and upward momentum of development is deeply moving. China has now become an important force in maintaining global peace and stability. Its path of rise fully demonstrates



President Vucic enters the Reception Hall of the Main Building.



President Vucic addresses teachers and students at Tsinghua University.

that only by staying down-to-earth, working diligently and striving forward, upholding the bottom line of peaceful development, and focusing on its own development can a country improve people's well-being. China and Serbia have stood together through hardships and share a deep friendship. Serbia will remain firmly committed to its position, respect China's development achievements, and cherish the profound friendship between the two countries. He hoped that young students would cherish the hard-won achievements in development, and, with wholehearted enthusiasm, an innovative spirit, and an open mindset, temper their character through practical action, strive to grow into pillars of the nation, and work together to create a better future for the world.

Li Luming, on behalf of faculty and students of the University, extended a warm welcome to President Vucic on his visit to Tsinghua University. He said that Serbia is an "ironclad friend" of China. The friendship between the two countries grows ever stronger with the passage of time. The world is now undergoing unprecedented changes. Solidarity and cooperation remain the only viable path to safeguard global peace and stability and achieve prosperity and development. Strengthening the traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Serbia is of great significance. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of the two heads of state, cooperation between China and Serbia across various fields has continued to deepen, and people-to-people exchanges and youth interactions have become increasingly active.

Li Luming noted that universities serve as bridges that promote mutual learning and exchanges

among civilizations. Facing new realities such as the convergence and interaction of diverse civilizations and the rapid evolution of emerging technologies, Tsinghua University has further implemented its global strategy, sent faculty members and student teams to Serbia for field research, and promoted people-to-people friendship and exchanges between China and Serbia. Looking ahead, the University would strive to further deepen educational and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, and welcome more Serbian young people to pursue their studies at Tsinghua University, so as to help the younger generation become a bridge for strengthening the friendship between China and Serbia, and to contribute Tsinghua's wisdom and strength to building a community with a shared future for mankind.



President Vucic delivers a speech.



Li Luming presents a commemorative plaque for the Global Vision Lecture to President Vucic.





*President Vucic interacts with students.*

At the event, Li Luming presented a commemorative plaque for the Global Vision Lecture to President Vucic. In response to questions from faculty and students present, Vucic engaged in interactive exchanges on topics such as how China-Serbia relations can serve as a model for win-win international cooperation, how young people can inject vitality into the enduring friendship between China and Serbia, and what core competencies young people should develop to address global challenges.

Prior to the lecture, Li Luming met with President



*Distinguished guests and university leaders gather for a commemorative group photo.*

Vucic and his delegation at the Main Building. The two sides exchanged views on topics including changes in the global geopolitical landscape, China-Serbia educational exchange and cooperation, and the cultivation of young talent.

Around 200 participants attended the event, including members of the Serbian delegation visiting China, staff from the Serbian Embassy in China, heads of relevant national departments and organizations, and representatives of faculty and students from Tsinghua University.



*Students listen closely to the lecture and engage in interactive discussion.*



*Scene of the Global Vision Lecture event at Tsinghua University*

## Prime Minister of Montenegro Milojko Spajić Visits Tsinghua University

On June 21, Prime Minister of Montenegro Milojko Spajić visited Tsinghua University. Yang Bin, vice chancellor of the University Council, met with the Prime Minister at the Main Building, where both sides exchanged views on deepening educational cooperation and strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Yang Bin, on behalf of Tsinghua University, welcomed Prime Minister Spajić back to the campus, where he once studied. He noted that Tsinghua has remained committed to serving national needs while steadily advancing its global strategy, with sustained efforts in talent cultivation and scientific research leading to continuous growth in its social impact and global standing. He highlighted the University's strategic focus on artificial intelligence, sustainable development, climate change, and energy transition, and expressed hope for deeper substantive cooperation with Montenegrin universities in student and faculty exchanges, joint research, and talent training, so as to promote mutually beneficial outcomes in higher education.

Milojko Spajić recalled his memorable experience studying Chinese at Tsinghua in 2012. He noted that



*The meeting in progress*

Tsinghua brings together outstanding students from across China and around the world, and that his time at the University shaped his first impression of China, leaving an indelible memory. He expressed hope that this visit would serve as an opportunity to promote closer cooperation between Montenegrin universities and Tsinghua University, further expand substantive cooperation in infrastructure development, artificial intelligence, and people-to-people exchanges, and inject new vitality into bilateral relations.

The two sides also exchanged views on international relations research, economics and management talent training, and basic science cooperation.

Chinese Ambassador to Montenegro Chen Xufeng and other officials attended the meeting.



*Group photo of the two sides*



## South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok visits Tsinghua University

On the morning of June 23, South Korean Prime Minister Kim Min-seok visited Tsinghua University. Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee, met with Kim Min-seok at the Main Building. The meeting was also attended by Park Yoon-joo, first vice minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea; Roh Jae-heon, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to China; and Dai Bing, ambassador of China to the Republic of Korea.

Qiu Yong, on behalf of the University, extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Kim Min-seok on his return to his alma mater. He noted that President Xi Jinping has pointed out that China and the Republic of Korea are neighbors that cannot be moved apart and are inseparable cooperation partners. During this visit, he said, we have truly felt the Prime Minister's deep affection for his alma mater. Qiu stated that a world-class university should not only pursue excellence in innovation but also cultivate humanistic depth. In recent years, Tsinghua has steadily advanced high-level opening-up, with its social influence and global reputation on the rise. Standing at a new starting point on its 115th anniversary, the University is ready to strengthen cooperation with Korean partners in education, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges, contributing more to the steady and sustained development of the China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership.



The meeting in progress

Kim Min-seok recalled his days studying at Tsinghua and noted that the University is a world-renowned top-tier institution, with particularly impressive achievements in scientific and technological innovation. He said that the two heads of state met twice and exchanged visits in November last year and January this year, charting a blueprint and setting the direction for the development of ROK-China relations. The government of the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to educational and technological cooperation with China. He expressed the hope that Tsinghua University will leverage its strengths to further strengthen exchanges with South Korean universities, and that young people from both countries will continue to deepen their

engagement in history, politics, culture, and other fields, thereby enhancing mutual understanding and trust.

"I believe my connection with Tsinghua will continue to take root and grow," Kim said, "and will contribute to the steady advancement of bilateral relations and yield even more fruitful outcomes."

Following the meeting, Kim Min-seok visited the School of Law.



Group photo of the two sides

## Tsinghua holds commencement ceremony for undergraduate students

Tsinghua University held its 2026 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on the morning of June 27. Leaders of the University attended the ceremony.

Tsinghua University Vice President and Provost Peng Gang presided over the ceremony and announced the undergraduate graduation and the conferral of bachelor's degrees.

Qiu Yong, Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee, announced the commendation of outstanding and excellent graduates of 2026. He encouraged the graduates to carry forward the spirit of being open to the world and striving for progress, uphold an open and inclusive mindset that embraces and integrates diversity, and demonstrate

confidence, composure, and grace while cultivating a humanistic vision of shared beauty and mutual appreciation among all peoples. He also urged them to stay grounded in the real world, keep humanity's future and people's well-being at the forefront amid the historical process of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and realize their dreams and attain excellence through hard work and dedicated pursuit.

Li Luming, Tsinghua President and Chairman of the Academic Degrees Evaluation Committee, delivered a speech entitled "Leading the Intelligent Era and Creating a Better Future."

On behalf of the University, he extended his congratulations to the students who have successfully



The graduation ceremony venue





*Qiu Yong announces the commendation of outstanding and excellent graduates, and conveys expectations and well-wishes to the students.*



*Li Luming delivers a speech.*

completed their undergraduate studies and to their families, and expressed gratitude to the teachers for their dedicated guidance and support. He encouraged the graduates to embrace change, become leaders in the intelligent era, and shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them by the country and the people. He urged them to be good at asking new questions, to boldly venture into uncharted frontiers, and to open up new horizons for the intelligent era through innovation and creativity; to advance the principles

of "people-centered and AI-for-good", ensuring that the intelligent era always retains a human touch; and to write a vibrant chapter of youth as they strive to shoulder their responsibilities and contribute to the Chinese path to modernization.

Chen Meilan, an alumna who graduated from the Department of Energy and Power Engineering and is currently deputy chief engineer of the Nuclear Reactor Engineering Software Research



*Peng Gang presides over the ceremony.*



*Chen Meilan delivers a speech.*



*Li Yuhan speaks at the ceremony.*



*University leaders present badges of honor to the excellent graduate representatives.*

Institute, China Nuclear Power Technology Research Institute Co., Ltd., delivered a speech as the alumni representative. She shared her experience of dedicating herself to frontline scientific research and encouraged the students to stay oriented toward the needs of the country and the people, to maintain resilience and inner strength, and to sustain an enduring passion for progress, so as to devote their entire lives to serving the nation.

Li Yuhan, from Rixin College, spoke as the representative of the graduating students. He shared his reflections on his four years of undergraduate study, noting that he will integrate his personal

aspirations into the needs of the country and integrate his professional expertise in the broader context of the times, and that he will be willing to take responsibility, remain humble in collective achievements, and step behind others when success is achieved.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, university leaders proceeded to the Gymnasium to continue with the Degree Conferment Ceremony. The graduation ceremony was broadcast live in both Chinese and English on the Rain Classroom platform, allowing graduates who were not physically present on campus and their family members to attend online.



*Qiu Yong confers degree certificates to the graduates.*



*Li Luming confers degree certificates to the graduates.*



*The Degree Conferment Ceremony venue*



## Tsinghua holds commencement ceremony for graduate students

Tsinghua University held its 2026 Graduate Commencement Ceremony on June 28.

Leaders of the University attended the ceremony. Tsinghua University Vice President and Provost Peng Gang presided over the ceremony and announced the graduation of the Class of 2026 graduate students and the conferral of doctoral and master's degrees.

Secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee Qiu Yong announced the commendation of outstanding and excellent PhD and master's graduates and conveyed his expectations and best wishes to the students. He encouraged the graduates, in an era of flourishing artificial

intelligence, to never give up independent thinking, safeguard their inner values, uphold rational choice, and embrace "conscious initiative," translating thought into action. He further urged them to let faith guide their direction and dedication illuminate their future, and to inscribe their own chapter in the historic journey of building a great country and achieving national rejuvenation.

President of Tsinghua University and Chair of the University Academic Degrees Committee Li Luming delivered a speech titled "Stand Firm at the Forefront, Forge Ahead through Difficulties." He extended congratulations on behalf of the University to the graduates who had successfully completed their



The graduation ceremony venue



The Graduation Ceremony venue

postgraduate studies, as well as to their families, and expressed sincere gratitude to the teachers who had devoted great effort to supporting their academic growth. He encouraged the graduates to hold lofty ideals, face the road ahead without fear of hardship or obstacles, stay true to their direction and steady in their resolve; to summon the courage to forge new paths individually while building collective momentum through joint efforts, move steadily and

far in overcoming difficulties; and to integrate one's personal aspirations into national development, to remain unwavering through trials and hardships and never regret it, uphold the spirit that "success need not bear my name, but success will surely include my contribution," and let their youth shine through relentless dedication to the country, the nation, the people, and humanity.



University leaders present badges of honor to the excellent graduate representatives.





Qiu Yong announces the commendation of outstanding and excellent PhD and Master's graduates, and conveys expectations and well-wishes to the students.



Li Luming delivers a speech.

Zhao Ri, an alumna of the Department of Engineering Physics and currently chief engineer of the Nuclear and Radiation Technology Frontier Center at the China Institute for Radiation Protection, delivered a speech as the alumni representative. He shared his journey of being admitted to Tsinghua University from a mountainous region, and after graduation dedicating himself to research in nuclear industry radiation protection, where he pursued focused efforts and achieved breakthroughs. He urged students to stay confident and self-reliant, build up their strength over time, and let years of preparation lead to breakthrough success, creating their own miracles.

Zhou Zihan, from the School of Software, spoke on

behalf of the graduating students. She reflected on her journey of pursuing scientific research at Tsinghua and strengthening her commitment to serving the country, and expressed the hope that she and her fellow graduates would devote their youth to the places where the nation needs them most.

The graduation ceremony was broadcast live in both Chinese and English on the "Rain Classroom" platform, allowing graduates who were not physically present on campus and their family members to attend online.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, university leaders proceeded to the Gymnasium to continue with the Degree Conferment Ceremony.



Peng Gang presides over the ceremony.



Zhao Ri delivers a speech.



Zhou Zihan speaks at the ceremony.



Qiu Yong confers degree certificates to the graduates.



Li Luming confers degree certificates to the graduates.



The Degree Conferment Ceremony venue



# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

## Tsinghua experts and global AI leaders sign the IDAIS London Declaration

Leading global artificial intelligence experts convened in London recently, including Turing Award laureate Andrew Chi-Chih Yao, who serves as dean of both Tsinghua's Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences and College of Artificial Intelligence; Turing Prize Award Yoshua Bengio; Zhang Ya-Qin, founding dean of Tsinghua's Institute for AI Industry Research; and UC Berkeley professor Stuart Russell, plus numerous other prominent AI researchers worldwide. These experts jointly signed the IDAIS London Declaration during their gathering. They also held discussions focused on stopping societal-scale harms stemming from AI-enabled attacks. The event marked the fifth session in the International Dialogues on AI Safety (IDAIS) series and was co-hosted by the Safe AI Forum and the University of Oxford's Martin AI Governance Initiative.

Over the three-day conference, the assembled scientists and governance experts drafted and signed a consensus statement. It calls on states to recognize the common threat posed by the proliferation of

AI-enabled cyberattacks and biological misuse capabilities and to commit to coordinated prevention efforts.

The statement warns that, on current trajectories, non-state actors with minimal technical capacity will gain access to certain state-level cyberattack capabilities within the next year, creating unprecedented risks to critical infrastructure and national security. Societies remain unprepared for this imminent threat, and biological misuse risks are not far behind.

The statement also sets out clear priorities across both risk areas, including protecting critical infrastructure, hardening safeguards on frontier models, and developing robust evaluation capacities. It cautions that what is now unfolding in the cyber domain should serve as a warning for biological risks and for the broader set of challenges ahead, including the potential loss of control over increasingly autonomous AI systems.



*Front row from left: IDAIS founding members Stuart Russell, Andrew Chi-Chih Yao, Yoshua Bengio and Zhang Ya-Qin, pictured alongside fellow participating AI researchers in London.*





Top AI scientists gather for the fifth session in the International Dialogues on AI Safety (IDAIS).

The International Dialogues on AI Safety (IDAIS) brings together the world's leading scientists to jointly address various risks posed by artificial intelligence. The first dialogue, held in October 2023, was co-initiated by Andrew Chi-Chih Yao, Yoshua Bengio, Zhang Yaqin, and Stuart Russell. To date, IDAIS has held five international dialogues on AI safety: IDAIS-Oxford (2023), IDAIS-Beijing (2024), IDAIS-Venice (2024), IDAIS-Shanghai (2025), and IDAIS-London (2026).

In March 2026, Fynn Heide, CEO of the Safe AI Forum—the organizer of IDAIS—led a delegation to Tsinghua University's College of Artificial Intelligence, where they engaged in academic exchanges and discussions with Dean Andrew Chi-Chih Yao and other experts on key AI safety issues.



Delegates from the Safe AI Forum and experts from Tsinghua University's College of Artificial Intelligence hold a joint AI safety seminar.

| IDAIS                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Signatories                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Andrew Yao 姚期智                                                                                                                                               | Yoshua Bengio                                                                                                                                                                                        | Stuart Russell                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Tsinghua Professor<br>Chair, Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Science and College of AI<br>Tsinghua University                                    | Professor<br>Chairman of Montreal<br>Founder and Scientific Advisor<br>Mila, Université de Montréal<br>Chair<br>International Scientific Group on the Safety of Advanced AI<br>Tsinghua Award Winner | Professor and Smith-Snyder Chair in Engineering<br>Professor of California, Berkeley<br>Founder of Center for Human-Compatible Artificial Intelligence (CHAI)<br>University of California, Berkeley |
| Yuan Zhang 张亚勤                                                                                                                                               | Craig Mundie                                                                                                                                                                                         | Fu Ying 傅英                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Chair Professor of AI Science and Data<br>Institute for AI Science Research (IASR), Tsinghua University<br>Former President<br>Tsinghua University           | President<br>Microsoft & Associates                                                                                                                                                                  | Max Tegmark                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Xue Lan 薛兰                                                                                                                                                   | Robert Trager                                                                                                                                                                                        | Gillian K. Hadfield                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Dean, School of Management<br>Tsinghua University<br>Executive Director for International Governance (I-Gov)<br>Tsinghua University                          | Director, Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative<br>University of Oxford                                                                                                                             | Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of AI Alignment and Governance<br>Johns Hopkins University                                                                                                        |
| Hu Xia 胡夏                                                                                                                                                    | Jonathan Barry                                                                                                                                                                                       | Xiao Gang 肖钢                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Lead Scientist<br>Strategic and Policy Institute                                                                                                             | Director of Policy<br>MIT - Center for Intelligence Policy and Security                                                                                                                              | Yuan Chen 袁晨                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Xu Wen 许文                                                                                                                                                    | Benjamin Prof. Horn                                                                                                                                                                                  | Dong Yipeng 董翼鹏                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Principal Investigator<br>Tsinghua Q-Zhi Center<br>Professor and Vice Dean of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Science<br>Tsinghua University | Head of Policy<br>AI Institute                                                                                                                                                                       | Assistant Professor<br>Tsinghua University                                                                                                                                                          |
| Dan Orl                                                                                                                                                      | Adam Gleaves                                                                                                                                                                                         | Lu Chenchao 陆晨曦                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Head of Policy<br>AI Institute                                                                                                                               | Founder and CEO<br>AI Risk                                                                                                                                                                           | Senior Research Scientist<br>Google                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Beth Donaghe                                                                                                                                                 | Malcolm Murray                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yan Tao 严涛                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Director of AI<br>Security                                                                                                                                   | Research Lead<br>Safe AI Forum                                                                                                                                                                       | Fynn Heide                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Xu Jia 许佳                                                                                                                                                    | Xu Jia 许佳                                                                                                                                                                                            | Isabella Dunn                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Research Scientist<br>Tsinghua University                                                                                                                    | Research Scientist<br>Safe AI Forum                                                                                                                                                                  | Senior AI Policy Researcher<br>Safe AI Forum                                                                                                                                                        |
| Sead Sridhar                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Senior AI Policy Researcher<br>Safe AI Forum                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Colophon                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

List of signatories to the Declaration

# President Li Luming meets RWTH Aachen Rector Professor Ulrich Rüdiger; two leaders attend Tsinghua-RWTH Aachen Forum on Innovative Talent Development

On April 23, Tsinghua President Li Luming met with Professor Ulrich Rüdiger, rector of RWTH Aachen University. During the meeting, President Li conferred title of the Honorary Professor of Tsinghua University upon Professor Rüdiger. The two leaders also signed a memorandum of understanding on strategic partnership between the two universities, and jointly attended the opening ceremony of the Tsinghua - RWTH Aachen Forum on Innovative Talent Development. The ceremony was hosted by Zheng

Li, vice chairperson of Tsinghua University Council. In his speech, President Li Luming congratulated Professor Rüdiger on his appointment as an honorary professor of Tsinghua University. He reflected on the history of collaboration between the two institutions, noting that since the establishment of the Tsinghua-RWTH Aachen Double Degree Program 25 years ago, it has always adhered to the guiding philosophy of "innovative thinking,



The forum in session



technological leadership, and bridging East and West," and has become a landmark achievement in Sino-German educational cooperation. President Li expressed hope that both sides will continue to promote practical cooperation across more areas, embrace technological transformation, reshape education models, and uphold the core values of universities. He emphasized their shared goal of advancing educational and technological talent development in China and Germany.

Professor Rüdiger remarked that the Tsinghua-RWTH Aachen Double Degree Program has now become a flagship of the strategic partnership between the two universities as well as a model of successful international academic exchange. He emphasized that universities are not just places where knowledge is created, but also where dialogue happens—across disciplines and across borders. Looking ahead, he expressed hope that both sides will build upon their solid foundation of cooperation, adapt to meet the demands of

a rapidly changing world, strengthen academic exchanges, expand joint research, and create new opportunities for students to engage in a truly global education.

Professor Rüdiger also delivered a report titled "RWTH Aachen University: A Next-Generation University," in which he shared insights into the university's development, educational philosophy, and future vision.

The forum featured several themed sessions, where participants held in-depth discussions on topics including innovative talent development and the empowerment of higher education through artificial intelligence.

Founded in 1870, RWTH Aachen University is one of Europe's leading engineering universities. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Tsinghua University - RWTH Aachen University Dual Degree Joint Training Program, which was launched in 2001.



President Li Luming confers the title of Honorary Professor upon Professor Ulrich Rüdiger.



The two university leaders sign a strategic partnership MoU.

## Qiu Yong leads delegation to Mongolia

From April 30 to May 2, Qiu Yong, secretary of the CPC Tsinghua University Committee, led a delegation to Mongolia. The visit aimed to strengthen educational, scientific and technological cooperation as well as people-to-people exchanges between Tsinghua University and Mongolia, and contribute to the advancement of the China-Mongolia comprehensive strategic partnership.

Shen Minjuan, Chinese ambassador to Mongolia, attended several related events, while Yang Bin, vice chancellor of the University Council, accompanied the delegation.

On May 1, Chairman of the State Great Hural of Mongolia Sandag Byambatsogt and Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia Nyamtaishir Nomtoibayar met separately with Qiu and his delegation in Ulaanbaatar.

The Mongolian leaders noted that developing relations with China remains a top priority of the country's foreign policy. They stated that Tsinghua University, as a world-renowned university, has cultivated a great number of talents and made significant contributions to China's economic and social development.

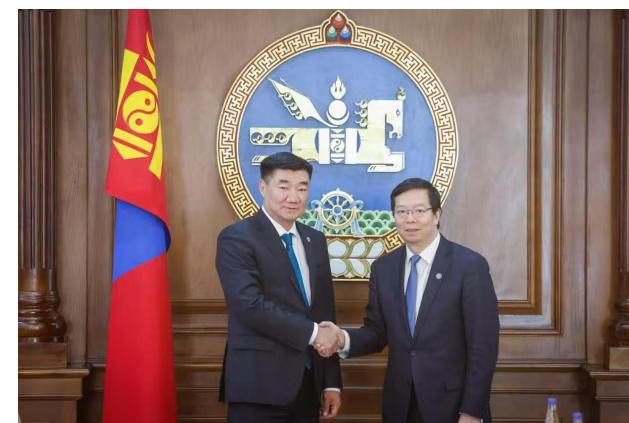
The Mongolian side expressed strong support for deepening cooperation with Tsinghua University across various fields, aiming to cultivate more talent,

build new bridges for collaboration, and contribute to the steady and sustainable development of Mongolia-China relations.

Qiu noted that Tsinghua University, keeping President Xi Jinping's earnest expectations firmly in mind, has steadily advanced high-level opening-up and further implemented its global strategy. In recent years, the University has continued to expand its social influence and enhance its global reputation.

Building on the new starting point of its 115th anniversary, Tsinghua University looks forward to strengthening cooperation with various sectors in Mongolia in talent development, scientific and technological innovation, and the transformation of research outcomes. Leveraging its strengths across a wide range of disciplines, the University will contribute to the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative and make new and greater contributions to building a China-Mongolia community with a shared future.

On the same day, Qiu met with Luvsantseren Enkh-Amgalan, minister of Education and Science of Mongolia, along with representatives of Mongolian universities, and signed a Collaboration Memorandum with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences on behalf of Tsinghua University.



Sandag Byambatsogt meets with Qiu Yong.



Nyamtaishir Nomtoibayar meets with Qiu Yong.



Qiu stated that Tsinghua University, guided by the important consensus reached by the two heads of state, will further strengthen practical cooperation with Mongolian universities in talent cultivation, artificial intelligence, and digital healthcare, and will increase support for Mongolian students to study at Tsinghua, taking bilateral educational cooperation to new heights.

Luvsantseren Enkh-Amgalan noted that cooperation with world-class universities is of great significance for improving the quality of education in Mongolia. He expressed the hope that Tsinghua University will actively share its experience in university governance, and looked forward to seeing more outstanding Mongolian faculty and students having the opportunity to study and exchange at Tsinghua.

Witnessed by Qiu Yong, Minister Luvsantseren Enkh-Amgalan, and other officials, the State Key Laboratory of Membrane Biology at Tsinghua University and the Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University, signed separate memoranda of cooperation with corresponding departments of the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, and the National University of Mongolia.

During his meeting with Nyamdavaa Khurelbaatar, senior advisor to the president of Mongolia, Nambaryn Enkhbayar, former president of Mongolia, and Enkhtaivan Bat-Amgalan, minister of urban development, construction, and housing of Mongolia, Qiu held discussions with them on cooperation in areas such as urban planning, infrastructure, and ecological governance.

Witnessed by Qiu, Enkhbayar, and other officials, the School of Public Policy and Management of Tsinghua University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DE Mongolia Group to strengthen talent training and joint research.

During his visit, Qiu also met with Batshugar Enkhbayar, Mongolian minister of health, and Nomin Chinbat, Mongolian minister of digital development, innovation, and communications, as well as representatives from the business sector. They exchanged views on advancing high-quality educational cooperation between China and Mongolia as well as deepening university-industry collaborative innovation.

Tsinghua University and the Ministry of Health of Mongolia signed a Letter of Intent to promote cooperation in fields such as public health and regenerative medicine.

Qiu also visited the Chinese Embassy in Mongolia, where he exchanged views with Ambassador Shen Minjuan on strengthening cooperation between Tsinghua University and various sectors in Mongolia. During his visit, Qiu also met with representatives of Tsinghua alumni from Mongolia.

Representatives from the Office of International Affairs participated in the visit. Heads of the School of Economics and Management, the School of Public Policy and Management, the School of Education, the School of Life Sciences, the School of Basic Medical Sciences, the Institute for International and Area Studies, and other departments participated in relevant activities.



Signing a Collaboration Memorandum with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences



Signing a Letter of Intent with the Mongolian Ministry of Health

## 2026 Tsinghua PBCSF Global Finance Forum opens

The 2026 Tsinghua PBCSF Global Finance Forum opened on May 18 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province. Zhou Xiaochuan, vice chairman of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC and former governor of the People's Bank of China (PBoC), attended the opening ceremony and delivered a keynote speech at a closed-door meeting held the previous day. Guo Yong, vice chancellor of Tsinghua University Council; Jiao Jie, dean of Tsinghua University PBC School of Finance (Tsinghua PBCSF); and Xie Wei, president of SPD Bank, delivered remarks at the opening ceremony respectively. Zhang Xiaoyan, associate dean and Chair Professor of Tsinghua PBCSF, moderated the opening ceremony.

The 2026 Tsinghua PBCSF Global Finance Forum, themed Global Financial Governance in a Changing World: New Challenges, New Opportunities, New Developments, will be held from May 17 to 20.

The forum features thematic sessions, report and achievement releases, closed-door meetings, and an International Strategic Advisory Council Meeting. Senior political and economic leaders, renowned scholars, and industry experts from both China and abroad will address new ideas, new trends, new practices, and new developments of global financial development, exploring new pathways and contributing new insights for high-quality financial development, the building of a leading financial power, and the improvement of global financial governance.

In the following session, Zhu Min, former deputy managing director of the IMF and former deputy governor of the PBoC; Michael Spence, Nobel Laureate in Economics 2001; and Masaaki Shirakawa, former governor of the Bank of Japan, participated in a high-level dialogue.





## 2026 International Forum on Carbon Neutrality and Energy System Transformation held in Beijing

The 2026 International Forum on Carbon Neutrality and Energy System Transformation (CNEST) was held in Beijing from May 20 to 22. The forum was hosted by Tsinghua University and organized by the Tsinghua Institute for Carbon Neutrality.

Yu Yingjie, member of the Standing Committee of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee and secretary of the Education Working Committee of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee; Li Luming, president of Tsinghua University; Gan Jingzhong, party secretary

of CPC Changping District Committee; Shu Hua, deputy director of the Department of Science, Technology and Informatization at the Ministry of Education; Hodan Osman Abdi, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to China; and Jakob Lundberg, deputy director of Future Earth attended the opening ceremony and delivered speeches.

Konstantin Novoselov, Nobel laureate and professor of the National University of Singapore; Chen Deliang, dean and professor of the Department of Earth

System Science at Tsinghua and co-chair of Future Earth, attended the forum, together with domestic and international experts and representatives from government, industry, and academia. Jiang Peixue, vice chancellor of Tsinghua University Council and the project leader of CNEST Multilateral Collaboration Program, and He Kebin, dean of the Institute for Carbon Neutrality at Tsinghua, Chair of the Science Committee of the CNEST program hosted the opening and closing ceremony respectively.

Yu Yingjie stated that Beijing's education system has proactively served the "dual carbon" goals and achieved remarkable results. Looking ahead, Beijing will remain firmly committed to a path of ecological priority, green and low-carbon development, and high-quality growth, striving to provide Beijing's experience for the green transformation of cities across China and around the world.

Li Luming welcomed the guests on behalf of Tsinghua University. He stated that Tsinghua remains committed to taking concrete actions to address climate change and advance China's "dual carbon" goals. Leveraging its multidisciplinary strengths, the University provides strong technological support and cultivates talent to help tackle shared global challenges and foster an open and inclusive ecosystem for international cooperation. Looking ahead, Tsinghua will continue to deepen multilateral cooperation through CNEST, promote the transformation of global energy systems steadily, and work with partners worldwide to safeguard our shared planet.

Gan Jingzhong noted that Changping District has consistently supported the forum and related cooperation efforts and will work together to write a new chapter in "dual carbon" transformation and the high-quality development of the energy industry.

Shu Hua expressed hope that the CNEST program will further integrate leading research strengths from both China and abroad to provide leadership

and serve as an example in the global response to climate change.

Hodan Osman Abdi emphasized the hope that CNEST platform will help China and Africa shift from project-specific cooperation to systemic collaboration, jointly promoting the transformation of global energy systems and advancing equitable development.

Jakob Lundberg stated that Future Earth will work closely with the CNEST to jointly address climate challenges and build a better future.

Other speakers, including Vivek Tulpule, chief economist of Rio Tinto; and Declan Zeng, director of strategic innovation at Envision Group, shared insights on the transformation process of energy systems and the cooperative vision under the CNEST platform.

Following the opening ceremony, a number of renowned experts and scholars delivered keynote presentations and participated in leaders' roundtable discussions on topics related to carbon neutrality and energy system transformation. Three parallel forums were also held.

Jiang Peixue delivered a forum summary, providing an overview of the latest progress of the CNEST program and the forum.

The event attracted more than 480 participants from 21 countries, including representatives from universities, research institutions, enterprises, and international organizations. Building on the Beijing Initiative on Carbon Neutrality and Energy System Transformation (CNEST) released last year, it has progressively taken shape as the "Beijing Consensus". This framework further refines CNEST's scientific objectives and key research questions, promotes international cooperation and knowledge sharing, and contributes to the achievement of global carbon neutrality goals.



The venue of the 2026 International Forum on Carbon Neutrality and Energy System Transformation



## Asian Universities Alliance Summit 2026 held in Kazakhstan

The Asian Universities Alliance Summit 2026 was held at Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan on June 2. Tsinghua University President Li Luming and Vice Chancellor of the University Council Yang Bin attended the summit.

The annual summit comprised a board meeting, a presidents forum, working group meetings, and bilateral events. More than 40 representatives from member and observer universities gathered at Nazarbayev University for in-depth discussions on the Alliance's long-term development, collaboration in Asian higher education, and the future of university governance.

On the morning of June 2, the Asian Universities Alliance 2026 Board Meeting was held. At the meeting, Li Luming reviewed Tsinghua University's efforts over the past year to advance the development of the Alliance and promote youth exchange and research collaboration among member universities, along with the outcomes achieved.

He noted that through a wide range of activities, the Alliance has effectively connected outstanding

young talent across Asian universities, demonstrating on the international stage its commitment to harnessing youth energy and jointly addressing global sustainable development challenges.

Li hopes that the Alliance will continue to serve as a bridge, actively promoting short-term study programs, scholar exchanges, and student mobility among member universities, and further strengthening dialogue and mutual learning among young people and academics in Asia. He also called for the regular release of an annual report, systematic expansion of external partnerships with industry and international organizations, and the development of a sustainable ecosystem to further enhance the Alliance's global influence.

In 2027, the Alliance will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Tsinghua looks forward to working with the incoming AUA presidency holder and all member universities to jointly chart a new blueprint for the Alliance's development and contribute further to the high-quality development of higher education in Asia and worldwide.



The board meeting gets underway



Group photo of representatives at the 2026 Asian Universities Alliance Summit

Yang Bin presided over the election segment of the Board Meeting. Chulalongkorn University was elected as the Alliance's presidency holder for 2026–2029, with its president, Wilert Puriwat, serving as the AUA President for the same period. Nazarbayev University was elected as the executive presidency holder for 2026–2027, with its president, Waqar Ahmad, serving as the AUA Executive President during that term.

The Board reviewed the Alliance's achievements over the 2023–2026 term, and heard reports from the Secretariat on the AUA Framework 2026–2029, the previous year's financial statement, the work plan and budget for the coming year, as well as updates from two special policy working groups. Decisions were made on key agenda items.

On the afternoon of June 2, the Asian Universities Alliance Presidents Forum 2026 was held under the theme "Shaping Future Universities: Industry Engagement and Governance Innovation."

At the sub-forum on "Role of Industry in University Education - Practices and Challenges," Yang Bin highlighted Tsinghua University's innovative engineering doctoral training model as an example to illustrate practical approaches to university-industry collaborative education. He also examined the future direction of higher education amid industrial transformation, with a focus on curriculum innovation and the optimization of talent development.

Rehan Sadiq, provost of Nazarbayev University; Jimmy Fung, associate provost (teaching and learning), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; and Booyuel Kim, deputy vice president of global affairs, Seoul National University, also joined the discussion.

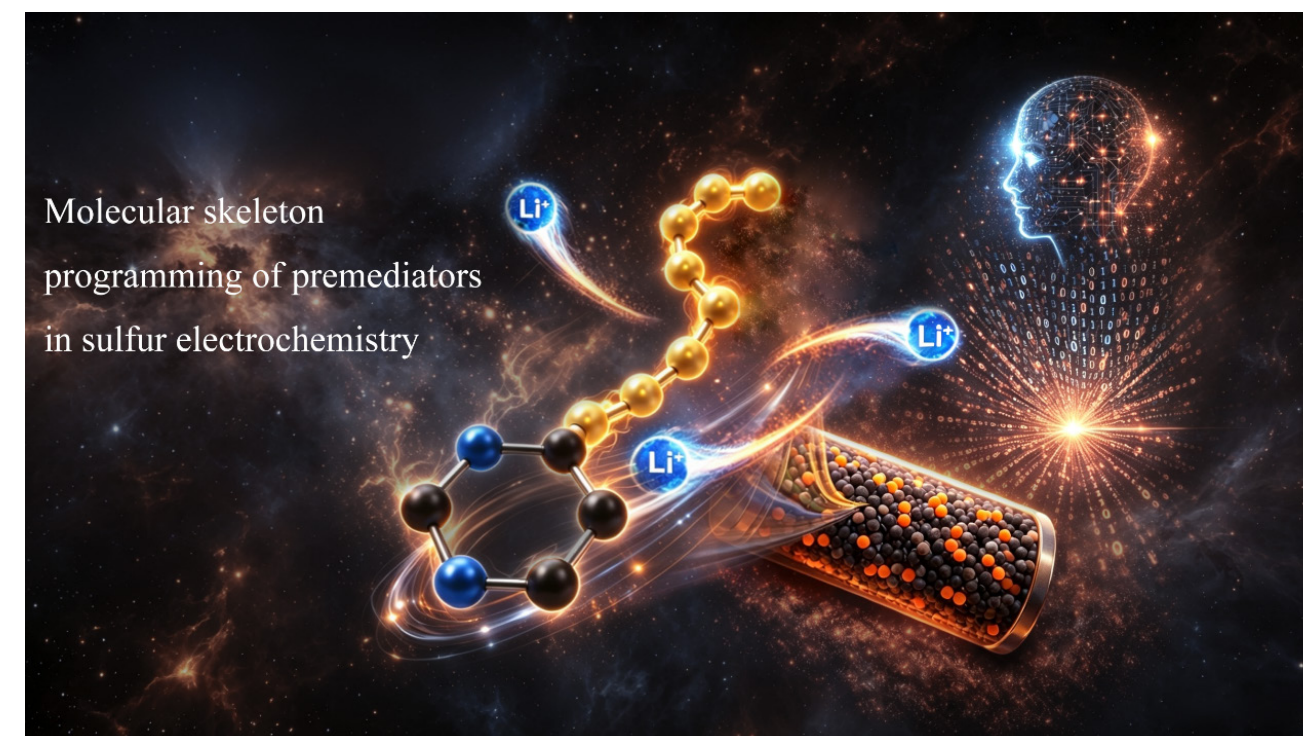
The Asian Universities Alliance was initiated by Tsinghua University and established in Beijing in 2017. Tsinghua served as the presiding institution for the inaugural two terms of the Alliance (2017–2023) and hosts its Secretariat permanently.

Presidents Forum at the 2026 Asian Universities Alliance Summit





## Drones fly farther with high-energy lithium-sulfur battery from Tsinghua SIGS researchers



A research team at Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS) has developed a new approach to significantly boost the energy density of lithium-sulfur batteries, potentially enabling drones and other low-altitude aircraft to achieve much longer flight times on a single charge. Their findings were published on May 6, 2026, in *Nature* under the title "Molecular skeleton programming of premediators in sulfur electrochemistry."

Most conventional drones currently rely on lithium-ion batteries, which are approaching their energy density limits. Their energy density – the amount of power stored per unit of weight – typically falls below 300 watt-hours per kilogram, leading to the "range anxiety" that restricts flight duration.

Lithium-sulfur batteries are considered a promising alternative due to their high theoretical energy density, as well as the abundance and low cost of sulfur. However, in practice, these batteries have faced a major hurdle: during charging and discharging, sulfur undergoes a complex chemical process that generates soluble intermediates known as polysulfides. These intermediates tend to drift away, slow down reactions, and waste energy.

To address this challenge, a team led by Associate Professor Zhou Guangmin at Tsinghua SIGS has proposed an original concept called the "premediator" for sulfur electrochemistry.

"Think of it as a special additive that sleeps inside the battery until it is needed. When the sulfur reaction



starts, the additive wakes up right where the action is and begins to work," Zhou explained.

Once activated by polysulfides, the premediator forms low-solubility clusters through dynamic molecular coordination, confining the intermediates near the positive electrode and opening fast charge-transfer pathways. This transforms the conventional sulfur conversion pathway into a highly efficient "highway" for electrochemical reactions.

The team further developed an intelligent molecular skeleton programming strategy combining quantum

chemistry and machine learning. From 196 candidate molecules, the team identified 4-trifluoromethyl-2-chloropyrimidine as the optimal premediator.

"Building a functional molecule is like playing with building blocks," said Gao Runhua, a 2023 Ph.D. student at Tsinghua SIGS. "The molecular skeleton is the base, and side-chain groups are the blocks. Their type, size, and position all affect the final function."

Zhu Yifei, a 2023 master's student at Tsinghua SIGS, played a key role in integrating computational chemistry and machine learning, as well as analyzing

the underlying mechanisms, while Gao Runhua led the experimental work.

The resulting lithium-sulfur battery demonstrated excellent stability over 800 charge-discharge cycles and achieved an energy density of 549 watt-hours per kilogram in a 14.2-Ah-level pouch cell – nearly double the energy density of many standard drone batteries currently in use.

"For drones, this matters a lot," Zhou said. "Higher energy density means longer flight times, bigger payloads, and more working range. A delivery drone could fly farther to drop off packages. A power line inspection drone could cover more towers in one go. A search-and-rescue drone could stay in the air longer when every minute counts."

The team believes their molecular skeleton programming strategy can be extended to other fields, including organic flow batteries, lithium-metal batteries, and even direct battery recycling processes, contributing to the high-quality development of the new energy industry.

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Molecular skeleton programming of premediators in sulfur electrochemistry

Runhua Gao (高润华), Yifei Zhu (祝伊飞), Shengyu Tao (陶晟宇), Mengtian Zhang (张梦天), Zhoujie Lao (劳洲界), Zhiyuan Han (韩志远), Yanze Song (宋彦泽), Hongtai Li (李宏泰), Linxuan Song (宋林轩), Xuan Zhang (张璇), Yanfei Zhu (朱雁飞) & Guangmin Zhou (周光敏)✉

Nature (2026) | Cite this article

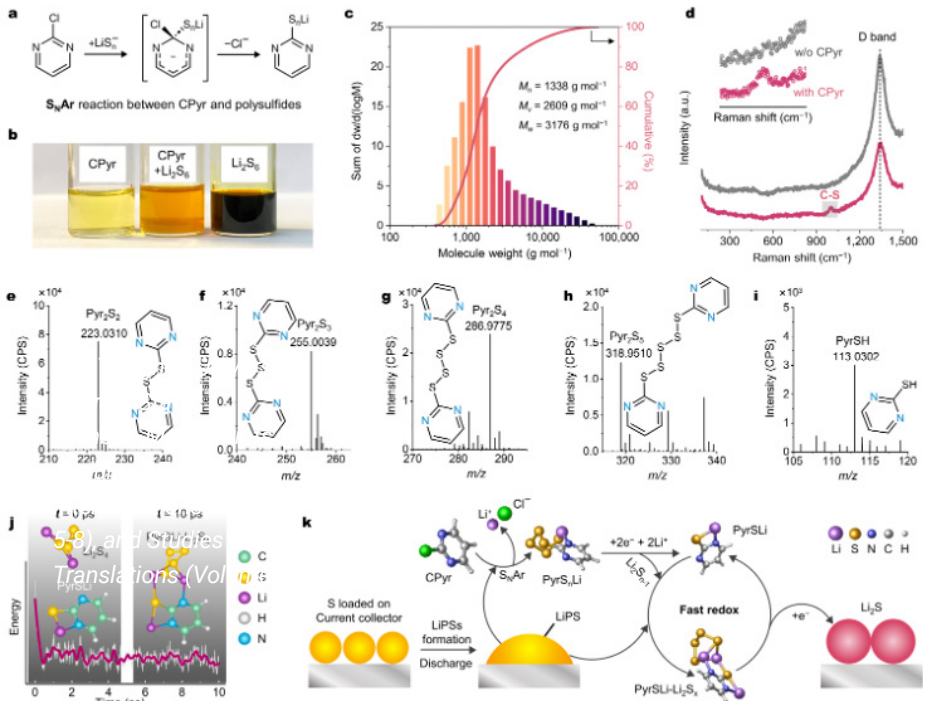


Fig 1. In situ activation of 2-chloropyrimidine-based premediators at the front line of polysulfide conversion reactions

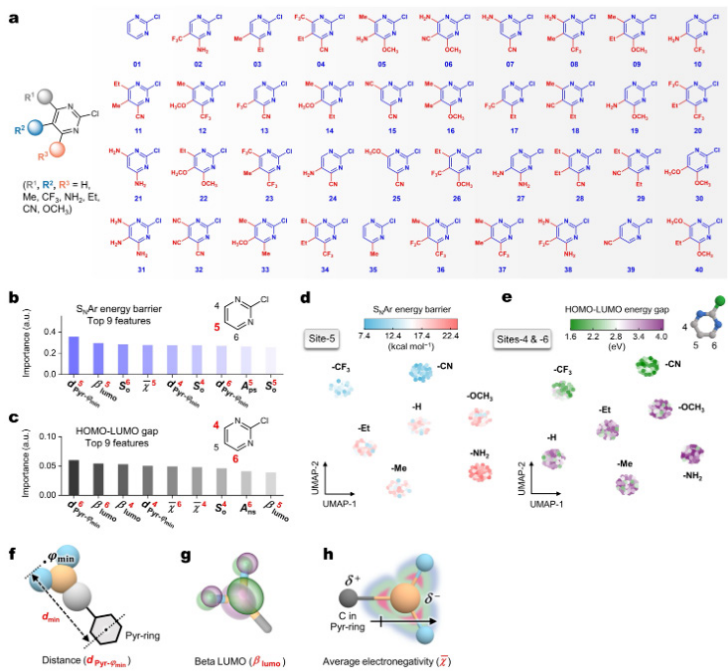


Figure 2. Database construction and feature engineering analysis of 2-chloropyrimidine-based premediators

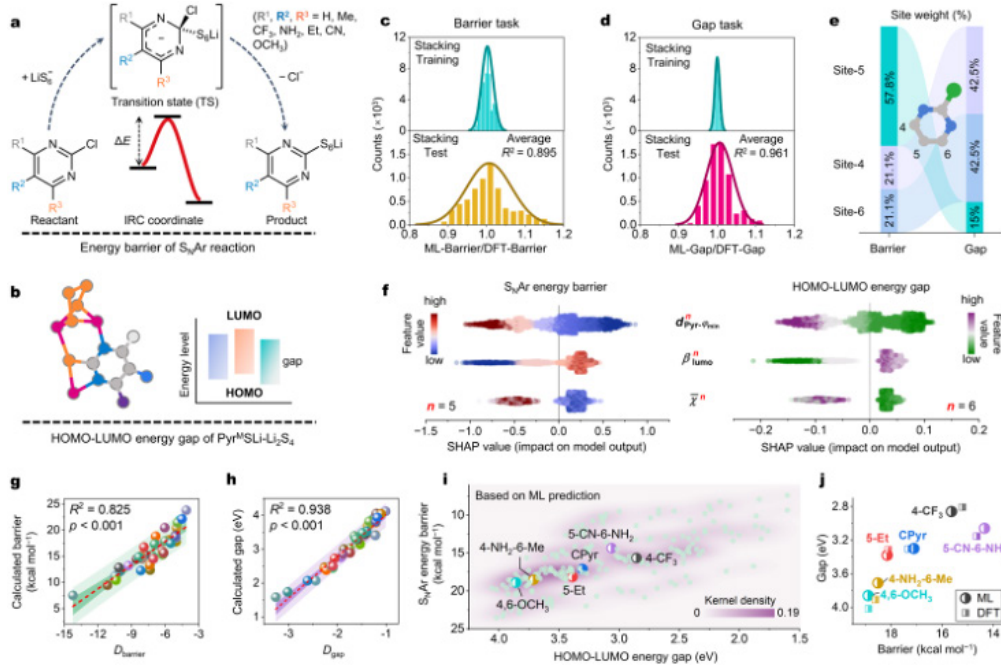


Fig 3. Intelligent molecular skeleton programming for designing 2-chloropyrimidine-based premediators in sulfur electrochemistry



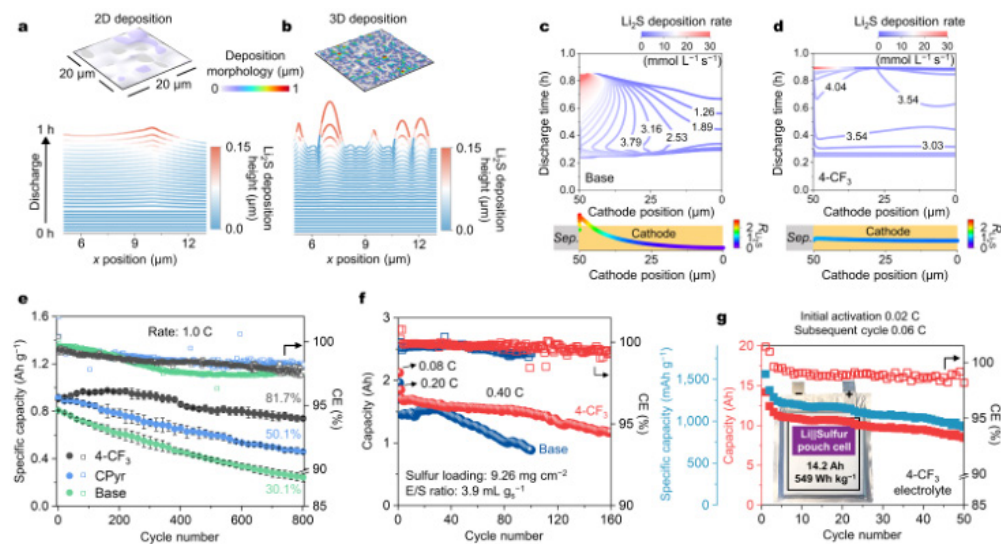


Fig 4. Electrochemical performance of lithium-sulfur batteries based on the optimized 4-trifluoromethyl-2-chloropyrimidine premediator

Gao Runhua and Zhu Yifei are the co-first authors of the paper, and Zhou Guangmin is the corresponding author. The co-authors also include Tao Shengyu (Ph.D. class of 2025), Han Zhiyuan (Ph.D. class of 2024), Zhang Mengtian (Master's class of 2024), Lao Zhoujie and Song Yanze (Master's class of 2025), Song Linxuan (Ph.D. candidate enrolled in 2024), as well as postdoctoral researcher Li Hongtai and assistant researcher Zhu Yanfei, all from Tsinghua SIGS.

The research was supported by several national and regional funding agencies, including the Ministry of Science and Technology, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Shenzhen Science and Technology Program, and the Guangdong Innovative and Entrepreneurial Team Program.

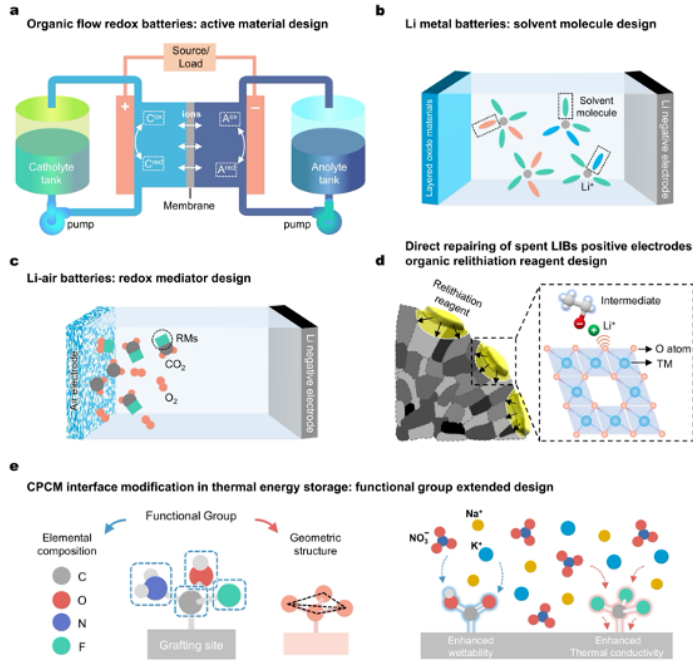


Fig 5. Potential applications of the intelligent molecular skeleton programming strategy in organic flow batteries, lithium-metal batteries, lithium-air batteries, direct recycling of spent lithium-ion batteries, and interface design of composite phase change materials

# Tsinghua researchers observe many-body dynamical freezing for the first time

The research groups led by Professors Lu-Ming Duan, Dong-Ling Deng and Pan-Yu Hou at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences (IIIS), Tsinghua University, have experimentally observed dynamical freezing in an interacting solid-state spin ensemble for the first time. Building upon this novel many-body phenomenon, the team developed a new approach to significantly enhance magnetic-field sensing. Their findings were recently published in *Nature* under the title, "Dynamical freezing for magnetometry in an interacting spin ensemble."

Understanding and controlling non-equilibrium dynamics in quantum many-body systems is a fundamental challenge across condensed matter physics, atomic physics, and quantum information science. Generally, interacting quantum systems tend to thermalize during their dynamical evolution, causing the information encoded in their initial states and coherent features to rapidly dissipate. This problem is particularly pronounced in driven quantum systems, where external driving can continuously heat the system toward a featureless, "infinite-temperature" state, effectively erasing

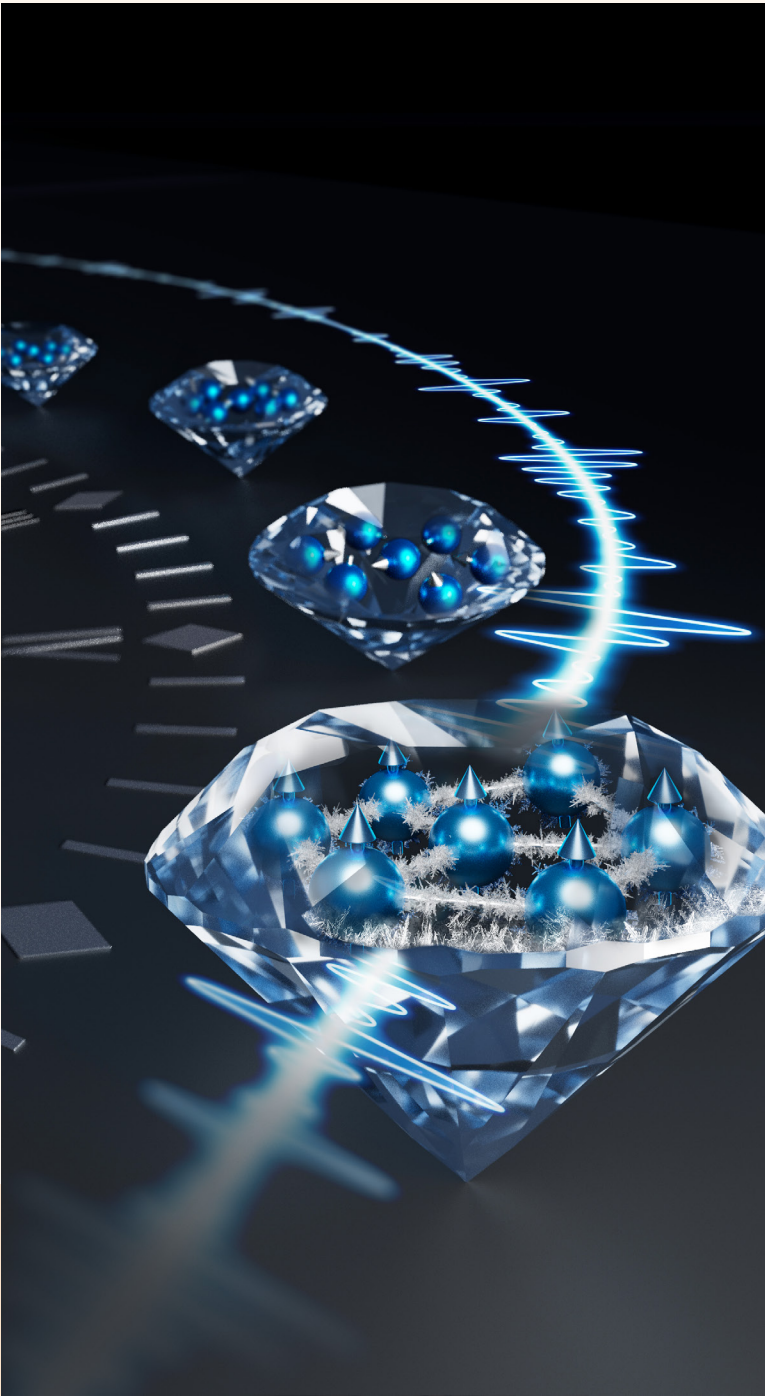


Figure 1. Schematic illustration of dynamical freezing in a diamond spin ensemble.



observable signals. While quantum thermalization is central to understanding non-equilibrium quantum matter, it severely hinders practical applications such as quantum sensing. In many quantum metrology platforms, unavoidable interactions between individual particles drive thermalization and decoherence, thereby limiting the optimal sensing time. Consequently, a long-standing goal in the field has been to suppress thermalization in interacting many-body systems, extend coherence times, and harness these effects to improve sensing performance. Previous approaches to thermalization breakdown have mainly relied on disorder-induced localization or high-frequency-driving-induced prethermalization. Recent theoretical studies proposed a distinct mechanism: under strong-amplitude, intermediate-frequency periodic driving, an interacting quantum many-body system may enter a dynamically frozen state protected by emergent conservation laws. However, observing this phenomenon in a large interacting quantum many-body system has remained challenging.

To address this challenge, the research group used an ensemble of approximately 10,000 interacting nitrogen-vacancy (NV) center electron spins in diamond as their experimental platform. The spins are initialized and read out with laser pulses and coherently controlled through global microwave

fields. Under specific driving parameters, the interacting spin ensemble evolve into a special non-equilibrium dynamical state. Instead of rapidly thermalizing, the system maintained collective spin polarization over long evolution times, exhibiting a dynamically “frozen” behavior. The experiments showed that when the driving parameters satisfied specific freezing condition, the total spin magnetization remained stable for over 200 driving cycles, lasting more than an order of magnitude greater than the interaction-limited coherence time (see *Figure 2*). In contrast, when the driving parameters were tuned away from the freezing condition, the system quickly exhibited thermalizing behavior. These results demonstrate that the long-lived magnetization originates from emergent conservation laws induced by periodic driving. The emergent conserved quantity prevents the interacting spin ensemble from rapidly thermalizing, allowing coherence of the collective observable to persist far beyond the coherence time limited by interactions.

Furthermore, the research group applied the dynamical freezing mechanism to magnetic-field sensing. Conventional quantum sensing protocols of ac fields typically rely on dynamical decoupling sequences to suppress environmental noise and extend coherence times. In strongly interacting

spin ensembles, however, inter-particle interactions limit the optimal sensing time, therefore limiting measurement precision. This work demonstrates a different route: using emergent conserved quantities in a driven many-body system to protect collective spin response to external fields. Under identical experimental conditions, the new sensing protocol based on dynamical freezing achieved an approximately 2.7-fold improvement in sensitivity compared with conventional methods (see *Figure 3*). This approach overcomes the bottleneck posed by interactions and significantly enhances magnetic field sensing.

This work reveals a novel mechanism for suppressing thermalization based on emergent conservation laws and opens a new direction for quantum sensing technologies built on quantum many-body physics. Because the approach requires only global control, it provides a promising route toward practical quantum sensing applications that combine high spatial resolution with high sensitivity. This may facilitate studies in condensed matter physics, chemistry, and biomedical science.

The co-first authors of this paper are Postdoctoral Researcher Ya-Nan Lu and PhD candidate Dong Yuan, both from IIIS. The corresponding authors are Associate Professor Dong-Ling Deng, Professor Lu-

Ming Duan, and Assistant Professor Pan-Yu Hou, all from IIIS. Assistant Professor Hong-Zheng Zhao from the School of Physics, Peking University contributed to this work.

This work was supported by Innovation Program for Quantum Science and Technology, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Tsinghua University Dushi Program, the Shanghai Qi Zhi Institute, the Tsinghua University Initiative Scientific Research Program and the Ministry of Education of China.



Group photo of the research team

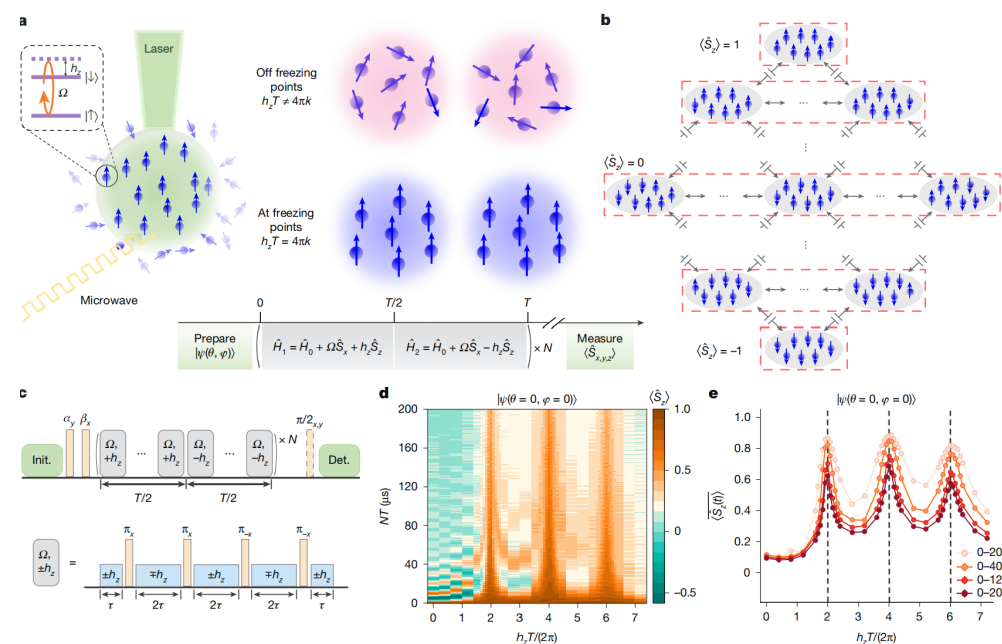


Figure 2. Dynamical freezing observed in an interacting NV-center spin ensemble.

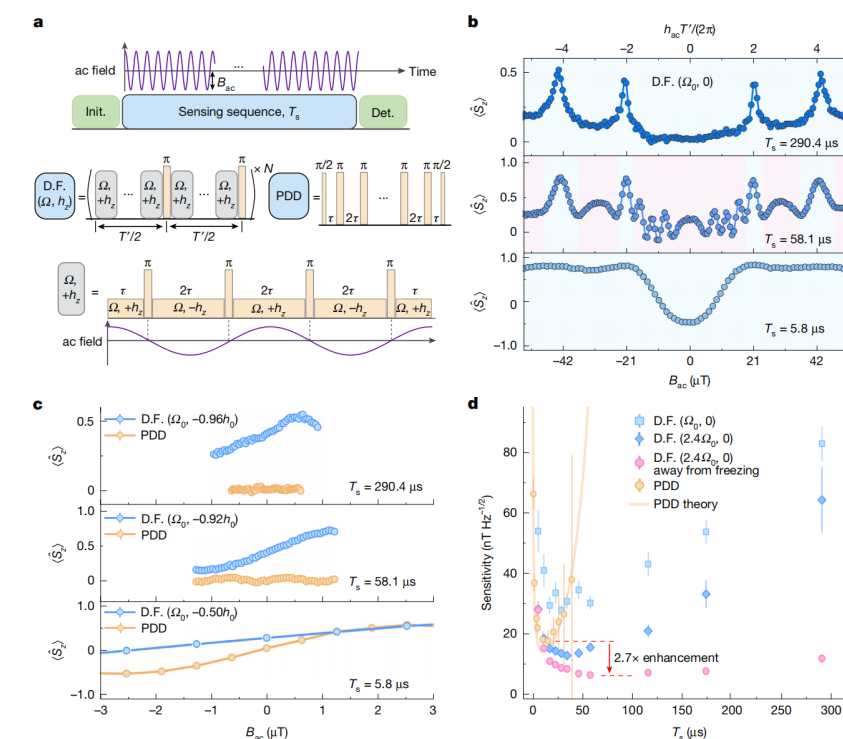


Figure 3. Magnetic-field sensing enhanced by the dynamical freezing mechanism.



# Scientists at Tsinghua discover a cellular “water sensor”

Water is fundamental to life. For plants, many environmental stresses, including drought, salinity, and heat, ultimately converge on a single problem: cells lose access to usable water. Although scientists have long known that cells can sense osmotic stress and activate downstream signaling pathways, one fundamental question has remained unanswered: can cells directly sense water itself?

On May 27, 2026, a research team led by Associate Professor Xiaofeng Fang at Tsinghua University published a study in *Nature* titled “Cellular water potential sensing via biomolecular condensation.” The work reveals, for the first time, that plant cells can directly perceive changes in cellular water status. The study further shows how this sensing mechanism rewires RNA transport and protein translation to help plants survive environmental stress.

Nature also highlighted the work in a Research Briefing article titled “Troubled waters: a protein senses when cells are running dry.”

## Can Cells “Feel” Water?

Traditionally, water has been viewed largely as the passive solvent of the cell. In reality, however, cellular water exists in different states. Some water molecules tightly surround proteins, forming so-called hydration layers, while other water molecules remain relatively free.

Environmental stresses that lower cellular water potential alter these hydration states and simultaneously trigger many secondary changes, such as cell shrinkage, increased molecular crowding, and ion concentration shifts. Because hydration layers around proteins are extremely difficult to monitor directly, whether cells can truly sense hydration changes has remained elusive.

The Fang laboratory has long studied how biomolecular condensates formed through phase separation help plants perceive, respond to, and

remember environmental stress. Since interactions between biomolecules and water strongly influence phase separation, the researchers proposed a bold idea: perhaps cells can directly sense water potential through the physical process of biomolecular condensation itself.

## Using Heavy Water to Probe Hydration

To test this idea, the researchers designed an elegant experimental strategy using heavy water ( $D_2O$ ). Compared with normal water ( $H_2O$ ), heavy water forms stronger water-water hydrogen bonds but weaker water-protein interactions. This allows researchers to selectively reduce protein hydration without dramatically changing cell volume or molecular crowding (Fig. 1A).

Using this approach, the team identified a previously uncharacterized nuclear protein named SAM8. Under normal conditions, SAM8 is evenly distributed within the nucleus. Remarkably, within minutes of heavy water treatment, SAM8 rapidly assembled into nuclear condensates (Fig. 1B). Similar condensation was also triggered by drought, salt stress, and

hyperosmotic stress. Importantly, this process occurred independently of classical osmotic stress signaling pathways, suggesting that SAM8 may directly sense changes in cellular water potential itself.

## A Sensor Built on Hydration Layers

Further biophysical analyses revealed that SAM8 is highly hydrophilic and surrounded by an unusually thick hydration shell. The researchers found that a negatively charged intrinsically disordered region within SAM8 creates a local electric field that strongly attracts and retains water molecules.

When water is abundant, this highly hydrated state prevents SAM8 molecules from interacting with one another, keeping the protein diffuse in the nucleus. However, when water potential decreases, the hydration layer weakens, allowing intermolecular interactions to rapidly increase and trigger condensation.

These findings suggest that the hydration state surrounding proteins can itself function as a previously unrecognized “physical sensing layer” used by cells to monitor the environment.

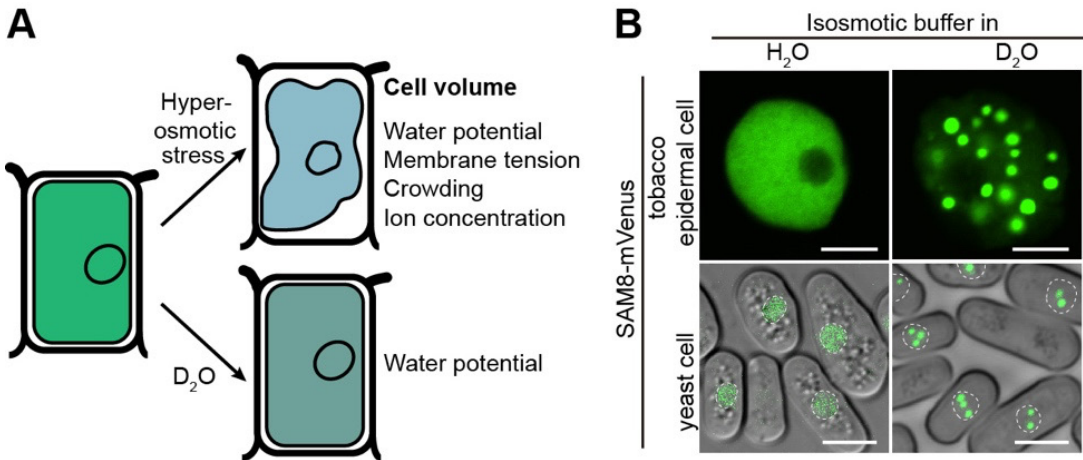


Figure 1. SAM8 undergoes water-dependent condensation. (A) Illustration of the impact of  $D_2O$ . (B) SAM8 forms condensation in cells on  $D_2O$  treatment.

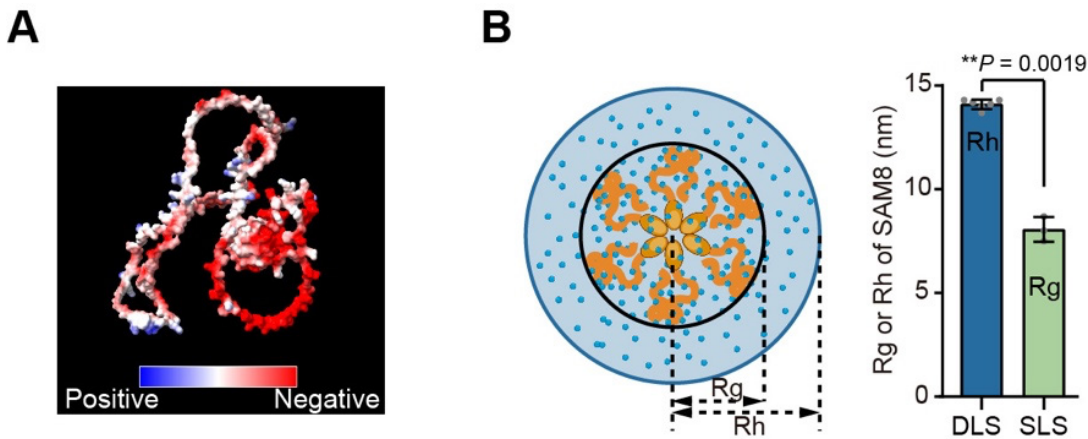


Figure 2. SAM8 possesses a thick hydration layer. (A) The charge distribution of SAM8. (B) Illustration and measurement of the hydration layer of SAM8.



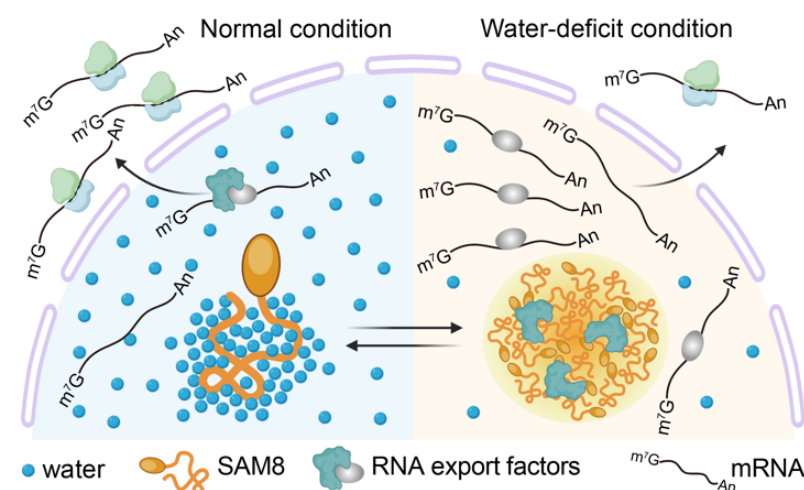


Figure 3. A working model for SAM8.

## Reprogramming Gene Expression for Survival

Once condensed, SAM8 selectively recruits key RNA export factors, including members of the ALY family and EIF4A3, leading to widespread retention of messenger RNAs inside the nucleus (Fig. 3).

This process ultimately reshapes cellular translation programs: translation of growth-related mRNAs is suppressed, while translation of stress-responsive mRNAs is enhanced. In effect, plants switch into a “survival-first” mode that prioritizes stress resistance over growth.

Plants lacking SAM8, or carrying mutant forms unable to undergo phase separation, show impaired translational reprogramming and become far more sensitive to water-deficit stress. Thus, SAM8 acts not only as a molecular water sensor, but also as a key regulatory hub linking environmental changes to gene expression control.

## Beyond Chemical Signaling

The significance of this study extends beyond the discovery of a new stress-response protein. More fundamentally, it introduces a new conceptual framework for understanding how cells sense their environment.

For decades, environmental sensing has largely been viewed through the classical paradigm of “stimulus-

receptor-signaling pathway-gene expression.” This work suggests that cells may not always require elaborate signaling cascades. In some cases, the intrinsic physicochemical properties of biomolecules themselves may be sufficient to directly perceive environmental change.

In other words, life may sense the world not only through chemical signals, but also through physical states.

## Heavy Water Biology: A New Frontier?

The study also highlights heavy water not merely as an experimental reagent, but as a powerful biophysical probe. The strategy opens new possibilities for investigating cellular hydration, biomolecular condensation, and environmental sensing mechanisms.

More broadly, the work hints that “heavy water biology” could emerge as a new direction for exploring the physicochemical foundations of life.

The study was led by Associate Professor Xiaofeng Fang at the School of Life Sciences, Tsinghua University. Postdoctoral researcher Yunhe Wang was the first author of the paper. The work was supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Tsinghua University, Westlake Laboratory, and other funding agencies.

# BAAI and Tsinghua uncover the neural mechanism of memory regulating sleep

Why do we toss and turn after a stressful day, yet sleep soundly after a joyful one? How exactly does the brain tailor our sleep based on waking experiences?

While it is widely accepted that sleep is crucial for memory consolidation—spontaneously reactivating daytime memories to cement them in the brain—a compelling question remains: Could this nighttime memory replay actually be reverse-engineering our sleep? At the cellular level, does memory activity actively shape sleep architecture according to our waking experiences?

In a new study published online in *Science* on June 4, 2026, researchers led by Dr. Bo Lei at the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence (BAAI) and Dr. Yi Zhong at Tsinghua University reveal that memory reactivation is far more than a mere byproduct of consolidation. Instead, it serves as an active regulator that adaptively sculpts sleep. The team demonstrated that the reactivation of negative memories triggers transitions from non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep to wakefulness.

to fragmented sleep. Conversely, replaying positive memories enhances NREM sleep continuity and bolsters resistance to environmental disturbances.

## 1. Memory Reactivation as an Active Sleep Regulator

To unravel how daily experiences dictate sleep patterns, the researchers first monitored mice after a fear-conditioning task. Following a negative experience, the animals exhibited highly fragmented sleep, characterized by shorter NREM episodes and a surge in transitions from NREM sleep to wakefulness. Similar arousals could be artificially triggered by playing auditory cues during sleep to reactivate these specific fear memories. Crucially, silencing these memory engrams abolished the sleep fragmentation, proving that the structural changes in sleep were entirely memory-dependent. To precisely pinpoint these reactivation events, the team developed an AI-driven EEG encoder that accurately distinguishes “memory reactivation sleep” from baseline sleep.

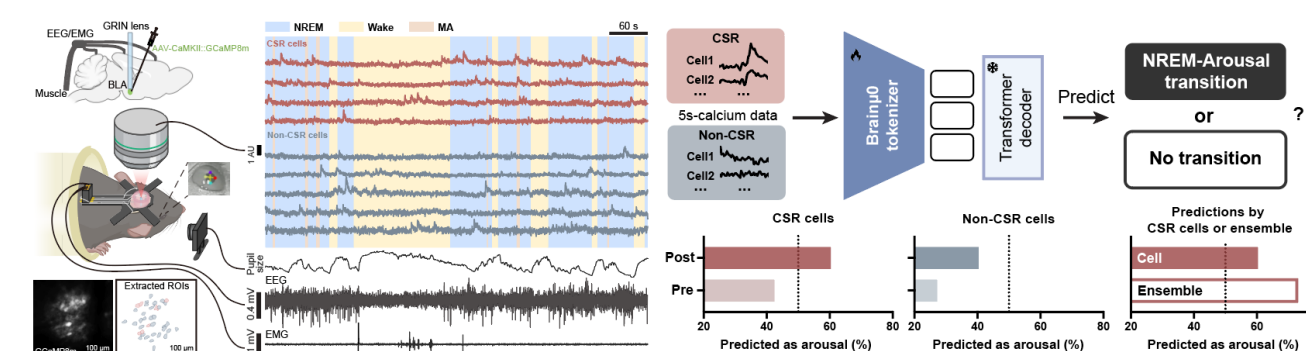


Figure 1. Two-photon imaging combined with EEG/EMG recording revealed the correlation between memory cell activity and arousal



By combining two-photon in vivo imaging with EEG/EMG recordings, the researchers tracked memory-responsive cells in the basolateral amygdala (BLA) at single-cell resolution. They observed that following a fearful experience, the specific cellular ensembles encoding that memory spontaneously fired during NREM sleep, directly correlating with subsequent arousals. Using an AI-based calcium signal decoder, the team could even predict impending awakenings purely based on the reactivation of these memory cells.

Subsequent optogenetic and chemogenetic manipulations confirmed this causal link: inhibiting these negative memory engrams blocked cue-induced arousals, while directly activating them during NREM sleep reliably induced wakefulness. These findings establish BLA memory engrams as the neural drivers of memory-dependent sleep regulation.

2. A Hierarchical Hippocampus-Amygdala Circuit

Given the central role of the hippocampus and BLA in emotional memory, the team investigated how these two regions coordinate during sleep. They found that memory engram cells in the dorsal dentate gyrus (dDG) of the hippocampus are both

necessary and sufficient for experience-dependent sleep regulation as those in the BLA.

Through concurrent dual-region manipulations—optogenetically activating dDG engrams while chemogenetically inhibiting BLA engrams—the researchers elucidated the hierarchical organization of this circuit. The findings reveal that the hippocampus serves as an upstream prerequisite, coordinating the reactivation of BLA engram cells to translate memory reactivation into distinct sleep-wake transitions.

3. Positive Memories Promote Sleep Maintenance

In contrast to the arousal-promoting effects of negative memories, reactivating positive memories stabilized and promoted sleep. When the researchers activated BLA engrams associated with a rewarding social experience, the mice displayed significantly enhanced NREM sleep continuity, with fewer awakenings and longer continuous sleep bouts. Furthermore, when subjected to random, disruptive background noise, activating these positive engrams provided a profound "sleep-protective" effect, allowing the mice to sleep soundly through the disturbances.

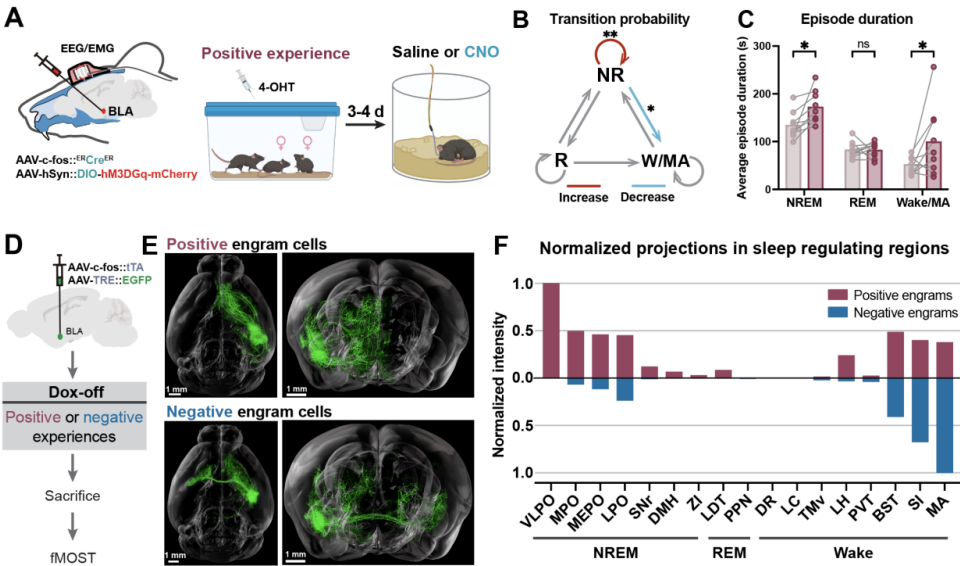


Figure 2. The sleep-promoting effect of positive memory reactivation and the underlying circuit mechanisms

Whole-brain projection mapping and activity analyses revealed the potential circuit mechanisms: positive and negative memory engram cells exhibit stronger functional connectivity with NREM sleep-promoting circuits and arousal-promoting circuits, respectively.

4. Sleep fragmentation in the chronic stress model is induced by the reactivation of stressful memory

Finally, the research team extended this discovery to decipher the mechanisms of pathological sleep disturbances caused by chronic stress. In a depression-like mouse model induced by chronic immobilization stress (CIS), mice exhibited typical sleep fragmentation. *In vivo* calcium activity recordings revealed that during NREM sleep in CIS mice, the spontaneous reactivation of engram cells associated with the restraint memory was highly correlated with frequent arousals.

Remarkably, targeted chemogenetic inhibition of these specific negative memory engrams during sleep completely reversed sleep fragmentation, restoring normal sleep continuity and correcting aberrant activity across the brain's sleep circuits. These results indicate that the reactivation of

negative memories during sleep is the critical mechanism underlying sleep disturbances caused by chronic stress.

This study reshapes our understanding of the sleep-memory interplay. Rather than acting as a passive incubator for memory consolidation, sleep is a highly adaptive state continuously sculpted by daytime experiences. By reactivating memories, the brain primes animals to adopt a vigilant sleep strategy after facing danger or allows them to enjoy deep, restorative rest after safe, rewarding experiences. These findings offer a novel framework for understanding sleep disturbances caused by chronic stress and provide new therapeutic targets.

The study was led by Dr. Bo Lei from the Beijing Academy of Artificial Intelligence (BAAI), and Professor Yi Zhong from the School of Life Sciences, Tsinghua University. Ph.D. student Menghan Yu was the first author of the paper. Junjie Wang, Zihan Zhai, and Ruoyi Huang were co-second authors, with significant contributions from Guofan Fan, Xiaoya Su, Yijun Niu, Haochen Zhu, Jiayi Chen, Grace Jiang, and Tian Zhang. The work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, the Sci-Tech Innovation 2030 "Brain Science and Brain-Like Intelligence Technology" Major Project, and the Tsinghua-Peking Joint Center for Life Sciences.

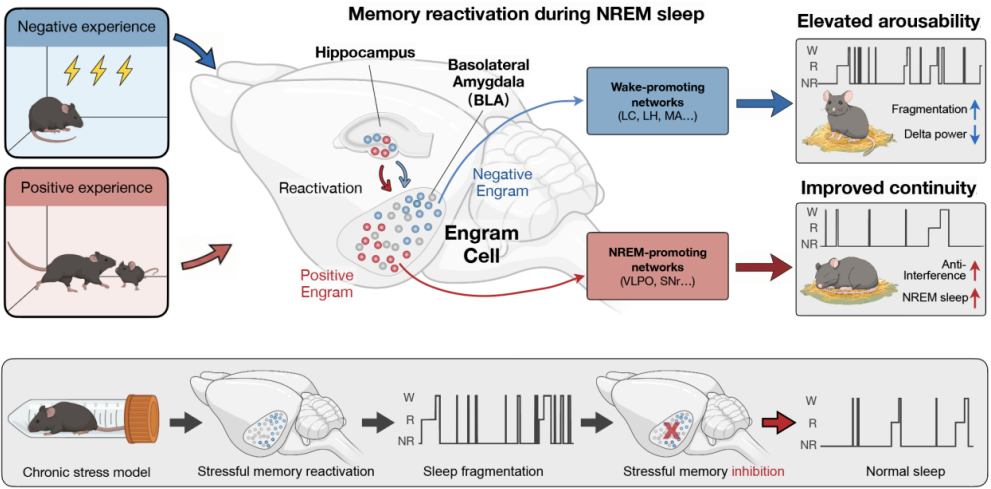


Figure 3. The model of memory reactivation regulating sleep



TSINGHUA  
COMMUNITY

## Professor Siddharth Chatterjee appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tsinghua University

Siddharth Chatterjee, former United Nations resident coordinator in China, was appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tsinghua University at a ceremony held at the School of Public Policy and Management on April 29. Yang Bin, vice chancellor of Tsinghua University Council, presented Chatterjee with the letter of appointment.

Yang Bin congratulated Professor Chatterjee on his appointment on behalf of Tsinghua University, noting his longstanding work in international humanitarian affairs and global development, his senior roles within the United Nations system, and his widely recognized leadership. He hopes that Professor Chatterjee's experience and insights in global governance and sustainable development would contribute to Tsinghua's academic development and education, support a more open, diverse, and dynamic international scholarly community, and help strengthen the University's global engagement.

Zhu Xufeng, dean of the School of Public Policy and Management, said the appointment reflects Professor Chatterjee's longstanding relationship with Tsinghua and would bring global perspectives and first-hand practical experience to the School, supporting its international development and global academic engagement. Qian Xiaojun, chief academic officer of Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University, also highlighted Professor Chatterjee's experience as an educator, think tank leader, and international affairs practitioner, noting that his extensive experience in international affairs would bring new perspectives to the College's work in student development.

Professor Chatterjee described his appointment as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tsinghua University as both an honor and a privilege. During his five years in China, he witnessed the country's progress in poverty alleviation, scientific and



*Yang Bin presents Prof. Siddharth Chatterjee with the letter of appointment*



technological innovation, and other areas, gaining a deeper understanding of China's approach to openness, cooperation, and shared development.

He noted that global challenges, including climate change, public health, and pressures on multilateralism, require sustained international cooperation. Tsinghua's rigorous, practice-oriented, and interdisciplinary approach to scholarship, he said, can help address these challenges. Professor Chatterjee will offer courses at the School of Public Policy and Management and Schwarzman College on topics including China and the world and global governance. He said he looked forward to working alongside Tsinghua faculty and students in teaching, research, and shared intellectual inquiry.

Professor Siddharth Chatterjee is chief executive officer of Global Neighbours and previously served as United Nations resident coordinator in China. He has nearly three decades of senior international leadership experience and is widely recognized for his work in global governance and humanitarian assistance.



Attendees of the appointment ceremony

## Tsinghua's Hephaestus triumphs at 2026 China Robot Competition & Robocup China Open

The 2026 China Robot Competition & Robocup China Open was held in Beijing on May 4. Tsinghua University's Hephaestus Team delivered a dominant performance in the Large Size category of the Humanoid Group, overcoming successive opponents to win the championship.

Tsinghua's Hephaestus Team defeated the China Agricultural University's Qinghe Team 4-1 in the first round of the knockout stage, advancing to the semifinals.

Facing the SJTU Digital ShanHai Team of Shanghai Jiao Tong University in the semifinals, the Hephaestus Team won a 7-2 victory, securing their spot in the finals.

In the championship match against the I-Kid Team of Beijing Information Science and Technology University, they claimed an 8-2 victory, successfully lifting the championship trophy in the Large Size category of the Humanoid Group at the 2026 RoboCup China Open.



Additionally, the Hephaestus Team won the championship in the Large Size category of the Humanoid Group Technical Challenge event, a testament to its all-round prowess in motion control.

Founded in 2004 by Zhao Mingguo, a researcher from the Department of Automation, Tsinghua's Hephaestus Team achieved multiple accolades in 2025. These included the championship in the RoboCup Humanoid League Adult Size category and the inaugural 5v5 soccer championship at the World Humanoid Robot Games, achieving a historic breakthrough for a Chinese team.





# Tsinghua claims 17th consecutive track and field championship



The 64th Capital Universities Track and Field Games took place at Beijing University of Agriculture from May 14 to 17, featuring 85 universities. The Tsinghua University Track and Field Team put on an impressive show throughout the four-day competition.

Tsinghua athletes won a total of 23 gold, 12 silver, and 12 bronze medals. With 235 points in the men's team standings, 254 points in the women's, and a combined total of 489 points, the team claimed the

men's, women's, and overall team championships. In addition, Tsinghua was awarded the "Sportsmanship Award."

The Capital Universities Track and Field Games is the largest student sports event in Beijing and has been held 64 times to date. The Tsinghua University Track and Field Team has won the overall team championship 43 times, including 31 victories in the top division over the past 32 tournaments.

# Tsinghua University Professor Chen Deliang appointed Chair of the Volvo Environment Prize Jury



Professor Chen Deliang

Recently, Academician Chen Deliang, Xinghua Distinguished Chair Professor at Tsinghua University, has been appointed Chair of the International Prize Jury of the Volvo Environment Prize. This appointment marks an important recognition by the international academic community of his long-standing contributions to environmental and climate science, his promotion of international scientific cooperation, and his dedicated service to the Volvo Environment Prize.

Professor Chen said: "I am deeply honored to take on this responsibility. The Volvo Environment Prize has played an important role in recognizing pathbreaking science and encouraging the translation of knowledge into action. At a time when the world faces increasingly complex environmental and climate challenges, it is more important than ever to support excellent science, international collaboration, and evidence-based solutions."

Professor Chen Deliang is an internationally renowned climate scientist whose research focuses on climate change and its impacts, climate dynamics, regional climate processes, and Earth System Science. He has held leading academic and scientific positions in Europe and internationally, and has contributed extensively to global climate research, science-policy dialogue, and international scientific cooperation.

The Volvo Environment Prize is one of the most influential and respected awards in environmental and sustainability science. It is awarded annually by an independent foundation to individuals who have made outstanding scientific discoveries or innovations in the field of environment and sustainable development. Since its first award in 1990, it has become one of the most respected international prizes in environmental science, honoring scholars whose work has had major scientific, societal, and policy impact.



Tsinghua University Professor  
Wang Hui awarded 2026 International  
Feltrinelli Prize



Professor Wang Hui

On June 8, the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei officially announced the recipients of the 2026 Antonio Feltrinelli Prize. Wang Hui, one of the first Distinguished Professors of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University and director of the Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Study in Humanities and Social Sciences, has received the International Antonio Feltrinelli Prize for Moral and Historical Sciences in the field of Social Sciences.

Established in 1942 through a bequest by entrepreneur and artist Antonio Feltrinelli, the Feltrinelli Prize is one of Italy's most prestigious awards in science and culture. It recognizes outstanding Italian and international figures for exceptional contributions to science and the arts and is divided into two categories: the national prize for Italian recipients and the international prize.

The prizes are awarded across five categories: Moral

and Historical Sciences; Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences; the Humanities; Arts; and Medicine. Wang Hui is the first Asian scholar to receive the prize since its establishment.

In 2025, the Prize for Moral and Historical Sciences went to German scholar Jürgen Habermas for Philosophy. Past laureates include Italian writer Italo Calvino (Literature, 1972) and German philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer (Philosophy, 1995). Wang Hui was recognized for his contribution to the understanding of the historical roots of Chinese modernity and for his critical analysis of globalization processes.

The award ceremony will be held on June 12 at the headquarters of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei in Italy, with Italian President Sergio Mattarella in attendance.

DIVERSE  
CAMPUSES



## Tsinghua's 44th "Challenge Cup" Exhibition: A Spotlight on Innovation

On April 26, the 44th "Challenge Cup" Student Extracurricular Academic Science and Technology Exhibition commenced at Tsinghua University, showcasing innovative works by Tsinghua students in a range of cutting-edge fields.

The "Challenge Cup" competition this year received a total of 337 submissions. After the preliminary and re-examination processes conducted by the departments, 173 undergraduate projects and nine graduate projects entered the university's final round. The final defense for this year's competition took place on April 25. In the main track, a total of 114 award-winning projects were selected, including seven grand prizes, 11 first prizes, 32 second prizes, and 64 third prizes. The People's Livelihood track saw six projects receive awards.



## Diversity beneath the shared sky: relive the magic of the 14th International Cultural Festival



It is that time of the year again—International Cultural Festival was back in full swing! Once again, thousands of participants, including faculty and students, filled the Zijing Sports Field with an enthusiasm brighter than the sun.

This festival was first launched in 2009, and it has become a tradition. Boundless energy, unmatched passion—nothing outshines Tsinghua students in the International Cultural Festival. This year's International Cultural Festival followed its annual format, featuring three main sectors: Exhibition Booths, the Main Stage, and Interactive Booths.

Anticipation for this year's Main Stage performance was sky-high since last year's performances were truly impressive. As always, the festival officially kicked off to the thunderous beats of the 24 Festive Drums troupe. "We Are the World" was brought to the stage by students from diverse backgrounds, their beautiful voices perfectly echoing today's theme— "Beneath the Shared Sky." From the infectious joy of Bulgarian

folk dance to the hypnotic rhythms of Indonesia's traditional Nusantara dance, the audience simply couldn't take their eyes off the stage.

The excitement continued on the other side of the field, where the Interactive Booths were buzzing with energy. From open invitations to dance together to hands-on opportunities to play the diabolo, this was the area where every visitor felt truly included.

With more than 30 exhibition booths this year showcasing different cultures from almost every corner of the earth, visitors could travel the world without leaving Tsinghua. Want to know your name in a different language? The Armenian and the Korean booths offered this very special experience. The Philippine booth also brought their traditional bamboo dance, Tinikling, which effortlessly drew bursts of laughter from the crowd.

Not far away, the Malaysia booth literally transported one of its signature tourist landmarks straight into the



International Cultural Festival. Other than offering the perfect photo spot, they would also decorate visitors' hands with traditional inai—a beautiful gesture symbolizing blessings and good wishes.

Stepping onto the Chinese Avenue, visitors were able to admire the timeless beauty of traditional cultural heritage crafts, from intricate embroidery and delicate ceramics to soulful Chinese ink paintings. Transitioning from this quiet elegance to an energetic flow, the Tai Chi booth brought a whole different vibe, inviting everyone to follow the

master's movements and find their inner peace amid the global hustle.

From the drums that opened the day to the last dance shared under the afternoon sun, the 14th International Cultural Festival reminded everyone why it is one of Tsinghua's most beloved traditions. No passports needed, no language barriers—just thousands of people, one field, and a world of cultures waiting to be celebrated. Until next year, International Cultural Festival. We're already counting down the days.





# 2026 Undergraduate Graduation Exhibition opens

The 2026 Undergraduate Graduation Exhibition of the Academy of Arts & Design, Tsinghua University opened on June 12.

This year's graduation exhibition features nearly 1,000 works by more than 240 final-year undergraduates. Presented at the Tsinghua University Art Museum, the exhibition leverages the platform of a national first-class art museum to bring the outcomes of higher art education beyond the campus and engage a wider audience. The exhibition will run through June 25.







清华大学  
Tsinghua University



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