

SFEI Newsletter

October – December 2023



Cultural Immersion and Strategic Dialogues

In a landmark event, New Zealand's Silver Fern Principals embarked on a journey through China, engaging in a cultural and educational exchange that underscored the robust ties between the two nations. The visit, spanning several cities including Suzhou, Nanjing, Hangzhou, and Beijing, facilitated strategic dialogues and immersive experiences in various schools. These interactions not only showcased the educational prowess of New Zealand but also opened doors to understanding the depth and achievements of Chinese education.



A group of New Zealand principals came to visit SFEI



Group photo of the New Zealand principals' group with the principal and vice principal of Hangzhou Qianjiang Foreign Language Experimental School and cadres from the International Cooperation and Exchange Division of the Department of Education of Zhejiang Province, as well as cadres from the Office of the Shangcheng District Education Bureau at the main school level.

Fostering Future Connections

Each meeting and seminar during the tour was an opportunity to strengthen bonds and establish new sister school relationships, with a total of 26 partnerships formed. These new alliances serve as conduits for future exchanges and shared learning opportunities. Particularly impactful were the parent meetings organized in key cities, which provided Chinese families with in-depth insights into New Zealand's education system, emphasizing its focus on creativity, practical skills, and global awareness.



New Zealand Principals' Group Meeting with Parents

Creating a Lasting Legacy

The Silver Fern Principals' China tour has been a testament to the power of educational diplomacy. It has not only enriched the participating educators and students but has also laid a foundation for continuous cross-cultural cooperation. The Silver Fern Project's dedication to fostering these educational connections promises a brighter future for the international student community and a lasting legacy of global educational excellence.

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Imagine a world built by intelligent robots and virtual reality. "How should our children prepare for the future in such a world?" This intriguing question was posed by Dr. Jiamou Liu, a computer science PhD and AI expert from the University of Auckland, during his captivating lecture at the Auckland Silver Fern Center.

As a senior lecturer at the University of Auckland's School of Computer Science, Dr. Liu enthralled the audience with his passionate speech and in-depth knowledge, guiding them through the fascinating world of AI. He vividly detailed AI's journey from science fiction to reality and how it's spearheading transformations in industries like healthcare, design, and real estate.

Dr. Liu emphasized the importance of 'Triple Thinking - Triple Ability' in AI education: Algorithmic thinking, Data thinking, Logical thinking; along with Practical skills, Innovative capacity, and Aesthetic appreciation. He brought these concepts to life with engaging examples like smart assistants and automated design.

The highlight of the lecture was undoubtedly the interactive session, where a ten-year-old's question, "Will robots replace teachers?" sparked a lively debate. Dr. Liu's insightful and accessible response earned a resounding round of applause from the audience.



Looking forward, Dr. Liu and his team of PhD students plan to extend AI courses to high school students and adults through the Silver Fern Excellence Initiative. This represents not only an excellent opportunity to learn about AI but also marks the beginning of understanding and embracing the future.

Join us in exploring these possibilities and embarking on this exciting journey into the world of AI. Looking ahead, Dr. Liu's team plans to introduce AI courses for high school students and adults through the Silver Fern Program. This initiative marks a significant step towards embracing and understanding the ever-evolving world of AI.

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The Silver Fern Excellence Initiative is proud to have hosted a delightful barbecue event for students at One Tree Hill Park on November 25th. This gathering was more than just an opportunity to enjoy delicious food and beautiful scenery—it was a testament to our commitment to nurturing a sense of belonging and support for our students in New Zealand. In the heart of Auckland, under the shade of iconic trees, our students from diverse backgrounds came together to share stories, laughter, and the simple joys of a meal cooked over an open flame. The Silver Fern Excellence Initiative believes in the power of these moments to create a 'home away from home' experience, ensuring that every student feels the warmth of a community that cares.



Parents can trust in the Silver Fern Excellence Initiative to provide a reliable support system for their children, where cultural traditions are honored, and new friendships flourish. We are dedicated to creating an environment where students can grow, not just academically, but also as valued members of our New Zealand family.

Join us on our journey to enrich the lives of international students with the care, excellence, and camaraderie that the Silver Fern Excellence Initiative stands for. Because here, every student is part of our extended family, and every experience is a step towards a brighter, shared future.