



China

Zhou Ji
Minister of Education



Zhou Ji, Minister of Education, Professor and Academician of Chinese Academy of Engineering, studied in the Department of Precision Instruments of Tsinghua University in 1965, majoring in manufacturing. In 1984, he graduated from the States University of New York (Buffalo) with the master's and doctor's degree of Mechanical Engineering. He began to work as a teacher in Huazhong University of Science and Technology (Wuhan, China), and consecutively served as the Dean of the Mechanical Science and Engineering School, Vice President and President of Huazhong University of Science and Technology. From 1999, he was appointed as the Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology of Hubei Province and then served as the Mayor of Wuhan City. He became the Vice Minister of education in 2002 and has been Minister of Education since 2003.

Education, the cornerstone for a harmonious society

Upon the opening of the 48th Session of UNESCO International Conference of Education, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations.

Education, the torch of human civilization, is the essential condition for the comprehensive development of human beings. From the World Declaration on Education for All in 1990 to the Dakar Framework for Action and UN Millennium Development Goals in 2000, member states and international organizations have been making unremitting endeavors for the realization of EFA goals. Inclusive Education - the Way of the Future, the theme of this Conference, highlights the education equality and serves as solid foundation for the realization of EFA.

The Chinese Government commits itself to build a socialist harmonious society and education is its cornerstone. As a nation with a good tradition of valuing education, China has long advocated the notion of Education without Discrimination. The Chinese Government has devoted itself to safeguarding equal rights of all children and youth in access to education, promoting the balanced development of compulsory education, and narrowing the educational gap between the urban and rural areas. By the end of 2007, the national population coverage rate of 9-year compulsory education reached 99.3%. The Chinese Government also underscores the protection of the educational rights of children from poor and migrant as well as ethnic minority families, children who are left behind, the disabled and HIV infected children. The approaches of legislation, text materials development, teacher training, special funds allocation and special policy making have been adopted to promote the development of Inclusive Education.

Let's gather our efforts for the full realization of Inclusive Education goals.