INAUGURAL REPORT
2016/2018
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The Yidan Prize has entered its second year in 2018, and its origin had a lot to do with my personal experience. Education not only transforms my family fate and my life but also acts as a positive force and propels society forward. Deep down in my heart, there was an idea, and on an evening five years ago, the idea popped into my head and I wrote down a wish in my diary: “Establish a Prize that goes beyond religion, race, and nationality. Encourage reflections on the universe and contributions to humanity.”

The mission of the Prize is to create a better world through education. Simply put, we wish to honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to educational research and development. Also, we would like to see the application of these great ideas throughout the world so as to benefit more people and create a brighter world.

From the beginning, we knew it wouldn’t be an easy task to establish an award that enjoys international recognition. Nevertheless, we remained steadfast; we traveled around the world and met with education experts from different nations. The suggestions we got were extremely valuable, and in particular we want to thank the Global Advisory Board, led by former UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Education Dr Qian TANG, for their in-depth discussions and contributions to the standards, regulations, and judging process of the Prize. Their work has been a constant source of encouragement and inspiration.

With all this generous support, we launched the Yidan Prize in 2016. The Prize consists of two awards: Yidan Prize for Education Research and Yidan Prize for Education Development. Each laureate receives a gold medal and a total sum of HK$30 million, including a cash prize of HK$15 million and a project fund of HK$15 million.

The number of nominations that we received for the inaugural awards was above and beyond expectations. With so many high caliber nominations, the independent Judging Committee, led by former UNESCO Director-General Dr Koichiro MATSUURA, faced a daunting task, and each nomination was screened with a fine-tooth comb. In the end, the winner list was announced in September 2017.

Professor Carol S. DWECK, a professor of psychology at Stanford University, was named the Yidan Prize for Education Research Inaugural Laureate for her groundbreaking research on the concept of the growth mindset in education. She demonstrated that our belief in the malleability of intelligence can dramatically improve students’ performance. This theory has a lasting impact in the education sector, as it encourages students to actively develop their potential, build their self-confidence, and strengthen their resolve.

Meanwhile, Ms Vicky COLBERT, Founder and Director of Fundación Escuela Nueva in Colombia, won the Yidan Prize for Education Development. Over the past 40 years, she has developed and successfully delivered an innovative learner-centered approach to rural schools across 16 countries in three continents. The transformative, evidence-based Escuela Nueva model – meaning New School in English – delivers impactful and high-quality education through the integration of curriculum, teacher training, community involvement, and school administration in a coherent and cost-effective way.

Looking ahead, how should education systems evolve? What kind of talent should we cultivate? Through the Yidan Prize, we would like to bring global stakeholders in education together and draw on their wisdom to tackle challenges facing humankind. Moreover, we wish to stimulate human potential so that we can be better prepared for an ever-changing future.
Statement by Chairman of the Global Advisory Board

From its inception, the Yidan Prize Foundation desired to engage esteemed individuals with the relevant expertise to serve on the board. As can be seen, the first Global Advisory Board comprises a chairman, a convenor and four world-renowned experts who sit as independent advisors. Membership of the board is international, reflecting the scope and nature of the prize.

From its early days, the board recognized the importance of setting the tone to establish the credibility of the prize and maintain the integrity of the process of identifying, evaluating and selecting the awardees. The Board has developed a set of judging criteria: future-oriented, innovative, transformative, sustainable. With meticulous deliberations, a set of policies and procedures was also formulated and adopted by the foundation. Having procedures and policies in place are only the beginning; we need to earn the recognition of a world-class prize in the years to come.

The world today is facing huge challenges of providing inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens. It is extremely important to mobilize all stakeholders to join this endeavour.

The members of the Global Advisory Board believe that the newly established Yidan Prize, which intends to reward the most prominent educational innovations and projects, will make a significant contribution to the noble cause of giving the opportunity to all children, young people and adults to gain the knowledge and skills in order to live in dignity and to fulfil their potential.
Statement by Chairman of the Judging Committee

Creating a better world through education is the mission of the Yidan Prize. Through recognizing outstanding educators, the Prize seeks to empower change makers, build a global community of education leaders, and create long-lasting positive impact on humanity.

Therefore, the judging process is both retrospective and prospective, as nominations would have to be judged not only against the four criteria – sustainability, future-orientation, innovation, and transformation – but also with a forward-looking perspective so that the laureates would exemplify the essence of the award they are presented with.

It was really heartening that for the inaugural year, we received nearly 1,000 nominations for the two awards from around the world. Not only did the nominees come from a diverse range of backgrounds, but their works were also of exceptionally high caliber. In short, they encapsulated the global vision of the Yidan Prize.

As chairman of the judging committee, I can attest on behalf of all the judges unequivocally that our process of deliberation had been a humbling experience. All the judges were moved by the remarkable contributions, the passion, and the energy brought by the nominees to the field of education.

To this end, we were particular pleased that our Professor Carol DWECK from the United States and Ms Vicky COLBERT from Colombia were named as the inaugural laureates of the Yidan Prize.

Professor Dweck's commitment to scientific rigor and quality for over 35 years is impressive and humbling. What is remarkable about her work is the scientifically demonstrable ability to explain and predict behavior, and the consistently validated results of pragmatic mindset interventions in different school and work settings. We hope the Yidan Prize will contribute to raising awareness and implementation of the “growth mindset” intervention across the world, expanding its application and implementation in schools across demographic strata, and enabling educators everywhere to adopt methods that nurture growth, confidence, and resilience in our younger generations.

For over 40 years, Ms Colbert has developed and successfully delivered, across 16 countries in three continents, an innovative learner-centered approach to rural schools that equips students from the most resource-constrained regions with 21st century skills. The transformative, evidence-based Escuela Nueva model, or New School in English, demonstrated that high-quality schooling can be cost-effective in the harshest environments. Her model excels in developing both intellectual and social-emotional capacities of its students – an inspiring testament to the fact that well-rounded progressive education is not a privilege reserved for students in developed economies. With the presentation of the Yidan Prize, we look forward to learning how her footprints can be broadened to the benefit of children worldwide.

Both inaugural laureates have gifted the world with proven track records of approaches to education that works. Their sense of mission will continue to be a source of inspiration for educators. We are confident that their admirable endeavors will translate into smarter and better educational practices that will eventually pave the way for a brighter world.

Dr Koichiro MATSUURA
Inaugural Report 2016/2018
Statement by Chief Executive Officer

Throughout the history of human civilization, education is proven to be crucial to social progress. Our Founder, Dr Charles CHEN Yidan, appreciates the enormous power education can yield; he has a grand mission on education philanthropy.

With this in mind, he founded the Yidan Prize, the world's largest international prize in education, in 2016. The Prize not only espouses Dr Chen's vision for the future but also his mission to create a better world through education. Much like his technology background, innovation is a core DNA of this newly-established prize. Rather than just recognizing and rewarding individuals with outstanding achievements in educational research and development, we want to sustain and scale up their research efforts.

One special thing about the Yidan Prize is that half of the prize comes in the form of project funding, where we support our laureates to expand education projects across the four corners of the world, so that the ground-breaking work being done by individuals will be put to use to the benefit of many. But the Prize is more than just an award. Through a series of initiatives, including research, events, and multimedia storytelling, the foundation wants to establish a platform that brings together a cross-section of stakeholders to engage in conversations around education and rekindle new constructive and inclusive dialogue on solutions.

The Yidan Prize is a new kid on the block, but we are very proud that this new kid has already been recognized for her efforts in promoting literacy and education. For example, we launched the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index, the first comprehensive global index to evaluate inputs to education systems rather than outputs such as test scores. Following the success of the Yidan Prize Summit in Hong Kong last year, both Professor Carol DWECK and Ms Vicky COLBERT have been on tour in Europe, Asia, and North America sharing their ideas with educators.

Although the world has become more complex, human wisdom can provide innovative solutions to the challenges. With a forward-thinking structure and an unwavering commitment to creating a better world through education, the Yidan Prize is set to become a global force to be reckoned with.

Starting from scratch is never easy, but with dedication and perseverance, I am confident that an increasing number of big ideas in education would be put into practice in the near future. Together with our laureates, we look forward to joining forces with like-minded individuals and organizations to further discuss and find out sustainable solutions to the most pressing education challenges in the 21st century.
Founded by Dr Charles CHEN Yidan in 2016, the Yidan Prize reaches out to the world to give recognition to individuals whose work makes profound contributions to education research and development, with the ultimate aim of creating a better world through education.

Giving out HK$60 million (around US$7.8 million) worth of awards annually, the Prize is divided into two categories: the Yidan Prize for Education Research, which recognizes outstanding research that amounts to significant contributions to education, and the Yidan Prize for Education Development, which recognizes innovative ideas that tackle pressing challenges in the field of education.

Each Yidan Prize laureate receives a gold medal and HK$30 million (around US$3.9 million) worth of awards, comprising a cash prize of HK$15 million (around US$1.9 million) and a project fund of HK$15 million.

To ensure transparency and sustainability, the Prize is managed by the Yidan Prize Foundation, a registered charitable institution in Hong Kong, and financed by an independent trust. The irrevocable HK$2.5 billion (around US$323 million) endowment was made prior to the establishment of the Yidan Prize. Through a series of initiatives, the Yidan Prize serves to establish a platform that allows the global community to engage in conversations around education and to play a role in education philanthropy.
The Prize

Judging Criteria

As a global award that recognizes and supports individuals for their most forward-looking innovation that creates sustainable impacts on education system of today and tomorrow, each nomination is reviewed according to a set of rigorous criteria in order to identify the very best individuals. The criteria include: be future-oriented, be innovative, be transformative, and be sustainable.

Eligibility

- The Yidan Prize invites nominators, such as governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, and individual thought leaders, to propose nominees. Self-nominations are accepted in exceptional cases.

- Nominees can be either individuals or teams (up to three persons per team); they can be teachers, researchers, academics, policymakers, and advocates. Posthumous nominations are not accepted.

Nomination and Judging Process

Nominations for the two awards are accepted each year within a six-month period from September to March, followed by the judging process from April to September. Announcement of the laureates is made in September, and it all cumulates the Award Presentation Ceremony and the Yidan Prize Summit in December.
The Logo

The global vision and inspiring mission of the Yidan Prize are encapsulated in the design of its logo. Designed by world-renowned graphic designer Dr KAN Tai-keung, the logo reflects the Prize’s vision for the world and its mission, with the overall design concept originated from the two Chinese characters “yi” (一) and “dan” (丹). The Yidan Prize brand is also embedded in the design of the two gold medals.

- “Yi” is presented in traditional calligraphy which exudes oriental charm, while the geometric lines running through “yi” symbolizes the door to the infinite universe.

- The red dot inside the door resembles a lotus in full bloom, representing a loyal heart. Overall, it symbolizes the vision and sincerity of educators who seek to build a better world through education.

The Medals

- The ink brush stroke of the character “yi” is highlighted by the evergreen pine tree and the mountain rock, an analogy for a firm attitude toward sustained education development.

- The lone man sitting leisurely on the pine tree represents how the recipients of the Yidan Prize for Education Research have reached a certain level of achievement, and is meditating on ways to deepen their research.

- A lone man stands and gazes far ahead among a growing pine tree gives the image of the recipients of the Yidan Prize for Education Development setting their sight on the door that leads to the future of education, and contemplating on the implementation of future education.

The Designer

As a world-renowned designer and artist, Dr Kan has earned numerous awards including the Hong Kong Ten Outstanding Young Persons award in 1979 and the Urban Council Design Grand Award in 1984; he was also the first Chinese citizen to be included in the 1995 Who’s Who in Graphic Design of Switzerland. He was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star and the Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR government in 1999 and 2010 respectively. In 2016, Dr Kan was conferred the HKDA Lifetime Honorary Award by the Hong Kong Designers Association. Dr Kan is active in educating and promoting the art and design profession. He is an honorary dean of the Cheung Kong School of Art and Design, Shantou University; a fellow member of the Hong Kong Designers Association; a member of the Chinese Committee of the Alliance Graphique Internationale; an advisor to the Leisure & Cultural Services Department; and an honorary advisor of the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

Dr KAN Tai-keung, SBS, AGI
World-renowned designer and artist
Events

The Launch
The Announcement
The Ceremony
The Summit
The Conference
Education is certainly the most powerful equalizer that drives our society forward, sustaining the growth of each and every modern economy. Education is more than just a critical investment in human capital, it is also the most rewarding investment in humanity. Collectively, as well as individually. I am glad to learn that the Yidan Prize Foundation will be presenting annual awards starting from 2017 to recognize the achievements and to support the work of commendable educators from around the world.

The Honorable John TSANG Chun-wah, GBM, JP
Financial Secretary, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2007 - 2017)
The first year results were satisfactory and we saw a lot of potentials. The nominees’ work was judged based on the four key criteria: sustainability, future-orientation, innovation, and transformation. We were impressed by the extent to which the nominated research and development projects have excelled in all aspects, and their tremendous contributions made to the community.

Dr Koichiro MATSUURA
Chairman of the Judging Committee of the Yidan Prize
The Ceremony

The inaugural Yidan Prize laureates, Professor Carol S. DWECK and Ms Vicky COLBERT, accepted the Yidan Prize for Education Research and Yidan Prize for Education Development respectively at the first Yidan Prize Award Presentation Ceremony on 10 December 2017 in Hong Kong.

At the ceremony, each of the two laureates received a gold medal from the Honorable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In presenting the awards, Mrs Lam noted the importance of education in nurturing talent.

Video: Yidan Prize Ceremony 2017 | Highlights
The Yidan Prize gives us much to look forward to in education excellence. And for this, I am grateful to Dr Chen, the Yidan Prize Foundation, and the Judging Committee for their commitment to global education and educators, and for their contribution to the sustainable development of the world we live in. My congratulations again to this year’s laureates, Professor Dweck and Ms Colbert, for their distinguished achievements. Working together, I know we can create a better world through education.

The Honorable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS
Chief Executive, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The Summit

Right on the heels of the award presentation ceremony was the Yidan Prize Summit, where over 350 leaders from around the world gathered in Hong Kong to exchange insights and strategies for redefining education.

Themed “Education Redefined: The Future is Now,” the summit saw these global movers and shakers, including business leaders, policymakers, and senior representatives from multilaterals, NGOs, and academia to discuss ways to collaborate across sectors and respond to the inevitable challenges in an innovative, sustainable, transformative, and scalable approach.

The summit featured a wide array of speakers that included His Excellency Dr Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al-Issa, Minister of Education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Mrs Cherie BLAIR, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women; Mr Jaime SAAVEDRA, Senior Director of Education at the World Bank Group; plus, the Prize’s inaugural laureates, Professor Carol S. DWECK and Ms Vicky COLBERT.

We have to work out how we afford tertiary education – people who benefit from tertiary education should...shoulder that burden, rather than those who do not directly benefit from it.

Mrs Cherie BLAIR, CBE, QC
Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women

Video: Yidan Prize Summit 2017 | Highlights
At the inaugural Yidan Prize Summit, we have a wealth of experience gathered together here, from those who work on the front lines teaching to research and practice innovation to those investing in EdTech to ease the way for great technologies to reach the market, to formulate education policies that affect the direction of education resources investment. Such multi-stakeholder dialogue is critical to redefining education for a better future.

Dr Charles CHEN Yidan
Founder of the Yidan Prize
In addition to the award presentation ceremony and summit, a series of conferences was organized across the globe to engage with educators on key issues facing the academia.

Asia-Pacific

The first conference kicked off at Chinese International School in Hong Kong on 10 December 2017, featuring Yidan Prize for Education Research Inaugural Laureate, Professor Carol S. DWECK. At this event, Professor Dweck gave an engaging presentation on her research on the different mindsets students can hold about their talents and abilities, and its implications on education. This was followed by an enlightening conversation between Professor Dweck and Professor CHIU Chi-yue, a former student of Professor Dweck, and a professor of psychology and Dean of Social Science at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The second activity was held on 12 December 2017 in Hong Kong where Yidan Prize for Education Development Inaugural Laureate, Ms Vicky COLBERT, was invited to talk to around 40 alumni of her alma mater - Stanford University. At the event, Ms Colbert shared the educational work she does in Colombia and her future plans.
Europe

Following the success of the two conferences in Hong Kong, the laureates then traveled to the United Kingdom, where the third conference was convened at Jesus College in the University of Cambridge on 30 January 2018. Titled “Educating for the Future,” the conference examined the global economic and social challenges driving the need for transformational education reform, and the changes needed for education systems – and teachers and education practitioners in particular – to adapt to the rapid pace of change in our world today.

The Americas

The forth conference was held at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on 5-6 February 2018. Visiting and speaking alongside Dr Chen were the two inaugural laureates, Professor Dweck and Ms Colbert, where the trio addressed world leading educators on the role of education in realizing human potential. Titled “Realizing Human Potential Through Education: A Convening in Honor of the 2017 Yidan Prize Laureates,” this conference examined the key drivers for transformational education reform, and the changes that must happen in order for education systems to tap into, develop, and fully realize the hidden potential of our children.
Inaugural Laureates

Yidan Prize for Education Research
Yidan Prize for Education Development
What is remarkable about Professor Dweck’s work is the scientifically demonstrable ability to explain and predict behavior, and the consistently validated results of pragmatic mindset interventions in different school and work settings.

Citation by Professor Paul CHU Ching-wu, Panel Head, Judging Panel for Education Research, Yidan Prize

It is critical for educators to know that we cannot nourish the mind without the heart. We cannot expect good learning - joyful and effective learning - to happen in a mind that is disconnected from the heart. And we cannot expect our students to create the world of tomorrow, the world that we hope for, without a heart-mind that connects them to each other, to the larger society, and to the planet as a whole. Therefore, with this Prize, I dedicate myself anew to helping create joyful, effective, and meaningful learning for all the children of the world.

Acceptance speech by Professor Carol S. DWECK, Yidan Prize for Education Research Inaugural Laureate
Ms Vicky COLBERT

Ms Colbert, Founder and Director of Fundación Escuela Nueva (FEN) and co-author of the Escuela Nueva educational model, was named the Yidan Prize for Education Development laureate for the transformative “learner-centered” model to integrate the curriculum, teacher training, community involvement, and school administration in a coherent and cost-effective way to improve the quality of education in rural areas. She has pioneered, expanded, and sustained this educational innovation from many organizational spheres: as Vice-Minister of Education of Colombia, UNICEF’s Education Adviser for Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC) and now from Fundación Escuela Nueva, an NGO she founded to ensure its quality, sustainability, and innovation.

The judging panel is thoroughly impressed by how Ms Colbert’s work demonstrates that high quality schooling can be cost-effective in the harshest environments. Her model excels in developing both intellectual and social-emotional capacities of its students - an inspiring testament to the fact that well-rounded progressive education is not a privilege reserved for students in developed economies.

Citation by Ms Dorothy K. GORDON, Panel Head, Judging Panel for Education Development, Yidan Prize

The recognition that we receive through this prestigious award is a further motivation to continue our commitment to the cause of basic education of high quality for all children. It was the injustice, inequity, and invisibility of low income schools that led me to rethink education and craft a solution. At Escuela Nueva Foundation, in Colombia and many other countries of the world, we work to establish affordable schools of excellent quality where children, teachers, and parents are empowered to learn and contribute to a culture of peace and citizenship in their environment.

Acceptance Speech by Ms Vicky COLBERT, Yidan Prize for Education Development Inaugural Laureate
In 2016, the Yidan Prize Foundation commissioned The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) to conduct a research project – Yidan Prize Forecast Education to 2030 – which provides forecasts across 25 economies for five key indicators: public expenditure on education, affordability of tertiary education, youth unemployment, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) graduates and internet access in schools.

The report highlighted that education is more important than ever due to a combination of economic, social, and technological trends. Yet, those trends also put heavy strains on public budgets, the cost of education, and the workforce.

Armed with these findings, experts and stakeholders can find ways to make education more adaptive to the needs of society. Moreover, both the forecast and the report represent the Yidan Prize Foundation’s commitment to building a better world through education by leveraging the power of empirical research so that we can identify innovative ways to furnish students with the skills they need.

Mr. Chris Clague
Senior Editor of The Economist Intelligence Unit

"Over the next decade-plus, we are going to see significant changes in the skill sets that are in demand and that is going to be a problem unless the education sector finds a way to be more adaptive than it is now. Fortunately, there are a lot of ideas about how to address the issue. Identifying the best ones and figuring out how to scale them will be key."

Video: Yidan Prize Forecast Education to 2030
Developed economies with shrinking and aging demographics, as well as budget constraints, are forecast to reduce their expenditure on education, while large developing economies are forecast to increase it.

Economies like India, where education is now very costly relative to incomes, will see improvements in affordability, but costs will remain high. In many other developing economies, an expanding middle class will put upward pressure on tuition fees.

Twelve of the twenty-five economies will see STEM grads increase by 75% or more between now and 2030, with Nigeria projected to see a four-fold increase and Indonesia and South Africa a doubling.

The five economies with the lowest youth unemployment in 2030 already have relatively low rates of youth unemployment. Those with the highest rates will see improvements, but the rates will remain high.
Worldwide Educating For the Future Index

The Yidan Prize Foundation launched the inaugural Worldwide Educating For the Future Index (WEFFI) produced by the EIU on 19 September 2017. It was the first comprehensive index to evaluate education systems in 35 economies representing 88 percent of global GDP and 77 percent of global population.

Based on 16 indicators across three thematic categories: education policy, teaching, and socio-economic environments, the index is the world’s first ever comprehensive benchmarking tool that focuses on inputs to education systems, as opposed to outputs such as test scores. The index examines the root causes of why current education systems are failing our next generation and creates a blueprint for governments to improve.

The index also sheds light on the relationship between liberal social traditions and critical mindsets, as economies with progressive social traditions are more likely to instill independent and critical mindsets that will support young people to thrive in a fast-changing world.

In short, the index provides useful data for policymakers to grapple with the challenge of how to make our education systems relevant so that they can prepare our young people for the era of information and knowledge-based economy.

Video: What is 'Worldwide Educating for the Future Index'

Biggest Challenge

Is the future workforce ready?

Economies with larger populations perform poorly and are at greater risk due to their huge labor needs. Poor policies and teaching environment can lead to a future workforce lacking in skills for the demands of tomorrow.

Education system must prepare our youth for the era of information and disruption, or there will be significant implications for the global economy. Our groundbreaking index points out concrete steps that will help policymakers cope with a complex future.

Mr Michael GOLD
Editor of The Economist Intelligence Unit

Skills Gap

Overall Rank (out of 35)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Size of workforce, 2030 (million)</th>
<th>Adult population lacking skills</th>
<th>Poor Reading Skills</th>
<th>Poor Numeracy Skills</th>
<th>Poor Computer Proficiency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>122 million</td>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>1/5</td>
<td>&lt;50%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>142 million</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>620 million</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>770 million</td>
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Education systems must evolve and prepare for complexities of working in the information age. Changing labor needs will also require a competitive workforce.
Skills Youth Need to Flourish

Are Education Systems Equipped To Teach These Skills?

Index Performance of 35 Economies

The 35 economies in our index represent 88% of global GDP and 77% of global population.

*The average score across 35 economies in the index: 60.4

21 Economies Score Above Average
14 Economies Score Below Average

Score range (out of 100):
Best: 75.9 - 88.9
Good: 65.3 - 75.8
Moderate: 45.5 - 65.2
Needs Improvement: 23.5 - 45.4

Three Domains

They Top the List

The three domains evaluated in the index are each economy’s policy environment, teaching environment and socio-economic environment.

Putting Policy First
Teaching Environment
Social Study

Policy Environment
Teaching Environment
Socio-economic Environment

Singapore
New Zealand
Finland

Best in Class
New Zealand
Overall Score: 88.9/100

curriculum framework for future skills • teacher education • career counselling in schools

Recommends

Governments must do more to take into account impending seismic changes in work and life.

Reforming systems should improve global citizenship skills and focus on project-based learning.

Nations must create pools of well-equipped, talented teachers to help students gain skills for the future.

Learning both inside and outside the classroom as well as across disciplines should be fostered and encouraged.

Funding for education and teachers’ pay should be made a priority in conjunction with other reforms.

Efforts should be made to foster societal openness and tolerance as these are linked with future-oriented skills.
As a young award, it’s no easy feat for the Yidan Prize to enjoy international recognition right from the beginning. Soon after the launch of the Yidan Prize, Dr Chen and the Yidan Prize Foundation team traveled to over 34 economies to meet with leading scholars, as well as movers and shakers in the philanthropic community to introduce the prize and call for more high-quality nominations from across the globe.
Structure
The Structure

The Yidan Prize is supported by the Yidan Prize Foundation, a Board of Directors, a Global Advisory Board and a Judging Committee, whose members are independent and authoritative experts.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of the Yidan Prize Foundation, the appointment of the Global Advisory Board and the Judging Committee, and approving the Judging Committee’s laureate recommendations.

The Global Advisory Board is responsible for inviting nominating organizations, developing the judging criteria and procedures.

The Judging Committee is responsible for screening nominations and selecting laureates. It comprises two independent judging panels, one for Education Research, the other for Education Development.

Global Advisory Board

Chairman
Dr Qian TANG
Former Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

Convenor
Professor CHENG Kai-ning
Emeritus Professor, The University of Hong Kong

Member
Dr Manzoor AHMED
Professor Emeritus, BRAC University, Dhaka

Member
Dr Jamil SALMI
Former World Bank Tertiary Education Program Coordinator

Member
Mr Marc S. TUCKER
President and Chief Executive Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy (United States)

Member
Mr Dankert VEDELER
Deputy Permanent Delegate at the Norwegian Delegation to UNESCO/OECD
Judging Committee

The Yidan Prize for Education Research Judging Panel

2016/2017
Panel Head
Professor Paul CHU Ching-wu
Professor of Physics and T.L.L. Temple Chair of Science, University of Houston

Panel Member
Professor Bruce M. ALBERTS
Chancellor’s Leadership Chair in Biochemistry and Biophysics for Science and Education, University of California, San Francisco

2017/2018
Panel Head
Mr Andreas SCHLEICHER
Director for Education and Skills, OECD

Panel Member
Professor Phillip A. GRIFFITHS
Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study in New Jersey

The Yidan Prize for Education Development Judging Panel

Panel Head
Ms Dorothy K. GORDON
Former Director-General, Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT

Panel Member
Dr Steven COHEN
Executive Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University

Panel Member
Dr Allan E. GOODMAN
President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of International Education

Chairman
Dr Koichiro MATSUURA
Former Director-General, UNESCO
Timeline

22.05.2016
Launch of the Yidan Prize and Yidan Prize Forecast Education to 2030

08.2016 - 03.2017
Nomination period for the inaugural Yidan Prize

19.09.2017
Press conference announcing the inaugural Yidan Prize laureates and Worldwide Educating For the Future Index (WEFFI)

09.2017 - 03.2018
Nomination period for the Yidan Prize 2018

10.12.2017
Yidan Prize Inaugural Award Presentation Ceremony
Yidan Prize Conference Series: Asia-Pacific Conference I

11.12.2017
Inaugural Yidan Prize Summit

12.12.2017
Asia-Pacific Conference II

30.01.2018
Europe Conference

05-06.02.2018
The Americas Conference
Publicity

Since its inception, the Yidan Prize has received significant coverage in local and international media. Many of the reports talked about the global vision of the Founder, Dr Charles CHEN Yidan, and how the prize will support and amplify innovative education in addressing issues facing the world.

The following are selected quotes from key coverage by major international media outlets:

“The international focus of the Yidan Prize remains unusual for Chinese philanthropists, most of whom are focused on a broadening array of domestic causes.”

Financial Times

“Mr Chen wants to promote innovative and forward-looking approach to education around the world through the Yidan Prize.”

The Wall Street Journal

“Charles Chen Yidan wants to use the Yidan Prize to scale up innovative education research projects and replicate them across the world.”

BBC

“The world’s most lucrative education prize...”

BBC

“Chinese philanthropist and Internet pioneer Charles Chen Yidan, believes so strongly in this that he has personally set up the largest education prize of its kind.”

The Straits Times

“Yidan Prize Foundation seeks to reward people and programmes making advances in education that are “substantial, scalable, easy for others to follow, forward-looking, and future-oriented.”

South China Morning Post

“Mr Chen intends to create a kind of a Nobel Prize in Education.”

Welt

“He hopes that hundreds of projects across the globe can benefit from funding from the Yidan Prize and the next generation of thinkers his award backs.”

CNBC

“Charles Yidan, the core founder of Tencent, one of the world’s most successful tech firms, based in China, decided to use part of his wealth to award two annual prizes for education, comparable in their way to the Nobel Prizes in other arenas.”

Education Week

“The award is aiming to become the Nobel Prize for education, and will challenge the Global Teacher Prize as the world’s biggest education award.”

TES
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Legal Advisor
Mr Richard PU
Deputy General Counsel, Tencent Group

Honorary Secretary
Mr Lester G. HUANG, SBS, JP
Co-Chairman, P.C. Woo & Co.

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