



The Huge Talent Dividend and Demand Spurred by the Belt and Road Initiative

The remarkable achievement of opening an overland route linking the East and the West by Zhang Qian more than 2,000 years ago—known as the “Silk Road”—has had far-reaching consequences. The legend of Xuan Zang, who traveled the Silk Road to India in the seventh century, still resonates with the Chinese people. And the impressive feat of Zheng He, who opened the “Maritime Silk Road” with his seven voyages to the Western oceans, still inspires after more than 600 years. From the Flying Devi (angel) murals of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, which represent the integration of Chinese, Indian, and ancient Western culture, to the discovery of the Belitung shipwreck—an Arabian ship fully loaded with Chinese gold and ceramics—found in the Java Sea, the ancient Silk Road (on both land and sea) witnessed the courage of our intrepid Chinese ancestors and recorded the beautiful history of integration and common development between East and West.

As time went by, we saw the once-desert land of the Silk Road connected by railways, and human-powered ships that sailed its ocean routes replaced by steam and gas-powered vessels—and now the Silk Road itself is beginning to revive. In the autumn of 2013, Chinese president Xi Jinping

travelled west to Kazakhstan and south to Indonesia and proposed the major initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road. From then on, China’s commercial center started to move back to where it originated 2,000 years ago—the Silk Road.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Over the past five years, China has set up 82 overseas economic cooperation zones along Belt and Road corridors, with a total investment of USD 28.9 billion, having created 244,000 jobs. As of May 2018, China has signed 16 free-trade agreements with 24 countries across four continents, nearly half of which are along the “Belt and Road.”

Paving the way for a world-class educational

Education and talent have played a fundamental and pioneering role in the work of building the Belt and Road. China’s efforts to strengthen communication, cooperation, and education with countries along the Belt and Road not only play an important part in the initiative, but also give a strong boost to its talent programs. China’s proposal to build a Belt and Road educational community, and the claim that



Shixin Wang
Deputy Chief Editor of
China Education Online,
Chief Executive Editor of
AcaBridge