



FINLAND  
*team*

Sino-Finnish Learning Garden

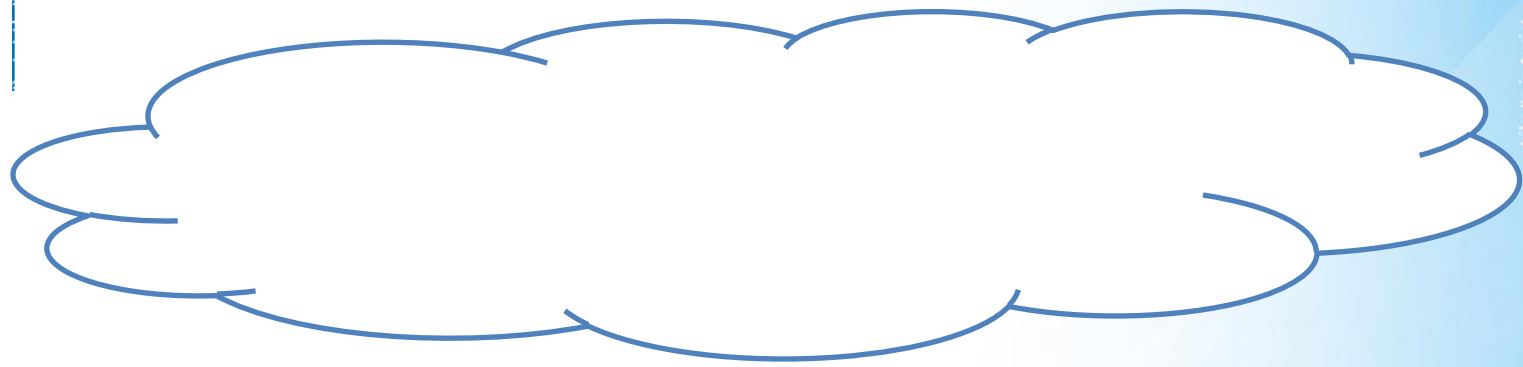
Mika Tirronen  
Counsellor of Education & Science

Embassy of Finland, Beijing

4.9.2014

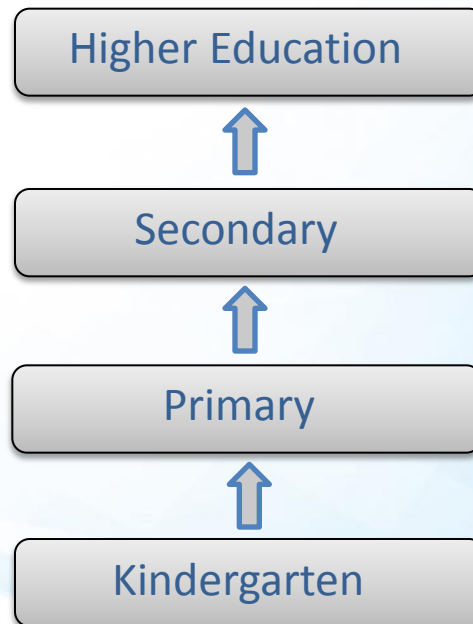
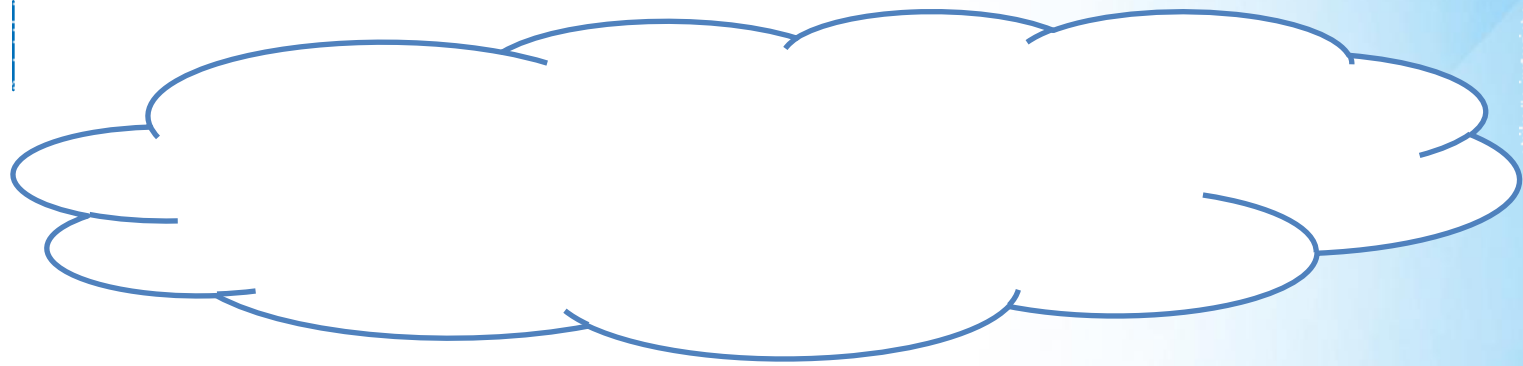
# Sino-Finnish Learning Garden

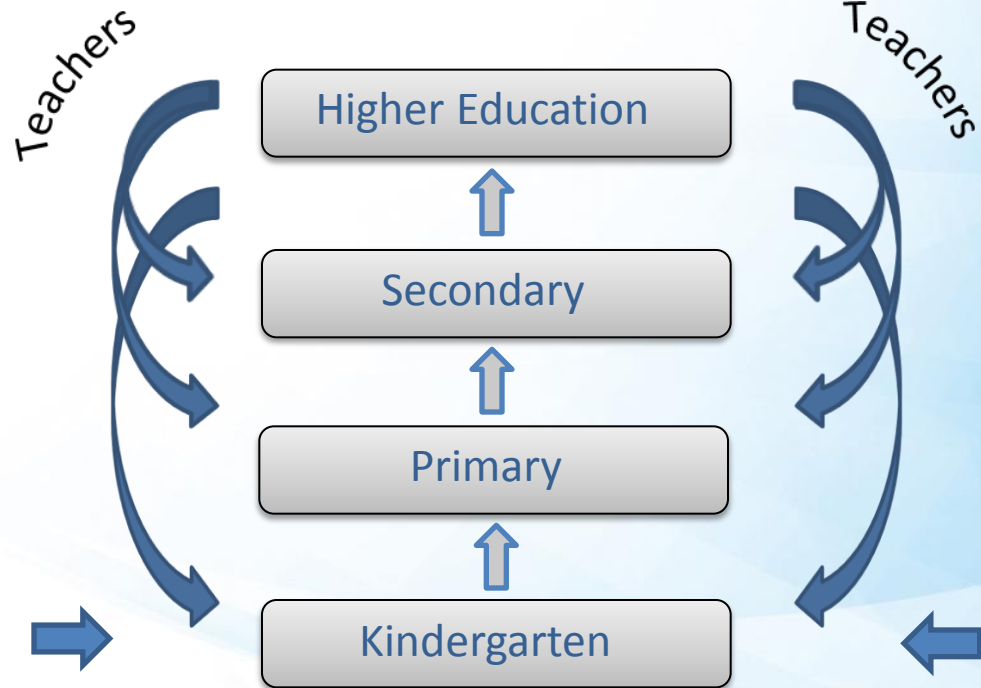
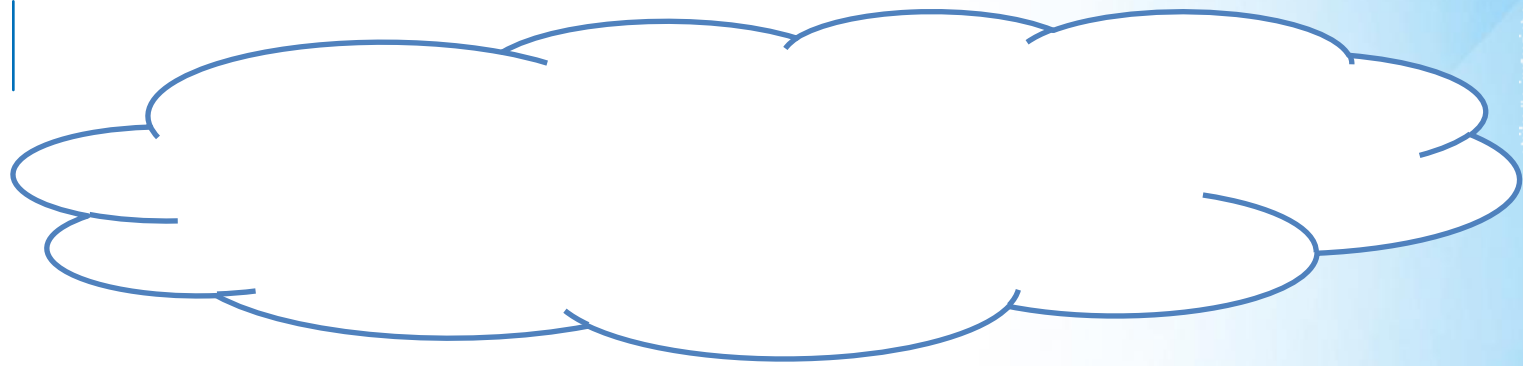


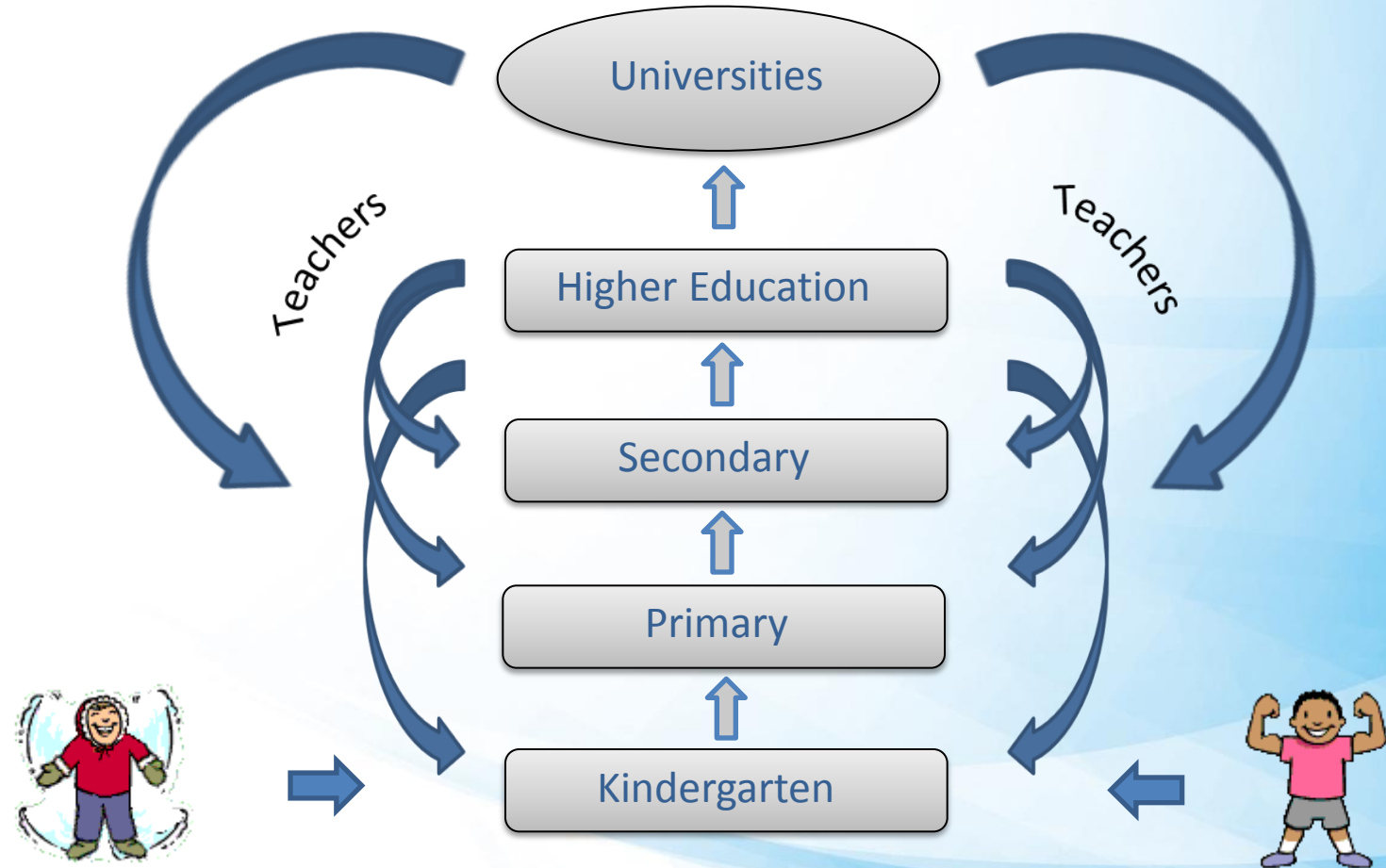
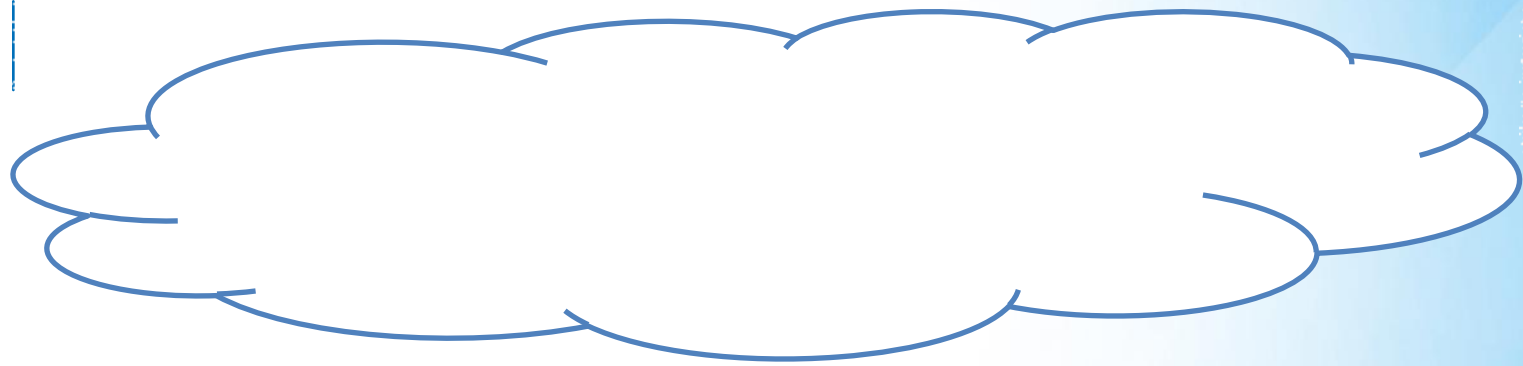


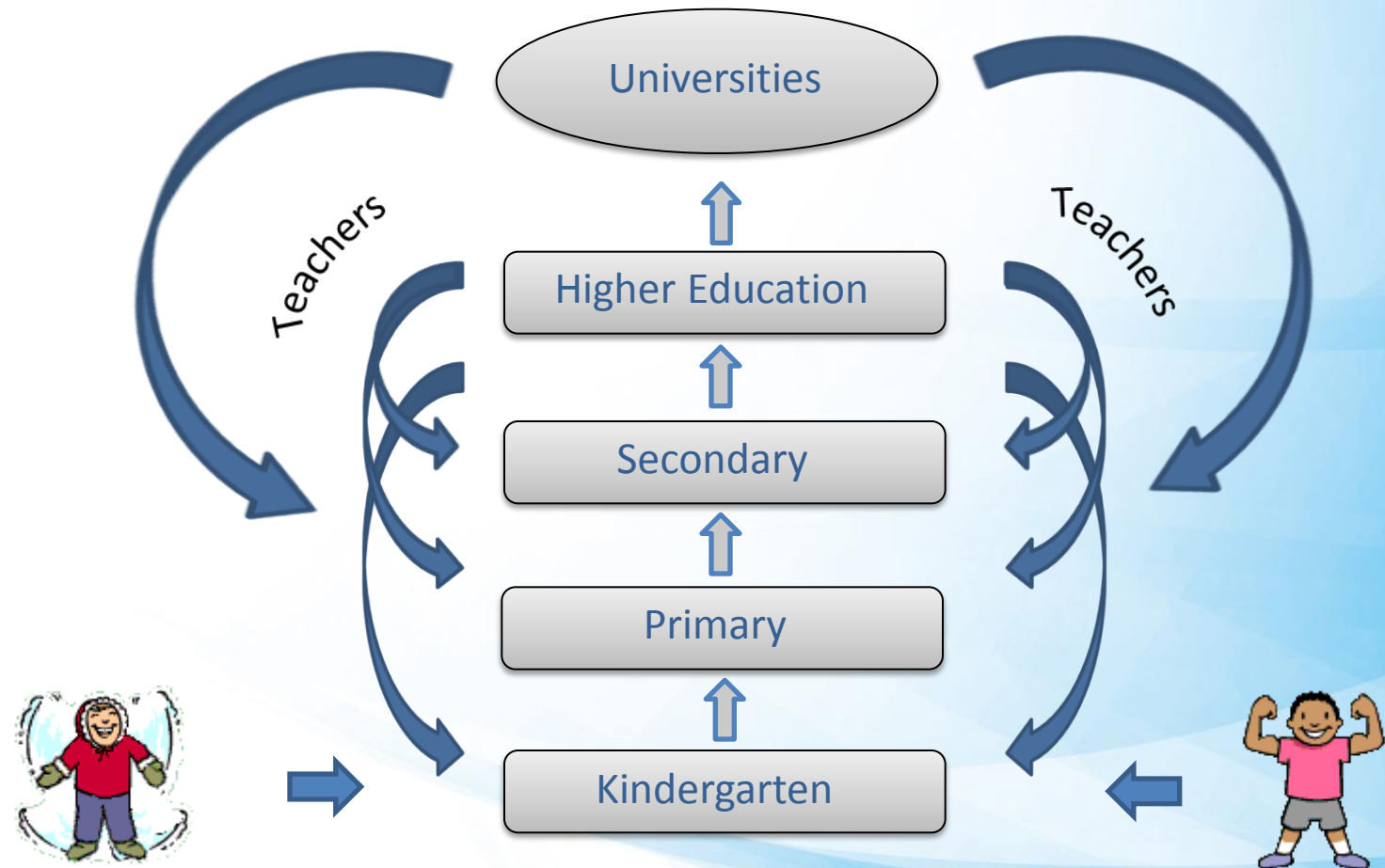
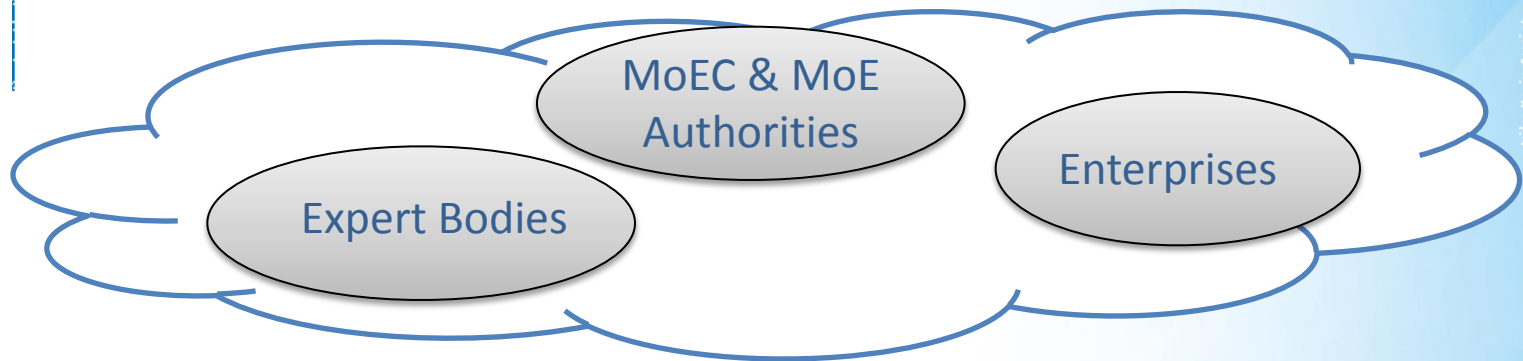
Kindergarten











# What is Sino-Finnish Learning Garden? Part 1

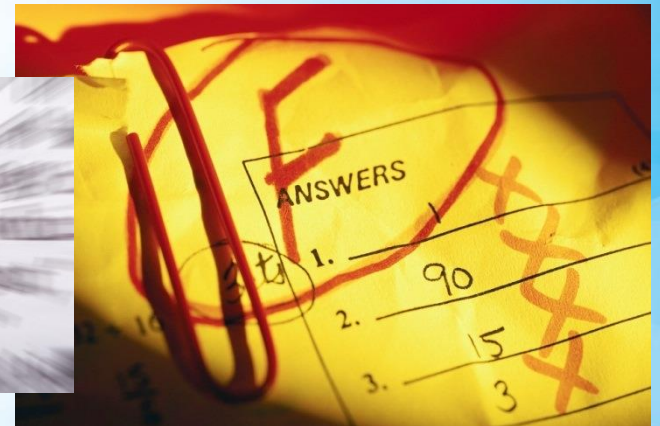
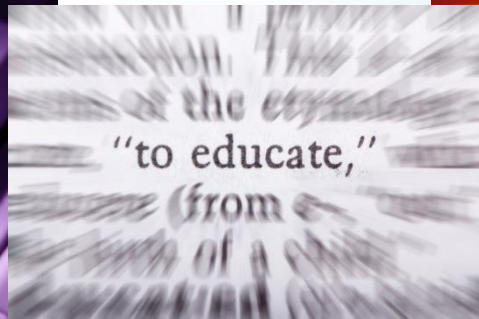
- A **joint endeavor** of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Finland and the Ministry of Education (MoE) of China
- A platform for policy **dialogue**, joint **planning** and joint **research and development** of modern learning solutions
- The program will target **early, primary, secondary** and **higher education** (including **vocational**)





# What is Sino-Finnish Learning Garden? Part 2

- The project aims to bring **schools, academia, national research programmes, companies and authorities** to join their efforts to co-create modern learning solutions to foster 21<sup>st</sup> century skills among the students in China and Finland
- The **MoU** between the MoE and the MoEC was signed in June 2015 in Helsinki in the presence of vice premier of China and prime minister of Finland



# Why Finland and China?

- Education is **highly esteemed** in both countries
- Both countries share the ambition and success, as indicated by international PISA surveys:
  - Finland has been a top western country since 2000
  - Shanghai was the top performer in 2009 and 2012
- Large consensus on education as a **national priority**



# FINLAND & CHINA (+ HK) in PISA 2000 - 2009

PISA 2000 Reading	PISA 2003 Mathematics	PISA 2006 Science	PISA 2009 Reading
1. Finland 546	1. Hong Kong 550	1. Finland 563	1. Shanghai 556
2. Canada 534	2. Finland 544	2. Hong Kong 542	2. Korea Rep. 539
3. New Zealand 529	3. Korea Rep. 542	3. Canada 534	3. Finland 536
4. Australia 528	4. Netherlands 538	4. Chinese Taipei 532	4. Hong Kong 533
5. Ireland 527	5. Liechtenstein 536	5. Estonia 531	5. Singapore 526
6. Hong Kong 525	6. Japan 534	6. Japan 531	6. Canada 524

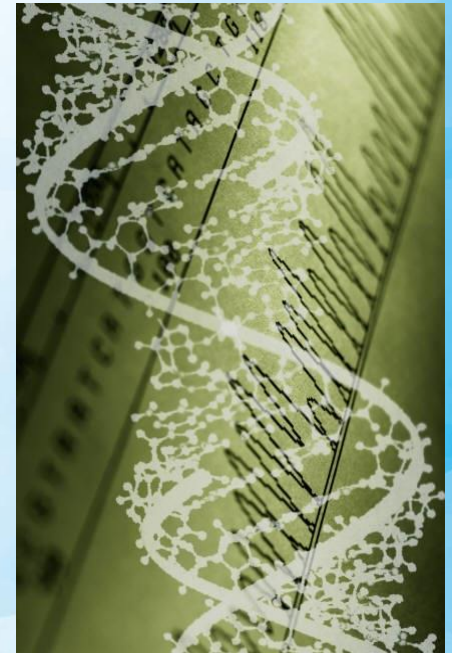
# FINLAND & CHINA (+ HK) in PISA 2012

PISA 2012 Mathematics	PISA 2012 Reading	PISA 2012 Science
1. Shanghai 613	1. Shanghai 570	1. Shanghai 580
2. Singapore 573	2. Hong Kong 545	2. Hong Kong 555
3. Hong Kong 561	3. Singapore 542	3. Canada 551
4. Taipei 560	4. Japan 538	4. Japan 547
5. Korea 554	5. Korea 536	5. Finland 545
12. Finland 519	6. Finland 524	6. Estonia 541

# Innovative China Part 1

- Big **history** in innovation
  - compass, gun powder, paper, printing...
  - problem-oriented approach
- NOW: to tackle the challenges
  - Sustainable development
  - Driver of the economic growth
  - International competitiveness
  - National bride

To maintain the stable social development



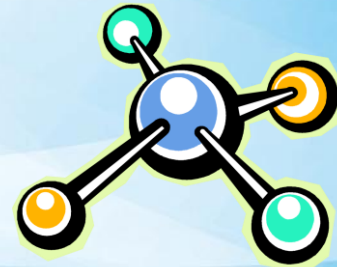
# Innovative China Part 2



- education is **appreciated** and perceived to pave way to safe and successful life  
Confucious tradition - meritocracy
- rich philosophical tradition (master & student)
  - accepts new concepts, while attempting also to accord old beliefs their due
- huge talent pool
- education, research & development are strongly **supported** by authorities

# Innovative Finland

- **Equal** opportunities, small(est) variation among the schools and areas
- Teacher **autonomy**, **student-oriented** learning approach
- Highly educated & appreciated teacher profession
- Strong **expertise** in key areas to foster innovative modern learning solutions
  - education research & expertise (incl. teacher education)
  - ICT sector
  - game research & industry
  - design





# Challenges in China Part 1

- the coastal cities are highly advanced, while the western and central parts are lagging behind (in resources, devices, qualified personnel, training etc...)
  - > **unequal opportunities** to learn
- **work load** of the school children is high, and learning is burdened by **exams & competition**
  - >> bound to cause **personal problems**
  - >> **inefficiency, irrelevance**







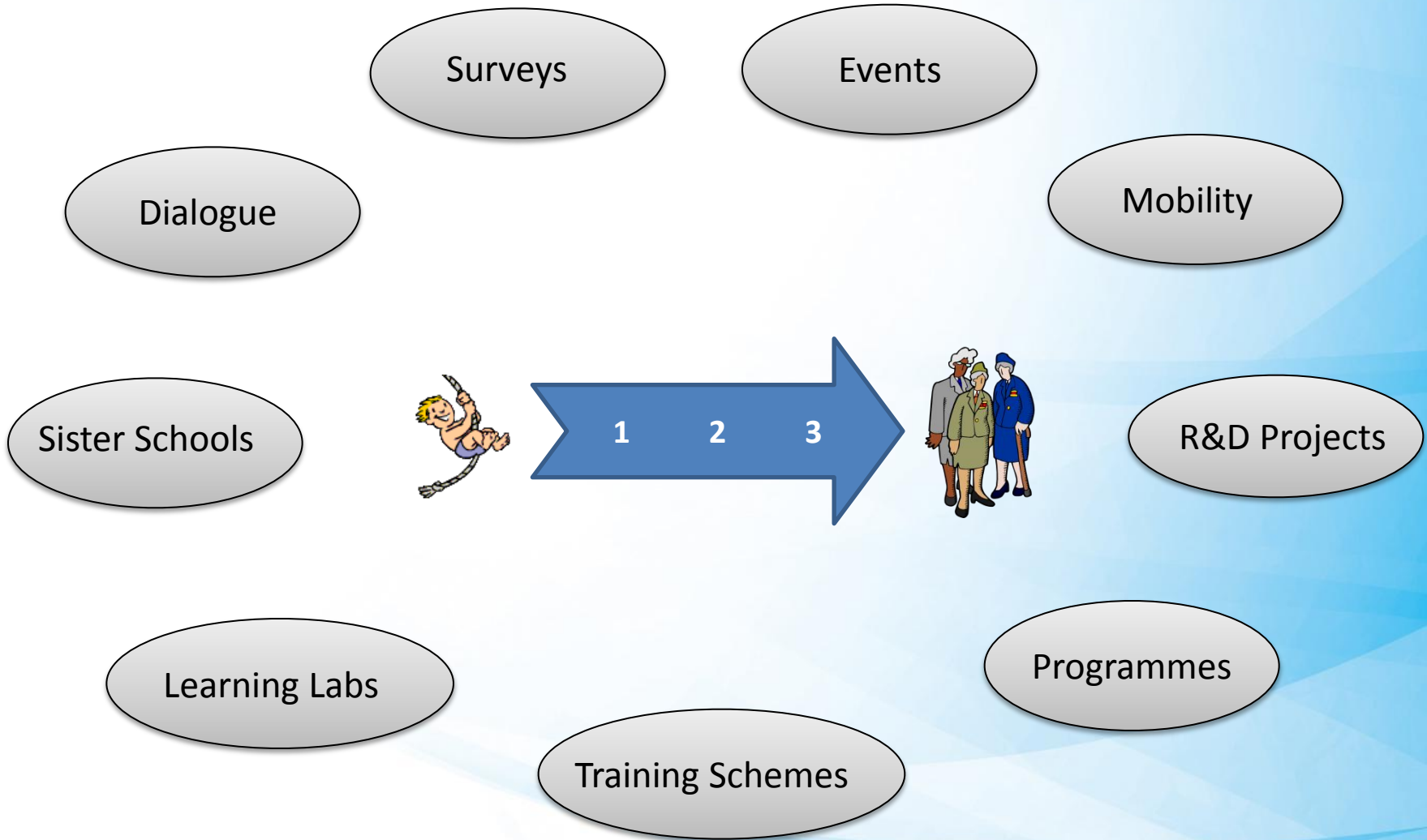
# Challenges in Finland

- Economic **recession** & growing social **disparities**
  - Regional development (rural vs urban)
  - Migration and multiculturalism
- Pupil **welfare** and **safe** school environment
- Group size in basic education
- Digital learning and new technologies - challenge and an opportunity
  - **Motivation** to study traditional subjects (math, reading) vs. new skills & interests (computers, games, popular media)

# FORMS of CO-OPERATION



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# Platform for Partnering

- To ensure the **best expertise** to be utilized
- To match the **right partners**
- To combine **existing and new** resources & projects through better coordination of supportive measures

# Sino-Finnish Joint Learning Innovation Institute

Interdisciplinary institute combining teacher education & training, joint research & development

All relevant research areas: psychology, education, cognitive neuroscience, computer science, information technology, design...

Signing ceremony in the MoE, Beijing Nov 16, 2015

Opening Ceremony in Helsinki, May-June 2016

Nationally coordinated by:

Helsinki University Faculty of Education

Beijing Normal University School of Education

# Sino-Finnish Joint Learning Innovation Institute

- 1) Education Research Center (CEREC - FEREC)
- 2) Learning Garden Experience Center
- 3) Teacher Training Center
- 4) Education ICT Center
- 5) Double / Dual Degree Center

# Sino-Finnish Joint Learning Innovation Institute

- Jointly developed in-service training schemes
  - e.g. student-oriented education, classroom management, theme-based education
- Quality assurance
  - to ensure overall quality of the services
  - to meet the specific objectives set case by case

# Regional Co-operation

Long term relationship to enable tailor-made co-operation schemes

- e.g. teacher in-service training & exchange, curriculum development, sister schools, joint R&D, joint centers etc.
- from pre-school to vocational & HE

Based on existing & active sister city relationships

- Tampere - Guangzhou; Helsinki - Beijing; Espoo - Shanghai; Eastern Finland - Henan; Turku - Tianjin; Kuopio - Shanghai Pudong; Jyväskylä - Kunming; etc...



# Sister School Co-operation



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- Finland: Coordinated national China School networks, Municipalities (Sister cities)
- China: BNU affiliated Schools, Municipalities (Sister cities)  
e.g. BMEC, SMEC



# Sister Schools

- as partners in joint educational projects & exchange
- as a testbeds for joint **R&D projects** for modern learning solutions
- as platforms for teacher training & exchange projects

Aiming at the comprehensive,  
**experimental** learning  
environment, where learning  
is (also) fun



# The "School Day" Concept

Regular meetings in co-operation with Municipal / Regional Education Committees in order to share information, new initiatives and visions

- With sister schools & interested schools (principals & offices of international co-operation)
- To promote networking and partnering between Finnish & Chinese Schools

# The Role of the HE institutions<sub>1</sub>

To provide **best expertise** in

- Learning -related academic **research**
  - Brain research (memory, audio/visual perception, language & learning, mirror cells, human-computer interface etc...)
  - Educational sciences, psychology, music etc...
  - Engineering (computational sciences, digital & mobile technologies etc...)
  - Management sciences, social sciences etc...
- Consultative **surveys** & expert recommendations

# The Role of the HE institutions<sub>2</sub>

To conduct

- **Applied** research in order to develop new, tailor-made learning solutions, technologies & environments to meet jointly identified needs
  - Digital & mobile learning solutions, eLearning, learning games etc...
  - Art & design in and for better learning
- **Teacher** and management **education** & training
- Quality assurance & development of national standards for education services

# Vocational Higher Education

- In China: reform of Vocational Higher Education
- Need for combining theoretical education & practical training
- Co-operation of authorities, HE institutes & employers (companies, hospitals etc.)

» up-to-date vocational education & skills

CIMO China programme to support joint HE programs, annual calls

# Academic Higher Education

Jointly developing & supporting:

- joint training courses & summer schools (Masters, PhD)
- joint tutoring
- joint and double degree programmes
  - bachelor & master degree, PhD

CIMO China programme to support joint HE programs, annual calls



# Funding Opportunities

CIMO China Programme ([www.cimo.fi](http://www.cimo.fi))

- Joint HE schemes - Call annually

Academy of Finland ([www.aka.fi](http://www.aka.fi))

- Mobility

- Joint Seminars

- Research Projects, FiDiPro,

- Research Programmes (research & events)

Ongoing Programmes: TULOS, Human Mind

# Major Events

Future Learning in Today's World, November 2013, BNU Beijing  
Finnish Vocational Training Workshop, ATDF, Shanghai  
The School Day Beijing 1, Apr 2014, Embassy of Finland, Beijing  
The School Day Beijing 2, Nov 2014, BMEC, Beijing  
The School Day Shanghai, Nov 2014, ATDF, Shanghai  
Learning Garden Guangzhou, Mar 2015, Guangzhou  
Sino-Finnish Dialogue in Education, May 2015, Helsinki  
Sino-Finnish Dialogue in Vocational Education, Nov 2015,  
Shanghai  
SF JoLII National Assembly, Dec 2015, Helsinki  
SF Learning Garden Guangzhou, Apr 2016 Tampere  
SF JoLII Opening Ceremony, May 2016 Helsinki

# Joint Centers

- Chinese Education Research Center, TaY, Tampere
- Finnish Education Research Center, BNU, Beijing
- Sino-Finnish Center on Vocational Education, Shanghai
- Sino-Finnish Learning Innovation Institute

# Learning together!



# Never too late to learn new tricks!!





Learning Can Be FUN !!

Yet effective...

FINLAND  
*team*