

# China Development Research Foundation



## China

The China Development Research Foundation (CDRF) is a public foundation initiated by the Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC). Its mission is to advance good governance and public policy to promote economic development and social progress.

### **Our work within the framework Global Career Readiness Initiative**

Within GCEN, China Development Research Foundation (CDRF) focuses on strengthening the alignment between vocational education systems and evolving labor market demands—particularly in emerging sectors such as green skills. Its work centers on embedding employer input, real-world applications, and future-oriented competencies into vocational training.

A core initiative is the For a Greener Future: Green Vocational Education Enhancement Program, which supports the co-development of industry-informed curricula, the upgrading of training infrastructure, and the strengthening of teacher capacity. Through this approach, CDRF is advancing a shift toward more practice-oriented, industry-embedded learning environments, where students engage with real-world technologies and applications.

Within GCEN, this work contributes to system-level learning on how to structure effective school–industry partnerships and integrate new skills areas into vocational education at scale.

### **Evidence of Impact**

Since its launch in 2024, Phase I of the For a Greener Future program has reached 25 vocational schools across 4 provinces, benefiting over 80,000 students and supporting more than 500 teachers.

The program has developed 12+ green skills modules, incorporating input and case studies from relevant industries, and upgraded 5 green skills training centers in collaboration with local industrial experts—strengthening the practical, hands-on delivery of vocational training.

These early results demonstrate both scale and relevance, providing a strong foundation for expanding industry-aligned, future-oriented vocational education models.

### **Partnerships & Alliances**

- Vocational schools implementing CDRF's training programme.
- Peking University and Beijing Normal University, supporting research and evaluation.
- Domestic and global companies supporting industry-aligned training and employment pathways.
- Providing research and pilot recommendations for national and local government education bureaus for policy improvement.

# China Landscape

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## Data - Transition From School To Work (China)

**Urban Unemployment**  
(National Bureau of Statistics of China, 2025)

**16.5%**  
age 16-24

**6.9%**  
age 25-29

### Current State of Career Readiness

- China's **Implementation Plan for the Reform of National Vocational Education** strengthens and modernises vocational training to meet labour market needs, improve quality, and expand skilled employment opportunities.
- Opinions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council on Implementing the Employment-Priority Strategy prioritises job creation, enhances employment services, and supports stable, high-quality, full employment.

### Challenges and Gaps

- There is currently a gap between the rapid development of new technologies and their slower adoption within industry, combined with the education system's slow pace of adaptation. This dual lag makes it challenging to prepare students with the relevant, up-to-date skills needed to meet evolving labour market demands.

### Emerging Trends

- **Innovative teaching methods**, including the use of multimedia, VR/AR, and online courses to make teaching more intuitive and flexible.
- **Personalised learning** through big data analysis and development of digital resource libraries to enrich materials and optimise teaching content.

### **Recommendations for Leaders** *Shaping Career Education Policy and Practice*

- Strengthen integration between industry and vocational education systems, ensuring closer collaboration in curriculum design, training delivery, and skills development.
- Increase investment in high-quality career readiness curricula and teacher training, to ensure instruction remains relevant, up-to-date, and aligned with modern workforce demands.