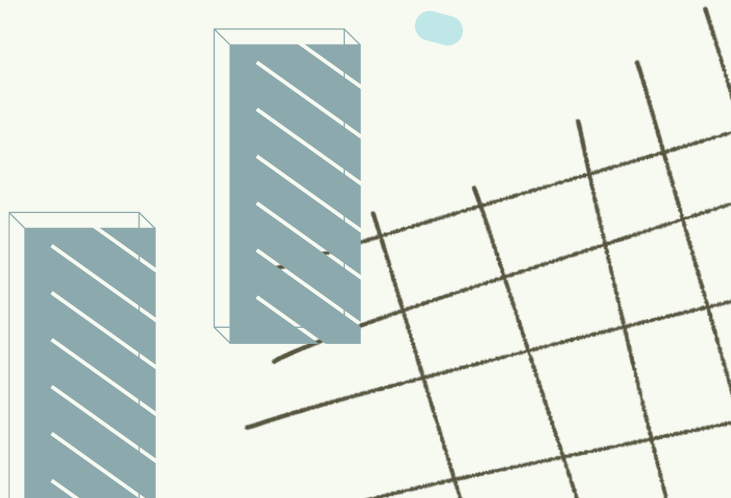




Tan Lipin

EMERGING TRENDS IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG LEADERS IN CHINA AS PATHWAYS TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CULTIVATING YOUNG LEADERS IN CHINA

Response to **globalization, technology,**
and **sustainability challenges**



Reforms in higher education aligned with the
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Focus:

- leadership
- innovation
- social responsibility

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

in Confucian values:

- moral cultivation,
- collective responsibility,
- and harmony



Reshaped:

- according to the knowledge-based economy
- the rapidly evolving global order.

Universities = laboratories for future leadership in politics, business, culture, and science = **leaders with the SDGs**, capable of addressing climate change, inequality, and digital transformation, while maintaining cultural continuity.

NATIONAL POLICY DIRECTIONS

Double First-Class” (2017) – strengthening top universities and creating talent pipelines for national governance and international collaboration.

Youth Talent Development Programs – fostering leadership in science, technology, and the arts, linking excellence with innovation-driven growth.

“Green Education” – integrating ecological awareness into leadership curricula, making sustainability a core competence for responsible decision-making.



PEDAGOGICAL TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PRACTICE

The **interdisciplinary** nature of **curricula** – combining:

- political science,
- economics,
- data science,
- and environmental studies

– enables students to understand the complexity of real-world challenges.



Focus on SDG themes (urban resilience, renewable energy)

PEDAGOGICAL TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PRACTICE



Experiential learning – fieldwork, NGO internships, and service-learning projects connect theory with practice.

“Rural revitalisation internships” – young leaders design educational, environmental, and entrepreneurial initiatives in underdeveloped regions, combining personal growth with social contribution.

PEDAGOGICAL TRENDS IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PRACTICE

Digital leadership training – universities use digital platforms and AI tools to prepare students for online governance, crisis management, and ethical technology use.

This is vital as China engages in global debates on **data governance, digital ethics, and cyber security.**



GLOBAL COMPETENCE – CORE OF LEADERSHIP PREPARATION

Exchange programmes, research projects,
Belt and Road Initiative → cross-cultural contexts, diverse environments.
+ **Multicultural communication courses** → skills for international cooperation.

Linked to **SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals"**,
underlining China's ambition for cross-border
collaboration.



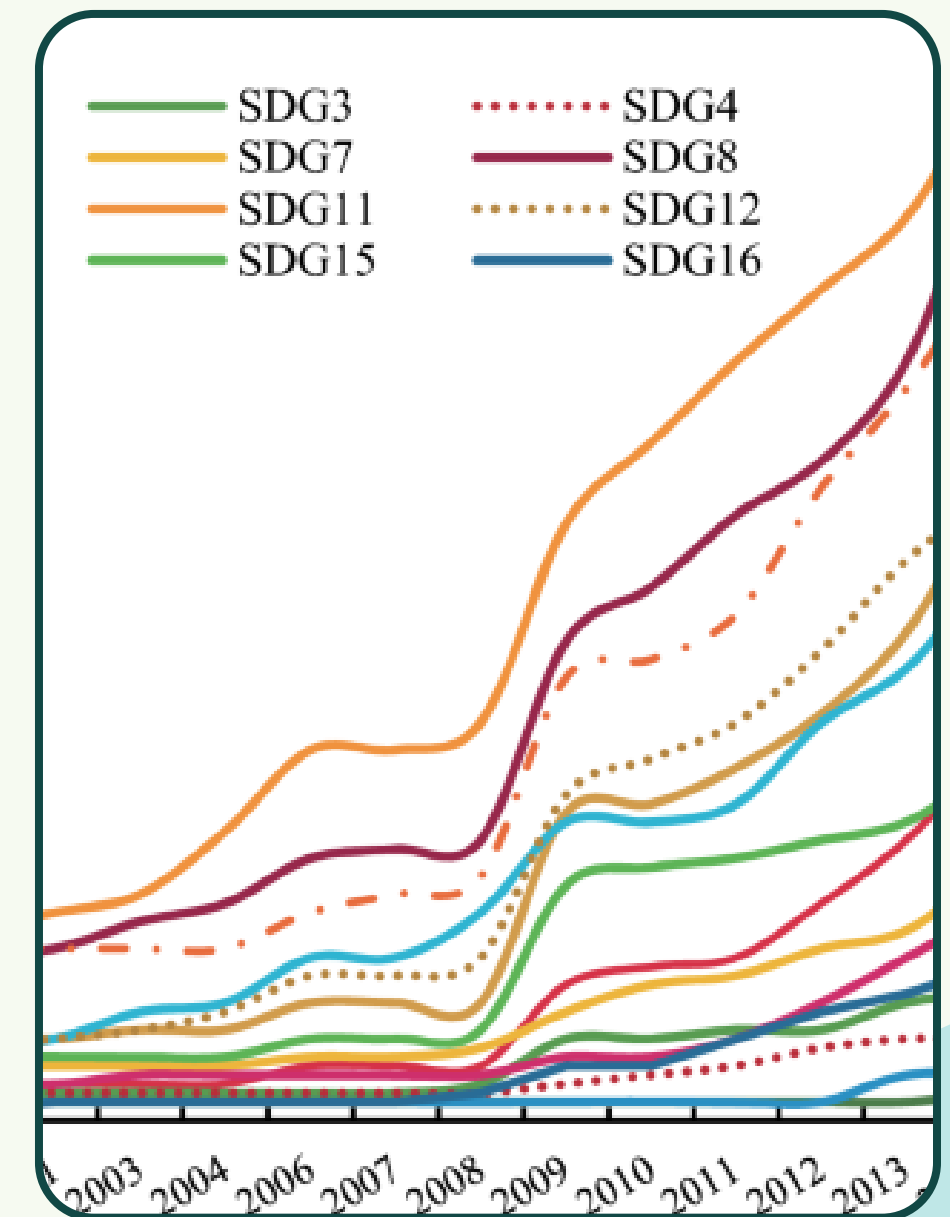
CHINA'S LEADERSHIP EDUCATION & SDG'S

SDG 4 (Quality Education): inclusive access, scholarships, rural/minority support

SDG 8 (Decent Work & Growth): entrepreneurship, innovation, green & digital start-ups

SDG 13 (Climate Action): ecological ethics, carbon neutrality, sustainable urban planning

SDG 16 (Strong Institutions): civic education, legal literacy, social responsibility



CHALLENGES IN LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

Equity of access: top universities dominate, regional institutions lack opportunities



Global vs. local: need to balance global competence with cultural specificity & indigenous knowledge

Measuring outcomes: success beyond academics → sustainability, responsibility, community well-being



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Collaboration: universities + government + civil society → holistic ecosystems for leadership

Integration: digital governance, sustainability science, cultural heritage preservation

Goal: cultivate leaders balancing innovation & tradition, able to guide China through global transformations and contribute to international solutions



CONCLUSION

Education of young leaders = intersection of **national priorities & global SD agenda**

China embeds **SDGs**: interdisciplinarity, experiential learning, inclusivity

Next generation = expertise + ecological responsibility + intercultural competence + collective well-being

In global crises (climate, inequality, technology) → China's model offers lessons for all

Leadership = shared resource for addressing grand challenges of our time



Thank You