The Congratulatory Letter for the 70th Anniversary
of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning

February 24, 2022

Dear Mr. David Atchoarena, Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, all project experts and friends:

The year 2022 is the Year of Tiger in China. Forging ahead with the vigor and vitality of the tiger, are the good wishes of the New Year. On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), on behalf of the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission and myself, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to UIL!

Since 1952, UIL has adhered to UNESCO’s vital mission to promote mutual understanding and cooperation through education, science and culture, actively coordinated and promoted the development and international cooperation of education and lifelong learning from a global perspective, and made outstanding contributions to the world’s peace, security and the guarantee of the basic right to education. Here, I express my sincere respect to UIL for 70 years of
staying true to this mission!

Under the framework of the UIL lifelong learning concept and innovative practice, the Shanghai Municipal People’s Government attaches great importance to the construction of the learning city and accelerates the construction of a fair, high-quality, convenient, and diversified education system that serves lifelong learning for all. Shanghai is actively creating a social atmosphere that advocates lifelong learning, constantly improving the city’s 4-level network of community education and education for the elderly, customizing learning programs for special groups, providing solutions for migrant workers’ continuing education, building a multi-functional online lifelong learning platform supported by big data, fully mobilizing and making good use of social learning resources that services for lifelong education, and carrying out public health education, highlighting the resilience of city’s learning system to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, lifelong learning has been fully integrated into the daily life of the citizens and the cultural construction of the city and has become an important aspect and strong support for Shanghai to promote high-quality development, create high-quality life and realize efficient governance,
bringing much vitality into the sustainable development of the city.

Thanks to UIL’s great attention to and full trust in Shanghai. In 2019, Shanghai successfully joined the Global Network Learning Cities (GNLC) and became a member of the coordinator city in the cluster of ESD (Education for Sustainable Development). The first ‘Education System Development from the Perspective of Lifelong Learning Capacity-Building Workshop’ was held in Shanghai. A project cooperation office was set up in Shanghai Open University to carry out joint research and training programs. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UIL actively keep in contact with Shanghai and share Shanghai’s valuable experience. In 2021, Shanghai successfully won the global learning city award. In addition, UIL has commissioned the Shanghai Municipal Institute for Lifelong Education to organize and translate the "Global Report on Adult Learning and Education" twice continuously, which has significantly enhanced Shanghai’s international vision and multi-faceted capabilities in the field of lifelong learning.

In the future, Shanghai will continue to actively participate in international cooperation programs led by UIL, improve civic quality, promote citizens’ all-around
development, ensure that everyone has access to equitable and quality education and learning through their lives, help every learner has the chance to excel in life. We’ll make efforts to enhance the innovation vitality of the city, spare no efforts to achieve the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Welcome all colleagues of UIL to visit Shanghai to give more valuable suggestions on the construction of the learning city and jointly promote the new development of lifelong learning in Shanghai.

Finally, I sincerely wish UIL greater achievements!

Minjing Ni
Deputy Director General
Shanghai Municipal Education Commission