



**KUOPIO**



**Kuopio – Shanghai Pudong  
Long-term and diverse cooperation  
Overview, Autumn 2016**

# KUOPIO – SHANGHAI PUDONG LONG-TERM AND DIVERSE COOPERATION OVERVIEW, AUTUMN 2016

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## **KUOPIO-SHANGHAI COOPERATION**

### **The beginnings of cooperation between the City of Kuopio and Shanghai**

Cooperation between the City of Kuopio and Shanghai's Pudong New Area began in 2000 with an assessment of the opportunities for cooperation between the technology centres. Subsequently, the activities expanded into wide-ranging cooperation, e.g. in education, expert and student mobility, business activities and R&D.

#### **Key agreements/initiatives:**

2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Kuopio Technology Centre Teknia Ltd and the Zhangjiang Science Park in Pudong, Shanghai, with the aim of increasing collaboration between companies, research institutes and universities in Kuopio and Pudong. In the early 2000s, Teknia signed many other science park collaboration agreements in the Shanghai area, Beijing and Hong Kong.

2002 The City of Kuopio and Pudong New Area signed their first MoU, making it easier for universities, science parks and companies to undertake separate development projects. The agreement was renewed in 2007. Through these agreements, Kuopio has gained most-favoured status in Shanghai. Subsequently, cultural exchange between the cities also increased strongly.

2003 Teknia opened an office at the Zhangjiang Science Park.

2006 Teknia Shanghai Ltd (TekInno Ltd) was founded to continue the work of the office in China. Chinese staff were employed at both the Shanghai and Kuopio offices. (Kuopio Innovation Ltd sold the company in late 2008.)

2012 The MoU between Kuopio Innovation and the Zhangjiang Science Park was renewed for five years.

2012 Kuopio and Pudong New Area signed a Sister City Agreement.

#### **Awards:**

2014 Recognition from Pudong New Area for the cooperation between Kuopio and Shanghai: Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award 2014 to Michael Claussen, the Director of the Kuopio Music Centre.

2016 The City of Kuopio received the Friendship City Exchange and Cooperation Award for the extensive cooperation carried out with Shanghai's Pudong New Area. The award is given every two years and is granted by the China International Friendship Association and the China International Friendship-City Alliance. Kuopio was the only sister city in the Shanghai area to receive the award.

#### **China projects based on the business needs of Kuopio Innovation Ltd:**

- Pharmaceutical Gateway China-Finland/Europe (1 Jan 2008–31 Dec 2010)  
Companies: Esior Ltd, Fennopharma Ltd, FoodFiles Ltd, Medfiles Ltd and Fimea
- MediGateway to Europe (1 Jan 2012–31 Dec 2013)  
Companies: Ark Therapeutics Ltd, Aurealis Ltd, Esior Ltd, Fennogate Finland Ltd,

Fennopharma Ltd, FoodFiles Ltd, Galena Pharma Ltd, Medfiles Ltd, Medikro Ltd, Mega Elektroniikka Ltd, Reagenä Ltd and Tactical Technologies KPH Nordic Ltd

- Kuopio Business Trip to Shanghai 2015: arrangements for the delegation's trip (27 Oct–1 Nov 2015)

Companies: Hydroline Ltd, Granlund Kuopio Ltd, Samesor Ltd, Virranta Ltd, Newicon Ltd, Medikro Ltd, Bone Index Ltd, Lignell & Piispanen Ltd, Partanen & Lamusuo Ltd, Carlson Ltd, Kuopio Tapetti ja Väri Ltd

## **The situation today**

The activities between Kuopio and Pudong New Area have deepened further. On Kuopio's part, the cooperation and activities have increased vigorously in recent years, especially in the teaching and education field, and have remained very regular on the cultural side.

Kuopio Innovation, in collaboration with the Kuopio Region Chamber of Commerce, has taken measures with the aim of responding to the growing interest of companies in China's markets; relating, in particular, to the need of the region's companies to find contacts in the Shanghai area. Kuopio Innovation has kept companies up to date on newly emerging business opportunities and potential funding channels (e.g. growth programmes, Tekes funding) with regard to China. In addition, China events and workshops aimed at companies have been held in collaboration with other actors.

In October 2015, the region's companies were offered the opportunity to take part in a business delegation to Shanghai led by the Mayor of Kuopio. Eleven companies from Kuopio joined the delegation representing, e.g. the cleantech, construction and health and wellness sectors. Each of them was provided with a tailored programme in Shanghai, including meetings with business contacts.

Maintaining and developing the cooperation between Kuopio and Pudong has required deep knowledge of the local administration and the required contacts and interfaces as well as personal connections. Cooperation is seen as having great potential that can be realised over a long period of time with a reliable Chinese partner familiar with the City of Kuopio and the background of its Shanghai activities. This key role in Shanghai is played by Kai Zhan, who is employed by the City of Kuopio. He has been involved in this activity for more than ten years.

The cultural exchange agreement between the City of Kuopio and the Pudong New Area was renewed in October 2015 for the next two years in conjunction with the visit of the Mayor of Kuopio's business delegation. Among other things, the agreement states that, in alternate years, each city will present itself to the other city through various exhibitions and events. In 2015, artists from Pudong New Area demonstrated their calligraphy skills to the public in an open exhibition at the Kuopio Music Centre. In October 2014, Kuopio presented itself to the people of Shanghai in a photographic exhibition entitled "Kuopio – the City of Four Seasons". A cultural delegation from Pudong visited Kuopio in September 2016. In conjunction with the Finland 100 anniversary, an exhibition of work by Ritva-Liisa Pohjalainen is being planned for Pudong.

## **Kuopio-Shanghai cooperation network**

Cooperation between the Kuopio region and the Shanghai area is coordinated by a regularly convening group consisting of members of the cooperation network. The cooperation network is composed of the City of Kuopio, Kuopio Innovation, the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), the Kuopio Region Chamber of Commerce, the Savonia University of Applied Sciences and the Savo Consortium for Education and Training (SAKKY). The activities of the network are coordinated by Kuopio Innovation, a task that will pass to the City of Kuopio from the beginning of 2017.

The primary objective of the cooperation is to support the internationalisation of Kuopio and the region, strengthen collaboration between technology parks and promote the development of business activity and collaboration between companies and other actors. For this purpose, an exceptionally close cooperation network has been formed in Kuopio.

For more details: [http://www.kuopioinnovation.fi/en/networks/kuopioshanghai\\_en](http://www.kuopioinnovation.fi/en/networks/kuopioshanghai_en)

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## **Cooperation between Kuopio and Shanghai in Basic and General Upper Secondary Education**

The foundation for cooperation was laid in discussions held in autumn 2011 between Shanghai Pudong Education and representatives of the City of Kuopio. The cooperation was formalised in the Sister City Agreement and in three-year inter-school agreements.

The cooperation is in line with the Ministry of Education and Culture's internationalisation strategy and has received project funding from the National Board of Education. There has been collaboration between the following schools:

1. Yang Jing Experimental Primary School and the Martti Ahtisaari School
2. Guangming School Attached to Shanghai Experimental School and Hatsala Classical School
3. Beicai Senior High School Affiliated to Shanghai Maritime University and Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School

On Kuopio's side, interest has focused on

- increasing the knowledge of pupils and students, i.e. future China experts, about Chinese language and culture
- developing teacher expertise, finding workable practices and assessing their application potential
- creating a workable teacher/student exchange system

Correspondingly, in Pudong they were well aware of Finland's PISA success and their interest was directed to

- Finnish teacher training
- teaching methods, especially classwork
- pedagogical school leadership

The first steps in the collaboration were taken in autumn 2012 when the teacher Lu Ruirong from Beicai Senior High School came to Kuopio as an exchange teacher for the period 8 October–1 December 2012. She taught Chinese language and culture in classes at the Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School, in an after-school club at Hatsala and in many primary school lessons at the Martti Ahtisaari School.

The collaboration has continued annually at all school levels in the form of short pupil/student and teacher/headteacher exchanges, and projects carried out through the whole school year, the most recent of which were done in autumn 2015. Teachers have taught and held demonstration lessons with related pedagogical assessment discussions.

There have been special themes: teaching arrangements, the pedagogical and didactic content of lessons, teaching materials, pupil and student support, special needs education, learning outcomes, teaching and learning assessment, school satisfaction,

high-level collaboration, nature, ecology, traditional games and forms of physical exercise; the key subjects have been, e.g. mathematics and natural sciences, English, visual arts and music.

The effectiveness of the collaboration has been increased owing to the fact that, for example, the pupils and students have always stayed with a family and thereby come into contact with the everyday life of a child or young person.

One example of the collaboration is an environmental seminar held in August 2015, for which the students of Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School and Beicai Senior High School had worked on environmental topics since the spring. The environment project climaxed with the seminar on 28 August 2015 (see the appended description).

The collaboration between schools in Shanghai's Pudong New Area and the City of Kuopio has expanded and now involves eight schools from both countries and cities. The new schools are Jianping West Middle School, North Luhang Middle School, Pudong New Area No.2 Central Primary School, Xingang Middle School and Xiang Shan High School and they collaborate with Pyörö, Puijonsarvi, Rajala, Länsi-Puijo and Neulamäki Schools as well as Kuopio Senior High School of Arts, Lumit.

The focus of the cooperation is still on increasing cultural awareness, creating a foundation for future China expertise, and Finnish schools, methods and the learning environment. The collaboration involves the pupils/students and the schools' teaching and other staff as well as parents and carers.

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Appendix: An example of the collaboration

**Collaborative environmental project between Beicai Senior High School, Pudong, and Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School, starting in spring 2015**

As a follow-up to the Shanghai Pudong and Kuopio school cooperation and exchange project, this year 2015 the schools are conducting an environmental project covering some local and also global environmental issues.

This project starts in five groups of around eight students, four from Beicai Senior High School and four from Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School in each. Each group of students is given a topic which they start to study and research already in spring 2015. Students will communicate online about their topic and gather information about it from different sources (for example, a word document or similar, approximately 6-12 pages).

Working on the topics continues face to face in Finland in August 2015 as the Beicai Senior High School comes for a visit to Kuopio. The work is finalized then and students are going to present their findings in a seminar held at Kuopion Lyseo Upper Secondary School. The presentation format could be a scientific poster or a Power Point presentation or similar.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND IN SHANGHAI

The University of Eastern Finland's (UEF) university collaboration in China covers not only the Shanghai area but also a number of universities on the east coast of China, with whom research work is carried out directly between research teams. To enable it to engage in such collaboration, the University has signed academic memoranda of understanding with a total of 12 Chinese universities. The UEF's most important partners in the greater Shanghai area are Fudan and Nanjing Universities, which are among the best in China, and the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Pudong New Area.

## DIVERSE COLLABORATION

- Research collaboration, including researcher exchange
- Academic collaboration, including student, teacher and staff mobility, double degrees and joint education projects
- Sale of education services
- Business activities

### Research collaboration, e.g. in the following fields

- Environmental Sciences (Professors Maija-Riitta Hirvonen, Jorma Jokiniemi, Kari Lehtinen)
- Forest Sciences (Professors Heli Peltola and Timo Pukkala); Biology (Prof Riitta Julkunen-Tiitto)
- Computer Science (Prof Pasi Fränti)
- Education/Special Education (Prof Eija Kärnä)
- Social Sciences/Social Work (Prof Juha E. Hämäläinen)
- Public Health (Prof Jussi Kauhanen); Health Technology (Prof Kaija Saranto)
- Law (Prof Kati Kuliovesi)

### Academic collaboration

- Joint training modules in health sciences
- Double Degree agreement with Nanjing University
- Teacher mobility
- Student mobility 2016
  - There were 77 Chinese degree students at the UEF, **which is the fourth most of all the University's foreign** degree students. In total, there are foreign degree students from 97 countries.
  - 17 exchange students came from Chinese universities, which is the 9th most of all the foreign exchange students. The total number of exchange students is 531.
  - 5 exchange students went to China, which was the 14th most popular exchange destination. A total of 227 students went abroad.

## **MOST IMPORTANT PARTNERS**

### **Fudan University, in the Puxi and Pudong areas of Shanghai**

- First Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2007, enabling research and educational collaboration and researcher, teacher and student exchange.
- **UEF is a member of the Nordic Centre at Fudan University (2009)**, a university network with a total of 23 Nordic universities and Fudan University.
  - researcher/teacher/student activities; summer courses, joint research/teaching activities

### **Nanjing University, in the greater Shanghai area**

- MoU (first agreement signed in 2005) enabling research and educational collaboration and researcher, teacher and student exchange.
- Joint Sino-Finnish Environmental Research Centre (established in 2009) on the Nanjing University campus, (Prof Maija-Riitta Hirvonen).
- Together with Nanjing University, the UEF is a member of the International Institute of Environmental Sciences, initiated in 2015 and coordinated by Trent University, Canada.

### **Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), Pudong New Area**

Initiation of collaboration between Pudong Science Park and Teknia Ltd in 2001 established a connection at university level. An MoU between the universities (2003) enabled research and educational collaboration and researcher, teacher and student exchange.

### **MoU signed in 2006 between universities (TCM/Savonia/Kuopio University) and Teknia Ltd.**

### **The UEF has an academic MoU with the following Chinese universities**

**At university level:** Fudan University, Shanghai ; Nanjing University, Nanjing ; Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong ; University of Nottingham Ningbo China, Ningbo

**At faculty level:** Northeast Forestry University, Harbin ; Guangxi Academy of Sciences, Nanning ; The School of Biological Sciences at the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong ; The School of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Engineering, Qilu University of Technology, Jinan ; The Shanghai University of Traditional Medicine, Shanghai ; China Medical University, Shenyang ; Northwest A&F University, Yangling.

## **EDUCATION EXPORT**

The UEF is a shareholder of Finland University Ltd together with the Universities of Turku and Tampere: <http://finlanduniversity.fi/>. The UEF sells education services through Finland University Ltd.

The Pudong Institute for Health Development has bought the Training Program for hospital managers from the UEF. The fifth training package is currently being prepared with a new program for spring 2017.

## **BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

Some of the University's research teams have business activities in Shanghai.

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## **BACKGROUND TO SAVONIA'S COOPERATION WITH CHINA**

When Savonia began to offer degrees taught in English in the 1990s, we recruited a large number of Chinese students. At the peak, there were 170 Chinese students in the academic year 2008–2009.

Savonia has a project funded by the CIMO Asia Programme 2015, Education Cooperation China and India: Modern Nurse Specialists in Maternity and Child Health, which runs until 30 October 2017. The project involves two university hospitals affiliated with Fudan University and Kuopio University Hospital (KUH) from Finland. The Savonia University of Applied Sciences was earlier involved, together with the then University of Kuopio, in the first CIMO-funded China projects in 2007. The projects continued until 2014.

Savonia's partners were the following Chinese universities:

- Shijiazhuang University of Economics
- West Anhui University (Luan)
- Hebei University of Technology (Tianjin)
- Shanghai Second Polytechnic University (SSPU, Pudong)
- Shanghai University of Medical and Health Sciences (SUMHS)

The areas of collaboration were business administration, tourism, technology and healthcare. The activities were mainly teacher and student exchanges and curriculum development.

## **RESULTS OF SAVONIA'S CHINA PROJECTS**

Between 2007 and 2015, there were a total of 50 teacher visits of 1–2 weeks' duration. Student exchanges lasted from 1 to 6 months.

The teaching by visiting teachers was normally given in the form of lectures and seminars. The lectures were held in English.

The teachers also visited technology centres, research institutes in their field, companies and hospitals. In addition, the Chinese hosts arranged sightseeing tours, social meetings and theatre and concert visits. These gestures of hospitality were greatly appreciated and were regarded as nice ways to get to know another culture and new people.

In the interaction between Chinese and Finnish culture and approaches, there is much to be learnt from each other. Teachers established valuable collaborations and learned about the range of subjects taught at the partner university. Especially appreciated was the hospitality of the host university and the trouble taken in making practical arrangements. All of the teachers who participated in the exchange considered the visit an extremely useful and valuable experience.

## WHAT RESULTS HAVE THE CHINA PROJECTS ACHIEVED?

- Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Fudan University School of Nursing and the Children's Hospital of Fudan University signed a tripartite agreement on teacher and student exchange and training.
- Student exchanges between the member universities have increased significantly. In 2014, there were 50 teacher and student exchanges between Savonia and the Chinese universities.
- 25 tourism students from the Savonia University of Applied Sciences studied for a month at the SSPU. The course was accepted as part of their studies in Finland.
- Development of training exchanges.

In autumn 2010, the first students from the Savonia University of Applied Sciences completed a training period at the Children's Hospital of Fudan University, Shanghai. Subsequently, the collaboration extended to the Ob/Gyn Hospital of Fudan University. A result of this collaboration is the ongoing CIMO project (Dec 2015 – Oct 2017). On 27–28 September 2016, we held, in Kuopio, a joint 1st FinChi Evidence-Based Conference – Nursing and Midwifery, which was a great success.

In 2014–2015, students from Savonia underwent hotel training in Shanghai, while healthcare training continued in collaboration with the two Shanghai university hospitals.

Collaboration has expanded so that now staff from Shanghai hospitals have undergone training at KUH too.

- Teacher visits supported by the Asia Network Programme have played a major part in the development, growth and diversification of university collaboration between Eastern Finland and China.
- Collaboration between universities has become established and deepened, which is reflected in new initiatives and projects such as education export.

For the third time, a group of Chinese teachers underwent two weeks of training at Savonia in September 2015. The theme was university pedagogy and cooperation with the world of work.

## COOPERATION IN PUDONG, SHANGHAI

- A close cooperation network has been established between the University of Eastern Finland (UEF), Savonia University of Applied Sciences, Chinese universities and networks, science parks and companies, the City of Kuopio, Pudong New Area and the Finnish Consulate in Shanghai.
- The joint presence of the City of Kuopio, UEF and Savonia in the Pudong district of Shanghai has been recognised at the FinChi Innovation Centre and the Finnish Mission in Shanghai.
- Business collaboration between the City of Kuopio, UEF, Savonia and the region's companies and companies in the Pudong New Area
- Cultural collaboration with counterparts in Pudong, e.g. in music education development

A group of five students on the dance teacher training programme, together with their teachers, performed at the Pudong Lujiazui International Folk Fitness Dance Conference in October 2014.

These activities will be continued and expanded.

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## **The Savo Consortium for Education and Training is developing educational collaboration with the Pudong district of Shanghai**

The Savo Consortium for Education and Training has prepared collaboration in vocational education in the Shanghai area through the Kuopio-Shanghai cooperation network.

The aim is the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Shanghai Donghui Vocational and Technical School and the Savo Consortium for Education and Training.

The focus of the planned collaboration is on developing student and expert mobility. Joint development of vocational pedagogy and objectives related to the further training of teachers are also part of the prepared agreement.

The strategic goal of the Savo Consortium for Education and Training for 2015–2017 is to increase collaboration between training providers regionally and internationally in order to succeed in its primary task. Students will gain the ability to function in an international work environment, increasing our region's employment and economic competitiveness. An additional goal is to develop education export.

### *Savo Consortium for Education and Training*

The Savo Consortium for Education and Training is one of Finland's biggest providers of upper secondary vocational education and training and a key player in the region. We provide multidisciplinary vocational training and general upper secondary education for young people and adults in North Savo. Close cooperation with the region's employers is central to all our activities. Our comprehensive training and development services enable us to engage in long-term and flexible cooperation in developing the skill needs of the region's employers.

The Savo Consortium for Education and Training is a multidisciplinary provider of variously structured training for young people and adults and a developer of working life in the region. The Consortium provides vocational upper secondary and further education and training, apprenticeship training, labour policy education and staff training in all fields, as well as general upper secondary education, and carries out development projects for employers. The Consortium is a joint municipal authority that is owned by 18 local municipalities and runs the Savo Vocational College, Savo Apprenticeship Training Centre and Varkaus Upper Secondary School. It operates in Kuopio, Iisalmi, Varkaus, Siilinjärvi and Juankoski. Annually, students number about 20,000, staff about 850 and the operating profit in 2015 was about 82 million euros.

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# KUOPIO REGION FINNCHAM

## Kuopio Region Chamber of Commerce

- We have organised two contact trips to Shanghai
- The Finnish Business Council Shanghai is part of the global [FinnCham network](#) assembled by Finland Chamber of Commerce. It enables companies to become acquainted with people who already operate in the market and hear about their experiences and good contacts in order to facilitate their own progress in the market.
- The FinnCham network consists of international chambers of commerce and trade associations and is available to all companies at:  
<http://kauppakamari.fi/en/international/the-finncham-network/our-network/>

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