



Report on International Design Education Program

Sep. 2022

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN EDUCATION PROGRAM

The **International Design Education (IDE) Program** was jointly organized by the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTB), World Eco-Design Conference (WEDC) and the International School of Design, Ningbo Innovation Center, Zhejiang University (ZJU-ISD) since 2021. The Program is dedicated to **providing industrial design engineering education for students from least developed countries (LDCs) to enhance LDCs' capacity and competitiveness in industrial design.**

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Program provides up to 50 full scholarships to eligible students from LDCs. These scholarships enable students to study industrial design and cultivate their problem-solving skills. The Program is designed to **welcome students from diverse educational backgrounds for nurturing interdisciplinary designers.** The Program also serves as an incubator to **support student innovation and entrepreneurship** by providing business support, research and services that help transform ideas in the classroom into start-ups in the market.

ACHIEVEMENTS & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The Program received a total of 149 applications from 21 LDCs in 2021 and 2022. **68 students from 19 LDCs were accepted to the Program**, the acceptance rate is 45.6%. The Program's modules are hosted by the Ningbo Innovation Center, Zhejiang University, in English and it takes two and a half academic years to complete the Program. During the pandemic period, the Program also provides an online study option. Students fulfilling all the degree requirements will be awarded a Master's degree in Industrial Design Engineering from Zhejiang University.

The IDE students are actively involved in international conferences and exhibitions on industrial design as well as cultural events. One of the major highlights of the Program so far has been a **student-led charity exhibition "Culture from afar"**, featuring digital arts that demonstrated the enriching cultural encounters students have experienced, using the designing tools they learnt in the Program. Launched in December 2021, the exhibition will also be showcased at the World Eco-Design Conference 2022 and the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5).

The Program aims to enhance LDCs' industrial design talent pool and stimulate their knowledge economy. The Program also promotes technology transfer and cooperation between industry, universities and research institutes internationally. The long-term goal of the Program is to **boost LDCs' capacities in science, technology and innovation that contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the world's 46 LDCs.**

NOTICE TO ALL

The 3rd IDE Program application is scheduled to begin in **early January 2023, and we strongly encourage qualified female candidates to apply.** We call for qualified partner universities around the world and exceptional students from the LDCs to promote and join the Program. In a long term, we aim to establish an international design education network that integrates advanced educational resources from the world's leading universities and shares knowledge with the LDCs students, so that the design capacity and competitiveness of the LDCs could be enhanced to support their attainment of the SDGs.

CONTACTS

For more details on the IDE Program, please visit the link [HERE](#). If you are a university or educational institute interested in becoming a partner of the Program, or would like to enquire information on the 2023 application, please contact WEDC at wedc@vip.126.com and UN Technology Bank at untb@un.org.

About UN Technology Bank

The UN Technology Bank is a global organization, dedicated to enhancing the contribution of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in the world's 46 least developed countries. Least developed countries are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.

The UN Technology Bank supports national and regional technological efforts in least developed countries, reinforcing partnerships across sectors and helping nations identify and use appropriate technologies to transform their economies and improve livelihoods.

www.un.org/technologybank

About ZJU-ISD

Zhejiang University (ZJU) ranks among the top 3 on the Chinese mainland and the top 50 in the QS World University Rankings. It is also one of the oldest Chinese universities, its roots can be traced back to 1897. It has 7 faculties and 39 schools, partnering with more than 200 institutions from more than 30 countries worldwide.

Ningbo Innovation Center, Zhejiang University was built with strong support from Ningbo Municipal People's Government in 2018, focusing on scientific research, achievements transformation and postgraduate education. ZJU-ISD is an international school of the Center specializing in innovation driven design, featuring scientific research, internationalization and interdisciplinarity by relying on ZJU's high-quality educational resources.

www.zju.edu.cn/
<http://nb.zju.edu.cn/>
<http://isd.zju.edu.cn/>

About WEDC

The World Eco-Design Conference (WEDC) is an industrial, academic and world-wide non-governmental organization voluntarily formed by enterprises, institutions, social organizations and workers all over the world who are committed to promoting sustainable development.

WEDC aims to promote the integration and sustainable development of design, ecology and society on a global scale, strengthen exchanges and cooperation on ecological design among countries and regions, forge a new models of low-carbon city, build an innovative ecosystem for eco-design, and make further contributions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda.

World Eco-Design Conference has United Nations Special Consultative Status.

www.wedo2018.com.cn/